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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Professor Who Is Corruption Expert Accused of Laundering $2.5 Million

A professor who co-wrote a book about organized crime and is an expert on money laundering and corruption in South America has been arrested on charges of laundering corruption proceeds from Venezuela. Bruce Bagley, who taught at the University of Miami, faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.


‘Clusters of Progress’ in Anti-Corruption Reforms
Rose Whiffen – Transparency International: 12 November 2019

Transparency International’s Global Anti-Corruption Pledge Tracker monitors commitments made three years ago by more than 40 nations at the Anti-Corruption Summit in London. So far, the tool has helped detect the progress toward implementing the promises made at that summit.

https://voices.transparency.org/clusters-of-progress-in-anti-corruption-reforms-3d24a297965b

For more on this theme:

Can Houthis bribe their way out of anti-corruption protests?

Iran’s Judiciary Arrests Its Own Officials On Corruption Charges

Ukraine’s Zelenskiy Signs Law On Corruption Whistle-Blowers
https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-s-zelenskiy-signs-into-force-law-on-corruption-whistle-blowers/30270529.html

How Ghanian civil servants navigated corruption to light up the nation’s electricity grid
https://scroll.in/article/943462/how-ghanian-civil servants-navigated-corruption-to-light-up-the-nations-electricity-grid

Sri Lanka Acts Tough Against Corruption After Turbulent Period In Cricket

Former Zuma minister appears in court on charges of corruption

New arrest in Malta journalist murder puts focus on political corruption

Corruption Harms Nordics’ Reputation
DRUG TRAFFICKING

**Venezuela Archipelago, New Hotspot for Drug Smuggling**
*InSight Crime: 8 November 2019*

A group of islands off Venezuela’s northern coast has become a hot spot for smuggling drugs and illicit gold through the Caribbean. The Los Roques Archipelago is only a 30-minute flight from Caracas and is about the same distance to several of the Dutch Caribbean islands that are being used to traffic the same illicit goods into Europe and the U.S.


**Inside the bloody cartel war for Mexico’s multibillion-dollar avocado industry**
*Kate Linthicum – Los Angeles Times: 21 November 2019*

America’s obsession with avocados has literally caused violence to surge in Mexico as cartels fight to profit from the multibillion-dollar industry. The criminal group Viagras, along with dozens of other cartels, have been clearing the forest in Michoacan to set up a new operation to grow avocados because the fight against drug violence has led cartels to look for other revenue sources, the Los Angeles Times reports.


*For more on this theme:*

**Narcops: How Police and Drug Dealers Collude in Argentina**

**Drug Trafficker Case Another Test for Malaysia’s Pakatan Harapan Government**
https://thediplomat.com/2019/11/drug-trafficker-case-another-test-for-malayas-pakatan-harapan-gov-
ernment/

**Dirt Cheap Gasoline Is Fueling Colombia’s Cocaine Cartels**

**Mekong countries and U.N. agree to jointly fight drug scourge**
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-asia-drugs/mekong-countries-and-u-n-agree-to-jointly-fight-drug-
scoUrge-idUSKBN1XP10S

**DoD adds fentanyl to drug testing panel**
https://www.dvidshub.net/news/352812/dod-adds-fentanyl-drug-testing-panel

**Illegal pot farms on public land create environmental hazard**
https://apnews.com/217473b58bb6418bb81b2b40168669d64

**Philippines’ Duterte to VP: keep state secrets or lose your ‘drugs tsar’ post**
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-drugs/philippines-duterte-to-vp-keep-state-secrets-or-lose-
your-drugs-tsar-post-idUSKBN1XR084

**Almost 100 people are murdered DAILY in Mexico amid its violent drug war as the country’s homicide rate rises by two per cent in 2019 - with 29,414 people killed since January**
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7711575/Government-data-shows-29-414-people-murdered-
10-months-2019.html
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Conserving wildlife is key to tropical forests' carbon storage, study finds
Nanticha Ocharoenchai – Mongabay: 18 November 2019
The decline of fruit-eating animals in the tropical forests of Southeast Asia led researchers to find that carbon storage in those forests dropped by as much as 3%.

Romania’s forests under mounting threat—along with rangers
Mihaela Rodina and Ionut Iordachescu – Phys:org: 18 November 2019
Illegal logging has scarred the mountains of Romania — and left forest rangers dead. Interpol says forestry-sector crime generates $150 billion a year globally, and environmentalists warn that some of Europe’s last virgin forests are under threat.

For more on this theme:
Illegal Gold Mining Is Laying Waste to the Amazon

Illegal Fishing Threatens Food Security in Bolívar, Colombia

Vietnam has the chance to showcase its progress on curbing illegal fishing as the European Commission begins inspection

Behind the Cage, Tigers Face Threats Across Asia

Zoohackathon 3.0 generates winning ideas to end wildlife trafficking

China’s wénwan drives a deadly mix-and-match of endangered wildlife

Pangolins are a victim of political instability in South Sudan

Exclusive: Inside a controversial South African lion farm

Enough With the Fake Rhino Horns
https://therevelator.org/fake-rhino-horns/

Meet the man fighting against poaching in Mozambique
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/safaris-and-wildlife/tusk-awards-carlos-lopes-pereira/
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

**Vietnam boats using child labour for illegal fishing**

An investigation by the Environmental Justice Foundation discovered that children as young as 11 were found by Thai authorities on Vietnamese vessels being detained for fishing illegally in Thai waters. The seafood from these vessels could end up in U.S. and European Union supermarkets, according to the foundation.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/19/vietnam-boats-using-child-labour-for-illegal-fishing

‘How do we break the supply chain?’
Ian Thomsen – News@Northeastern: 18 November 2019

Three Northeastern University researchers are hoping to disrupt human trafficking in U.S. agriculture with an unusual approach: They are focused on the victims.


For more on this theme:

**Central America – Fertile Ground for Human Trafficking**

**Vietnam’s Human Trafficking Problem Is Too Big to Ignore**

**Children as young as five make up most of Madagascar’s mica mining workforce**

**Human Trafficking Complaints Rise by 500 Percent in Chile**

**Asia Tops Child Labor and Human Trafficking Activity**

**People smugglers use YouTube to teach migrants how to enter UK**
https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20191118-people-smugglers-use-youtube-to-teach-migrants-how-to-enter-uk/

**Modern-day slavery**
https://www.portugaleresident.com/modern-day-slavery/

**Eritrean migrants face torture in Libya: What the international community can do**

**Greece Announces Steps to Shut Down Notorious Refugee Camps**
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

A Sovereign Internet Will Not Combat Cybercrime
Fahmida Y. Rashid – Decipher: 20 November 2019

A United Nations committee has passed a Russia-backed resolution on a global cyber crime treaty, despite opposition from the United States and other European countries because the measure would allow countries to surveil their populations and stifle dissenting voices.


For more on this theme:
(Georgia) 5th Georgian Internet Governance Forum GeoIGF 2019

(Global) Has ISOC sold .Org for 30 pieces of silver?

(Turkey, Global) Turkey’s Digital Tax Will Inspire Others

(Globa) The Dark Psychology of Social Networks

(Globa) The Real Fight for the Future of 5G
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2019-11-14/real-fight-future-5g

INTERNET FREEDOM

Iran’s Information Minister Says Country’s Internet Was Shut Down to Keep Nation Safe
Tom O’Connor – Newsweek: 18 November 2019

Amid public protests, Iran shut down the country’s internet access for five days, causing practically every Iranian citizen to go without internet access or wireless data service. Finally, on the fifth day, Iran began restoring access in Tehran as well as in a number of provinces. Iran claims it was to keep the nation safe.


For more on this theme:
(Zimbabwe, Africa) Join hands in fight for internet freedom: Misa

(China) People in China are bypassing its internet firewall to read explosive leaked files about Uighur oppression, and saluting an official who disobeyed Xi Jinping

(Global) “Biologically inspired” A.I can beat the world’s strictest internet censorship
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

**Americans and Privacy: Concerned, Confused and Feeling Lack of Control Over Their Personal Information**

Brooke Auer, Lee Rainie, Monica Anderson, Andrew Perrin, Madhu Kumar and Erica Turner – Pew Research Center: 15 November 2019

Sixty percent of polled Americans believe it is not possible to go through daily life without having data collected about them by corporations or the government.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) Nationwide internet privacy protections are within reach

https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/nationwide-internet-privacy-protections-are-within-reach/

(China) China requests internet companies to tighten data privacy as consumer anxiety rises


(Global) Facebook and Google surveillance is an ‘assault on privacy,’ says Amnesty International


CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**Zimbabwe aims to be one of Africa’s biggest IT hubs**

Stanley Karombo – ITWeb Africa: 20 November 2019

Zimbabwe is hoping to grow as one of Africa’s biggest information technology hubs. The Smart Zimbabwe 2030 Master Plan is an all-inclusive guideline that outlines how the country will develop, deploy and manage telecommunications across all sectors.


*For more on this theme:*

(Greece) No Fi to Hi Fi Wi Fi, Remote Greek Villages Get The Net


(Ukraine) Bolstering electoral cyber resiliense in Ukraine


(Rwanda) Rwandan Students Compete In Cyber Security Innovation

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

**New code for internet-connected devices to stop hackers**
Anthony Galloway – The Sydney Morning Herald: 19 November 2019

Web-connected devices including smart TVs, watches and home speakers will be subject to a new industry code to protect families, businesses and Australia’s national security from cyber hackers.

*For more on this theme:*

*(Global) Small DDoS Attacks on the Rise: Why These Supersized Assaults Are Going Tiny*
https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/91308-small-ddos-attacks-on-the-rise-why-these-supersized-assaults-are-going-tiny

*(Global) Cyber-threat intelligence and analytics company CYFIRMA releases predictions for 2020*

*(Global) IoT Security Forecast: New Trends and Increasing Threats*

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**India needs to be battle-ready for a war zone teeming with hackers and malware**
Venkat Krishnapur – Quartz: 21 November 2019

The recent attack on India’s Kundankulam Nuclear Power Plant has the country scrambling to improve its cyber readiness and security to ensure another attack does not occur.

*For more on this theme:*

*(Canada) Atlantic Canada’s Cyber Park to guard critical infrastructure*

*(Iran, Global) Iranian Hackers Are Going After A Disturbing New Physical Target*

*(U.S.) How to prioritize strategic risks that affect critical infrastructure*

*(U.S., North Korea) US Cyber Command Calling Out North Korean Hackers*
COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Midwest Gets First Cybercrime-Fighting Dog
Sarah Coble – Infosecurity Magazine: 20 November 2019

The Bellevue Police Department in Nebraska has added an electronic storage device K-9 officer to its investigation force. Quinn, a 2-year-old black Labrador, will assist in locating electronic devices that may contain contraband. Electronic devices, like SIM cards or cellphones, contain a chemical that trained dogs can sniff out.


For more on this theme:
(India) On global cybercrime, India votes in favour of Russia-led resolution

(Global) Cyber Attacks Are Killing Hospital Patients: Could Cybercriminals Be Prosecuted for Murder?
https://www.thesslstore.com/blog/cyber-attacks-are-killing-hospital-patients-could-cybercriminals-be-prosecuted-for-murder/

(Scotland) How Cybercrime is Impacting Scotland
https://digit.fyi/how-cybercrime-is-impacting-scotland/

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

2020 election cybersecurity strategies
Hunter Reed – Security Boulevard: 18 November 2019

Bob Stevens, vice president of Americas at Lookout, and Cyber Work podcast host Chris Sienko discuss election cyber security strategies, tips and the ramifications for 2020.


For more on this theme:
(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast – Episode 975

(Global) Security has to be friendly.

(Global) Cyber Security Today – Fraud Awareness Week, don’t fall for these Microsoft scams and more
https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/cyber-security-today-fraud-awareness-week-dont-fall-for-these-microsoft-scams-and-more/424148
TRAINING AND EXERCISES

More boring cyber training? Not for these 72 HHS employees
Jason Miller – Federal News Network: 18 November 2019
To help make cyber security more “fun,” the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ran a cyber security escape room for its employees during Cybersecurity Awareness month.

For more on this theme:
(Australia) Cyber bootcamps to train foreign governments

(Global) Should cybersecurity be taught in schools?
https://www.welivesecurity.com/2019/11/22/should-cybersecurity-taught-schools/

(U.S.) PA National Guard hosts cyber Wi-Fi hacking event at Penn State
Islamic State claims massacre of troops in Mali, where it is gaining ground

ISIS’ West African affiliate claimed responsibility for an attack on an army patrol in northern Mali that killed 30 soldiers. Mali has become a troubling hot spot for terrorist activity, and ISIS seems to be establishing a presence there.


Islamic State Staggers in Afghanistan, but Survives
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 21 November 2019

Hundreds of Islamic State fighters have surrendered after separate operations by Afghanistan’s government forces and the Taliban. While the group is not defeated, its ranks have been decimated.


For more on this theme:

African Islamic State groups pledge allegiance to new leader al-Qurashi

Tunisian Terrorist Battalion Pledges Allegiance to New ISIS Leader

What is a caliph? The Islamic State tries to boost its legitimacy by hijacking a historic institution

Life Under Islamic State: Child Slaves

Life Under Islamic State: Abducted, Trained and Forced to Fight

Chances Growing Captured Islamic State Fighters Will Return to Battlefield
https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/chances-growing-captured-islamic-state-fighters-will-return-battlefield

Islamic State 2.0
https://kcbsradio.radio.com/media/audio-channel/islamic-state-2.0

The death of Baghdadi: How ISIS used al-Qaeda’s mistakes to grow a caliphate
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Trinidad’s Islamic State Problem
Simon Cottee – Lawfare: 17 November 2019

On a per-capita basis, Trinidad was one of the largest providers of volunteers for the caliphate. The author examines the foreign fighters from Trinidad, assessing the motivations and the threat they pose if they return.

https://www.lawfareblog.com/trinidads-islamic-state-problem

Roundtable: The Future of the Foreign Fighters Problem
Michael P. Noonan, Colin P. Clark, Barak Mendelsohn, R. Kim Craigh and David Malet – Foreign Policy Research Institute: November 2019

The Foreign Policy Research Institute held a roundtable to discuss the state of the foreign fighter problem and its future.


For more on this theme:

ISIS ‘matchmaker’ to be shipped home to France after being denied British citizenship

ISIS bride Lisa Smith tells family spokesperson: ‘please can you just get me home’

ISIS detainees in Syria a ‘ticking time-bomb’, says State Dept official

Two-year-old daughter of Islamic State detainee is Ireland’s main concern – minister
https://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN1XM2OT

Germany: Don't panic over ‘Islamic State' returnees' arrival

Bosnia: Citizens who fought for IS in Syria can return
https://apnews.com/818776caf4a44b6f97d8eb5c285ace00

Denmark to strip suspected ISIS fighters of consular assistance

Turkish Threat over ISIS Fighters Poses Challenge for Balkans

Australia rejects US offer to help bring ISIS mothers and children from northern Syria
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

**Report finds the Taliban were deadlier than ISIS in 2018**
*Jennifer Hansler – CNN: 20 November 2019*

The Islamic State was the deadliest terrorist group in the world from 2014 until 2018, when the Taliban surpassed ISIS. Now there is a “worrying surge” in attacks from far right groups, the latest edition of the Global Terrorism Index shows.


Full report:

**Global Terrorism Index**

**UN: Al-Shabab remains ‘potent threat’ in Somalia and region**

According to a panel of experts, al-Shabaab remains a potent threat to regional peace and security.

https://apnews.com/10ee7781fb624fd08e0efc7c0fb3fff

*For more on this theme:*

**Southern Thailand’s Forgotten Conflict**
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/southern-thailands-forgotten-conflict

**What happens to Afghanistan’s left-behind women as the Taliban rises?**

**Trends in Global Terrorism**

**Attacks in Northern Kenya Highlight al-Shabaab’s Enduring Ambition**

**Al-Shabaab in Somalia praised by Al-Qaeda**

**A Salafi-jihadi Insurgency Could Spread to Tanzania**
https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/a-salafi-jihadi-insurgency-could-spread-to-tanzania

**Terrorist Targets: The Ten Countries Which Suffer Most From Terrorism**
https://www.forbes.com/sites/dominicdudley/2019/11/20/ten-countries-terrorism/#493260e74db8

**Malaysia has freed a terrorist notorious for making biological weapons – here’s what we know**
https://www.businessinsider.sg/malaysia-has-freed-a-terrorist-notorious-for-making-biological-weap-ons-heres-what-we-know/

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

Lowy Institute paper reveals the true traits of Australian Islamic State fighters and jihadis
Adam Harvey – Australian Broadcasting Corp.: 20 November 2019

The Australians who joined ISIS and al-Qaeda are frighteningly ordinary: typically, young men from the suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne, from stable homes, married and with good jobs and no criminal record.

Full report:
Typology of Terror
https://interactives.lowyinstitute.org/features/typology-of-terror/

For more on this theme:
Growing Islamist and Jihadist challenge in Switzerland

Tech poses risk of youth radicalisation, summit hears

Counter Terrorism Police team up with ‘Chester’s’ Hollyoaks to warn about dangers of radicalization

TERRORISM AND THE INTERNET

DePaul student wrote computer code to help spread ISIS propaganda online, feds charge
Jason Meisner – Chicago Tribune: 19 November 2019

Thomas Osadzinski, a 20-year-old college student, has been charged with attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. Osadzinski allegedly developed what he would call the “highest form of jihad” – a computer program that used social media bots to help disseminate Islamic State propaganda online.


For more on this theme:
Winning the online war after the fall of Isis
https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2019/11/winning-the-online-war-after-the-fall-of-isis/

Facebook Removed 3.2B Fake Accounts Since April
https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/342391

Hezbollah's Twitter Presence (Update)