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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Corruption won’t be solved by ‘wishing it away’, Iraqi government warned
Patrick Wintour – The Guardian: 3 October 2019

Violent protests have erupted across much of Iraq as demonstrators have poured into the streets, embittered about poor public services, corruption and unemployment. A senior advisor to the prime minister warned that only by tackling corruption could the protests be abated.


Peru’s President Has Dissolved Congress Amid an Anti-Corruption Push
Franklin Briceno and Christine Armario – The Associated Press: 1 October 2019

Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra has dissolved the country’s legislature, calling new elections that he says are necessary to uproot endemic corruption. “We are making history that will be remembered by future generations,” he said. “And when they do, I hope they understand the magnitude of this fight that we are in today against an endemic evil that has caused much harm to our country.”

https://www.apnews.com/82d3dd0d76054d5ba6744825c448d973

For more on this theme:

Zimbabwean women struggle to shake off sex-for-land corruption
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-zimbabwe-land-sextortion/zimbabwean-women-struggle-to-shake-off-sex-for-land-corruption-idUSKBN1WI00B

Auto Parts Tycoon In Iran Charged With Major Corruption, Punishable By Death

Rwandan Students Create Anti-Corruption App

Students resume protests in Indonesia streets over new law
https://www.apnews.com/5da2cffe0a0b42b9b3f03b488ca2412d

S. Africa to fight against corruption in health sector

Corruption in Romania: a European affair
https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/opinion/corruption-in-romania-a-european-affair/

Guyana Optimistic About Anti-Corruption Fight Although Resource Curse Looms

Fireworks and teargas: Indonesian students protest against corruption law – video
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Why were millions of opioid pills sent to a West Virginia town of 3,000?
Chris McGreal – The Guardian: 2 October 2019

Tiny pharmacies in a tiny town acted as “pill mills” where people gathered from far and wide to pick up massive quantities of opioids. “Let’s call this whole thing what it is. It’s pretty much a cartel. A drug trafficking organization,” said Sgt. Mike Smith of West Virginia State Police. Smith spent much of his career tracking the web of doctors, pharmacists and drug companies that made rural Mingo County the opioid capital of the U.S.

Argentina, Chile Team Up in Battle Against Synthetic Drugs
Chris Dalby – InSight Crime: 1 October 2019

Argentina has the largest consumption of cocaine per capita in Latin America. Cartels have managed to corrupt judges, politicians and police alike in the city of Itatí. Now its consumption of synthetic drugs rivals that of cocaine, and the country has become a regional hub for drugs such as MDMA and LSD.

For more on this theme:
Is the Deadly Philippine Anti-Drug Campaign Getting Less Deadly?

Afghanistan and the Global History of Drugs and Diplomacy

Makeshift centre helps drug addicts kick habit in Shan

Cocaine cartels fuel submarine building boom deep in Colombian jungle

Kenya big market for drugs, say police
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001343921/kenya-big-market-for-drugs-say-police

Plant-Based Meth Is the Next Frontier of Afghanistan’s Drug Trade

1,896 killed in drug war in Metro Manila

The Case for a Counterinsurgency Approach to Mexico’s Cartel Wars
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Wildlife trade may put nearly 9,000 land-based species at risk of extinction
Katherine J. Wu – Public Broadcasting Service: 3 October 2019

In the first global estimate of its kind, researchers tally an incredible 5,600 species harvested for commercial use — and predict which ones could be next. The new analysis shows that as many as 3,200 animals may join the ranks of highly trafficked creatures.
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/wildlife-trade-extinction-prediction/

Charcoal Trade Is Destroying Africa’s Forest Cover
Voice of America: 29 September 2019

Across Africa, trees are being cut and burned into charcoal, mostly illegally. Charcoal is widely used as biomass fuels for cooking and warmth throughout the continent.
https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/charcoal-trade-is-destroying-africa-s-forest-cover/5100247.html

For more on this theme:
Experts gather in Peruvian capital of Lima for conference on tackling wildlife crime in South and Central America

Finally, Latin America is tackling wildlife trafficking (commentary)

Zimbabwe: Toolkit to Expedite Trial of Wildlife Crimes Launched
https://allafrica.com/stories/201910030196.html

Cheetahs, CITES, and illegal trade: Are consumer countries doing enough? (commentary)

There’s No Way These Cute, Spiny Creatures Are All Sold Legally

Fishing for a solution to catch marine life smugglers
https://mg.co.za/article/2019-10-02-00-fishing-for-a-solution-to-catch-marine-life-smugglers

Global wildlife trade across the tree of life
https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6461/71

U.S. demand for pets and skins threatens some African animals
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/10/most-exported-animals-from-africa-destined-for-us/

Scientist Works to End Illegal Wildlife Trade in Southern China
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The Security Implications of Human Trafficking
Jamille Bigio and Rachel Vogelstein – Council on Foreign Relations: October 2019
A new report from the Women and Foreign Policy Program highlights the security implications of human trafficking and offers recommendations to prevent human trafficking and advance U.S. security interests.

How artificial intelligence is transforming the global battle against human trafficking
Hollie McKay – Fox News: 29 September 2019
Artificial intelligence and machine learning could change the game in the fight against human trafficking. Generating more than $150 billion in profits annually, human trafficking exists everywhere and is only growing. “The same networks that traffickers use to recruit their victims can also be used as the source of data to detect criminal activity,” said Alma Angotti, managing director at Navigant Consulting and a former U.S. regulation official for the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

For more on this theme:
Human Trafficking – It Came Disguised as the Opportunity of a Lifetime

Uganda: Clerics Launch Campaign Against Human Trafficking
https://allafrica.com/stories/201910030420.html

Supporters scramble as U.S. anti-trafficking funds are postponed

A simple debit card can help fight human trafficking, U.N. banking group says

Children for Sale: The Fight Against Child Trafficking in India

Human Trafficking and People Smuggling!

UN: Refugees Sailing from Bangladesh, Myanmar Face Greater Perils at Sea

Effort addresses Central American irregular migration

Latest IOM Study on Migration Trends in Senegal Explains Peak Arrivals in Spain
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Could China’s strict cyber controls gain international acceptance?
Simone McCarthy – South China Morning Post: 30 September 2019
Beijing says internet censorship is a matter of “cyber sovereignty,” but the U.S. and others call for a “free, open” cyberspace.

For more on this theme:
(Nepal) Internet Governance Forum — 2019 begins
(Namibia) Namibia Internet Governance Forum hosts seminar on digital inclusion and its economic benefits
(Europe, Global) Internet Consolidation at EuroDIG 2019: Questions in Need of Answers

INTERNET FREEDOM

Singapore ‘fake news’ law comes into force, offenders face fines and prison time
James Griffiths – CNN: 2 October 2019
Critics are calling Singapore’s anti-fake news law a method to suppress free speech in the already tightly controlled Asian city state.

For more on this theme:
(South Africa) Controversial Internet censorship Bill now law
https://www.itweb.co.za/content/mQwkoM6KJgkq3r9A
(India) India Has Sent Most Censorship Requests To Social Media Platforms In Last 10 Years
(Hong Kong) How Far Hong Kong’s Emergency Law Can Go (Online Too)
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

**Facebook Can Be Forced to Delete Content Worldwide, E.U.'s Top Court Rules**
*Adam Satariano – The New York Times: 3 October 2019*

Europe's top court said that individual countries can order Facebook to take down posts, photographs and videos not only in their own countries but elsewhere, in a ruling that extends the reach of the region’s internet-related laws beyond its own borders.

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/03/technology/facebook-europe.html

*For more on this theme:*

**(Global) Smart Devices Leaking Data To Tech Giants Raises New IoT Privacy Issues**

**(U.K.) UK court rules Google must face lawsuit over Safari privacy**
https://www.engadget.com/2019/10/02/google-safari-privacy-lawsuit-to-continue/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

**Are cyber-operations a U.S. retaliatory option for the Saudi oil field strikes? Would such action deter Iran?**
*Jacquelyn Schneider – The Washington Post: 1 October 2019*

Cyber operations seem to be an option for retaliation against Iran for the Saudi oil field strikes. And it wouldn’t be the first time the U.S. and Iran clashed in cyberspace. But would it be effective and what would the risks be?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/01/are-cyber-operations-us-retaliatory-option-september-oilfield-strikes-would-this-deter-iran/

*For more on this theme:*

**(U.S.) A federal backstop for insuring against cyberattacks?**
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2019/09/27/a-federal-backstop-for-insuring-against-cyberattacks/

**(Estonia) Could using Open Data be the next big leap for e-Estonia?**

**(Bermuda) National cybersecurity strategy launches**

**(Australia) It's time to reboot Australia's cybersecurity strategy**
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**NSA launches new cyber defense directorate**
*Ellen Nakashima – The Washington Post: 30 September 2019*

America’s National Security Agency (NSA) has created a unit to beef up the country’s defenses against cyber attackers. The Cybersecurity Directorate unifies the efforts of the NSA’s foreign intelligence and cyber defense missions, bringing personnel, emerging technology and threat detection efforts under one roof.


For more on this theme:

**(ASEAN)** New Asean cyber-security centre launched to train response teams to combat online threats


**(Canada)** OPP opens new Cyber Operations Centre


CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**New cyber-security masterplan launched to protect critical sectors**
*Hariz Baharudin – The Straits Times: 1 October 2019*

Singapore has unveiled a master plan to protect operational technology systems like water, transportation and electrical grids from cyber attacks.


For more on this theme:


**(Global)** Defence Of The Cyber Realm

https://www.informationsecuritybuzz.com/articles/defence-of-the-cyber-realm/

**(Global)** Why AI could help in the industrial security space

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Indian gov’t launches cybercrime reporting tool
Stephen Pritchard – PortSwigger: 1 October 2019

India has launched a reporting tool to encourage its citizens to report online crimes. The national Cyber Crime Portal has a category for reporting crimes against women and children, and another for reporting cyber crimes such as phishing, ransomware and denial-of-service attacks.

https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/indian-govt-launches-cybercrime-reporting-tool

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Fighting Cyber Crime is Critical for National Security, Says Secret Service Chief

(South Korea) Korean Police Train 15 EFCC Officials on Forensic Technology

(U.S.) Ohio lawmakers vote to set up a cyber reserve to fight, prevent attacks

(Germany) Darknet cybercrime servers hosted in former NATO bunker in Germany

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Cyber Storm 2020 could be DHS’s most rigorous drill for critical infrastructure yet
Sean Lyngaas – CyberScoop: 30 September 2019

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security hosts a biennial, large-scale exercise to test critical-infrastructure companies’ cyber defenses and responses. The Cyber Storm 2020 exercise is expected to be the most difficult test yet.


For more on this theme:
(India) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Says AI Will Be A Strategic Force For Indian Defence Sector

(U.K.) Two UK universities launch Centre for Doctoral Training in Cyber Security

(U.K.) UK Youngsters seeking to Win the European Cyber Security Challenge
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Egypt’s Sisi calls to confront extremism and spread moderate thought
Al-Masry Al-Youm – Egypt Independent: 30 September 2019

Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called for the government to promote moderate Islam and to have the Ministry of Endowments address misconceptions about the religion. He also wants the ministry to provide Imams with proper training to help them spread moderate thought.

Sri Lanka Stands Up to Extremism
Irina Tsukerman – Fair Observer: 2 October 2019

Sri Lanka held an interfaith summit called the National Conference on Peace, Harmony and Coexistence with the goal to “promote the values of interfaith, peace, harmony, coexistence and tolerance among the people of Sri Lanka,” among other lofty goals.

Preventing violent extremism isn’t a job for civil society alone
Isel van Zyl – Institute for Security Studies: 3 October 2019

Civil society needs to be backed by governmental institutions if it is to stand any chance of eradicating violent extremism.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/preventing-violent-extremism-isnt-a-job-for-civil-society-alone

For more on this theme:

Rising trend of radicalization needs to be checked globally
https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/event/2019/10/03/rising-trend-of-radicalization-needs-to-be-checked-globally

The right perspective? YouTube, radicalisation and Rebel Media

NGO launches drive to counter radicalisation, violent extremism

Diverse World, One Internet: How to Regulate Online Extremist Content?
https://theglobepost.com/2019/10/03/regulating-online-extremism/

New watchdog funded by tech giants will fight against online extremism
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/10/tech-companies-independent-watchdog-tackle-online-extremism/

Academics warn of rise of religious extremism in Malaysia
https://www.todayonline.com/world/academics-warn-rise-religious-extremism-malaysia
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Can ISIS Make a Comeback?
Seth J. Frantzman – The National Interest: 2 October 2019
ISIS stands little chance of reestablishing itself in Iraq if the U.S. continues to assist in confronting the terrorist group, according to the author. It will be expensive, but it should remain a top priority, he believes.
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/can-isis-make-comeback-85006

‘Islamic State’ returnees in Kosovo guided back into society
Matthias von Hein, Esther Felden and Bahri Cani – Deutsche Welle: 2 October 2019
Thousands of foreign ISIS supporters are being held in Syria. Most European countries refuse to repatriate them, but Kosovo is bringing its citizens home.

For more on this theme:
Islamic State’s money transfer network busted in Turkey
Foreign Isis fighters in Syria ‘should face war crimes tribunal’
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/02/foreign-isis-fighters-in-syria-should-face-war-crimes-tribunal
Exclusive: Europe’s Children of ISIS
US diplomat: ISIS could make a return in Iraq
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/us-diplomat-isis-could-make-a-return-in-iraq-1.919039
Austria repatriates two orphans of ISIS member parents from Syria
https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/03102019
Uncertain future awaits foreign ISIS orphans in Syria camp
https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/021020191
Isis views Ireland as ‘somewhere to fundraise rather than attack’
US Urges ‘Plan B’ for Islamic State Fighters, Families in Syria
Married to Islamic State
The Islamic State in West Africa Province is Growing in Strength and Sophistication
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

U.S. Sees Rising Threat in the West From Qaeda Branch in Syria

Al-Qaeda is exploiting an already chaotic security situation on the ground in Syria to plot attacks against the West.


Somalia fights to standardize schools with first new curriculum since civil war began
Abdi Sheikh and Abdirahman Hussein – Reuters: 1 October 2019

Somalia’s government is implementing a new curriculum for primary and secondary school students for the first time since the civil war broke out in 1991. Religious education is particularly important, said State Minister of Higher Education and Culture Abdirahman Mohamed Abdulle. The curriculum is being built on a foundation of countering extremism.


For more on this theme:

A Focus on Israel, Iran and Hezbollah
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/academic-incubator/a-focus-on-israel-iran-and-hezbollah

What can we take from Zawahiri’s latest message?
https://www.policyforum.net/what-can-we-take-from-zawahiris-latest-message/

The Hunt: Why has AQAP been so silent?

Don’t Abandon Lebanon to Hezbollah and Iran

Lebanon’s Hezbollah: Our troops will enter Israel

Africa holds the key to defeating terrorism
https://eastafricamonitor.com/africa-holds-the-key-to-defeating-terrorism/

Concern That Al-Shabaab is Gaining Ground in Mogadishu

Boko Haram’s escalating cruelty in Lake Chad region

The Origins of Pak-Afghan Terrorism

UN chief: World faces ‘unprecedented threat’ from terrorism
https://www.apnews.com/7e53c254ed404ef5992614e9735d0802
WHITE NATIONALIST TERRORISM

White Supremacy Extremism: The Transnational Rise of the Violent White Supremacist Movement
The Soufan Center: September 2019

White-supremacist extremist ideals are spreading across the world as organizations and individuals imitate groups like al-Qaida and ISIS. The groups share approaches to recruitment, financing and propaganda. And Ukraine has emerged as a hub in the network of transnational foreign recruitment, according to a new study by the Soufan Center.


For more on this theme:

Commentary: The need to rethink counter-terrorism

Countering Domestic Terrorism: Examining The Evolving Threat – OpEd

Counter Domestic Terrorism Proactively, Panelists Say
https://thehoya.com/domestic-radicalization/

National Security Podcast: Right-wing extremism and domestic terrorism (part one)

Punish students for Nazi salutes? It's not always easy — or a good idea, experts say

Former white supremacist: Kicking extremists off social media plays into ‘victimhood narrative’

Australia isn't taking the national security threat from far-right extremism seriously enough

Concern Grows over Neo-Nazi Extremism in Germany Based on Weapon Seizures
What Terrorism Experts Can Learn From Public Health Experts

Charles Kurzman – Foreign Policy: 28 September 2019

With major outbreaks and pandemics in the last 20 years, the health sector learned the hard way that balancing the need for preparedness and a duty not to incite panic are critical. National security officials should take a page out of the health sector’s book.


For more on this theme:

Australia has enacted 82 anti-terror laws since 2001. But tough laws alone can’t eliminate terrorism

Egypt: Regional Forum on Terrorism Recommends Enhancing Security Institutions

Is China prepared for global terrorism?
https://www.brookings.edu/research/is-china-prepared-for-global-terrorism/

Swiss military to launch major counter-terrorism exercise in and around Geneva
https://www.thelocal.ch/20190930/military-maneuvers-in-geneva-to-cause-traffic-disturbances-this-week

Counter-terrorism in Africa needs private sector involvement
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/counter-terrorism-in-africa-needs-private-sector-involvement
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

DEALING WITH DISASTERS

Deploying drones to prepare for climate change
Daysia Tolentino – MIT News: 4 October 2019

Doctoral student Norhan Bayomi uses drones to investigate how a building’s construction impacts communities’ resilience to rising temperatures.

Caribbean Adopts Remote Sensing to Prepare for Hurricanes
Jewel Fraser – Inter Press Service: 1 October 2019

In this Voices from the Global South podcast, Caribbean correspondent Jewel Fraser learns how remote sensing technology can help the region better prepare for natural disasters.
http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/10/caribbean-adopts-remote-sensing-prepare-hurricanes/

For more on this theme:

Women are at the Heart of Disaster Preparedness and Response

This is data FEMA needs for disaster recovery
https://www.federaltimes.com/it-networks/2019/09/30/this-is-data-fema-needs-for-disaster-recovery/

Training Manual - Disaster Risk Management (DRM) for Pakistan

India Launches Global Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure

Strengthening the disaster resilience of Indonesian cities - A policy note
(September 2019)

Rwanda: Govt in Fresh Bid to Mitigate Disasters
https://allafrica.com/stories/201910040100.html

African Risk Capacity (ARC) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat signs Agreement to Strengthen Climate Resilience