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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Thousands march against corruption in South Africa
Al-Jazeera: 27 September 2017
Thousands of South African workers across the country protested government corruption and job losses.

Pakistan’s ex-PM Sharif appears before anti-corruption court, set to be indicted
Drazen Jorgic – Reuters: 26 September 2017
Overthrown Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has appeared before an anti-corruption court in Islamabad, ending the possibility of political unrest had he boycotted proceedings. Sharif is likely to be indicted in three corruption cases.

For more on this theme:

Duterte’s Philippines, Still Corrupt And Less Competitive

Fact check: Is Australia in breach of its UN anti-corruption obligations?

Corruption Will Continue In NCAA College Basketball Until Schools Can Openly Pay Their Players

Corruption, political turmoil hit SA’s competitiveness

‘How corruption keeps Nigerians in darkness’

Barristers object to nomination of controversial Brazil anti-corruption squad for UBC prize

Nigeria: 15-member panel to monitor corruption trials

China: Beijing Decides How to Regulate Its Anti-Corruption Body
https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/china-beijing-decides-how-regulate-its-anti-corruption-body
DRUG TRAFFICKING

**A Record Amount Of Fentanyl Poured Into The US Last Year Through The Mail**
*Steve Birr – The Daily Caller: 28 September 2017*

Arriving in the mail from China and Hong Kong, fentanyl is responsible for much of the increase in opioid-related overdoses since 2010.

http://dailycaller.com/2017/09/28/a-record-amount-of-fentanyl-poured-into-the-us-last-year-through-the-mail/

**FDA targets hundreds of ‘rogue’ websites illegally selling opioids and other prescription drugs**
*Laurie McGinley – The Washington Post: 25 September 2017*

As part of Interpol’s global Pangea X operation, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration went after more than 500 websites selling illegal and counterfeit prescription medications.


*For more on this theme:*

**Panama Mayor Linked to Transnational Drug Trafficking Organization**

**Colombia’s defense minister says drug policy must be long-term**

**Here’s how Mexican cartels actually operate in the United States**

**Army Troops Deployed in Rio Slum to Fight Drug Gang Violence**

**The opioid epidemic is changing law enforcement**
http://www.newsday.com/opinion/commentary/the-opioid-epidemic-is-changing-law-enforcement-1.14293926

**Brazil’s Latest Outbreak of Drug Gang Violence Highlights the Real Culprit: the War on Drugs**

**An unprecedented epidemic: America is in a deadly war against opioid abuse**

**This Woman’s Opioid Relapse Could Change Drug Laws Forever**
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal Mining Poses Security Challenge To Afghanistan: EU
Massoud Ansar – TOLO News: 27 September 2017
An Afghan official told European Union representatives that illegal mining posed a serious threat to the country’s national security and stability.
http://www.tolonews.com/index.php/business/illegal-mining-poses-security-challenge%C2%A0%C2%A0afghanistan-eu

This App Helps Forest Rangers Without Internet Access Find Illegal Activity
Adele Peters – Fast Company: 26 September 2017
The Forest Watcher app allows rangers in Uganda to use satellite data to curtail illegal logging and mining, even when there is no internet connection.
https://www.fastcompany.com/40472851/this-app-helps-forest-rangers-without-internet-access-find-illegal-activity

For more on this theme:
Tropical forests are ‘no longer carbon sinks’ because of human activity

Jalandhar: App to curb illegal mining
http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/jalandhar-app-to-curb-illegal-mining-4862794/

The Dog Patrol – Kazakhstan’s wildlife wardens

South Africa’s Rhino Paradox

Horns, guns and drugs: the real cost of wildlife crime

VIDEO: Endangered wildlife being sold over social media warn animal rescuers

When fines fail, how can companies be made to pay for deforestation?

Rush for Donkey Skins in China Draws Wildlife Traffickers
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The UN wants Facebook to fix its human trafficking problem
Zoë Schlanger – Quartz: 28 September 2017

Smugglers are using Facebook and WhatsApp to obtain customers for risky smuggling operations, often using false advertising. A United Nations spokesman called on the company to do more to stop this practice.


Displaced Rohingyas at great risk of human trafficking in overwhelmed camps
Jack Board – Channel NewsAsia: 28 September 2017

Malaysia fears that the 400,000 Rohingyas seeking refuge in Bangladesh could become victims of human trafficking.


For more on this theme:
Human trafficking on the dark web and beyond

Las Vegas fights human trafficking through new ad campaign

Human trafficking: exposing a hidden crime

Immigration Officials Taking New Steps to Discourage Smuggling of Children

The face of migration via Mexico

Growing number of Chinese immigrants smuggled through San Diego border

Italy claims it’s found a solution to Europe’s migrant problem. Here’s why Italy’s wrong.

Australia launches $10m satellite program to help spy planes detect warships, asylum seeker boats
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet governance: India to strengthen focus on data and cyber security
Rozelle Laha – Livemint: 28 September 2017

India plans to focus its cyber strategy on internet governance — managing data and content — according to experts at the India Mobile Congress.


For more on this theme:
(Namibia) Namibia to join global internet governance community with maiden forum
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/26/c_136637636.htm

(Zimbabwe) ‘Freedom, privacy and security key to internet development’ – MISA Zimbabwe

(India, Global) Cyberspace needs better laws, and more trustworthy companies
http://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/cyberspace-needs-better-laws-and-more-trustworthy-companies/story-9H0owqUU1rutRHZrAx8aZI.html

INTERNET FREEDOM

Iran’s New Internet Minister Isn’t Delivering on Internet Freedom Promises
Mahsa Alimardani and Mo Hosseini – Motherboard: 27 September 2017

Despite running on a campaign of internet freedom, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani’s administration isn’t delivering on its promise. While the government is expanding internet access, it is also cracking down on content and mobile platforms.


For more on this theme:
(Africa) Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa kicks off this week

(China) 68 Things You Cannot Say on China’s Internet

(EU) EU internet policing proposals spark free speech concerns
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Firewalls Don't Stop Hackers. AI Might.
Scott Rosenberg – Wired: 27 September 2017

Previously focused on hardening networks, the cyber security industry needs to shift focus to detecting problems as they arise and countering them immediately.
https://www.wired.com/story/firewalls-dont-stop-hackers-ai-might/

For more on this theme:
(Europe) The right to online privacy unfolding - Barbulescu final judgment

(Europe) Cybersecurity in Europe: key recommendations for the new cyber review
http://www.politico.eu/sponsored-content/cybersecurity-in-europe-key-recommendations-for-the-new-cyber-review/

(Global) Cybersecurity’s Solar Eclipse: How We’re Being Blinded By Marketing Buzzwords
https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2017/09/28/cybersecuritys-solar-eclipse-how-were-being-blinded-by-marketing-buzzwords/#314d8e36163b

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

The Party's ‘Hurdles': the Internet, Propaganda, and Power
Elsa B. Kania – The Diplomat: 27 September 2017

The Chinese Communist Party has outlined its national cyber strategy, focusing on innovation and security. The authors of the strategy declared, “If our Party cannot traverse the hurdle represented by the internet, it cannot traverse the hurdle of remaining in power for the long term.”

For more on this theme:
(Germany, Russia) Why Russia hasn’t successfully screwed with Germany's election — yet

(Australia) Indo-Pacific focus for Govt's international cyber strategy

(U.S., China) U.S. asks China not to enforce cyber security law
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Trend Micro and Europol to Arm Financial Industry with ATM Malware Protection

BW CI World: 29 September 2017

Trend Micro Inc. and Europol’s European Cybercrime Centre released a joint report that demonstrates how ATM malware is now able to successfully attack network-based access.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) CenturyLink eyes partnerships for rural broadband and rolls out price-for-life


(Ghana) Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation lauds Ghana at ITU World


(Kazakhstan) Dauren Abayev comments on project bringing high-speed Internet to rural areas


PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Third Party Cyber Security Failures Cost Businesses the Most

DataQuest India Online: 26 September 2017

Even though companies are investing more in cyber security, each breach is costing companies more. Breaches frequently occur with third-party vendors, suggesting it is not enough for companies to worry about their own cyber security — they must also be concerned with the security of their partners.


For more on this theme:

(Iran, U.S.) For Years, Iran Hacked US Computers. Then In 2014 It Stopped. Why?

https://www.buzzfeed.com/kevincollier/iran-has-stopped-hacking-the-us-trump-could-change-that?utm_term=.tpexjKrMR#.by41Gz0Ae

(Global) IoT: Don't Forget Privacy And Security While Racing To The Price Bottom


(U.S. Russia) Kaspersky US government ban – what are the reasons behind the decision?

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Time for cyber security plans to swing into action
Tan Weizhen – Today: 29 September 2017

At Singapore Cyber International Week, the country announced several initiatives aimed at improving its cyber security. Now is the time to enact these promises and secure Singapore against cyber attacks.

http://www.todayonline.com/commentary/time-cyber-security-plans-swing-action

For more on this theme:
(Australia) Cuts could threaten Australia’s cyberscience future

(Israel) Israeli cyber defence directorate declared operational

(Japan, Singapore) Japan, Singapore Sign New Cyber Pact

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Ransomware surges again, as cybercrime-as-a-service becomes mainstream for crooks
Danny Palmer – ZDNet: 27 September 2017

A recent Europol report suggests that ransomware has become a way for non-tech-savvy criminals to break into cyber crime.


For more on this theme:
(India) Set up cyber crime cells at district level: Expert panel

(Global) Global Cost of Cybercrime Soars 23% in a Year

(U.S., Global) By concealing identities, cryptocurrencies fuel cybercrime
https://theconversation.com/by-concealing-identities-cryptocurrencies-fuel-cybercrime-82282
INFORMATION SHARING

Saudi Arabia strives to improve its cyber-readiness: Potomac assessment
SC Media: 25 September 2017

Saudi Arabia is making great strides in cyber security, though the country lacks the skilled labor and information-sharing laws to progress more quickly.


For more on this theme:
(Europe) Portugal at Forefront of Global Cyber Initiatives
https://www.afcea.org/content/portugal-forefront-global-cyber-initiatives

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

IoT Risks Loom Over Critical Infrastructure
George I. Seffers – Signal: 1 October 2017

The internet of things (IoT) will connect millions of devices to the internet and to each other. With such technical feats comes the risk of attacks, particularly against aging infrastructure and critical services.

https://www.afcea.org/content/iot-risks-loom-over-critical-infrastructure

For more on this theme:
(Global) How cyber impacts the full spectrum of terror threats

(Europe) Europol: Over Two Billion EU Records Compromised Last Year
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

The Islamic State's Support Base in Pakistan Continues to Grow
Umair Jamal – The Diplomat: 28 September 2017
Making inroads into Pakistan has been an ISIS goal. While the overt and active presence is still largely dormant, the “passive support” base has been growing rapidly.

ISIS ‘Caliphate’ Fades but Social Media Empire Remains
Bennett Seftel – The Cipher Brief: 28 September 2017
ISIS continues to lose territory, waning to a mere shadow of its former glory. However, its online presence remains strong.

For more on this theme:
‘New Baghdadi tape’ posted by Islamic State group

Islamic State’s deadly drone operation is faltering, but U.S. commanders see broader danger ahead

Islamic State set up Libyan desert army after losing Sirte: prosecutor

Why is an Islamic State affiliate quietly ruling unchallenged in a corner of Syria’s south?

ISIS Cyber Jihadis Are ‘Garbage’ at Hacking, Top Researcher Says

Islamic State radio tries to quell controversy over takfir

How ISIS Is Transforming
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/2017-09-25/how-isis-transforming
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Europe is seeing the rise of ‘small-dollar terrorism’ funded by ‘legitimate’ sources
Camilla Hodgson – Business Insider: 28 September 2017

Most terrorist attacks in Europe since 2015 were paid for with legitimate money, such as bank accounts and loans, according to the director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation. This is largely because the attacks were easy to plan and relatively inexpensive.


LWJ Map Assessment: Taliban controls or contests 45% of Afghan districts
Bill Roggio and Alexandra Gutowski – Long War Journal: 26 September 2017

The Long War Journal estimates that the Taliban fully control 41 districts in Afghanistan and is contesting the control of 118, indicating that the group is stronger now than at any time since 2001.


For more on this theme:

These Libyans were once linked to al-Qaeda. Now they are politicians and businessmen.

Bin Laden Heir Breathes New Destructive Energy Into Al Qaeda

Why Al-Qaeda Is Still Strong 16 Years After 9/11
http://www.beachwoodreporter.com/books/why_al-qaeda_is_still_strong_1.php

Militants attack Somali military base, kill at least 15

The Rohingya crisis: Vital to prevent a jihadist snowball

‘Ghost Soldiers’ Are the Taliban’s Secret Weapon
http://www.thedailybeast.com/ghost-soldiers-are-the-talibans-secret-weapon

Kenya: Bounty Offered for Al-Shabaab Terror Kingpins
http://allafrica.com/stories/201709270271.html

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING
Why We Don't Understand Radicalization
Ellis Cashmore – Fair Observer: 27 September 2017

Determining why people become radicalized has been at the forefront of many efforts to understand extremism, but the reasons are complex and seemingly unconnected. We are still at a loss for understanding the radicalization process and the motivations behind it.

What Went Wrong With France’s Deradicalization Program?
Maddy Crowell – The Atlantic: 28 September 2017

France’s deradicalization program failed, but why? Experts say that the program itself was unusual, but the nationalistic and secular tones may have been too much for the program to be effective.

For more on this theme:

On the Radicalization of Young Moroccans

Social media, radicalization, and the persecution of Muslims

Radicalization of youth Part 1
http://brighterkashmir.com/radicalization-of-youth-part-1/

How violence in Myanmar radicalized a new generation of Rohingya
Round-Trip Tickets: How Will Authorities Know When Foreign Fighters Have Returned?
Colin P. Clarke – Lawfare: 24 September 2017

Trying to identify returning ISIS fighters is a difficult task. The author, a political scientist at the Rand Corp., suggests experts turn to the criminal underworld when foreign fighters return home.

https://www.lawfareblog.com/round-trip-tickets-how-will-authorities-know-when-foreign-fighters-have回来了

For more on this theme:

Dozens of British fighters on the loose in Syria as Islamic State crumbles

Presence of foreign fighters in Marawi confirmed by former hostage
https://www.rappler.com/nation/183398-marawi-foreign-fighters-acopio

Security first, but welfare of IS fighters’ children will be managed: government

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Can former Boko Haram terrorists be rehabilitated? This program aims to change their lives
Ali Abare Abubakar – USA Today: 23 September 2017

Nigeria is attempting to rehabilitate and deradicalize 95 former Boko Haram members.

For more on this theme:

Australia’s counter-terrorism fight needs out-of-the-box thinking

Radicalism to Reintegration: Counterterrorism Efforts in Indonesia
http://mironline.ca/radicalism-reintegration-counterterrorism-efforts-indonesia/

Inside the NYPD Counterterrorism Bureau

Cyberizing Counter-terrorism Legislation and Policy: National and International Developments
https://www.ict.org.il/article/2083/Cyberizing-Counter-terrorism-Legislation#gsc.tab=0