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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

People and Corruption: Latin America and the Caribbean
Transparency International: 9 October 2017

A new report from Transparency International indicates a majority of citizens say corruption is getting worse and governments are failing to address it. However, the study also shows that citizens throughout the region remain confident in their ability to make a difference in the fight against graft.

https://www.transparency.org/_view/publication/7983

Latin America’s anti-graft earthquake
The Christian Science Monitor: 11 October 2017

Mexico’s recent earthquake highlighted rampant corruption in building practices, likely contributing to the death toll. In response, citizens rallied to rescue survivors and are now focused on effecting change within the system.


For more on this theme:

Airbus Corruption Scandal May Lead Straight to the Top
http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/airbus-corruption-scandal-threatens-ceo-tom-enders-a-1171533.html

China’s Disciplinary Watchdog Says It Has Punished Over 1.34 Million Corrupt Officials Under Xi Jinping

Stemming Collapse: Venezuela’s War on Corruption
https://www.telesurtv.net/english/opinion/Stemming-Collapse-Venezuelas-War-on-Corruption-20171010-0010.html

A Corruption Trial Splits the Kremlin

Guatemalans Confront Government Over Its Resistance to Fight Corruption

Comprehensive online tool launched to help companies tackle bribery and corruption
https://www.transparency.org/news/pressrelease/comprehensive_online_tool_launched_to_help_companies_tackle_bribery_and_cor

Corruption, Not India, Is CPEC’s Biggest Threat
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Digital War on Drugs: App Shows Opioid Overdoses Instantaneously
Elizabeth Chuck – NBC News: 9 October 2017
The web-based Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program charts suspected opioid overdoses as they occur and alerts public safety officials.

A New Drug Win for Malaysia?
David Hutt – The Diplomat: 11 October 2017
Contrary to other countries in the region, Malaysia will likely do away with the death penalty for drug-related offenses, perhaps influencing less tolerant nations.
https://thediplomat.com/2017/10/a-new-drug-win-for-malaysia/

For more on this theme:
U.S. Endangers Fight Against Mexican Drug Trade With NAFTA Hardball

Philippines' Duterte hopes drugs war shift will satisfy ‘bleeding hearts’
http://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-drugs/philippines-duterte-hopes-drugs-war-shift-will-satisfy-bleeding-hearts-idUSKBN1CH10Y

A new deadly drug in India

The Hydra-Headed Drug Business
https://www.cato.org/blog/hydra-headed-drug-business

Liberal MP Craig Kelly Wants Australia To Reconsider Its Drug Policy

Is the Philippines Violent Drug War Spreading to Indonesia?
https://thediplomat.com/2017/10/is-the-philippines-violent-drug-war-spreading-to-indonesia/

Target Golden Triangle drug lords, not users, UN urges
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Poachers Work Across Borders, So Why Not Conservation Efforts?
Rachael Bale – National Geographic: 9 October 2017

Elephants do not recognize geo-political borders, traipsing from one nation to another on a nearly daily basis. But the protections they receive from one country to another are vastly different. It is time protections and conservation efforts also knew no boundaries.

Web apps and tools alerting authorities of illegal wildlife trade awarded at Zoohackathon
IANS – Tech 2: 9 October 2017

At this year’s international Zoohackathon in India, participants worked in teams to fight wildlife trafficking around the world.

For more on this theme:
Will Myanmar’s elephants die out because their skin is being made into jewellery?

African Countries Must Make Common Wildlife Conservation Efforts

The UK May Implement a Near-Total Ban on Its Ivory Trade

Combining technology and ancient tracking to save the cheetah

Marchers across the world demand justice for wildlife

Scientists Have Completed the First-Ever “Atlas of Life”
https://futurism.com/scientists-have-completed-the-first-ever-atlas-of-life/

2017 on course to be deadliest on record for land defenders
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/11/2017-deadliest-on-record-for-land-defenders-mining-logging

This company wants to regrow Earth’s forests with drones

Ghana: Government Is Committed to Curbing Threat of Illegal Mining Activities — Hon.amewu
http://allafrica.com/stories/201710110817.html
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

From Boko Haram to Islamic State, sex slavery and trafficking fund extremism: report
Lin Taylor – Thompson Reuters Foundation: 9 October 2017

Terrorists are using human trafficking, including trading in sex slaves, as a new source of funding, according to a report from the Henry Jackson Society.

Dramatic Drop in Number of Migrants Crossing the Sahel to Europe
Lisa Schlein – Voice of America: 12 October 2017

The number of migrants from West Africa crossing the Sahel region into Niger has dramatically decreased, according to the International Organization for Migration. Officials attribute this to Niger’s work against human smuggling networks.

For more on this theme:

Human trafficking cases hit record high amid ‘worrying’ decline in conviction rates
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/human-trafficking-cases-record-high-uk-conviction-rate-decline-slavery-vulnerable-victims-a7994251.html

Report: Cartel Human Smuggling Fees ‘Skyrocketed’ Under Trump

European rights chief questions Italy’s migrant deals with Libya

When a Crackdown on Smugglers Harms Syrian Refugees
https://www.newsdeeply.com/refugees/community/2017/10/12/when-a-crackdown-on-smugglers-harms-syrian-refugees

Libyan Fighters Say They’ve Captured Smuggling Hub of Sabratha

Beatings and slave labour: Claims of abuse inside Libya’s ‘horrific’ migrant camps

Oxfam slams EU for putting migrants at risk

Migrant smuggling tops EU crime priorities
https://euobserver.com/justice/139365
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The internet's giants have changed the meaning of corporate social responsibility
Phil Reilly – Mumbrella: 13 October 2017

Absent global rules and norms, private companies are determining the cyber governance they employ. As Assistant Professor Emily Laidlaw of the University of Calgary put it: “The result is a system of private governance running alongside the law without any of the human rights safeguards one normally expects of state-run systems, such as principles of accountability, predictability, accessibility, transparency and proportionality.”

For more on this theme:
(Global) Digital Trade Agreements Failing to Reflect Internet Community Input: UNCTAD

(Guyana) ‘Building the Internet Collectively’ – Internet Week Guyana launched

(U.K., Global) The tech giants operate like cars without brakes. They must be reined in

INTERNET FREEDOM

Guess what Chinese travellers are bringing back home? VPNs, lots of them
Coco Liu – South China Morning Post: 6 October 2017

Bringing home the usual trinkets and a phone full of virtual private network (VPN) apps after traveling abroad is now the new norm in China since the country banned the apps.

For more on this theme:
(Egypt) Netizen Report: LGBTQ People Face Online Censorship and Threats in Egypt

(Indonesia) Indonesia plans to block 30 million websites with new automated online censorship system
https://www.vpncompare.co.uk/indonesia-plans-to-block-30-million-websites-with-new-automated-online-censorship-system/

(China) China’s Great Firewall Grows Higher Ahead of Party Congress
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The new DHS plan to gather social media information has privacy advocates up in arms
Shirin Jaafari – PRI: 12 October 2017

Five years ago the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) started gathering data from the social media accounts of immigrants and foreign visitors. The DHS just announced last month that it was collecting the information, which includes “social media [accounts], aliases, associated identifiable information, and search results.”


For more on this theme:
(Belgium, Global) Facebook Is Watching You, Belgian Privacy Agency Warns in Court

(Argentina) Cyber security and data privacy in Argentina

(Global) How artificial intelligence is becoming a key weapon in the cyber security war

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

It's Time For India to Update Its Cybersecurity Policy
Aman Thakker – The Diplomat: 10 October 2017

For India to achieve its goals under the Digital India initiative, the government must update its cyber security policy to reflect the growing threats in cyberspace. It can start by prioritizing the security of its citizens’ personal data. Digital India is a national campaign to boost internet access and connectivity.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., China) U.S. Criticism of China's Cybersecurity Law and the Nexus of Data Privacy and Trade Law

(U.S., North Korea) North Korean Hack of U.S. War Plans Shows Off Cyber Skills

(Australia) Australia’s International Cyber Engagement Strategy
https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=de4806a8-77da-43c8-b13f-f748e4430175
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

U.S. governors, hackers, academics team up to secure elections
Jim Finkle – Reuters: 9 October 2017

The U.S. government is joining forces with academics and hackers to prevent the hacking of voting machines and systems.


For more on this theme:

(Global) INTERPOL and Kaspersky Lab strengthen partnership with new threat intelligence exchange agreement

(Australia) Palo Alto Networks pledges support to Aus Govt’s Cyber Engagement Strategy

(U.S.) AC joins cybersecurity alliance with Department of Homeland Security

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

“Cyber espionage is alive and well”: Tehan
Sabra Lane – Australian Broadcasting Corp.: 10 October 2017

In a radio interview, Dan Tehan, Australia’s cyber security minister, discusses this year’s Australian Cyber Security Threat report.

http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/cyber-espionage-is-alive-and-well-dan-tehan/9032938

For more on this theme:

(China, U.S.) Some U.S. businesses urge caution in China intellectual property trade push

(Global) Why big corporates need to fight off cyber attacks

(U.K.) UK government considers classifying Google and Facebook as publishers
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Cyber security ministry a welcome development
Jacob Kudzayi Mutisi – The Herald: 11 October 2017
Zimbabwe created a Ministry of Cyber Security, Threat Detection and Mitigation to fight cyber crime and encourage organizations to take responsibility for cyber security.
http://www.herald.co.zw/cyber-security-ministry-a-welcome-development/

For more on this theme:
(Australia) Government funds new cyber security centre
(South Africa) South Africa Wants to Create a Super Communications Watchdog
https://techfinancials.co.za/2017/10/10/south-africa-wants-create-super-communications-watchdog/
(Brazil) Investing in Cyber Defense is Essential for Brazil's Future

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Most cyber crime doesn’t require tech sleuth skills, just a bit of research and flattery
Courtney Linder – Pittsburg Post-Gazette: 11 October 2017
Most cyber security incidents could be prevented if users practiced “basic hygiene” online, according to the founding director of Pittsburgh’s Institute for Cyber Law, Policy and Security.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Dear millennials, here is why you are a soft target for cyber criminals
(Asia-Pacific) Asia-Pacific world’s main target for cyber attacks: Trend Micro
(EU) EU ‘underestimated’ cyber-crime
https://euobserver.com/digital/139344
INFORMATION SHARING

Education, Information Sharing Key in Healthcare Cybersecurity
Elizabeth Snell – HealthITSecurity.com: 10 October 2017

The health care industry needs to revamp its cyber security and focus on education and information sharing if it hopes to keep up with today’s threats.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Efforts to Protect Consumer Data Face Corporate Pushback
http://www.newyorklawjournal.com/id=1202800272468/Efforts-to-Protect-Consumer-Data-Face-Corporate-Pushback?slreturn=20170913041814

(U.S.) Transforming statewide data sharing

(U.S.) What our cyberwall knows

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The cyber security threat to transportation
SmartCitiesWorld: 12 October 2017

According to Barry Einsig, global automotive and transportation executive at Cisco, “As cyber security threats continue to increase, smart cities will need more experienced security personnel and robust security policies and procedures in place for not only defending against attacks, but also for how to respond and remediate after an attack.”

https://smartcitiesworld.net/special-reports/special-reports/the-cyber-security-threat-to-transportation

For more on this theme:

(Global) Maritime Cyber Security: No Substitute for Testing
https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/maritime-cyber-security-no-substitute-testing

(U.K.) Defending UK ‘digital homeland’ from cyber attack as important as spying and counter terrorism, says new GCHQ director

(U.S.) Voting Machines: A National Security Vulnerability?
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Nusra Front, Islamic State clash in Syria’s Hama province
Reuters: 9 October 2017
After the Syrian Army drove ISIS from an area east of Hama province, the terrorist group attacked and took over 12 nearby villages held by rival jihadist alliance Tahrir al-Sham.

Isis calls on women to fight and launch terror attacks for first time
Lizzie Dearden – The Independent: 6 October 2017
In its Arabic language newspaper, ISIS called on women to take up arms and “fulfill their duties on all fronts in supporting the mujahedeen in this battle.” This call to arms could have wider implications for attacks across the globe.

For more on this theme:
From ‘caliphate’ to on the run: the demise of Islamic State

How the Islamic State spins the Marawi narrative
http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2017/10/12/how-the-islamic-state-spins-the-marawi-narrative/

Hezbollah leader says U.S. actions aiding Islamic State in Syria

Islamic State backers find ephemeral platform in Instagram

Balkan Islamic State Problem Growing

Islamic State’s backdoor to the Philippines
http://www.atimes.com/article/islamic-states-backdoor-philippines/

Hamas claims to arrest senior Islamic State leaders in Gaza

Fall of ISIS Stronghold Raqqa Will Change War on Extremists, Not End It
https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/fall-isis-stronghold-raqqa-will-change-war-extremists-not-end-n808621
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Boko Haram ‘Brides’ and Their Babies
*The Daily Beast – 7 October 2017*

Boko Haram is known for kidnapping young women and raping them or forcing them into marriage. The group has stated it hopes to breed the next generation of Boko Haram fighters. If the young women escape, they face stigmas back home.


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Al Qaeda Spinoffs Rise from Syrian Ashes
*Bennett Seftel – The Cipher Brief: 12 October 2017*

While the world watches the battle with ISIS in Syria, an al-Qaida affiliate, Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, has grown in size, power and popularity.


For more on this theme:

**ANALYSIS: Unraveling the global tentacles of Hezbollah’s sleeper cells**

**Unity Deal Offers Hope for Palestinians and a Respite for Gaza**

**Is the U.S. Prepared for a Resurgent Al Qaeda?**
https://thecrimereport.org/2017/10/12/is-the-u-s-prepared-to-deal-with-a-resurgent-al-qaeda/

**Iran’s links with al-Qaeda, reality defies conventional wisdom**

**Trouble in jihadist paradise as Al-Qaeda attacks ISIS in central Syria**

**Yemenis see turning point after ousting Al Qaida militants in south**

**Taliban Warns Phone Companies to Shut Down Their Coverage in Ghazni**

**Taliban storms base in northwestern Afghanistan**
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Radicalization in Belgium: ‘It will take years to fix’
Doris Pundy – Deutsche Welle: 7 October 2017

Belgium is fighting an uphill battle against extremism and radicalization. So far, they have employed art and humor in the fight, but there is still much to do.
http://www.dw.com/en/radicalization-in-belgium-it-will-take-years-to-fix/a-40827058

Deradicalization must be tailored to Canadian cities, says expert
Alison Crawford – CBC News: 7 October 2017

According to preliminary findings from the Canada Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence, the radicalization of Canadians is a local problem the requires local solutions.

For more on this theme:
America’s Real Enemy: The Salafi-Jihadi Movement
http://longform.aei.org/americas-real-enemy/post/14/introduction

Sri Lanka’s Opportunities to Counter Youth Radicalization

Pentagon suspects Green Berets in Niger killed by self-radicalized group

A Norway massacre survivor explains how we need to pay more attention to the radicalization of white men

India, EU agree to tackle online extremism, radicalization

Prisoners Release Delayed for Possible Radicalization

Extremists Take Aim at the Plastic Minds of Kids
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

What Should the West Do With Fighters Returning From Syria and Iraq?
Alexander Smith and Vladimir Banic – NBC News: 12 October 2017

This article asks: Is it possible for a foreign fighter to be peacefully reintegrated into society?
https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-uncovered/what-should-west-do-fighters-returning-syria-iraq-n800261

For more on this theme:

The Favored Conflicts of Foreign Fighters From Central Europe
https://jamestown.org/program/favored-conflicts-foreign-fighters-central-europe/

Ghana is second highest recruit contributor to ISIS – Okudzeto

Europe Expects More Terror Attacks, Even as IS Falters
https://www.voanews.com/a/europe-radicalization/4063899.html

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

A New Counterterrorism Law Reflects France’s New Normal
Judah Grunstein – World Politics Review: 11 October 2017

France is set to pass a controversial terrorism law that will codify some of the current state of emergency actions. Opponents fear it gives the government too much power and authority in the name of counterterrorism operations, while proponents cite the need for national security.

For more on this theme:

My Priorities As UN Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism: The Problem of Permanent Emergencies

Trump, Macron discuss joint counterterrorism operations in Africa’s Sahel

Are Thailand’s counter-terrorism measures effective?
https://www.aseantoday.com/2017/10/are-thailands-counter-terrorism-measures-effective/

Oman quadrilateral meeting to review Pakistan’s counter-terrorism efforts
https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/10/10/oman-quadrilateral-meeting-to-review-pakistans-counter-terrorism-efforts/

India, Australia discuss joint effort to counter terrorism
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

DEALING WITH DISASTERS

School as a key to reducing people affected by disasters by 2030
Vishal Pathak – All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI): 10 October 2017
The nongovernmental organization AIDMI is enacting an education plan to reduce the number of people affected by disasters by 2030.
http://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/55319

Keeping children safe through preparedness
SOS Children’s Villages: 13 October 2017
SOS Children’s Villages-Columbia University launched an effort to improve disaster preparedness and management to keep children and families safe.

For more on this theme:
On disaster reduction day — lessons for Pakistan?
A snapshot of disaster and management practices on International Day for Disaster Reduction
https://researchmatters.in/article/snapshot-disaster-and-management-practices-international-day-disaster-reduction
AU to host global meet on disaster management
Civilians to help with disaster management
South Asia’s Monsoon Disaster and Climate Change
https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/2017/10/13/south-asias-monsoon-disaster-climate-change/
Tens of thousands beneficiaries from the disaster risk management project in ethnic minority areas
Sharing Japanese Expertise in Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) Systems at National and Local levels