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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Kenya Disbands National Football Body Over Corruption
Agence France-Presse: 11 November 2021
Kenya disbanded its national football federation over corruption allegations and may seek to prosecute any guilty officials.

Professor Cited as Corruption Expert Is Sentenced for Money Laundering
A former University of Miami international studies professor used bank accounts in his name and the name of a company he created to launder about $2.5 million, prosecutors said.

For more on this theme:

Tunisia graft crackdown: FRANCE 24 reports on Saied’s anti-corruption campaign

Corruption is the most common story Africa’s youth hear about the continent

China condemns ‘money worship’, corruption of reform era in key document

The nexus between the illicit narcotics trade and corruption

Ending corruption and reliance on Gazprom key for Moldova, says PM
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/16/ending-corruption-and-reliance-on-gazprom-key-for-moldova-says-pm

Fintech Compliance: AI’s New Role in Combatting Corruption

62% of countries at high risk of defence and security corruption, index reveals

Six mayors, including San José’s, arrested in Costa Rica on corruption charges
https://ticotimes.net/2021/11/16/six-mayors-including-san-joses-arrested-in-costa-rica-for-corruption

Anti-Corruption Party Wins Bulgarian Election, Seeks Reforms
DRUG TRAFFICKING

West Africa has become a transit hub for drug trafficking, says UN
Al Jazeera: 9 November 2021

The United Nations says that West Africa has become the main transit hub for drug trafficking. The cocaine seized in the region grew tenfold from 2015 to 2019.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ze1xPgs31LQ

Can the Taliban weed out their drug trade?
Hiranmay Karlekar – The Pioneer: 13 November 2021

Afghanistan produces 90% of the world’s illicit opium. In 2020, opium poppy was grown on 224,000 hectares, one of the highest levels of cultivation the country has had.

For more on this theme:

‘Narco-submarines’ play a growing role in ferrying drugs bound for the United States and elsewhere

Pakistani blogger murdered for exposing local drug trafficking

Cartel Head Otoniel Could Reveal Drug Secrets In U.S. Court

Opium cultivation continues even as Taliban vows crackdown on Afghanistan’s drug trade
https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/taliban-ban-opium-harvest-afghanistan-drugs-1874593-2021-11-09

Huge drug seizures, arrests having no effect on drug trade

‘It’s our lifeline’: the Taliban are back but Afghans say opium is here to stay

In Albania, a Worrying Rise in Drug Gangs Hiring Minors

What does the arrest of Otoniel, Colombia’s most-wanted drug trafficker, mean?
https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/democraciaabierta/otoniel-is-no-escobar-en/

El Koki or Wilexis – Who Runs Caracas’ Most Powerful Drug Gang?
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal fishing: another target in West Africa’s maritime battleground
Denys Reva and David Willima – Institute for Security Studies: 18 November 2021

In a region already facing rampant piracy, the pillaging of fish stocks by industrial operators must be stopped.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/illegal-fishing-another-target-in-west-africas-maritime-battleground

For more on this theme:

Exclusive: Colombia oil theft surges as smuggled gasoline dries up

How Can Whistleblowers Fight Wildlife Crime? Experts Explain

Chinese traditional medicine growth in Africa threatens wildlife

Smuggling bear parts in Australia and New Zealand

Study Documents Nigeria’s Staggering Role in Trafficking of Pangolins

Project Uses DNA to Combat Illegal Trade of Aquatic Wildlife

Avocados In, Butterflies Out - How Illegal Logging is Devastating Western Mexico

‘No man wanted to do it’: The woman fighting to save Brazil’s Amazon from illegal loggers

Elephant DNA helps authorities make $3.5 million international ivory trafficking bust

South Africa, Sudan learning from Ghana’s fight against illegal mining – Mireku Duker

New Tool Helps Seafood Businesses Fight Illegal Fishing

To Curtail Illegal Fishing, Atlantic Ocean Tuna Managers Should Make It Harder to Hide
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Belarus must be held accountable for human trafficking, Baltic states say
Andrius Sytas – Reuters: 15 November 2021

Belarus is forcing migrants to breach its borders with the European Union, and the government of President Alexander Lukashenko must be held accountable for human trafficking, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania said.


For more on this theme:

PAUL ILADO: The slavery of drug trafficking
https://www.the-star.co.ke/opinion/columnists/2021-11-14-paul-ilado-the-slavery-of-drug-trafficking/

Nigeria among top 10 human trafficking, drug markets – Report

EU readies sanctions for migrant trafficking over Belarus border crisis

Albanian Government Announces Measures to Combat Human Trafficking

Media practitioners urged to play watchdog roles in fight against human trafficking and slavery

Spain seeks to curb migrant arrivals to Canary Islands
https://apnews.com/article/bangladesh-algeria-madrid-africa-north-africa-d265d70093502c89e93f357f42f2e21b

Chinese company transfers thousands of Uyghurs from Xinjiang to Nanjing

Hindu Temple Trafficking Lawsuit Widens; Workers ‘Lured’ From India And Paid $1.20 A Day
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Considerations on the Potential Impacts of Large-Scale Metaverses on Internet Governance: Bandwidth
Mark Datysgeld – CircleID: 8 November 2021

To the internet governance ecosystem, several questions immediately become apparent when considering the implications of a large-scale metaverse: infrastructure, protocols, interoperability, bandwidth, security, privacy, ownership, access — all debates that are already part of the core of this area.

https://circleid.com/posts/20211108-considerations-on-the-potential-impacts-of-large-scale-metaverses-on-internet-governance-bandwidth

For more on this theme:
(Solomon Islands) Launching Digital Governance for Solomon Islands

(India) India Internet Governance Forum: The what and why

(Africa) Does Africa really need the internet?
https://www.thecable.ng/does-africa-really-need-the-internet

INTERNET FREEDOM

Exodus of Foreign Internet Giants Strengthens China’s Homegrown Ecosystem
Ralph Jennings – Voice of America: 5 November 2021

China now depends almost entirely on its own online content providers because the number of big foreign companies in the market, such as Yahoo and LinkedIn, keeps dwindling. This gives the government a boost in controlling the internet, analysts say.


For more on this theme:
(China) Player Accuses China’s Top Politician Of Sexual Assault, Triggers Censorship

(Russia) Russia fines Google, Telegram for not removing content

(China) China regulator proposes cybersecurity review for some Hong Kong IPOs
SECURITY

In a quantum future, our economy needs to be protected. A cyber security expert explains why
Abhinav Chugh – World Economic Forum: 10 November 2021

The privacy of online communication is protected by cryptography, which shields information as it travels around the internet. It secures everything, from making online purchases to accessing work email remotely. Quantum computers could run algorithms that break the public key encryption.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Alleged Russian Hacks of Microsoft Service Providers Highlight Cybersecurity Deficiencies
(U.K.) Students recruited for 'ethical hacking' to boost business cyber security
https://www.business-live.co.uk/technology/students-recruited-ethical-hacking-boost-22061760
(GLOBAL) Top Cybersecurity Threats Around the Globe
https://securityintelligence.com/articles/top-cybersecurity-threats-global/

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Costs, Literacy and Design: The Invisible Barriers to Tackling the Digital Divide
Umberto Bacchi – Reuters: 5 November 2021

Connecting everyone in the world to the World Wide Web will not single-handedly bridge the digital divide, tech experts at the Web Summit said, citing other barriers such as high costs, low digital literacy and complicated user interfaces.


For more on this theme:
(India) The state of digitalisation in India: Opportunity and threat
https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/Magazine/ReadMagazineArticle?aid=44977
(India) Opinion: Women are being left offline — costing governments billions
(Portugal) Portugal protects employees with new rules on home working
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Allies, Partners Play Key Role in Cybersecurity, Says Official
David Vergun – United States Department of Defense: 10 November 2021

Allies and partners play a key role in cybersecurity, said Miek Eoyang, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for cyber policy.

https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2840871/allies-partners-play-key-role-in-cybersecurity-says-official/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Working with Our Private Sector Partners to Combat the Cyber Threat

(U.S.) NSA, National Cryptologic Foundation form partnership

(U.S., Global) Cybersecurity experts say public-private partnership is the key to preventing future attacks

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cybersecurity: This prolific hacker-for-hire operation has targeted thousands of victims around the world
Danny Palmer – ZDNet: 10 November 2021

Cybersecurity researchers at Trend Micro lift the lid on Void Balaur, a financially motivated cybercrime group that has targeted politicians, journalists, human rights activists, medical professionals and others since 2015.

https://www.zdnet.com/article/this-cyber-mercenary-hacking-group-has-targeted-thousands-of-victims-around-the-world/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Ohio Hospital Still Struggling One Week After Cyberattack

(Global) HPE’s Aruba networking unit hit by cyber attack

(Canada) Hackers Target Newfoundland’s Health Care System
PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Key takeaways: cyber security and data privacy
Lauren DeLorenzo – Infrastructure Magazine: 9 November 2021

A panel at the recent Critical Infrastructure: Digitisation Series Virtual Conference in Australia invited industry leaders to discuss potential risks to these systems, the impact of new security legislation and what asset owners should be doing to protect their infrastructure.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Solar Energy Infrastructure: Is It Cyber Secure?

(U.S.) AI is Helping Secure Critical Infrastructure
https://governmentciomedia.com/ai-helping-secure-critical-infrastructure

(U.S.) INSA Calls for Designating Space Systems as New U.S. Critical Infrastructure Sector

(U.S.) This DHS component you haven’t heard of is scanning critical infrastructure for bugs
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Syria’s notorious al-Hol camp faces sudden uptick in violence: RIC
Wladimir van Wilgenburg – Kurdistan 15 :24 November 2021
Unprecedented violence is unfolding at Syria’s al-Hol camp, where residents live in fear.

UN envoy says ISIS affiliate appears present in nearly all Afghan provinces
Reuters: 18 November 2021
The United Nations envoy to Afghanistan delivered a bleak assessment of the situation following the Taliban takeover, saying that an affiliate of the Islamic State group has grown and now appears present in nearly all 34 provinces.

For more on this theme:
Kurdish-led forces foil jailbreak attempt at ISIS prison in Syria’s Hasakah

ISIS crowns Sani Shuwaram as new ISWAP leader
https://dailypost.ng/2021/11/06/isis-crowns-sani-shuwaram-as-new-iswap-leader/

U.S. says worried about increase in attacks by ISIS-K in Afghanistan

DHS warns of uptick in online activity by al Qaeda- and ISIS-affiliated groups after U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan

The Taliban are powerless to stop ISIS terrorism in Afghanistan

Islamic State using China to vilify Taliban
https://eurasianet.org/perspectives-islamic-state-using-china-to-vilify-taliban

Afghan Taliban Claim to Have Captured 600 IS Militants

Foreign Children of Islamic State Detained in Northeastern Syria Face Bleak Future
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Will Taliban check ISIS-K attacks on Shia community?
ANI (Asian News International): 15 November 2021
For decades, violence has torn through Afghanistan’s Shiite community, perpetuated first by the Taliban — who consider Shiites heretics — and in more recent years by ISIS.
https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/will-taliban-check-isis-k-attacks-on-shia-community20211115224919/

Hundreds Go Missing in Burkina Faso Amid Extremist Violence
Sam Mednick – The Associated Press: 17 November 2021
Islamic extremist violence is ravaging Burkina Faso, killing thousands and displacing more than 1 million people.
https://apnews.com/article/africa-islamic-state-group-burkina-faso-missing-persons-80fdd2f58e9bd-11c94db316da4f5014

For more on this theme:
The rise of jihadist groups in Africa
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/rise-jihadist-groups-africa

Anti-Taliban forces might gravitate towards ISIS-K in Afghanistan: Think tank

Uproar over ‘Hezbollah pressure’ on Lebanese military judiciary
https://www.arabnews.com/node/1962806/middle-east

Residents Flee As Boko Haram Terrorists Attack Hometown Of Borno Deputy Speaker

Indonesia: Militant Group Behind Bali Bombings Tries to Infiltrate Govt Institutions

Surrendered Nigeria jihadists riot in tense northeast

World Bank: Boko Haram Caused Economic Activities to Decline in North-east by 50%

Hezbollah chief slams Saudi Arabia for Lebanon diplomatic rift
IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Al-Nasser Salah al-Din Brigades Praises IRGC and Hezbollah for Arming Group
Joe Truzman – FDD's Long War Journal: 14 November 2021

In a recent interview, al-Nasser Salah al-Din Brigades' spokesperson, Abu Atayya, thanked the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Quds Force and Hezbollah for supplying the militant group and the “Palestinian Resistance” in its war against Israel.


For more on this theme:

Russian soldiers convicted of bribing their way into Syria
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/russian-soldiers-convicted-of-bribing-their-way-into-syria-205nthqnw

Backers of Iran-linked militias try to storm Baghdad’s Green Zone after election losses

As the French Are Leaving Mali Russia Moves In to Fill the Vacuum

EU Reaches Political Agreement to Sanction Russia’s Wagner Group
https://www.marketwatch.com/story/eu-reaches-political-agreement-to-sanction-russia-s-wagner-group-271636981277

Russia, West clash over Russian military presence in the CAR
https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-francois-bozize-africa-central-africa-central-african-republic-db99baf5ae733e6ca0592eb6a83bb74

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

Iran-backed hackers exploited Microsoft, pose major cyber threat, investigators say
Peter Aitken – Fox News: 18 November 2021

Law enforcement agencies in the U.S., Britain and Australia have issued a joint statement labeling an Iran-sponsored group as a serious threat to cybersecurity.

https://www.foxnews.com/world/iran-hackers-microsoft-major-cyber-threat

For more on this theme:

Chinese hackers may have targeted Zoho, says US cyber security firm

Beware the Chinese Ransomware Attack With No Ransom