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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Female Pan-African MPs seek to integrate anti-corruption values in school curricula
Athan Tashobya – The New Times: 1 November 2018

Female parliament members from across Africa want anti-corruption curricula in the schools. “Aware that the perception of Africa as a corrupt continent must change, [we] have hereby agreed to introduce anti-corruption values in school curricula,” their resolution read in part.

Even military personnel may fall prey to corruption: Biazon
ABS-CBN News: 29 October 2018

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte put the Bureau of Customs temporarily under military control after two large shipments of illegal drugs slipped past the agency through the Port of Manila. Duterte is expecting the new customs leadership to curb corruption and work closely with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to stop smuggling.

For more on this theme:
Corruption looms large in Madagascar presidential poll

The biggest corruption scandal in Latin America’s history

Should we consider an amnesty for corruption?
https://www.news24.com/MyNews24/should-we-consider-an-amnesty-for-corruption-20181026

Brazil Carwash Judge to Be Bolsonaro’s Anti-Corruption Czar

Nigerian politics and the mystification of corruption
https://guardian.ng/politics/nigerian-politics-and-the-mystification-of-corruption/

Explosive report exposes massive corruption and implicates over 20 senior cops

Iran Parliament Raises Alarm On Widespread Corruption

The global systems which enable major scale corruption in Africa can’t be fixed in Africa
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug cartels test Central America for cocaine production
Sofía Menchu and Gustavo Palencia – Reuters: 1 November 2018
Cocaine production is spreading into Central America, making an already unstable region even more of a security threat.
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-centralamerica-drugs/drug-cartels-test-central-america-for-cocaine-production-idUSKCN1N64GA

Thailand Mulls Becoming the First Country in Asia to Legalize Medical Marijuana
Eli Meixler – Time: 1 November 2018
Once a major exporter of marijuana, Thailand is considering whether to enter the export market for medicinal marijuana and whether to legalize the drug for medical use in the country.
http://time.com/5441318/thailand-legalize-medical-marijuana/

For more on this theme:
Drug trafficking grows around waters in southern Spain

Albania declares war on drug trade
https://www.dw.com/en/albania-declares-war-on-drug-trade/a-46062453

Even With ‘El Chapo’ Away, Sinaloa Cartel Remains Mexico’s Top Crime Group

Fight against illegal drugs ‘needs boost’

Drug abuse must be treated as a public health issue, not a war

Bangladesh’s deadly war on drugs
https://timesofoman.com/article/328205

Portugal’s drug policy shows what common-sense approach looks like

Shift in Mexico drug policy would focus on legalization, health

First FDA approved cannabis-based drug now available by prescription

UK doctors can now prescribe weed. But you probably won’t get it
https://www.wired.co.uk/article/uk-medical-cannabis-cbd-oil
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Real-life tomb raiders: Egypt’s $US3 billion smuggling problem
Walt Curnow – Australian Broadcasting Corp. News: 22 October 2018

About $3 billion have been lost to antiquities smuggling in Egypt since 2011. The problem is so pronounced, you can even see it from space – looted archaeology sites are riddled with crater-like holes.


Rhino horn: Alarm as China eases 25-year ban on rhino and tiger parts
BBC: 30 October 2018

China announced it was reversing a 25-year ban on the trade of rhinoceros and tiger parts for scientific, medical and cultural purposes, a move wildlife conservationists fear could have “devastating consequences” globally.


For more on this theme:

China Just Eased a Ban on Rhino and Tiger Parts. Here’s How Organized Crime Fuels Illegal Poaching
http://time.com/5438770/illegal-wildlife-trade-last-animals/

Report: Mozambique Violence Funded by Illicit Trade

Ex-poacher turned fierce wildlife defender
http://www.mediamaxnetwork.co.ke/479132/ex-poacher-turned-fierce-wildlife-defender/

The workers who rescue and save wildlife

Traffickers Are Using Instagram and YouTube as Black Markets for Live Cheetahs

Countering smuggling in Ukraine boosts customs’ daily revenue by over 31% – PM Groysman

New method to detect illegal wildlife trafficking

To end wildlife trafficking, engage with local communities

Increased Surveillance, Stiffer Penalties at Heart of Wildlife Trafficking Fight
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

OSCE promotes multi-agency responses to fight human trafficking of migrants and refugees
OSCE workshops in Italy are focusing on the development of a multidisciplinary response to human trafficking that begins with the reception and identification phase.
https://www.osce.org/secretariat/401093

Anti-slavery comic warns U.S. teens about ‘wolves in the street’
Jason Fields – Reuters: 1 November 2018
A comic strip called “Wolves in the Street” is being offered on Snapchat and Instagram to reach tech-savvy teenagers to warn them about the dangers of human trafficking.

For more on this theme:

Human trafficking on the rise in SA

Belgium Accused Of Financing Libyan Militias Involved In Human Trafficking

Combating human trafficking: Lessons from International Visitors Leadership Program

Government launches new strategy to tackle serious and organised crime

UN expert calls on Security Council to address trafficking as human rights issue

Migrants risk their lives to move on from Italy

EU funds to tackle Niger’s people smugglers miss their target

In migrant caravan, safety in numbers and no smuggling fees

Justice Minister speaks out against Human Trafficking

56,800 migrants dead and missing: ‘They are human beings’
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Has Internet Governance Become Irrelevant?
Geoff Huston – CircleID: 26 October 2018

The relevance of internet governance will be debated during a panel discussion at the Internet Governance Forum in Paris this month.
http://www.circleid.com/posts/20181026_has_internet_governance_become_irrelevant/

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) U.S. Government follows up on “cooling off period” idea for ICANN employees

(China) China Exports Its Restrictive Internet Policies to some Countries

(U.K., Canada) Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg called before ‘grand committee’ on ‘fake news’ made up of British and Canadian parliamentarians
https://pressgazette.co.uk/facebook-boss-mark-zuckerberg-called-before-grand-committee-on-fake-news-made-up-of-british-and-canadian-parliamentarians/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Freedom on the Net 2017: Manipulating Social Media to Undermine Democracy
Freedom House: October 2018

Internet freedom continues to decline across the world, according to the independent watchdog organization Freedom House. The group’s annual report shows an overall decline for the seventh consecutive year, due in large part to disinformation campaigns and service disruptions as well as attacks on human rights defenders and the media.

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The Future of Net Neutrality
https://www.thenation.com/article/net-neutrality-broadband-fcc/

(U.S., China) U.S. Embassy Uses WeChat to Air Criticism of China on Home Turf

(Global) Blockchain Tech Gives New Hope to Censored Activists and Journalists
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Prison time, hefty fines for data privacy violations: draft U.S. Senate bill
David Shepardson – Reuters: 1 November 2018

A bill introduced in the U.S. Senate, the Consumer Data Protection Act, would comprehensively overhaul internet privacy protections.


For more on this theme:

(Global) 30 Years Ago, the World’s First Cyberattack Set the Stage for Modern Cybersecurity Challenges

(Global) Nothing exceeds like excess; or, a lack of privacy in the digital age

(Europe, Global) Regulating children’s data and privacy online: the implications of the evidence for age-appropriate design

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Estonia, Telangana decide to work hand in hand
The Hindu: 27 October 2018

The government of Telangana, India, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Estonia to collaborate on digital development and related policies.


For more on this theme:

(Europe) Europe’s Digital Agenda (26-22 October)
https://www.governmentcomputing.com/brexit-eu/comment/europes-digital-agenda-22-26-october

(U.S.) National cyber strategy takes action on long-known solutions

(Australia) Australia’s cyber spy chief slams corporates contemplating “hacking back”
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

**Feds, Telecom Industry, Mayors Pledge Cooperation on Building Smart Cities**
*Richard Morrison – Competitive Enterprise Institute: 30 October 2018*

When considering how to build smart cities, a partnership with government, private industry and consumers should be at the forefront of solutions.

https://cei.org/blog/feds-telecom-industry-mayors-pledge-cooperation-building-smart-cities

For more on this theme:

*(Global) Low-Cost Broadband for Kids*
https://www.insidesources.com/low-cost-broadband-for-kids/

*(U.S.) Digital Cities Survey 2018 — Winners Announced*

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**China Telecom diverted internet traffic in U.S. and Canada, report finds**
*Robert Fife and Steven Chase – The Globe and Mail: 30 October 2018*

The journal *Military Cyber Affairs* reports that researchers from the U.S. Naval War College and Tel Aviv University have documented how China Telecom redirects massive swaths of internet traffic through the company’s routers as part of state military and commercial espionage efforts.


For more on this theme:

*(U.S.) US Launches Initiative to Fight Chinese Economic Espionage*

*(Iran, U.K.) Iranian Hackers Hit U.K. Cybersecurity Universities*

*(U.S., France, China) Cybersecurity and IP Experts Warn Alleged Jet Maker Spy Plot Is a Wake-Up Call*
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Life in the slow lane: Welcome to the internet in rural America
Shara Tibken – CNET: 26 October 2018

Rural internet users still can’t begin to touch the internet speeds of their urban counterparts. The findings are part of CNET’s “Crossing the Broadband Divide” series, which explores the challenges of getting internet access to everyone.


For more on this theme:
(Nigeria) Operators Seek Affordable Internet Connection For 100m Nigerians
https://leadership.ng/2018/11/01/operators-seek-affordable-internet-connection-for-100m-nigerians/

(India) Cyber threat landscape is evolving rapidly, India needs to fill skill gap fast

(Ghana) Gov't creating safe, secure cyber society - Akufo-Addo

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

How This Secret Cyber Security Centre In Chennai Protects All Of Us In India From Cyber Attacks
Jayesh Shinde – India Times: 27 October 2018

A cyber security facility in Chennai, India, is at the forefront of protecting Indian businesses and people from online threats. It is a sign of things to come.


For more on this theme:
(Lebanon) Cyber Crimes: Lebanese Police Warn of Scams to Lure People Via Facebook

(U.S.) HoneyBot Fights Cyber Crime
https://www.afcea.org/content/honeybot-fights-cyber-crime

(Zambia) Counter cybercrime vigilantly, timely
http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/counter-cybercrime-vigilantly-timely/
INFORMATION SHARING

Center for Internet Security looks to expand threat sharing program to political campaigns

Sean Lyngaas – CyberScoop: 30 October 2018

At the beginning of a political campaign, money is often tight and cyber security may not be a top priority. The Center for Internet Security is looking to help with that.

https://www.cyberscoop.com/center-for-internet-security-looks-to-expand-threat-sharing-program-to-political-campaigns/

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) DoD, DHS In New Partnership To Strengthen Information Sharing, Roles For Cyber Security


(Global) Information sharing key to fighting cyber crime


(U.S.) HHS Tries Again: New Cyber Coordination Center Launched


CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy industry is well prepared to defend itself, consumers against cyber threats

Aaron Padilla – The Hill: 31 October 2018

The new report, “Defense-in-Depth: Cybersecurity in the Natural Gas and Oil Industry,” describes the industry’s resilience and preparedness to defend itself and energy consumers against malicious cyber threats. It provides insights for policymakers into the comprehensive cyber security programs of the natural gas and oil industry.


For more on this theme:

(Global) The Impact of cyber warfare on nuclear deterrence: A conceptual and empirical overview


(U.S., Global) Protecting Critical Infrastructure: Why Cyber Security is Important


(U.S.) Pipelines Strike Back: Are Cybersecurity Concerns Full Of Hot Air?

Islamic militant attacks up overall, but ISIS incidents down in Africa
John Vandiver – Stars and Stripes: 1 November 2018

Though the overall number of attacks by Islamist extremists in Africa increased slightly in 2017, the number of ISIS attacks in Africa decreased, according to a new report. In Africa’s Sahel region, violence associated with militant Islamist groups tripled in the past 12 months.


Why Jordan Is Next for ISIS
Emily Przyborowski – The National Interest: 31 October 2018

An estimated 3,000 foreign fighters traveled from Jordan to fight with ISIS, making that country among the top contributors to the ranks of ISIS extremism. Despite Jordan’s ties to the West, returning extremists pose a major threat.

https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/why-jordan-next-isis-34792

For more on this theme:

Al-Fuqaha attack highlights Islamic State’s growing confidence in Libya
https://thedefensepost.com/2018/10/31/islamic-state-libya-growing-confidence-opinion/

The anticlimactic destruction of the Islamic State ‘caliphate’

Increasingly bold Islamic State attacks indicate aspiration to exploit civil-state tensions and seize control of Iraq’s energy installations

Islamic State advances to Iraq border in eastern Syria

Islamic State finds safe haven in the Philippines

Islamic state claims responsibility for attack on Shi’ites in Iraq

‘ISIS trying to smuggle drones from Europe for global attacks’

Egypt’s war on ISIS in the Sinai making significant progress
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Qaeda Is Thriving, Despite Our Endless War. Can We Ever Defeat It?
Ali Soufan – Buzz Feed: 29 October 2018

Al-Qaida has survived and grown despite U.S. and coalition efforts because nobody has found a way to defeat its appeal – the ideology.
https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/alisoufan/opinion-bin-laden-is-dead-so-why-is-al-qaeda-thriving

A Look Into the Evidence That ‘Lone Wolf’ Terrorists Are a Pack
Francie Diep – PSMag: 29 October 2018

The term “lone wolf” is a misnomer. Often these extremists will connect with like-minded individuals over the internet and become members of a loose pack.

For more on this theme:
Report: Taliban maintaining foothold in Afghanistan amid increasing violence

Qatar, Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban: A Creepy Relationship

Kenyan Al Shabaab fighters used as sacrificial lambs, returnee says

Mo Ibrahim: How to stop Boko Haram, Al Shabaab
https://www.nan.ng/news/mo-ibrahim-how-to-stop-boko-haram-al-shabaab/

Militant Islamist Group Activity in the Sahel Rises
https://africacentral.org/spotlight/militant-islamist-group-activity-sahel-rises/

Society Is To Blame For Upsurge Of Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab – Farah

Nigeria: Another Boko Haram in the making?

Hamas agrees to end protests along Israel-Gaza border
https://www.thenational.ae/world/ena/hamas-agrees-to-end-protests-along-israel-gaza-border-1.787171

Former US-backed rebels in Syria joining Hezbollah: report
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Majlis Podcast: Untangling Why Thousands Of Central Asians Joined Islamic State
Qishloq Ovozi – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 28 October 2018
A new documentary project filmed in Central Asia seeks both to document and counter violent extremism in the region.

For more on this theme:
Ian Acheson hails Egypt’s prisons in which ISIS are isolated essentially
http://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/59774/Ian-Acheson-hails-Egypt%E2%80%99s-prisons-in-which-ISIS-are-isolated

Preventing acts of terror, before Jihadists plan them
http://www.brandeis.edu/now/2018/november/yujiao-su-klausen-profile.html

The media battle over radicalization

The psychology of how someone becomes radicalized

Policing social media to combat online radicalization

Trump Shut Down Programs to Counter Violent Extremism

The Many Faces of Radicalization
https://fpif.org/the-many-faces-of-radicalization/

Home Office grapples with radicalisation as terrorist a week is released from jail
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-grapples-with-radicalisation-as-terrorist-a-week-is-released-from-jail-d5klb7pj3

Crackdown on Shiite group sparks fears of radicalisation
https://punchng.com/crackdown-on-shiite-group-sparks-fears-of-escalation/

The psychology of how someone becomes radicalised
https://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=12153329

Tackling radicalisation a priority: Guv
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

INSIGHT-Europe torn over Islamic State children in Syria
*Reuters: 1 November 2018*

Europe has been reluctant to accept returning extremists, their wives or their families. But their disposition cannot remain in limbo for much longer.

http://news.trust.org/item/20181101065812-xd509/

For more on this theme:

**More than 120 anti-‘Islamic State’ fighters returned to Germany since 2013**

**EU terror threat: US demands Europe allows 600 ISIS widows to return – ‘Take them back!’**

**On returning ISIS fighters, Canada has ‘responsibility’ not to ‘hand it off’ to others, MP says**

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

**Turning A Speech Act Into Action: Counterterrorism at UNGA73**
*Political Insights: 2 November 2018*

At the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Alexandra Rojas and Marina Kumskova discussed ways in which a "speech act" further perpetuates violence and instability in the world by presenting terrorism as the only threat that is nearly existential and requires an immediate militarized response.


For more on this theme:

**Why terror cases rarely get convictions**

**Big Tech and Terrorism – A British “Watershed” View**

**Britain’s new counter-terrorism legislation will undermine the rule of law even further**