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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Can a New Database Help Tackle Argentina Police Corruption?
Josefina Salomón – InSight Crime: 14 November 2018
To fight corruption in the security forces, Argentina has launched a registry of corrupt law enforcement officers removed from their jobs. Its efficacy, however, remains questionable.

Is the African Union doing enough to tackle corruption and violence?
Abdulaziz Ahmet Yasar – TRT World: 15 November 2018
The African Union held a two-week summit with the theme “Combating Corruption – A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation.”

For more on this theme:
Judiciary Head Talking Tough On Corruption And Economic Crimes

Is there a panacea at all for corruption?

EU funds workshop to improve anti-corruption advocacy by CSOs

Kateryna Handzyuk: Ukrainian anti-corruption activist dies after acid attack

Pressure mounts on Asia to stamp out corruption
https://international-adviser.com/pressure-mounts-on-asia-to-stamp-out-corruption/

Only Criminals Can Clean Up Argentina’s Corruption
https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/15/only-criminals-can-clean-up-argentinas-corruption/

‘El Chapo’ Defense Puts Spotlight on Alleged Mexico Corruption

EU on Corruption: Romania “Backtracks,” Bulgaria Progresses

‘How corruption triggered deplorable education standard’
https://guardian.ng/features/how-corruption-triggered-deplorable-education-standard/

‘Update: Peru Prepares to Vote on Anti-Corruption Reform
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

*Cocaine Production Is Spiking in Peru and Bolivia, and It Could Keep Going Up*

Max Radwin – World Politics Review: 9 November 2018

Drug production is hitting record highs in Bolivia and Peru, and it shows no sign of abating. New data indicates that both countries have taken steps backward in fighting cocaine production within their borders.


*El Chapo Puts the Drug War on Trial*

Ioan Grillo – The New York Times: 15 November 2018

The trial in the United States of suspected Mexican drug kingpin Joaquín Guzmán, aka El Chapo, is inadvertently highlighting the U.S. government’s failure to stop the violence and the flow of drugs.


For more on this theme:

DEA Releases 2018 Drug Threat Assessment

Drug Trafficking Economy in Mexico Reports Billions in Revenues

America’s Multimillion-Dollar Bounty Program Just for Drug Lords

Can artisanal weed compete with ‘Big Marijuana’?
https://theconversation.com/can-artisanal-weed-compete-with-big-marijuana-106509

Pakistan’s drug problem

From Drug War to Dispensaries: An Oral History of Weed Legalization’s First Wave

Mexican Drug Reforms Might Push Trump to Keep U.S. Troops at the Southern Border

The cocaine trade: a global trail of violence

‘Africa’s time to shape international drug policy’- Khalid Tinasti [The Morning Call]
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

China reverses tiger, rhino decision after outcry
Al Jazeera: 13 November 2018

China made international headlines in October when it announced it would allow the trade of rhino horns and tiger bones under certain circumstances, replacing a 1993 ban. But after a public outcry, China announced a temporary halt on the reversal.


Recurring landslides due to illegal miners
Jarius Bondoc – The Phillipine Star: 9 November 2018

Recent fatal landslides in the Philippines can be attributed to the illegal, small-scale mining where hillsides are quarried for gravel and rivers are panned for gold.


For more on this theme:

Stranger things: The market is huge for exotic animals and laws only loosely protect them

The ongoing trade in conflict timber (commentary)

North and South Korea share illegal fishing boat information
https://www.upi.com/North-and-South-Korea-share-illegal-fishing-boat-information/4511541146569/

Honduras aims to save vital wildlife corridor from deforestation

How China’s loosening of rhino, tiger ban could spur poaching

Inside the disturbing world of illegal wildlife trade

The last trees of the Amazon

UNDP, GEF embark on vast programme targeting wildlife trafficking in commercial ports

Selling the forest to save it
https://www.alternativesjournal.ca/community/blogs/shades-green/selling-forest-save-it

Punjab to use drones to keep check on illegal mining
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Embrace AI, technology to beat human traffickers, activists told
Umberto Bacchi – Reuters: 15 November 2018

According to data expert Andrew Zolli, those who fight human traffickers need to make better use of technologies such as satellite imagery and artificial intelligence. The same tools used by the traffickers can be turned against them.


Nigerian Radio Drama Aims to Deter Dangerous Irregular Migration
Lisa Schlein – Voice of America: 1 November 2018

Working with the United Nations, a new radio program is headed for the airwaves in Nigeria. The radio drama is aimed at deterring people from illegal migration and the particularly dangerous journey to Europe.


For more on this theme:

Waging War Against Human Trafficking

As the border wall grows, smuggling tunnels proliferate

The Latest: Greece sees sharp surge in migrant crossings

Mixed Migration Review 2018
https://reliefweb.int/report/world/mixed-migration-review-2018

Will caravans become ‘new method’ of migration?

Human trafficking in the U.S.: How often sex trafficking occurs nationally

Human Trafficking from China Sounds Alarm in Latin America

Kenya hub of human trafficking in East Africa - US State Department report

Don’t treat us like zoo animals, say trafficking survivors
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Has President Macron Thrown Multistakeholderism Under the Bus at UN IGF 2018 Paris?
Khaled Fattal – CircleID: 13 November 2018

French President Emmanuel Macron said during the Internet Governance Forum 2018 in Paris that the various stakeholders in governing the internet must become more multilateral and move beyond lip service to a multistakeholder approach.

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20181113_has_president_macron_thrown_multistakeholderism_under_the_bus/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Is International Internet Regulation Just Ahead?
https://www.lawfareblog.com/international-internet-regulation-just-ahead

(Global) Global Cooperation And Regulation Key In Addressing Multilayered Threats Posed By New Technology

(Global) Marginalized voices must be more visibly involved in IGF's work: UN Chief

INTERNET FREEDOM

French Regulators Will ‘Embed’ With Facebook to Monitor How It Combats Hate Speech
Casey Quackenbush – Time: 13 November 2018

To appease French regulators, Facebook has agreed to open its doors to a review of how the company monitors racist, sexist and hateful content. France hopes Facebook is the first of many tech companies to allow such reviews.

http://time.com/5452983/france-facebook-embed-hate-speech/

For more on this theme:

(Africa) ‘African governments using laws to stifle internet freedom’

(Tajikistan) Tajikistan: Internet censorship surges amid unrest and tax-break reports

(Thailand) Thai Proposal for All-Powerful Cyber Agency Alarms Businesses, Activists
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The law that lets Europeans take back their data from big tech companies
Steve Kroft – CBS News: 11 November 2018

The control that tech companies have over users’ personal data has run largely unchecked in the age of the internet. Europe is seeking to end that with its new law.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How old legal principles could solve today's privacy debate

(U.S., Global) Privacy Is Not A Property Right In Personal Information

(France, Global) French NGO threatens Facebook with privacy lawsuit

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

The UN Doubles Its Workload on Cyber Norms, And Not Everyone Is Pleased
Alex Grigsby – Council on Foreign Relations: 15 November 2018

Russia and the United States proposed competing cyberspace resolutions to the United Nations General Assembly, expecting one to be chosen. Instead, the assembly adopted both.


For more on this theme:

(ASEAN, Russia) ASEAN and Russia can explore cooperation in digital technology, deepen trade and investment links: PM Lee

(South Korea) Internet Laws: South Korea

(China, Global) ‘I don’t know Facebook or Twitter’: China’s Great Firewall Generation Z cut off from the West
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Time for Congress to agree on what they agree on
Elizabeth Hyman – The Hill: 12 November 2018

One of the things both sides of the U.S. Congress can agree on is the need to improve technology regulations. One way to achieve this is to foster public/private partnerships to improve the cybersecurity workforce.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Rural Kids Face an Internet ‘Homework Gap.’ The FCC Could Help

(U.S.) What Team Trump is finally getting right about cybersecurity

(Philippines) DND, AFP hold cybersecurity conference
http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1053579

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Private Sector Calls On DoD To Leverage Industry Cyber Tools
MeriTalk: 15 November 2018

Cyber security industry leaders and former military cyber experts told the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee that the Pentagon needs to adopt more commercial cyber security technology.

https://www.meritalk.com/articles/private-sector-calls-on-dod-to-leverage-industry-cyber-tools/

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) What has Pharma Learned from the Merck Cyber Attack
http://www.pharmexec.com/what-has-pharma-learned-merck-cyber-attack

(U.S., China) What happens when the US-China cyber agreement isn't working

(Iran, Australia) Iranian hackers suspected in cyber breach and extortion attempt on Navy shipbuilder Austal
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Cybercrime@EaP 2018: Highlighting cybercrime capacity building at Georgian Cyber Security Forum
Council of Europe: 9 November 2018

The Georgian Cyber Security Forum brings together public and private agencies involved with critical infrastructure to solve security issues and improve cyber capacity.


For more on this theme:

(Southeast Asia, China) What lessons can Southeast Asia learn from China's digital revolution?

(Singapore, U.S.) Singapore, US sign pact to collaborate on cyber security training
https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/pm-lee-us-vice-president-pence-reaffirm-singapore-us-ties

(U.K.) Government responds to UK critical national infrastructure and cyber skills report
https://www.information-age.com/critical-national-infrastructure-123476463/

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Nigeria: Will a Cyber Command Solve its Cyber Crime Problems?
TechNative: 14 November 2018

Nigeria will establish a cyber command to be headquartered in Abuja. With rampant cyber crime, Nigeria is hoping the center will help solve its issues with cyber schemes and threats.


For more on this theme:

(Global) 50 countries vow to fight cybercrime - US and Russia don't
https://www.apnews.com/76ea0daee12645f0ae7177eb506935cb

(U.K.) Less fear and more transparency key to fighting cybercrime
https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/less-fear-and-more-transparency-key-to-fighting-cybercrime-1.3692135

(Colombia, Global) Cyber crime: SIM swapping, a new form of hacking
INFORMATION SHARING

How info sharing can get unstuck
Derek B. Johnson – FCW: 13 November 2018

Despite efforts by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to share information with the private sector, only half a dozen nonfederal entities are sending information to the department. More must be done to encourage a two-way stream of information.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) DOD lags in implementing the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act

(U.S.) DHS and Pentagon Memo Details Future Cyber Cooperation

(U.K., EU) No Deal Brexit Crisis Threatens UK Cybersecurity Chaos

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

US panel warns against government purchase of Chinese tech
Matthew Pennington – The Associated Press: 14 November 2018

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission warned Congress about the purchase of any internet-linked devices manufactured in China. The devices could lead to security breaches and put critical infrastructure at risk.

https://www.apnews.com/a01f353a8ab542918b4723f8c7ce0914

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Why grid security starts with cybersecurity awareness

(U.S.) Federal CISO: Cloud Is Critical Infrastructure, Too

(U.K.) Cyber Attack Threat Is Biggest Concern for One U.K. Energy Boss
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Philippines: scores of Islamic State fighters on Mindanao island
Hannah Ellis-Petersen and Carmela Fonbuena – The Guardian: 11 November 2018

The growing ranks of ISIS in the Philippines is galvanizing local terrorist groups in the Muslim-majority island of Mindanao into renewing efforts to establish a caliphate in the region, The Guardian newspaper reported, echoing other assessments.


‘ISIS Files’: Islamic State levied taxes, exported oil, rewarded its fighters
One America News Network: 14 November 2018

Iraq released more of the so-called ISIS files, which provide a look at the terrorist group’s financial system, taxes and international trade.


For more on this theme:

The Legacy of Islamic State in Iraq

Report: Islamic State Financier Paid Money to Eastern Congo Rebel Group

‘We have lulled ourselves into a false sense of security about IS’
https://www.news.com.au/world/middle-east/we-have-lulled-ourselves-into-a-false-sense-of-security-about-is/news-story/73a4bd9c32dee9abba6d0dafd788eaa6

Is Islamic State’s Propaganda Credible?
https://eeradicalization.com/is-islamic-states-propaganda-credible/

ISIS is back and ‘expanding and building its strength’ around the world: expert

‘People are scared’: deadly legacy of Isis continues to shape lives in Iraq

On the frontlines of ISIS’ last major pocket

How Did ISIS Get Its Weapons? Europe Wants to Limit U.S. and Saudi Arabia Arms Sales Because Guns Went to Militant Group
https://www.newsweek.com/europe-limit-us-saudi-weapons-sales-went-isis-1215758
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The Taliban has taken a ‘horrific’ toll on Afghanistan’s police and soldiers, but the country’s president still says the Taliban is losing
Ryan Pickrell – Business Insider: 16 November 2018

More than 28,000 Afghan soldiers and police have been killed by the Taliban over the last three years. But the country’s president says, despite these horrific losses, the Taliban isn’t winning.

Hezbollah funds: Group finds way to beat US sanctions
Zeina Khodr – Al Jazeera: 11 November 2018

Hezbollah isn’t fully reliant on Iran for its funding. But the land corridor connecting Tehran to Beirut has been a huge strategic win.

For more on this theme:

Taliban Pummel Security Forces Across Afghanistan

Taliban tax collectors help tighten insurgents’ grip in Afghanistan

Al Qaeda, Islamic State Compete For Minds Of Jihadists But Merger Still Likely

Afghan Taliban Wants What It Hasn’t Been Able To Hold: Hazara Regions
https://www.rferl.org/a/afghan-taliban-wants-what-it-hasn-t-been-able-to-hold-hazara-regions/29598848.html

The Ceasefire in Gaza: A Turning Point for Hamas and Netanyahu

Israel more concerned about threats from Hezbollah than Hamas, says Middle East expert

Lebanon’s Hezbollah insists on government demand, warns Israel

State Warns: Hezbollah Flooding Peru, Bolivia with Terrorist Assets
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Who joined the Islamic State from France between 2014 and 2016?
PYS.ORG: 14 November 2018
A study in the journal Palgrave Communications examined factors that influence someone’s decision to become radicalized in France. The factors include an interest in violence or feelings of depression, uncertainty or loneliness. Radicalized individuals most likely tried to influence other family members or friends, and often had a close friend or relative in prison.

Nostalgia and Radicalization
Jan Wójcik – European Eye on Radicalization: 12 November 2018
Employing the nostalgia of the “good old days” before its territorial losses is likely to be used as a recruiting technique by ISIS moving forward.
https://eeradicalization.com/nostalgia-and-radicalization/

For more on this theme:
Examining roots of radicalism vital to preventing ISIS resurgence: experts
http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/141120181
European Intelligence Officials: Islamist Terror Threat Is as Strong as Ever
Tragedy in Arkhangelsk Highlights Youth Radicalization, Holes in Russian Information Security Architecture
Civil Society Organizations: Non-Traditional Actors in the Process of Radicalization
http://www.ict.org.il/Article/2283/Civil_Society_Organizations#gsc.tab=0
Path of a jihadi: from radicalization to civilian life
When your daughter suddenly becomes radicalized
https://www.dw.com/en/when-your-daughter-suddenly-becomes-radicalized/a-46227864
Extremism Trends in Georgia
Robert Bowers and The Risk of Radicalization
Australia terror attacker ‘inspired by Islamic State’
Terrorism: UK don advises Nigeria to step up de-radicalization strategy
https://www.worldstagegroup.com/terrorism-uk-don-advises-nigeria-to-step-up-de-radicalization-strategy/
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Disrupt ISIS Financial Capabilities
Daria Grineva – International Policy Digest: 10 November 2018

ISIS has lost territory, but it remains deadly. From January 2018 to October 2018, ISIS carried out 294 attacks and caused 2,154 fatalities worldwide. This is due to its surplus of illicit funds.

Terrorism, tactics, and transformation: The West vs the Salafi-jihadi movement
Katherine Zimmerman – American Enterprise Institute: 15 November 2018

The U.S. has been effective in battling specific extremist outfits like al-Qaeda and Islamic State, but has failed to implement a long-term strategy to crush the deeper global jihadist movement, which is evolving and resurging even after individual terrorist groups have been defeated.

For more on this theme:

Analysis: Coalition, Iraqi forces target Islamic State leaders and fighters

Terrorism: Does SA have anti-terror capacity?

Australian special forces combat spread of Islamic State in Philippines

Pakistan Must Act Against Lashkar, Haqqani Network Like They Did Against al Qaeda After 11/9, Says Trump Administration

UAE hosts 7th Regional Technical Group Meeting of Counter-terrorism Confidence Building Measures for Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process