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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

It is time for an International Anti-Corruption Court
Richard Goldstone and Paul Hoffman – Daily Maverick; 6 November 2018

There is already an established International Criminal Court, so why not take that concept one step further and establish an international anti-corruption court? This would be especially helpful for those countries where the judiciary is unable to practice freely and would remove the burden of investigating and prosecuting in poorer nations lacking the infrastructure to do so.


How transparent and free from corruption is UK government?
Democratic Audit: 8 November 2018

In this article from the book, The UK’s Changing Democracy: The 2018 Democratic Audit, Ben Worthy and the Democratic Audit team consider how well the United Kingdom’s government performs on transparency and openness, and how effectively anti-corruption policies operate in government and business.


For more on this theme:
Investigative journalism key to uncovering corruption in Nigeria – SERAP

The corruption scandal marring India’s CBI

Tap blockchain to help beat corruption
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/opinion/30358223

China’s lawfare against corruption, lessons for Pakistan — I

Brazil police corruption probes target senator, Rio lawmakers

Political instability breeds corruption: Kenyan legislator
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/political-instability-breeds-corruption-kenyan-legislator/

Youth urged to join fight against corruption
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/youth-urged-join-fight-against-corruption

Podcast: José Ugaz on Peru’s Anti-Corruption Wave and the Fate of Fujimorismo
https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/podcast-jose-ugaz-perus-anti-corruption-wave-and-fate-fujimorismo
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**Asia’s meth boom: How a war on drugs went continent-wide**

Joshua Berlinger – CNN: November 2018

Burma’s meth production and trafficking have skyrocketed to “alarming levels” in recent years, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Demand for crystal meth and yaba, tablets that typically contain a mixture of meth and caffeine, is building. Production is increasing at an unprecedented clip, and so is the body count.


**Colombia Authorities in the Dark With New Anti-Drug Proposals**

Parker Asmann – InSight Crime: 2 November 2018

Colombia’s new proposals to counter drug production fall short on details and will likely have unintended consequences.


For more on this theme:

**Why India’s narco cops are finding it hard to crack down on the new-age drug dealer**


**Methamphetamine Roils Rural Towns Again Across The U.S.**


**The dangers of drug trafficking laid bare by Nokwazi Memela**

https://sowetourban.co.za/54124/dangers-drug-trafficking-laid-bare-nokwazi-memela/

**Duterte to reward policemen who will kill superiors involved in drugs**


**Why This Scottish City Is Known as the ‘Drug Death Capital of Europe’**


**Colombia Is Growing Record Amounts Of Coca, The Key Ingredient In Cocaine**

http://www.kunc.org/post/colombia-growing-record-amounts-coca-key-ingredient-cocaine#stream/0

**Does Canada’s Cannabis Industry Have Mafia Ties?**

https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeadams/2018/11/05/does-canadas-cannabis-industry-have-mafia-ties/#4b8d34597c66

**Mexico: president-elect Amlo’s party moves toward marijuana legalization**

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/08/mexico-amlo-marijuana-cannabis-legalization-rollback

**North Koreans turn to drug trade in struggling economy, report says**

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Introducing Africa’s first wildlife court - will the rest of the world follow?
Sarah Marshall – The Telegraph: 5 November 2018

Frustrated by an ineffectual legal system and feeble fines for poaching, Vincent Opyene, the former legal counsel to the Uganda Wildlife Authority, established a special prosecution unit to tackle wildlife trafficking. Now, he is working to create a special wildlife court — the first in Africa — to try those cases.

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/africa/articles/Tusk-awards-Vincent-Opyene/

EU backtracks on total ivory ban despite massive pressure from campaigners and MEPs
Josh Gabbatiss – The Independent: 8 November 2018

The European Union’s ban on raw ivory exports in 2017 hasn’t stopped the poachers. The United States, China and the United Kingdom have all moved forward with outright bans on the sale of ivory. What’s stopping the EU?

https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/eu-ivory-ban-elephants-poaching-wildlife-trafficking-catherine-bearder-avaaz-a8622471.html

For more on this theme:
Increased Surveillance, Stiffer Penalties at Heart of Wildlife Trafficking Fight

Artificial intelligence helps wildlife rangers combat poaching

Conservationists Worry about Amazon’s Fate after Bolsonaro’s Victory in Brazil

Trump Builds Upon Obama’s Fight Against Illegal Wildlife Trafficking

Inside the Dark World of the Animal-Parts Market

Darknet-Based Animal Trafficking Is on the Rise in India

Kenya does not support re-opening of rhino horn trade, Tourism ministry says

Fighting Illicit Trade and Corruption: National Security Threats to Countries, Destabilizing Impacts to Markets, and Wicked Harms to Consumers
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Trafficked Europeans may have to pay to stay in UK post-Brexit

Toby Helm – The Guardian: 3 November 2018

Post-Brexit, the victims of human trafficking and modern slavery in the European Union would have to pay a fee to remain in the United Kingdom. Critics claim the government is fostering a “hostile environment” toward migrants.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/03/protest-fees-trafficked-europeans-brexit

German Report Reveals Large Irregular Migration Network in Morocco

Josh Babb – Morocco World News: 8 November 2018

The German Federal Intelligence Service has issued a report indicating Morocco is an “anchor state” for irregular migration to Europe. “Morocco has become a popular destination for sub-Saharan migrants hoping to make it to Europe, due to its proximity to Europe and the fact that many do not need a visa to enter Morocco,” the report said.


For more on this theme:

Germany, Netherlands back Niger border force to counter migration


100 people ‘kidnapped’ from migrant caravan by drug cartels in Mexico


Home Office faces £1m bill for shortchanging victims of trafficking

https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/nov/08/cuts-to-trafficking-victims-support-payments-ruled-unlawful

UN gets tougher on human traffickers in Libya


Efforts to end human trafficking get boost


Luxembourg must improve the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings


Sierra Leone News: Reviewing the Anti-Human Trafficking Act


SA needs to curb rise in human trafficking

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

China reasserts its right to manage the Internet its own way

*Nectar Gan – The Star Online: 6 November 2018*

The 5th World Internet Conference opened in Wuzhen, China, on November 7. Attendees of the three-day summit included academics and government officials representing 100 countries.


*For more on this theme:*

*(Global) Are Decentralized Social Networks the Only Hope for Free Speech?*

[https://cryptopotato.com/are-decentralized-social-networks-the-only-hope-for-free-speech/](https://cryptopotato.com/are-decentralized-social-networks-the-only-hope-for-free-speech/)

*(Global) Can Tim Berners-Lee really save the internet?*


*(Global) The internet can’t handle functioning like a democracy*

[https://qz.com/1422925/the-public-internet-was-almost-a-democracy/](https://qz.com/1422925/the-public-internet-was-almost-a-democracy/)

INTERNET FREEDOM

The Internet Is Splitting in Two Amid U.S. Dispute With China

*Bloomberg News – 8 November 2018*

With Western nations absent from China’s biggest web conference, China happily pushed its version of the internet. China wants a walled-off, censored internal version of the internet, while Western nations have been pressing for an open, multistakeholder-led internet governance plan.


*For more on this theme:*

*(Global) Google CEO defends censored search for China*


*(India) Net Freedom in India*


*(Russia) Russia cracks down on internet freedom*

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

How Kenya’s New Data Privacy Bill Could Hurt Its Economy
Sabina Frizell – Council on Foreign Relations: 8 November 2018

Kenya’s digital economy is booming, but newly proposed government legislation might put a stop to that. These new proposals extend beyond necessary data protections and could choke growth in the information and technology sector.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Supreme Court divided over Google class-action deal that rewarded lawyers, nonprofits … but not customers

(Global) There’s no trust when it comes to online data
https://it-online.co.za/2018/11/09/theres-no-trust-when-it-comes-to-online-data/

(U.S.) Would new privacy laws help consumers?

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Cyber security high on European Commission agenda
Warwick Ashford – Computer Weekly: 7 November 2018

“From the EC’s [European Commission] perspective, if cyber security and data protection are not addressed sufficiently in a satisfactory way, the whole digital economy is in danger,” Miguel Gonzalez-Sancho, head of the EC’s cyber technology unit, said at a cyber security conference in Brussels.


For more on this theme:

(Europe) Europe’s Digital Agenda (October 29 – November 5)

(U.S.) The Cybersecurity 202: Democrats promise their control of House means cybersecurity policy changes

(Iran, U.S.) What Iran Sanctions Mean For Cybersecurity
https://www.meritalk.com/articles/what-iran-sanctions-mean-for-cybersecurity/
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Program Looks to Tap Military Vets for Cyber-Jobs
Tara Seals – Threat Post: 7 November 2018
In a new partnership with Maryland’s state government, Cisco Talos and NetApp are working to help military veterans transitioning into civilian life train for positions in cyber security.
https://threatpost.com/program-looks-to-tap-military-vets-for-cyber-jobs/138879/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) DIA’s Case Study Shows Smart Cities Living Lab’s Positive Impact
(U.S.) Hackers, cybersecurity leaders train at weekend event hosted by Cal Poly
(Europe, Global) How to stop data leaks

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Symantec Uncovers New Cyber Espionage Group Targeting Government, Military and Defense Sectors
The Associated Press: 8 November 2018
The cyber security company Symantec has identified a new cyber espionage group dubbed Gallmaker that launches attacks on government, defense and military organizations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.
https://www.apnews.com/572681ee782c44f99a9d6989bf9b2b16

For more on this theme:
(China, U.S.) NSA official: China violating agreement on cyber economic espionage
(Hong Kong) Financial losses from cyber attacks jump 680% in Hong Kong
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Regionally-oriented national school for cyber security opens in Dakar, Senegal
France Diplomatie: 6 November 2018

On November 6, 2018, the French minister for Europe and foreign affairs opened a new school in Dakar, Senegal, to train African officials on cyber security issues.


For more on this theme:
(Ghana) Gov't creating safe, secure cyber society - Akufo-Addo

(Global) How a data deficit keeps us in the dark about the real digital divide

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

If Terrorists Launch a Major Cyberattack, We Won't See It Coming
Kathy Gilsinan – The Atlantic: 1 November 2018

With security experts warning of a terrorist cyber attack for the past 15 years, why hasn’t it happened? It’s possible that when/if it happens, it will be in a completely new form we have not yet seen.


For more on this theme:
(Global) The Tradeoff Between Security And Privacy: How Do Terrorists Use Encryption?

(U.S.) 2018 US State of Cybercrime Survey Results

(Pakistan) Data from ‘almost all’ Pakistani banks stolen, says FIA cyber-crime chief
INFORMATION SHARING

U.S. Cyber Command is Making Foreign Malware Tools Public

*Dennis Fisher – Decipher: 8 November 2018*

The Pentagon has started uploading malware samples from advanced persistent threats and other nation-state sources to the website VirusTotal, which is essentially a malware zoo that’s used by security pros and antivirus/malware detection engines to gain a better understanding of the threat landscape.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) HHS Opens Rebranded Healthcare Cyber Center


(Global) Collaborate with the state: changing attitudes to information sharing in security


(U.K.) British official urges more protection for children ‘datafied from birth’


CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

DHS Wants to Expand the Reach of Its Critical Infrastructure Cyber Training

*Joseph Marks – NextGov: 8 November 2018*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is trying to expand its cyber training webinars to reach 5,000 simultaneous users.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Russia) One big loser of the midterms: Russian hackers

https://www.newsday.com/opinion/commentary/one-big-loser-of-the-midterms-russian-hackers-1.23104965

(U.S.) Cybersecurity officials start focusing on the 2020 elections

https://apnews.com/cfaa16f6a86349bebc16e0633d6214dd

(Burma/Myanmar) Experts raise concern over cyber attacks on Myanmar’s critical infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

The Islamic State of Graves
The Soufan Group: 8 November 2018
The Islamic State put up to 12,000 people in mass graves, the United Nations says in a new report. The dead include women, children, the elderly and disabled, as well as soldiers and police officers.
http://www.soufangroup.com/intelbrief-the-islamic-state-of-graves/

The Caliph’s Role in the (un)Surprising Resilience of the Islamic State
Haroro J. Ingram and Craig A. Whiteside – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 25 October 2018
Looking to the past is a good predictor of how well ISIS will fare in the future. The authors believe this can be attributed to its leadership practices and its implications for organizational and strategic dynamics.

For more on this theme:
While World Defeated ISIS, It Didn’t Destroy Terror Group – Jordan’s Foreign Minister Safadi

ISIS Says It Was Behind Deadly Attack on Christians in Egypt

ISIS using Turkey as a strategic base - Dutch intelligence report

Egypt: ISIS Religious Edicts Provoke Killing Christians

Lawmakers raise alarm about ISIS attacks against Syria’s Druze population

Deadly clash erupts among Taliban and ISIS militants in Nangarhar

Islamic State says it hit Syria’s Raqqa with car bomb

Intel agencies on alert as Islamic State modules in Kerala switch to Wickr app
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Why Do Terrorist Organizations Use Women As Suicide Bombers?
Nikita Malik – Forbes: 2 November 2018

Women have been a vital part of terrorist organizations since the 1970s, but rarely have they taken on the role of suicide bomber. The recent attacks by female suicide bombers indicate this may be changing. Females can also avoid detection more easily, making them a dangerous threat for security officers.


Surprise! The Global War On Terror Is Secretly Expanding In Africa — Again
Jared Keller – Task & Purpose: 6 November 2018

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has designated three new contingency operations in Africa: Operation Yukon Journey, a counterinsurgency mission, and counterterrorism operations in northwest and east Africa.

https://taskandpurpose.com/global-war-terror-operations-africa/

For more on this theme:

Women and terror

Moscow: Signs of ISIS, Qaeda ‘Imminent Merger’ Detected

Why Did the Jihadi Cold War in Yemen End?

Ex Al-Shabaab commander passed to run for political office

Boko Haram’s Insurgency in Nigeria Enters a New, Deadlier Phase

Hamas, Islamic Jihad vow to continue Gaza Strip rallies

Hezbollah escalation ‘linked to Iran sanctions’

How terror handlers are trying to expand beyond the Pir Panjals

Taliban, US Will Join Russia-Hosted Conference for First Time
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Combating the problem of online radicalisation in Africa
World Economic Forum – Eye Witness News: 8 November 2018

Social media has become a major tool in the terrorists’ recruitment toolbox. And Africa is no exception, especially with the growth of the internet and smartphones throughout the continent.


Fighting ISIS in the Digital Space in Jordan
Anne Speckhard and Ardian Shajkovci – Modern Diplomacy: 29 October 2018

Because it has a high number of terror recruits per capita, Jordan has been working with the International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism to counter terrorist narratives.


For more on this theme:

Watch How Iran & ISIS Recruit Children
https://clarionproject.org/watch-how-iran-isis-recruit-children/

Homegrown Jihad: 10 Years of Terrorist Radicalization in the Somali-American Community

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

Roo Dunn: Words Matter — The Radicalization of Domestic Terrorists

Chechen Radicalization in Europe – Communities in Need of Aid

Extremism and Polarization in the Netherlands

The psychology of how someone becomes radicalized

How to prevent radicalisation of society?

Rehumanizing the Victims of Terrorism: Credible Voices to Prevent Violent Extremism
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

What Happened to the Islamic State Foreign Fighters That Had Returned to Europe?

John Mueller – The National Interest: 5 November 2018

Why haven’t returning foreign fighters conducted the attacks feared by authorities?

https://nationalinterest.org/feature/what-happened-islamic-state-foreign-fighters-had-returned-europe-35237

For more on this theme:

Dead or alive: Are Malaysia ISIS militants among Philippines’ foreign fighter fatalities?


Philippines: 100 foreign fighters joined ISIS in Mindanao since the Marawi battle

https://thedefensepost.com/2018/11/05/100-foreign-fighters-join-isis-mindanao-philippines-marawi/

Bosnia struggles with return of ISIS widows


Europe torn over Islamic State children in Syria


Ensuring a Human Rights-Compliant Approach to the Challenge of Foreign Fighters


COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Facebook says it’s gotten a lot better at removing material about ISIS, al-Qaeda and similar groups

Salvador Rodriguez – CNBC: 8 November 2018

Facebook announced it has removed 12.4 million pieces of terrorist propaganda over the past six months. The company says it is improving its detection and deletion of related content.


For more on this theme:

A counterterrorism strategy that could work for America


Sudanese cabinet approves counter-terrorism agreement with the FBI

http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article66558

UAE-UK Taskforce Addresses Counterterrorism Efforts


It’s Time to Put CVE to Bed

https://www.justsecurity.org/61332/its-time-put-cve-bed/