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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Outsiders Can’t Clean Up Latin America’s Corruption
Mac Margolis – Bloomberg: 10 November 2017

It’s time for Guatemalans to continue the fight against corruption in their country. The United Nations-sponsored International Commission Against Impunity made great strides in the fight against corruption, but to continue the good work, it needs the help of Guatemalans.
https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-11-10/outsiders-can-t-clean-up-latin-america-s-corruption

Former Chief World Bank Economist Says We Should Anticipate New Forms of Corruption

Though there are always new techniques that can help in the fight against graft, it’s important to note that, “With every new technology and every new law that you make, the human mind is endlessly capable of cleverly getting around that, so there will be some new kinds of corruption that could come about,” according to former World Bank economist Kaushik Basu.

For more on this theme:
15 men exonerated in one day -- and 7 Chicago cops taken off the street

Corrupt Anti-Corruption Agency? Poroshenko denies official’s accusations

China’s Former ‘Internet Czar’ Ensnared in Xi’s Corruption Fight

5 factors that make India most corrupt country in Asia
http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/5-factors-that-make-india-most-corrupt-country-in-asia/939001/

Leftist president hopeful vows to erase Mexico’s corruption

Why Are Corruption Cases Crumbling? Some Blame the Supreme Court

Corruption and the Rule of Law: Could Brazil Be the Envy of Latin America?
https://www.cato.org/blog/corruption-rule-law-could-brazil-be-envy-latin-america

When An Anticorruption Campaign Isn’t About Fighting Corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Afghanistan’s booming heroin trade leaves trail of addiction at home
Sune Engel Rasmussen – the Guardian: 16 November 2017

Afghanistan is the world’s leading producer of opium and heroin and it stands to reason that some of the production remains in the country, leading to struggles with addiction. According to the United Nations, between 1.3 million and 1.6 million drug users live in Afghanistan, and treatment is substandard.


Brazil must legalise drugs – its existing policy just destroys lives
Luís Roberto Barroso – the Guardian: 15 November 2017

According to one Brazilian judge, the country is creating criminals through a militarized approach to drug trafficking. Despite decades of arrests and imprisonment for drug offenders, trafficking and consumption have only increased. It’s time to admit the approach is not working.


For more on this theme:

Inside Rodrigo Duterte’s drug war — Part 1, the cycle of violence

Inside Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs — Part 2, the human toll

Scientists ease heroin addicts’ cravings by using a small dose of methadone to reopen their drug-related memories to erase them
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-5081479/Scientists-erase-drug-memories-heroin-addicts.html

Why Indonesia’s drugs problem is getting worse despite ‘shoot on sight’ orders and draconian laws

How Sydney’s drug lords went global

Global, Regional Partnerships Must Target Narcotics-Terrorism Nexus to Cement Hard-Won Gains in Afghanistan, General Assembly Delegates Stress

From coca to cacao: Colombia pushes farmers to exit cocaine trade

UN: Mexico drug gangs killing kids who won’t work for them
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Can these drones save elephants from extinction?
Tom Metcalfe – NBC News: 14 November 2017

Using Bathawk drones to stop poachers has been a regular practice in several countries in Africa. Next month they will be deployed to help Botswana as well.
https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/can-these-drones-save-elephants-extinction-ncna820441

SA’s portable DNA labs to help stamp out wildlife crime
Graeme Hosken – Times Live: 20 November 2017

Lab-In-A-Box is a portable laboratory that will allow rangers, police and other officials to quickly determine whether plants and animals are endangered or invasive. The tool will be deployed first in South Africa with the goal of curtailing wildlife trafficking.

For more on this theme:
Light planes to help guard vs illegal fishing, agri chief says

The New Technologies That Could Slow the Slaughter of Sharks

Illegal Fishing Harming West Africa, Says Greenpeace

Drones to boost surveillance along Uttarakhand border with Nepal, China

Part 2: Anti-poaching efforts, going to the dogs
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/part-2-anti-poaching-efforts-going-to-the-dogs_us_5a0d94dfe-4b023a796fed441

Poland faces €100,000-a-day fines over illegal logging in Białowieza forest
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/nov/21/poland-faces-100000-a-day-fines-over-illegal-logging-in-bialowieza-forest

Amazon Gold Rush Continues to Decimate Peru’s Rain Forest

Now drone camera checks illegal sand mining

Wildlife Trafficking: US lists Bangladesh as major transit point
http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/wildlife-trafficking-us-lists-bangladesh-major-transit-point-1492837
ORGANIZED CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Why Uganda can't beat money laundering yet
Sulaiman Kakaire – The Observer: 8 November 2018

A report by Uganda’s Finance Intelligence Authority indicates that money laundering continues to be a problem. The country has bolstered its laws in recent years, but still has a relatively low capacity for combating the practice.


For more on this theme:
Albanian PM Launches Major Offensive Against Organized Crime

Illicit arms and organised crime threaten Africa’s development

Is it wise to decapitate organised armed groups? The case of Colombia’s Clan del Golfo

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The U.N. Chief Says Human Trafficking May Constitute a War Crime

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said trafficking is not just a crime, it’s also a development issue. “Preventing the situations that lead to trafficking means addressing poverty and exclusion in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” he told the U.N. Security Council.


For more on this theme:
Nigeria: Tragedy of the Migrants
http://allafrica.com/stories/201711200510.html

Closed borders boost people smuggling across Balkans

Sale of migrants in Libya ‘slave markets’ sparks global outcry

The deadly network of human trafficking
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Time for Aadhaar diplomacy: Delhi GCCS conference an opportunity for India to exercise leadership in the new data economy
Samir Saran – The Times of India: 20 November 2017

India is looking to take the lead in internet governance and cyber security. As the world’s fastest growing “data economy,” the country has sound reasons to aspire to leadership in this field.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Tech can't solve the Internet's worst problems — but you can

(U.S.) How FCC Plans to Reverse Title II Action in December

(Pakistan) Bolo Bhi hosts first multi-stakeholder internet policy-making dialogue

INTERNET FREEDOM

Google plans to ‘de-rank’ Russia Today and Sputnik to combat misinformation
Alex Hern – the Guardian: 21 November 2017

The parent company of Google is working toward “de-ranking” state-run Russian news agency sites in its search engine to stop the sites from spreading fake news and propaganda.

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/nov/21/google-de-rank-russia-today-sputnik-combat-misinformation-alphabet-chief-executive-eric-schmidt

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Protect net neutrality and Internet freedom: World Wide Web inventor

(China) China pledges to be more open to providing information: China Daily
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-media/china-pleads-to-be-more-open-to-providing-information-china-daily-idUSKBN1DL02M?il=0

(Global) Brave Browser Lets Users Fight YouTube Censorship with Bitcoin Tech
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

No, you're not being paranoid. Sites really are watching your every move
Dan Goodin – Ars Technica: 20 November 2017

Over 400 of the world’s most popular websites record your every keystroke, according to Princeton University researchers. These websites use “session replay scripts” that can be used to log (and then play back) everything you typed or clicked on a website.


For more on this theme:
(Global) MIT Helping to Define New Model to Restore Trust in Cyber-Security

(China) China’s insidious surveillance army: The internet of things

(China) China: Police ‘Big Data’ Systems Violate Privacy, Target Dissent

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Expert calls for a cyber warfare strategy
Amelia McMahon – Defence Connect: 16 November 2017

An Australian cyber security expert suggests that the country must develop its own cyber military industrial strategy to prepare for a cyber war.


For more on this theme:
(Switzerland, Malta) Government renews commitment to Swiss-Maltese e-diplomacy foundation

(Global) ‘Cyber is the New Black’: Cyber Expert Points to Diplomacy to Solve Global Cybersecurity Issues

(India, Global) Individual privacy cannot be held hostage to measures around cyber security, Ravi Shankar Prasad says
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Cisco is linking up with Interpol to share data about the cyber criminals it finds both on and off its network

Becky Peterson – Business Insider: 21 November 2017

Cisco and Interpol are teaming up to share cyber crime data to help Interpol fight cyber threats. The data is already collected by Cisco, but law enforcement normally requires a warrant to access it.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Oregon Tech Starts Cyber Defense Center in Wilsonville


(Global) Cisco launches smart city financing


PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Google Wipes 786 Pirate Sites From Search Results

Andy – Torrent Freak: 21 November 2017

Obeying a Russian court ruling, Google and Russian search engines blocked 786 “pirate” sites from their search results.

https://torrentfreak.com/google-wipes-786-pirate-sites-from-search-results-171121/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Copyright and creativity in the Internet’s iterative age


(Global) Cyber criminals now masquerading as ‘compromised’ employees: Forcepoint

http://www.hindustantimes.com/tech/cyber-criminals-now-masquerading-as-compromised-employees-forcepoint/story-1Xq0Xmpyz2PHG1DKN23PAYP.html

(U.S., Iran) Feds Say This Iranian Hacker Tried To Extort HBO For $6M – Here’s What We Know About Him

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

How UK cops are becoming ethical hackers
Firebrand Training – CISOMAG: 22 November 2017

Police across the United Kingdom are taking cyber security training that includes penetration testing and ethical hacking certifications.
https://www.cisomag.com/uk-cops-becoming-ethical-hackers/

For more on this theme:
(Singapore) Inclusive push to go digital
(South Africa) Who would manage an open access wireless network?
http://it-online.co.za/2017/11/22/who-would-manage-an-open-access-wireless-network/

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cybersecurity firm warns of advances in cybercrime
Lee C. Chipongian – Manila Bulletin: 19 November 2017

Cyber criminals are now using advanced hivenets and swarmbots built on machine learning and artificial intelligence technologies, according to a leading cyber security firm. As technology advances, criminals are honing their craft.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Experts discuss strategy to fight cybercrime
(Saudi Arabia) Saudi is under cyber-attack: Here's who might be behind it
(U.K.) Business crucial to cyber crime fight, say UK cyber cops
INFORMATION SHARING

Congressional panel probes effectiveness of cyber threat indicator sharing among public, private entities
Aaron Martin – Homeland Preparedness News: 20 November 2017

The U. S. Congress is holding hearings on the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security’s Automated Indicator Sharing program. The program shares information on cyber threats with more than 10,000 agencies.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Co-operation Between Cyber Security Providers Is a Big Issue – Does This ICO Has the Answer?
(U.S.) Experts say government’s information sharing program is all take and no give
https://www.cyberscoop.com/dhs-ais-program-house-homeland-committee/
(Global) Uber concealed cyber attack that exposed data of 57 million users and drivers

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

New threats from North Korean malware
Mark Rockwell – FCW: 15 November 2017

U.S. agencies issued two technical alerts regarding North Korean attacks on U.S. businesses, infrastructure and government networks. The alerts explain some of the malicious cyber activity and include a list of IP addresses used to target U.S. sites.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Protecting oil and gas critical infrastructure against cyber threats
(U.K., Russia) NCSC head blames Russia for cyber-attacks
(Global) Darktrace Industrial uses machine learning to identify cyber campaigns targeting critical infrastructure
 PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS) 

ISIS 

Afghan Officials: Islamic State Fighters Finding Sanctuary in Afghanistan
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 18 November 2017

As many as 3,000 ISIS foreign fighters may have already made their way to Afghanistan, according to Afghan officials, and that number may go up as ISIS is pushed out of Syria and Iraq.

ISIS Eyes Sahel As Next Safe Haven

ISIS may try to regroup in the un governed spaces of the Sahel. With failing states, conflict and corruption, the African region already has groups sympathetic to or aligned with ISIS. It is fertile recruiting ground and offers ungoverned spaces in which terrorists can hide.
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/isis-eyes-sahel-next-safe-haven

For more on this theme:

Iran President Rouhani declares end of Islamic State

Crimes of the Caliphate: Iraqi Shepherd Bears Witness to ISIS Massacre

What Did ISIS Do in 2017? Islamic State Reveals Its Favorite Terror Attacks And Calls for More

The Islamic State Might Be Dying (but It Has Some of America's Best Weapons)
http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/the-islamic-state-might-be-dying-it-has-some-americas-best-23244

Islamic State cells active in Malaysia, says anti-terror chief
http://www.todayonline.com/world/islamic-state-cells-active-malaysia-anti-terror-chief

Will ISIS Attack the Vatican on Christmas?
http://www.newsweek.com/isis-attack-vatican-christmas-terror-714023

Intelligence: Follow The Money

ISIS Lone Wolves Called on to Attack India
http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/isis-lone-wolves-attack-india/

Islamic State money trail from Gulf to Kerala: police

How the Islamic State Benefits from Sexual Violence
http://www.cfr.org/blog/how-islamic-state-benefits-sexual-violence

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TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

US airstrikes in Afghanistan are targeting drug labs that fund the Taliban
Agence France-Presse: 20 November 2017

The Taliban has gotten even more involved with Afghanistan’s opium and heroin production, using the profits to finance its terror campaigns. To disrupt this criminal enterprise, the U.S. military is conducting airstrikes on Afghan drug labs.
https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-11-20/us-airstrikes-afghanistan-are-targeting-drug-labs-fund-taliban

Hezbollah to withdraw forces from Iraq, in wake of Islamic State’s defeat

After announcing the defeat of ISIS, the leader of Hezbollah pledged to pull his troops from Iraq. The Iranian-backed group likely fears conflict with Israel and wants to return to Lebanon as soon as possible.

For more on this theme:
Hezbollah denies providing missile fired at Saudi Arabia from Yemen

After Huge Truck Bombings, U.S. Steps Up Attacks Against Somali Militants

Is China’s Belt and Road Initiative Increasing Crime and Terrorism?

Will Southern Thailand Turn to Jihad?
https://thediplomat.com/2017/11/will-southern-thailand-turn-to-jihad/

Boko Haram and Shabaab will become deadlier as the Isis caliphate crumbles
http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/boko-haram-shabaab-will-become-deadlier-isis-caliphate-crumbles-1648280

Nigeria: Govt Develops Plan to Reduce Threat of Boko Haram in Northeast
http://allafrica.com/stories/201711160513.html

Boko Haram: To defeat terrorists, you must defeat financiers — Osinbajo

Hamza bin Laden’s Rise in al Qaeda

Understanding al Qaeda through the massive trove of Osama bin Laden’s files
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Macron Unveils Plan to Boost French Youth, Fight Extremism

Associated Press: 14 November 2017

French President Emmanuel Macron unveiled a plan to clean up the poorest and most troubled regions in the country. France plans to provide grants to launch startup companies, expand child care, improve public transportation and housing, encourage companies to hire disadvantaged youth and increase the number of police officers. Macron believes this plan will help nip radicalization in the bud.


ISIS, Radicalization and Humiliation

Nir Eisikovits – The National Interest: 20 November 2017

One of the lessons from the conflict with ISIS is what helped the group emerge in the first place. Learning why the group’s message resonated will help avoid an ISIS 2.0 scenario.

http://nationalinterest.org/feature/isis-radicalization-humiliation-23289

For more on this theme:

EU chief stresses need to fight radicalization


Africa: Counterproductive Counterterrorism

http://allafrica.com/stories/201711140307.html

Morocco and the United States Officially Launch “Initiative to Address Homegrown Terrorism”


Winning the Battle, Losing the Message: Inside America’s Utter Failure to Counter ISIS Propaganda


Regulating Internet Content: Challenges and Opportunities


What Islamists ‘Sit-ins’ in Islamabad Say About Pakistan’s Militancy Problem


Morocco goes digital to counter radical Islam online


Over 30,000 youth to be recruited as Community Policing Assistants

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Canada concerned about returning ISIS fighters, Justin Trudeau says
Agence France-Presse: 21 November 2017

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to prosecute returning foreign fighters, but didn’t rule out trying to rehabilitate and reintegrate them back into society.


For more on this theme:

Families of Islamic State foreign fighters sent to Baghdad ‘for expulsion’

Should soldiers kill ISIS fighters recruited from Canada before they can return?

AFP verifying BIFF use of foreign fighters in Maguindanao, Cotabato

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Sahel Counterterror Force Lacks Funding
Nicolas Pinault – Voice of America: 17 November 2017

Africa’s Sahel counterterrorism force needs a lot more money to function, according to Burkina Faso’s foreign minister. The purpose of the force was to enable countries in the region to defend themselves against local terrorism, but it lacks three-quarters of the money it needs.

https://www.voanews.com/a/sahel-counterterrorism-force-lacks-funding/4120438.html

For more on this theme:

US Launches New Airstrikes Against Islamic State in Libya

NSG commandos may be trained to counter lone wolf Islamic State attack on Kumbh Mela

Latvia criminalizes glorification of terrorism and travel to foreign countries for terrorism
https://www.baltictimes.com/latvia_criminalizes_glorification_of_terrorism_and_travel_to_foreign_countries_for_terrorism/
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

WATER SECURITY

What Will Happen if the World No Longer Has Water?
Peter Schwartzstein – Newsweek: 22 November 2017

Global water demand is on the rise, and by 2025 two of every three people could face water shortages. Without substantial action now, the crisis may move past the tipping point.


Sustainable Water, Resilient Communities: The Challenge of Too Little Water
Gretchen Johnson – Wilson Center: 27 October 2017

The consequences of water scarcity are borne most heavily by the “most vulnerable, the poor, marginalized, women and children, and ecosystems, particularly the ecosystems where these vulnerable depend,” said Annette Huber-Lee of the Stockholm Environment Institute. With scarcity and consumption both on the rise, how is water allocated?

https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2017/10/sustainable-water-resilient-communities-challenge-water/

For more on this theme:

New Map of Worldwide Croplands Supports Food and Water Security

#WaterCrisis: City explores new ways to ensure water security

Corporate giants investing hugely in water security: Report

Opening the Floodgates: Water Security and Terror

Pakistan’s Water Crisis: Why a National Water Policy is Needed

Food, water and energy security in national strategy spotlight
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/politics/30332176

US Government Unveils Global Water Strategy

Egypt is Building World’s Largest Seawater Desalination Plant

Tibet: Water Grabbing and Security: Where is Environmental Justice?
http://unpo.org/article/20428

W. Cape risks heavy job losses with water crisis
http://news.iafrica.com/sa/1056523.html