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CORRUPTION

A general was the leading suspect in the biggest anti-corruption case in Mexico. Then he disappeared.
Kevin Sieff – The Washington Post: 10 November 2019

Without a strong judiciary system, Mexico’s anti-corruption efforts will likely fail. In a recent case, simply getting the defendant to appear in court was impossible.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/a-general-was-the-leading-suspect-in-the-biggest-anti-corruption-case-in-mexico-then-he-disappeared/2019/11/10/e6f91f2c-f4e9-11e9-b2d2-1f37c9d82dbb_story.html

Inside Hezbollah: How Lebanon protests are breaking ‘fear barrier’
Scott Peterson – The Christian Science Monitor: 12 November 2019

In Lebanon, protests against the ruling classes continue unabated with one thing in common: the rage against rampant corruption. And Hezbollah, more entrenched than ever in the government, is the target of some of that ire.


For more on this theme:

Venice Floods Are a Sad Tale of Bureaucracy and Corruption

The ICAC: how Hong Kong’s corrupt police force became ‘Asia’s finest’

Malaysia aiming to locate $4.3 billion linked to 1MDB corruption scandal
https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2019/11/5/malaysia-aiming-to-locate-4-3bn-linked-to-1mdb-scandal

Manus, Maseratis and corruption: Peter O’Neill on eight years leading Papua New Guinea
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/06/manus-maseratis-and-corruption-peter-oneill-on-eight-years-leading-papua-new-guinea

Anti-corruption chiefs warn of political interference, call for independent funding

Can the European Union tackle corruption and state capture?

Future anti-corruption trends — four reasons to be optimistic
https://voices.transparency.org/future-anti-corruption-trends-4-reasons-to-be-optimistic-21d7902f980d

Guatemala congress cuts sentences for corruption convictions
https://apnews.com/f7253cf03dad4c899279aabd94f5e05c
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking through Venezuela has skyrocketed, says U.S. military chief
Nora Gámez Torres – Miami Herald: 14 November 2019

Drug trafficking through Venezuela has increased exponentially and is a threat to the security of the region, according to Adm. Craig S. Faller, commander of the U.S. Southern Command. “Maduro’s regime has facilitated narcotrafficking,” Faller told the Miami Herald. “There’s over a 50 percent increase of narcotrafficking in and through Venezuela, and Maduro and his cronies are lining their pockets, in cahoots with the illicit narcotrafficking.”


On the road with Niger’s anti-drug trafficking squad
Giacomo Zandonini – Al Jazeera: 10 November 2019

Drug traffickers are shifting their routes away from northern Mali, making Niger a hub of illegal drug activity, according to Niger’s security forces.


For more on this theme:
Illicit fentanyl, carfentanil could be fueling opioid deaths

Philippines drug war: Do we know how many have died?

Argentina’s Piñero Prison Becoming Increasing Organized Crime Hotspot

Microtrafficking Getting Worse in Outskirts of Bogotá, Colombia

Why China’s Conviction of 9 Fentanyl Traffickers Is Unlikely to Stop Exports to the U.S.
https://time.com/5721720/china-fentanyl-convictions/

Venezuela Archipelago, New Hotspot for Drug Smuggling

Albanian parents smuggle children into UK drug trade

Ice, ice baby—you’d better stop and listen
https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/ice-ice-baby-you-d-better-stop-and-listen/

Why Is Mexico’s Organized Crime Problem Getting Worse?
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Scientists create fake rhino horn in effort to thwart poachers
Guillaume Goudreau – Illicit Trade News Network: 10 November 2019

Researchers at the University of Oxford and Fudan University in Shanghai have found a way to create fake rhino horn from horse hair. The scientists believe the method has the potential to undermine the illicit market for the genuine article.


Illegal snares killing SE Asia wildlife
Mia Signs – Asia Times: 13 November 2019

A new study finds that illegal snares threaten the biodiversity of Southeast Asia — and are even more detrimental than illegal logging.


For more on this theme:

Sierra Leone: Illegal mining blamed for environmental disasters

Blockchain is fighting illegal logging in the world
https://cryptobit.media/en/articles/overview/2683/

“Cocaine of the sea” — the illegal fish trade of the Mexican cartel and Chinese mafia
https://bigthink.com/politics-current-affairs/vaquita

How Do We Solve a Problem Like Wildlife Trade?
https://therevelator.org/podcast-wildlife-trade/

A new EU-wide approach is needed to help wildlife rescue services at breaking point

West Africa becoming transit point for illegal wildlife products

New Study Shows the Extent of Global Illegal Wildlife Trade

‘We are running out of time’: Murder and corruption threaten Europe’s last great forests

Ghana’s traditional and state powers must collaborate to halt illegal mining
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

When caretakers side with child traffickers
Mouhamadou Kane – Institute for Security Studies: 31 October 2019
Under the pretext of free religious education, thousands of children become slaves on Senegal’s streets.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/when-caretakers-side-with-child-traffickers

Human Smuggling from Asia to Latin America On Rise
Maria Paula Chaparro – InSight Crime: 12 November 2019
The takedown of a highly organized human smuggling ring operating in South Asia and Brazil shows how Latin American networks are being used to smuggle Asian migrants into the U.S.

For more on this theme:
Migrants endure rape, torture on route through Yemen
https://www.arabnews.com/node/1578721/middle-east

Responding to irregular migration: A diplomatic route (House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, First Report of Session 2019)

Ending child labour, forced labour and human trafficking in global supply chains

The bane of human trafficking

Vietnam Law Codifies Abuse Victims’ Right to Lawyer

How Bengal, India’s human trafficking hub, is weaving a turnaround story
https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/how-bengal-indias-human-trafficking-hub-is-weaving-a-turnaround-story/story-qnxUWT4i0kH84Q21X8FC8J.html

UAE steps up battle against human trafficking
https://gulfnews.com/uae/uae-steps-up-battle-against-human-trafficking-1.67733438

Data Shows Rise in Child Exploitation Cases: Report

Bangladesh’s Child Marriage Problem Is the World’s Human Trafficking Crisis

Sex traffickers using social media to target children
INTERNET FREEDOM

New artificial intelligence system automatically evolves to evade internet censorship
University of Maryland – Science Daily: 13 November 2019
A team of researchers has created a tool that can “learn” to circumvent internet censorship. So far, it has found dozens of paths around internet censorship in China, India and Kazakhstan.

For more on this theme:

(Africa) Africa’s innovative response to internet repression

(Turkey) Finding Truth Online Is Hard Enough.

(Russia) How internet censorship works in Russia
https://www.vpncompare.co.uk/internet-censorship-russia/

(Hong Kong) Crowdfunding to fight restriction of Internet, freedom of speech

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Microsoft Will Extend Protection Promised by California Consumer Privacy Act to All U.S. Users
Ben Brody and Bloomberg – Fortune: 12 November 2019
Microsoft announced it would respect the basic rights provided to Californians through the state’s law on the confidentiality of historical data and extend the same coverage across the U.S.

For more on this theme:

(Southeast Asia) ASEAN regulatory sandbox will promote cross-border data flows

(China) China is waking up to data protection and privacy. Here’s why that matters

(U.S.) Privacy, consumer groups seek to block Google-Fitbit deal
https://apnews.com/767c550e6b1c42a2a6d685011fb91fbb

(GLOBAL) Is Internet Privacy Post-GDPR Merely A Theater?
CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

The Case for Internet Access as a Human Right
Karl Bode – Motherboard: 13 November 2019

A new study says internet access shouldn’t be an exploitable luxury but a basic, protected human right provided free of charge to those who can’t afford it. “Internet access is not merely a luxury for those who can afford it,” said Dr. Merten Reglitz, a lecturer in global ethics at the University of Birmingham. “It is instead highly conducive to a multitude of crucial human interests and rights.”


For more on this theme:
(Global) Should data analysis help determine foreign policy decisions?
https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/comment/should-data-analysis-help-determine-foreign-policy-decisions-1.933711

(Norway) Cyber Defense: The Glue and Digital Armour of the Armed Forces

(EU) The National Cybersecurity Strategy of the European Union
https://www.analyticsinsight.net/the-national-cybersecurity-strategy-of-the-european-union/

(China) China’s Internet Is Flowering. And It Might Be Our Future.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Why law enforcement and businesses need to join forces to fight global cybercrime
William Dixon and Craig Jones – World Economic Forum/The European Sting: 13 November 2019

The digital revolution is changing the way law enforcement protects communities and the way businesses manage risk.


For more on this theme:
(Latin America) US$300 billion for Latin America’s GDP by expanding mobile connectivity into 5G

(U.S., Global) Helicopter Government? How The Internet Of Things Enables Pushbutton Regulation From A Distance

(Thailand) Thai government unveils ‘one-stop-shop’ app
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Government officials bringing broadband and high-speed internet to all citizens
Mary Scott Nabers – Born2Invest: 11 November 2019

Public officials across the U.S. are finding ways to deliver broadband to rural America in the hopes of getting the entire country online.


For more on this theme:

(India) Internet Now Basic Right In Kerala! First State In India To Provide Free High-Speed Connection To 2 Million Poor Households
https://thelogicalindian.com/good-governance/kerala-free-internet/

(Saudi Arabia) Building Emerging Technology Governance Key to Realizing Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030

(Africa) What will it take for Africa to drive US$5-trillion digital economy?

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Notorious hackers claim responsibility for Labour cyber attacks and threaten to target Corbyn's family
Anthony Cuthbertson – Independent: 14 November 2019

Lizard Squad, a notorious hacking group, claimed responsibility for a recent attack on the United Kingdom’s Labor Party. The group also warned of more distributed denial of service attacks to come.


For more on this theme:


(U.S.) The rise of cyber attacks and data breaches against US hospitals has been linked to an uptick in heart attack deaths

(Global) New Group of Hackers Targeting Businesses with Financially Motivated Cyber Attacks
COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Australia releases advice to counter ‘foreign interference’ after university cyber attacks
Liam Tung – CSO Online: 15 November 2019

Australia has published guidelines on how to counter foreign interference in the Australian university system after recent cyber attacks targeted research and intellectual property.

For more on this theme:
(Global) TikTok seeks to join tech fight against online terrorism

(Canada, U.S.) Government cyber attacks: The best offence is a good defence

(U.S.) Police, schools team up to combat internet crimes
https://www.kezi.com/content/news/564953422.html

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Russia May Require PC, Phone Vendors to Preload Apps
Joel Hruska – Extreme Tech: 12 November 2019

The Russian government is contemplating forcing all electronic equipment sold in the country to carry specific Russian apps and services. This would make spying on electronic devices even easier if the software has built-in back doors the government can access.
https://www.extremetech.com/mobile/301768-russia-may-require-pc-phone-vendors-to-preload-apps

For more on this theme:
(Saudi Arabia) Twitter Employee Surveillance For Saudi Arabia Raises Questions About Company’s Cybersecurity And Governance

(U.S.) The unintended consequences of banning face recognition

(India) India prepares for World’s Biggest Facial Recognition System in Public Places
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

ISIS-Linked Militants Fight On Despite Leader Baghdadi’s Death

Despite ISIS’ losses in Iraq and Syria and the death of leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the group’s ideology lives on, particularly in Southeast Asia, where it’s more about the idea of the caliphate than the individual leader.


ISIS recruiters are preying on vulnerable domestic workers in Hong Kong and Singapore
Julie Zaugg – CNN: 11 November 2019

ISIS is focused on Asia after the fall of its so-called caliphate in the Middle East. To spread its ideology, the group is targeting domestic workers in Hong Kong and Singapore for radicalization.


For more on this theme:

Armored Kamikaze Trucks Were ISIS’ Secret Weapon
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/armored-kamikaze-trucks-were-isis'-secret-weapon-93276

The theory of the Islamic State
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-theory-of-the-islamic-state/article29912594.ece

What does al-Baghdadi’s exit mean for Africa?
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/what-does-al-baghdadis-exit-mean-for-africa

Esper says US forces combating ISIS in Libya ‘continue to mow the lawn’

This is how the ISIS tried to get going in India by holding meetings and recruiting members

ISIS Terrorist Leader’s Remote Compound in Syria Had Internet Until Day of Deadly US Raid: Report

Elite U.S. military panel’s warning about ISIS after Baghdadi: ‘Let’s not let another one emerge’
https://www.foxnews.com/media/isis-al-baghdadi-syria-pete-hegseth

US troops at Syria base say they’ll keep pressure on IS
https://apnews.com/3160db8b27e24578967b82da1852a7ba

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FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu warned that his country was “not a hotel for ISIS members” and accused Europe of leaving the Turkish authorities to deal with the prisoners alone.


Dutch government ordered to repatriate children of ISIS militants

A Dutch judge ruled that the Dutch government must make all possible efforts to repatriate Dutch children from detention camps holding relatives of Islamic State fighters in Syria, but it does not have the same obligation to their mothers.


For more on this theme:

Turkey doesn’t want to hold onto foreign ISIS fighters but neither does the rest of the world. So where will they go?


Turkey begins deporting suspected ISIS fighters to US, UK, Germany


American-Born Woman Who Joined ISIS Is Not a Citizen, Judge Rules


Europe is ‘terrified’ ISIS fighters will go free if repatriated

https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-11-12/europe-terrified-isis-fighters-will-go-free-if-repatriated

Boy taken by mom to join ISIS in Syria has emotional reunion with dad and sisters


Russia Tests ISIS Orphans’ DNA Ahead of Repatriation


Russia to apply Syrian law for Daesh/ISIS return


US presses European countries to take Islamic State fighters

https://apnews.com/bb47fa934806446397d86edabc517f0a

ISIS Bride Who Wanted to ‘Spill Blood’ of Americans Pleads to Return: ‘I Want to Have My Own Car’

Dozens of New Terrorist Organizations Emerge Each Year. Which Ones Will Become Most Dangerous?
Yang Yang, Adam Pah and Brian Uzzi – Kellogg Insight: 4 November 2019

A new study shows how using the same tools and techniques investors use to evaluate startups can help identify which new terrorist organizations will thrive and become dangerous in the future.

https://insight.kellogg.northwestern.edu/article/measuring-terrorist-groups-danger

How Boko Haram went from a peaceful Islamic sect to one of the world's deadliest terrorists in a decade
Jideofor Adibe – Quartz: 14 November 2019

Over the past 10 years, Boko Haram went from relatively peaceful operations to one of the world's most deadly terrorist organizations. And it all began with a 2009 crackdown against the group by the police in Bauchi State in northern Nigeria.

https://qz.com/africa/1748873/boko-harams-10-year-reign-in-nigeria-has-been-devastating/

For more on this theme:
In Indonesia, ‘Women Are Now a Permanent Part of the Jihadi Structure’
https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28302/in-indonesia-women-are-now-a-permanent-part-of-the-jihadi-structure

The Fractured Terrorism Threat to America
https://www.lawfareblog.com/fractured-terrorism-threat-america

After Baghdadi: Will Islamic State fighters seek return to al-Qaeda?

Dusit attack report reveals Shabaab's plan in recruiting Kenyans

Al-Shabaab ‘outgrows’ illegal charcoal trade in move likely to benefit KDF

How Boko Haram has evolved over the past ten years
https://theconversation.com/how-boko-haram-has-evolved-over-the-past-ten-years-126436

Jihadist Groups Cash In on Artisanal Gold Rush in West Africa

These are the new ‘most-wanted’ al-Qaeda terrorists
https://www.wearethemighty.com/news/most-wanted-terrorists?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

What radicalized ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi?

Recent scholarship suggests that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi became radicalized in the post-2003 chaos in Iraq. Previously it was believed that Saddam Hussein had caused the radicalization in the 1990s through institutions such as the Saddam University for Islamic Studies.


For more on this theme:

Dan Hett's video games take on grief, radicalisation and ethical journalism

Latest research into extreme-right terrorism showcased in special edition of journal

Help for Parents When Violent Extremism Beckons the Young
https://www.reallclearpolitics.com/articles/2019/11/08/help_for_parents_when_violent_extremismbeckons_the_young_141684.html

Radicalization Involves Close Relatives
https://kompas.id/baca/utama/2019/11/15/radicalization-involves-close-relatives

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

The FBI’s New Approach to Combating Domestic Terrorism: Straight Talk

The FBI’s Behavioral Threat Assessment Center released its Lone Offender Terrorism Report this month. Reflecting the center’s focus on past terrorism and targeted violence events, the study reviewed 52 lone offender terrorist attacks within the United States between 1972 and 2015. The study found common traits that could help identify future attackers.


Full report:
Lone Offender Terrorism

For more on this theme:

Qatar, US renew commitment to combating terrorism

What Can We Learn from the US State Department’s Terrorism Report on Pakistan?