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CORRUPTION

Peruvian lawmakers approve referendum on anti-corruption reform
Teresa Cespedes – Reuters: 4 October 2018

Peru has approved four anti-corruption reforms submitted by President Martin Vizcarra. The proposed reforms will be voted on in a national referendum in December and are part of an effort to curb rampant state corruption.

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-peru-politics/peruvian-lawmakers-approve-referendum-on-anti-corruption-reform-idUSKCN1ME1ZV

Can Africa Win Its War on Corruption? - Straight Talk Africa
Voice of America: 3 October 2018

Arikana Chihombori-Quao, ambassador of the African Union to the United States; Paul Banoba, regional coordinator for East Africa, Transparency International; and Irungu Houghton, executive director of Amnesty International Kenya, discuss Africa's seemingly futile war against the corruption that infests nearly every country on the continent. There is reason for hope, however, as several leaders are tackling the rampant corruption in their nations.

https://www.voanews.com/a/4598445.html

For more on this theme:

Survey in Indonesia indicates corruption and intolerance are threats to democracy in the country

Equality: our secret weapon to fight corruption
https://theconversation.com/equality-our-secret-weapon-to-fight-corruption-102431

Corruption, Government Subsidies, and Innovation: Evidence from China

5 World Leaders Riding Waves of Public Anger Over Corruption
http://time.com/5409932/world-leaders-corruption-anger/

Bosnia at rock bottom as election highlights 'corruption, vote-buying and a national brain drain'

Brazil: A giant in crisis rocked by corruption

Corruption is an economic, social plague – IMF
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Malaysia in talks to become first in Asia to allow medical marijuana
Anuradha Raghu and Anisah Shukry – The Star Online: 26 September 2018

Though Malaysia is known for having zero tolerance toward drug trafficking, it may become the first nation in Asia to legalize marijuana for medical purposes. Government ministers discussed the possibility after a 29-year-old man received a death sentence for possessing, processing and distributing medicinal cannabis oil.


India’s Hill Country Is the First Stop on Heroin’s Deadly Route
Sanita Santoshini – Foreign Policy: 2 October 2018

The northeastern hills of India are ground zero for that country’s opioid epidemic. With hundreds of overdoses in the past five years, almost no family is untouched by addiction and death. The area serves as a gateway for drug trafficking, leaving the region addicted and distraught.

https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/10/02/indias-hill-country-is-the-first-stop-on-heroins-deadly-route/

For more on this theme:

Pill testing must form part of any drugs plan: Ex-AFP Commissioner

Mumbai’s drug trafficking: Female peddlers dominate the industry
https://www.mid-day.com/articles/mumbais-drug-trafficking-female-peddlers-dominate-the-industry/19828159

Drug trade war: Chinese fentanyl is fueling the US opioid crisis

High stakes: cannabis capitalists seek funds to drive drug trade

Middle-class drug use targeted as a root cause of violent crime
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/middle-class-drug-use-targeted-in-clampdown-on-violent-crime-0pkg-mw78l

Darknet plays important role in drug circulation: Mutha Ashok Jain

What’s happening with cannabis around the globe?

Drugs Shipment Sparks Inter-Houthi Dispute in Yemen’s Saada
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

In China, Ivory Seems to Be Losing Appeal
Rachael Bale – National Geographic: 28 September 2018

New research has found that China’s elephant ivory trade ban has had positive effects. However, more must be done to tackle demand from overseas travelers and auction houses.

How to Stop Poaching and Protect Endangered Species? Forget the ‘Kingpins’
Rachel Nuwer – The New York Times: 24 September, 2018

A legal loophole allows poachers to gain licenses to transport legally obtained ivory trophies across borders. Such practices became known as pseudo-hunting, and the practice continues today.

For more on this theme:
Congressional Hearing Tackles Illegal Fishing
https://eos.org/articles/congressional-hearing-tackles-illegal-fishing

Mexico’s Lucrative Oil Theft Industry Fueling Increased Criminal Violence

How well does this treaty really prevent wildlife trafficking and illegal trade?
https://ensia.com/features/cites/

Being smart about illegal wildlife trade — why local communities matter

Malaysia has to go all out to fight wildlife crime, as trafficking goes global

Wildlife trafficking: a global scourge
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30355438

Symposium Urges Strengthened Legal Frameworks to Tackle Wildlife Crime

Counter illicit trafficking training enhances partnerships, protects wildlife

Sudanese militias moonlight as poachers in Central African Republic's badlands

This corrupt, illegal war on wildlife makes losers of us all
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Modern slavery commission will help financial sector fight human trafficking
Fiona Reynolds – CNN: 28 September 2018

The financial sector is rarely employed to fight the scourge of modern slavery and human trafficking, even though it is common practice to “follow the money” when tracking other transnational crimes. But now that the United Nations has formed the Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, the financial industry is poised to help in the fight against this international menace.


United Nations Security Council: 3 October 2018

The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to renew the authorization for the European Union naval force and other nations to fight human trafficking in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya.


For more on this theme:

Mexico launches program against human trafficking in indigenous communities
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/05/c_137512678.htm

The Paris park where Nigerian women are forced into prostitution

In Fight Against Human Trafficking, FIs Turn To AI

Tortured in the Middle East: The human trafficking nexus in Hyderabad

How to Curb the Scourge of Human Trafficking in Global Supply Chains

Meet Hasina Kharbhih who helped save more than 72,000 people from human trafficking

Short-term Wins, Long-term Risks: Human Trafficking and People Smuggling in the Mediterranean Area

NAPTIP seeks support of IOM to fight human trafficking in West Africa, Middle East
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Regulate social media? It's a bit more complicated than that
Sara Solmone – The Conversation: 3 October 2018

Regulating the internet is so intertwined with the sovereignty of each state that it is unrealistic to think an international agreement can be reached that is acceptable to all.

For more on this theme:
(Bangladesh) Hasina calls for effective UN role for global cyber security

(China, Global) China to hold 5th World Internet Conference in November

(Africa, Global) ICANN - A Catalyst for Development
http://www.circleid.com/posts/20180928_icann_a_catalyst_for_development

INTERNET FREEDOM

African governments accused of keeping citizens offline
Matshelane Mamabolo – ITWeb Africa: 28 September 2018

African governments are increasingly levying taxes on internet services in their countries. This effectively broadens the digital divide and hinders economic growth. It also results in censorship for users who can’t afford access to certain applications.

For more on this theme:
(Africa) Benefits Of Internet To Africa

(India, Global) IETHinc: Is Internet shutdown the new order for law & order?

(Global) Google's Sister Company Develops Anti-Censorship Android App
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Web inventor Berners-Lee creates a new privacy first way of dealing with the internet  
Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols – ZDNet: 30 September 2018

For the past several years, Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the internet as we know it, has been secretly toiling away alongside colleagues at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on a new open-source project called Solid, a decentralized, privacy-focused ecosystem that will reshape the web and is “guided by the principle of personal empowerment through data.”


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Feds sue to block California’s new strict net neutrality law  

(Global) Apple has done extraordinary things to protect user privacy, tech investor says  

(U.S.) Introducing the Internet Bill of Rights  

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

With an eye on Russia, U.S. pledges to use cyber capabilities on behalf of NATO  
Idrees Ali – Reuters: 3 October 2018

Acting to counter Russia’s aggressive use of cyber attacks across Europe and around the world, the U.S. is expected to announce that, if asked, it will use its formidable cyber warfare capabilities on NATO’s behalf, according to a senior U.S. official.


For more on this theme:

(Europe) Europe’s Digital Agenda (30-25 September)  

(Global) Governing the Next Technological Revolution  
https://www.cfr.org/blog/governing-next-technological-revolution

(ASEAN) ASEAN Takes a Bold Cybersecurity Step  
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Infosys Foundation to set up cybercrime lab for Karnataka Police
*The Hindu Business Line: 3 October 2018*

Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Infosys, has agreed to establish a center in Bengaluru, India, that will help law enforcement authorities investigate the growing number of cyber crimes.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/infosys-arm-to-build-centre-for-cyber-crime-investigation-for-karnataka-police/article25113772.ece

*For more on this theme:*

(Global) Why Collaboration Requires More Than a Local Team

(U.S.) Phoenix Partnership Promises to Further Regional Smart Cities Work

(U.S.) Verizon’s Smart Cities and How the Company Envisions Their Future

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Chip Hack a Sign of Chinese Cyber Threats to U.S., Officials Say
*Toluse Olorunnipa and Billy House – Bloomberg: 4 October 2018*

A cyber attack by China targeted nearly 30 U.S. companies, including Amazon and Apple, by compromising America’s technology supply chain, according to government and corporate sources.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) New National Cyber Strategy Message: Deterrence Through U.S. Strength

(U.S., China) U.S. warns of new hacking spree from group linked to China

(Asia-Pacific) Asia-Pacific countries fight back after wave of cyber attacks
https://www.ft.com/content/e846aeac-914f-11e8-b639-7680cedcc421
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Broadband subscriptions are up, but too many households are still disconnected
Adie Tomer and Lara Fishbane – Brookings: 28 September 2018

Broadband has become part of our essential infrastructure. But there remain so many gaps in its distribution that it doesn’t reach the standard expected of essential infrastructure systems.

For more on this theme:
(Ghana, Africa) Ghana: Forum On Improving Internet Usage Held in Accra
https://allafrica.com/stories/201810010593.html

(U.S.) Can social media help build communities?
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2018/10/01/can-social-media-help-build-communities/

(U.S) Schools See ‘Incredible Progress’ on Internet Connectivity, Report Says

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Russia accused of attempting cybercrime against chemical weapons watchdog
Brett Samuels – The Hill: 4 October 2018

A Russian cyber attack on the headquarters of the international chemical weapons watchdog was disrupted by Dutch military intelligence just weeks after the Salisbury Novichok attack.

For more on this theme:
(Ireland) 5,000 to receive cybercrime training

(GLOBAL) Cyber crime is most serious threat to businesses
https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSWAOARSK7ROE318A1

(GLOBAL) Thought police: Spotting cyber criminals before they break the law
INFORMATION SHARING

DHS says teamwork is improving election security
Derek B. Johnson – FCW: 2 October 2018

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has improved information sharing between state and federal governments in an effort to strengthen election security.


For more on this theme:

(Global) UN Panel Starts Consultations On Digital Cooperation: Philosophy and Practice

(U.S., Montenegro) US, Montenegro conduct groundbreaking cyber defense cooperation


CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

We need a cyber arms control treaty to keep hospitals and power grids safe from hackers
Martin Giles – MIT Technology Review: 1 October 2018

Despite efforts by the United Nations in 2013 and 2015 to apply international law to cyberspace, the initiative hasn’t had much impact. It’s time to establish international norms to protect critical infrastructure.


For more on this theme:

(Australia, U.S.) How Australia can help the US make democracy harder to hack

(U.S., China) The Cybersecurity 202: ‘No indication’ China intends to interfere with election infrastructure, Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen says

(U.S.) FDA issues ‘playbook’ to providers for medical device cybersecurity
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

The Islamic State’s Future in Afghanistan
Daud Khattak – The Algemeiner: 4 October 2018

ISIS grew in Afghanistan by recruiting members from the disenfranchised among the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban and from disaffected youth. But the group is largely incompatible with the region and has recently seen reversals in its fortunes.

ISIS’s Second Resurgence
Brandon Wallace and Jennifer Cafarella – Institute for the Study of War: October 2018

ISIS is still capable of reconstituting itself in Iraq and Syria, despite efforts to wipe the group out. ISIS is rebuilding command-and-control functions and raising money in an effort to regroup.
http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/10/isiss-second-resurgence.html?m=1

For more on this theme:

Egypt Arming Sinai Tribesman to Help Fight Against ISIS

The Hunt: How much longer will the fight against ISIS go on?

Taal Thok Ke: Are terrorists planning to create Islamic State in Kashmir?

Don’t Count Out ISIS Just Yet
https://www.thedailybeast.com/dont-count-out-isis-just-yet

Islamic State announces death of senior militant in Egypt’s Sinai

Jihadi ‘Islamic State’ Ring Spanning 17 Prisons Uncovered and Dismantled

Iraq’s Hawija turns dark as Islamic State continues to target electricity pylons

‘Islamic State Recruiter’ Allegedly Runs Free School In Sweden

ISIS regroups to attack a fragmented Libya
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/isis-regroups-to-attack-a-fragmented-libya
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Trinidad and Tobago – A Little Country That Is Big in Jihad
Hugo Franco – European Eye on Radicalization: 26 September 2018

Trinidad and Tobago has had a larger portion of the population become foreign fighters than most places in the world. The high per capita ratio is an anomaly if you look at the general population demographics, economics and democracy.

https://eeradicalization.com/trinidad-and-tobago-a-little-country-that-is-big-in-jihad/

Losing my religion? The backlash to Boko Haram in northern Nigeria
Obi Anyadike – African Arguments: 3 October 2018

Brutal acts at the hands of Boko Haram jihadis are leading Muslims to abandon their faith in the capital of Nigeria’s Borno State, the birthplace of the ISIS-linked terrorist group.

https://africanarguments.org/2018/10/03/losing-religion-backlash-boko-haram-nigeria/

For more on this theme:

Al Qaeda branch claims IED attack on Tunisian soldiers

Islamist Fighters Step Up Attacks With Nigerian Vote Looming

Surge in fighting among Libya’s ‘super militias’ imperils Western peace efforts

JNIM portrays its fight as part of Al Qaeda’s global jihad

As Somalia marks horrific attack, a book explores al-Shabab

Trump’s counter terrorism strategy identifies LeT, TTP as potential threat to US

Hamas leader to Israeli newspaper: war ‘not in our interest’
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/hamas-leader-to-israeli-newspaper-war-not-in-our-interest/2018/10/05/1ad50c78-c888-11e8-9c0f-2ffaf6d422aa_story.html

Al-Shabab founder to contest elections in Somalia

US treasury takes action to disrupt Hezbollah funding channels
https://www.thenational.ae/world/the-americas/us-treasury-takes-action-to-disrupt-hezbollah-funding-channels-1.777397
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Speaking to and about extremists
Linda Schleger – The Defense Post: 24 September 2018

There is a need to re-examine the way counternarratives are constructed. The key will be in the linguistics of the narrative – using a different toolbox than the one used by terrorists.

For more on this theme:
Hearts, Minds, and Jihad Online – A War That the EU Doesn't Understand
https://eeradicalization.com/hearts-minds-and-jihad-online-a-war-that-the-eu-doesnt-understand/

Why the media needs to be more responsible for how it links Islam and Islamist terrorism

France’s Fight Against Islamic Radicalization: The Writing Is Still on the Wall
https://besacenter.org/perspectives-papers/frances-fight-against-islamic-radicalization-the-writing-is-still-on-the-wall/

Forget Facebook, YouTube videos are quietly radicalizing large numbers of people — and the company is profiting

Radicalization in Chechnya: Key Factors and the Outlook
https://eeradicalization.com/radicalization-in-chechnya-key-factors-and-the-outlook/

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Awaiting judgement: Meeting the Islamic State families held in desert camps
Marta Bellingreri, Laura Battaglia and Alessio Mamo – The New Arab: 2 October 2018

The al-Shaham camp in Iraq is basically a prison for women and children who had family members who are believed to have been ISIS members. The residents have no idea what will happen to them.
https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2018/10/2/awaiting-judgement-meeting-the-is-families

For more on this theme:
Islamic State fighters add complications to U.S. counterterrorism mission in Philippines

Egypt FM warns of movement of foreign fighters from Idlib to other countries

What to do with convicted terrorists?
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

The Fight Against Terror Needs Better Data
Daniel Brennan and Miguel de Corral – Foreign Policy: 2 October 2018

Data is the key to developing strategies that can prevent youths from becoming radicalized.

For more on this theme:

Terrorist Threat ‘More Fluid and Complex Than Ever,’ White House Says

Killing Civilians to Save Civilians in the Fight Against ISIS
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/killing-civilians-to-save-civilians-in-the-fight-against-isis

Counter-Terrorism: Survival Through Adaptation

The High Operational Tempo of European Counterterrorism Operations
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/soufan-center/the-high-operational-tempo-of-european-counterterrorism-operations