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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Could New Anti-Corruption App Reduce Graft in Mexico?
Parker Asmann – InSight Crime: 20 October 2017
A new phone application was launched in Mexico for citizens to report corruption. The app will enable research and distribution of anti-corruption resources.

How Political Corruption Fuels Gang Violence in Central America
Jose Miguel Cruz – Pacific Standard: 24 October 2017
Behind the violent gangs in Central America is the underlying problem of corruption. Crime and gangs are symptoms of the much greater issue of graft.

For more on this theme:

Tunisia grants amnesty to officials accused of corruption

UN official says education needed to fight corruption

Corruption and fraud Africa’s weapons of mass economic destruction

Information Minister Throws Light on Liberia’s Fight Against Corruption

A Look At How China’s Anti-Corruption Campaign Has Affected Ordinary Citizens

What Motivates Chinese President Xi Jinping’s Anti-Corruption Drive?

Ukraine’s Combat Veterans Dig In for the War Against Corruption

Tackling the foundations of corruption
https://www.globalgovernmentforum.com/tackling-foundations-corruption/

Morocco’s King Is Taking on Corruption
http://nationalinterest.org/feature/moroccos-king-taking-corruption-22897
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Indonesia’s Drug Czar is Threatening a Duterte-Style War on Drug Dealers
Joseph Hincks – Time: 19 October 2017

The head of Indonesia’s National Narcotics Agency opined that his country may start following the Philippines’ playbook of extrajudicial killings. He suggested police should be allowed to shoot suspected drug dealers on the spot.
http://time.com/4990716/indonesian-drug-war-police-duterte/

Great, Mexican Drug Cartels Now Have Weaponized Drones
David Axe – Motherboard: 25 October 2017

This month, Central Mexican police pulled over a pickup truck carrying a drone – with a small bomb attached. Criminals have long used drones for smuggling, especially for drug trafficking.

For more on this theme:
Telling the Danish government that illegal drug trade is playing into the hands of the criminals

The Drug Routes Through Greece to Europe
http://greece.greekreporter.com/2017/10/22/the-drug-routes-through-greece-to-europe/

Is Cocaine Use On the Rise? DEA Says U.S. Consumption Is Rebounding As Colombian Coca Production Increases

Paradigm shift in the Philippine drug war
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/your_say/30329835

Narco-Tales: Russia's shifting drug landscape

AP FACT CHECK: Anti-drug ad campaigns fared poorly in past

Support For Marijuana Legalization Reaches All-Time High: Gallup Poll
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/marijuana-legalization-gallup-poll_us_59f0c088e4b0d094a5b6b1ce

Afghan Opium Production Reaches Record High
https://www.voanews.com/a/afghanistan-opium-production/4083875.html

Cartels in Southeast Asia turning to synthetic drugs
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

India’s Wildlife Trafficking Epidemic
Neeta Lal – The Diplomat: 26 October 2017

India’s government is under fire for the country’s rising illegal wildlife trade and its failure to impose harsher punishments for those caught poaching.

Chasing the Illegal Loggers Looting the Amazon Forest
Richard Conniff – Wired: 24 October 2017

Government officials have done little to stop illegal logging in the Peruvian Amazon. But a few government agents are trying to stop log shipments by proving some of the cargo came from illegal sites.

For more on this theme:

New analyses reveal elephant poaching and global ivory trafficking continued at high unsustainable levels in 2016

‘Wildlife protection to boost ecotourism, job creation’

The illegal turtle trade — why scientists keep secrets

Nigeria’s forest cover now less than 7 percent, Asiodu laments
http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/nigeria-s-forest-cover-now-less-than-7-per-cent-asiodu-laments.html

US Makes Commercial Move to Reduce Illegal Logging in Peru

Transparency in illegal logging

Crackdowns on illegal mining in Colombian Amazon not enough

Illegal sand mining threatens environment
https://zululandobserver.co.za/156380/illegal-sand-mining-threatens-environment/

Let’s Stop Illegal Logging And Mining --- President Akufo-Addo
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The Paradox of Prosperity
Ty McCormick – Foreign Policy: 4 October 2017

The European Union spends billions of dollars to stimulate African economies, hoping it will keep would-be migrants at home. But economists have shown that such programs only work in the short term. In the long term, they can actually stimulate more migration.


Inside the 'free market' of people smuggling
Chantal Da Silva – The Independent: 24 October 2017

To create positive reputations and make connections, human smugglers have turned to social media to get their messages out in this highly competitive business.

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/people-smuggling-libya-syria-facebook-social-media-free-market-a8011686.html

For more on this theme:

Human trafficking is a real and present danger

Challenges in Libya Complicate EU Measures to Stem Migration

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 148,882 in 2017; Deaths Reach 2,783

EU offers more development cash for migration control
http://africanbusinessmagazine.com/sectors/development/eu-offers-development-cash-migration-control/

Dozens arrested in UK and Europe raids amid human trafficking crackdown

Report: United States #1 country in the world for male human trafficking

Better Data Needed To Support Efforts To End Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, Advocates Say

Human trafficking remains big business in Europe
https://www.neweurope.eu/article/human-trafficking-remains-big-business-europe/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**Humanity Must Be at the Center of Tomorrow’s Internet**
Steve King – LifeZette: 23 October 2017

As chief operating officer of Netswitch Technology Management, the author argues that the founding principle of internet governance — information sharing, freedom, and social and economic growth possibilities — continues to be its most important.


*For more on this theme:

(India) Internet Governance Meet Kicks Off at Technopark
http://b-live.in/2017/10/24/internet-governance-meet/

(Global) ICANN to Reconsider the .Amazon Domain Applications
www.circleid.com/posts/20171023_icann_to_reconsider_the_amazon_domain_applications

(Australia) Web name review casts net over domain

INTERNET FREEDOM

**What Zimbabwe’s Cybersecurity Ministry Says About Human Rights in the Country**
Arthur Gwagwa – Council on Foreign Relations: 23 October 2017

Though Zimbabwe’s government denies it, critics say the new ministry of cyber security is more for censorship than it is for protecting the country’s cyber infrastructure.


*For more on this theme:

(Global) An Over-The-Top Approach to Internet Regulation in Developing Countries
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/10/over-top-approach-internet-regulation-developing-countries

(Global) What’s Worse: Censorship By Government Or Google?
http://www.science20.com/alex_berezow/whats_worse_censorship_by_government_or_google-227690

(China) China has launched another crackdown on the internet — but it’s different this time
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

A Security CEO and Two Hackers on Building a Safer Internet, Powered by a Community of Hackers
Jono Bacon – Forbes: 17 October 2017

When security firms don’t have the ability or capacity to help, businesses and governments are increasingly turning to hackers to protect their systems.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) How lobbyists convinced lawmakers to kill a broadband privacy bill
(Europe) Whois? No, Whowas: Incoming Euro privacy rules torpedo domain registration system
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/10/26/whois_gdpr_europe/
(Global) Google and others back Internet of Things security push

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Lost in Cyber Translation? U.S. Cyber Signaling to North Korea
Erica D. Borghard – Council on Foreign Relations: 16 October 2017

The United States is trying to send messages to North Korea that it is serious about curtailing North Korea’s nuclear program, but it is unclear whether the coercive diplomacy efforts are having any effect.


For more on this theme:
(EU) New EU cyber strategy leaves key security gaps
http://globalriskinsights.com/2017/10/new-eu-cyber-strategy-leaves-key-security-gaps/
(North Korea) North Korea’s Offensive Cyber Program Might Be Good, But Is it Effective?
https://www.cfr.org/blog/north-koreas-offensive-cyber-program-might-be-good-it-effective
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Cybersecurity partnership: Europe lacks ‘strategic’ tech muscle
Catherine Stupp – EURACTIV.com: 25 October 2017

Funding is needed to give Europe’s technology sector the strategic powers it lacks, according to the European Union’s public/private partnership on cyber security.
https://www.euractiv.com/section/cybersecurity/interview/cybersecurity-partnership-europe-lacks-strategic-tech-muscle/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) The challenge of cybersecurity draws the public and private sectors closer, U.S. CISO says
(U.S.) How to bridge the broadband divide: Allow ISPs to bid on urban-rural territories
https://venturebeat.com/2017/10/20/how-to-bridge-the-broadband-divide-allow-isps-to-bid-on-urban-rural-territories/
(U.S.) San Francisco Just Took a Huge Step Toward Internet Utopia
https://www.wired.com/story/san-francisco-municipal-fiber/

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Cyberspionage Group Steps Up Campaigns Against Japanese Firms
Tom Spring – Threat Post: 14 October 2017

In a report by a subsidiary of Dell Technologies, researchers outline what they have learned about the cyber espionage group Bronze Butler and its campaign against Japanese heavy industry over the past five years.
https://threatpost.com/cyberspionage-group-steps-up-campaigns-against-japanese-firms/128447/

For more on this theme:
(Global) Cybersecurity & IP: Don’t Let Hackers Grab Your Digital Assets
(U.S., Global) Hackers target security researchers with malware-laden document
(Global) Revealed: Careless mistakes can reveal a lot about cyber espionage
**CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING**


Zack Quaintance – Government Technology: 26 October 2017

A United States cyber security expert is calling for the U.S. to set up a cyber service group, similar to the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps. Adjusting the mandates of the existing groups would be the first step.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Departing U.S. Attorney Creates Cybercrime Task Force


(India) TS giving shape to Cyber Security Operations Centre


**COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME**

*Cyber criminals turn to messaging apps following dark web crackdown*

Ian Barker – Beta News: 25 October 2017

As governments crack down on dark web marketplaces, cyber criminals are turning to popular encrypted messaging apps to conduct their business.

https://betanews.com/2017/10/25/criminals-turn-to-messaging/

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) UK government report highlights threat posed by digital currencies in cyber crime


(U.K.) Websites allowing illegal activity ‘complicit in crime’


(India) Twitter handles give police edge in fighting cyber crime

INFORMATION SHARING

Administration, agencies focus on cyber information sharing

Government Matters: 24 October 2017

In an interview with the TV show Government Matters, retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Gregory Touhill, president of Cyxtera Federal Group, discusses cyber information sharing between industry and the government. Touhill, who served as the nation’s first federal chief information officer, says both the security clearance process and the declassification of information must be accelerated.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Bill to strengthen information sharing at the nation’s ports advanced by House
https://homelandprenews.com/stories/24946-bill-strengthen-information-sharing-nations-ports-advanced-house/

(U.S.) New Defense Information Sharing Center Announces Official Formation

(U.K.) GCHQ help out with cyber-security

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Hackers are attacking power companies, stealing critical data: Here’s how they are doing it

Steve Ranger – ZDNet: 23 October 2017

The U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, which operates under the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, issued an alert titled, “Advanced Persistent Threat Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors.” It focused on targets in the energy, nuclear, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors.

http://www.zdnet.com/article/hackers-are-attacking-power-companies-stealing-critical-data-heres-how-they-are-doing-it/

For more on this theme:

(Canada) Canada Concerned About Cyber Attacks Targeting Critical Infrastructure: Source

(Ukraine, Russia, Global) New wave of cyber attacks hits Russia, other nations

(U.S.) Can dark fiber help secure the energy grid?
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Islamic State Group Sees Dollar Signs in Egypt

ISIS in Egypt has been turning to theft to fill its coffers, including robbing a bank of $1 million. As ISIS declines elsewhere, its affiliate Wilayat Sinai is flourishing.

ISIS post caliphate: who’s left, and where they are

ISIS has lost territory, but the group remains a threat as jihadists have gone underground and spread across the globe. This article examines what the group looks like today, after the fall of the caliphate.

For more on this theme:

Islamic State Is ‘On the Run,’ U.S. Commander Says

The Islamic State: From Insurgency to Rogue State and Back

The Islamic State has lost. Is it finished?
http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/the-islamic-state-has-lost-is-it-finished-al-qaeda-iraq-syria-abu-bakr-al-baghdadi-us-donald-trump-barack-obama-4907068/

Rise and fall of Isis: its dream of a caliphate is over, so what now?

Is Philippines’ Marawi free from ‘Islamic State’ influence?

Commentary: The unlikely – and ironic – effects of Islamic State’s fall in Iraq

A Look At The Presence Of ISIS And Its Affiliated Groups In Africa

Commentary: The Islamic State and the limits of cruelty

Afghan Shia under attack as Islamic State seeks to stir up sectarian violence
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Africa becomes the new battleground for ISIS and al-Qaeda as they lose ground in Mideast
Jacob Wirtschafter and Karim John Gadiaga – USA Today: 25 October 2017

ISIS is looking to regroup, al-Qaida wants to expand and both groups have turned to Africa to achieve their goals.

The Moderate Face of Al Qaeda
Colin P. Clarke – Foreign Affairs: 24 October 2017

Since 2016, al-Qaida has rebranded itself as a more moderate alternative to groups like ISIS. So far it is working well for the group because it is now seen as the best organization to defeat President Bashar Assad in Syria.
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/syria/2017-10-24/moderate-face-al-qaeda

For more on this theme:
Europe Braces for More Attacks From Islamic State
https://www.voanews.com/a/europe-braces-for-more-attacks-from-islamic-state/4086392.html

Despite Morocco’s Success Fighting Terrorism, Tindouf Camps Remain Al-Qaida ‘Breeding Ground’: El Khiam

Boko Haram strapped suicide bombs to them. Somehow these teenage girls survived.

What The Terrorist Attack In Somalia Tells Us About The Resurgence Of Al-Shabaab

How Taliban are evolving to compete in Afghanistan

Aminu Abubakar ANALYSIS: What is next for terror group Boko Haram?
https://africacheck.org/2017/10/27/analysis-next-terror-group-boko-haram/

Is Egypt About to Become the Region’s New Al-Qaeda Stronghold?

ANALYSIS: History of the IRGC’s grooming of top al-Qaeda members
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Deeper understanding of ISIS propaganda can help in the fight against terrorism
*Phys Org: 26 October 2017*

By studying ISIS propaganda, researchers and the military have a better chance at defeating it. It is the lack of understanding of the organization’s goals and methods that has made many attempts to counter the propaganda fail.


This is Why Saudi Arabia Suddenly Wants to Fight Extremism
*Cristina Maza – Newsweek: 25 October 2017*

Saudi Arabia’s crown prince wants to move his country into the modern era quickly and to do so he feels they must cut ties to terror, eradicate extremism and promote a moderate Islam. Experts say most of the reforms are focused on keeping Saudi Arabia open for international business dealings.


*For more on this theme:*

**Why is YouTube undercutting anti-ISIS efforts?**
http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/why-is-youtube-undercutting-anti-isis-efforts/article/2638592

**Mapping the Route to Violent Extremism**

**Indonesia, Austria Discuss Efforts to Strengthen Resilience Against Radicalization at Interfaith Dialogue**

**Generation ISIS: When Children Are Taught to Be Terrorists**

**Women figure prominently in efforts vs violent extremism targeting youth**

**Personal Trauma Enables Radicalization for Female Martyrs**
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

As ISIS Loses Territory, What Happens To Its Fighters Who Came From Other Countries?
NPR: 24 October 2017

With more than 40,000 foreign fighters at one point, ISIS was a force to be reckoned with. But after defeat in Iraq and Syria, what happens to those fighters?

For more on this theme:

Why Westerners who joined Islamic State don't deserve an automatic death sentence

Thousands of Russians joined Islamic State and brought their children. Now relatives are trying to bring them home

Scores Of ISIS Foreign Fighters Have Returned Home [Infographic]

ISIS Jihadis Have Returned Home by the Thousands

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Women Are Vital in the Fight Against Terrorism — Finally People Are Recognizing This
Jamille Bigio – Newsweek: 22 October 2017

A recent bipartisan bill in the United States Congress seeks to involve women in preventing terrorism and conflict resolution. The Women, Peace, and Security Act was passed to increase women’s engagement in the fight against terrorism.
http://www.newsweek.com/women-are-critical-countering-terrorism-finally-people-are-recognizing-689819

For more on this theme:

ASEAN defense ministers vow to eradicate extremist groups, terrorism

Operation Barkhane: France’s Counterterrorism Forces in Africa

Australia’s New Philippines Counterterrorism Role Takes Shape
https://thediplomat.com/2017/10/australias-new-philippines-counterterrorism-role-takes-shape/