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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

**Business schools can play a key role in tackling corruption in Africa**
*Tahiru Azaaviele Liedong – Quartz: 30 November 2017*

Business schools in Africa must equip future business leaders with political skills if business education is to play a significant role in combating systemic corruption, says research from the University of Bath in England.


**In China, Fears That New Anticorruption Agency Will Be Above the Law**
*Chris Buckley – The New York Times: 29 November 2017*

In his campaign against graft, Chinese President Xi Jinping is proposing a new anti-corruption agency with a massive mandate. The agency would be separate from the government and have sweeping powers to detain suspects for long periods without charging them.


*For more on this theme:*

**Neglect, Corruption Left Puerto Rico’s Power Grid Ripe for Failure, Observers Say**

**South Korea’s anti-corruption law makes gift giving a potential crime**

**Romanians protest against weakening of anti-corruption powers**

**Saudis charged with corruption seek to come clean**

**PM Narendra Modi says ready to pay political price for fighting corruption**

**Hodges: Transparency, civilian control will minimize corruption in military**

**Eliminating corruption**

**Preventing corruption in state-owned enterprises**
DRUG TRAFFICKING

NATO building capacity against drug trafficking

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): 28 November 2017

NATO is helping countries detect and combat drug trafficking. It hosted a dog-handling, counter-narcotics event in Latvia that provided technical skills to law enforcement and built professional networks.


Drug trafficking moves to ‘darker corners’ of the web: EU report

Euronews: 28 November 2017

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction has published an extensive report about the darknet markets and their use in the drug trade. The report marks the European Union as a major market of the darknet drug trade.


For more on this theme:

Drug Trafficking Groups Unleash Violence in Panama


Italy’s top anti-mafia cop says organized-crime groups are working together to control drug trafficking


Malaysia scraps mandatory death sentence for drug traffickers

http://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/12/01/17/malaysia-scraps-mandatory-death-sentence-for-drug-traffickers

Colombia Trafficker Links Costa Rica Business, Officials to Drug Trade


Drug trade, gun-running to continue fuelling violent extremism in Mindanao: Experts


Guiding Drug Law Reform in Myanmar


The failure of Mexico’s kingpin strategy


Legislation to decriminalise drugs could come in ‘early 2019’


What’s the best way to wage the war on drugs?

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

The Extreme Life of a Conservation Scientist
Marianne Messina – Huffington Post: 17 November 2017
In this three-part series, the author speaks with renowned conservation scientist Dr. Phillip Muruthi about the importance of conservation, anti-poaching, policing and legal systems designed to save wildlife from being trafficked.
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-extreme-life-of-a-conservation-scientist_us_5a0c36bfe4b06d8966cf33d8

Part 2: Anti-poaching efforts, going to the dogs
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/part-2-anti-poaching-efforts-going-to-the-dogs_us_5a0d94dfe4b023a796fed441

Part 3: It takes a village to save a rhino
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/it-takes-a-village-to-save-a-rhino_us_5a0d9528e4b03fe7403f836c

Feature: Hluhluwe iMfolozi to be South Africa’s first “Smart Park”
defenceWeb: 30 November 2017
South Africa’s Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park is combining human ingenuity and hard work with technology to become one of the world’s first “smart parks” as part of the rhino protection program.

For more on this theme:
Traders are openly selling illegal wildlife products on e-commerce sites like eBay
https://scroll.in/article/858978/traders-are-openly-selling-illegal-wildlife-products-on-e-commerce-sites-like-ebay

Environmental Crime Threatens Europe’s Forests and Biodiversity

Let a market-based mechanism work to protect wildlife

Enforcement officers equipped to combat illegal timber trade in Viet Nam

EU, Japan in the spotlight over failure to close ivory markets

Are Traders and Traffickers Winning the Orchid Battle?

EU Trade Ban Brings Down Global Trade in Wild Birds
http://www.blackseagrain.net/novosti/eu-trade-ban-brings-down-global-trade-in-wild-birds
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

UK targets gangs who use child drug mules with tough anti-slavery laws
Kieran Guilbert – Reuters: 28 November 2017

Police in the United Kingdom are applying anti-trafficking laws to gangs that force children to carry drugs for them. By using the Modern Slavery Act to charge drug dealers, officials hope to send a strong message of harsh sentences.


EU, UN and African leaders draw up emergency plan for migrants in Libya
Marine Pennetier and Andreas Rinke – Reuters: 30 November 2017

In a joint statement, the United Nations, African Union and European Union announced the creation of a joint task force "to save and protect lives of migrants and refugees along the routes and in particular inside Libya" and to speed the return of migrants to their countries of origin.

https://news.trust.org/item/20171130105426-ghthz/

For more on this theme:

UN warns of trafficking, sexual abuse in shadow of Rohingya refugee crisis

UN considers sanctions to fight Libya slave trade

Ukuthwala: The sex trafficking scandal devastating rural South Africa

Electronic passport gates 'helping people smugglers get children to the UK': Borders chief says there are not enough staff to spot 'vulnerable' people arriving in the country

Europe’s Plan to Close Its Sea Borders Relies on Libya’s Coast Guard Doing Its Dirty Work, Abusing Migrants

Out of the Streets and Into the Boats: Tunisia’s Irregular Migration Surge

EU-Africa Summit: Shaping the Future of Migration Today
https://www.cgdev.org/blog/eu-africa-summit-shaping-future-migration-today

Global Compact on Migration: No time for cynicism.
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/global-compact-on-migration-no-time-for-cynicism_us_5a1d2dc9e4b07bcb2b699b5
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Russia Will Build Its Own Internet Directory, Citing US Information Warfare
Patrick Tucker – Defense One: 28 November 2017

Russia has decided to build its own internet to share with a few select countries to create an alternative to the global Domain Name System — an internet they can control.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) As fears cloud net neutrality debate, is common ground being overlooked?

(Global) EFF at Cyberspace Events in Delhi: Protecting the Public Core of the Internet

(Africa) African Ministers of Communication and Information Technologies reiterate the need for Africa to become actively involved in the dynamics of Internet Governance, Cybersecurity, and Cybercrime

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet censorship: It's on the rise and Silicon Valley is helping it happen
Andrada Fiscutean – ZDNet: 28 November 2017

Silicon Valley is catching some flak from critics for bowing to the demands of oppressive regimes instead of standing up for internet freedom. Companies are acquiescing to requests from authoritarian regimes to take down sites, apps and content so the governments can maintain control over internet content.


For more on this theme:

(Romania) Romanian anti-corruption activists say Facebook blocked 100 accounts

(India) Govt working to ensure free, safe internet access to all: Ravi Shankar Prasad
http://www.livemint.com/Politics/kILCxKVG4wQfMMEiiJAc1J/Govt-working-to-ensure-free-safe-internet-access-to-all-Ra.html

(Africa) Ambazonia, Separatists And Internet Democracy (II)
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Cybersecurity and Privacy Predictions for 2018
Andreas Rivera – Business News Daily: 30 November 2017

Cyber security firm McAfee Labs puts forth its forecasts for the state of cyber security and internet privacy in the coming year. McAfee addresses consumer data collection, cyber attacks, machine learning and potential exploits in serverless applications.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Supreme Court weighs privacy rights in digital age in pivotal cellphone case

(U.S.) In Defense of Tapping the Internet to Keep You Safe

(Australia) Australians will trade privacy for security if you frame it right
http://www.zdnet.com/article/australians-will-trade-privacy-for-security-if-you-frame-it-right/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

How the Government of Canada Plans To Set CyberSecurity Policy
Sean Michael Kerner – eSecurity Planet: 14 November 2017

The Canadian director general for National Cyber Security outlines her country’s plans for improving cyber security.


For more on this theme:

(Demark) Denmark to ramp up cyber security efforts: defense minister

(EU) Council adopts conclusions on digital for development

(U.S.) The Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2017: Giving Cyber the Importance It Needs at the State Department
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Strong partnerships, information sharing essential for Saudi’s new Cyber Security Authority
Azhar Unwala – Global Risk Insights: 27 November 2017

Saudi Arabia is looking to expand its public/private partnerships to improve the country’s cyber security stance. It is also focusing on information sharing and improving legal frameworks.

For more on this theme:
(Singapore) How to future-proof cyber security laws

(EU) The EU’s Revised Cybersecurity Strategy

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Chinese Hacking Indictments and the Frail “Norm” Against Commercial Espionage
Jack Goldsmith and Robert D. Williams – Lawfare: 30 November 2017

A group of Chinese hackers recently indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice was involved in an international cyber espionage operation connected to a foreign intelligence agency. The indictment suggests the current U.S. agreement with China to refrain from cyber espionage isn’t going as well as the U.S. hoped it would.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Predictions and Pitfalls for 2018 on Closing Gaps in Cybersecurity

(Global) The very real online threat to the pharma industry
http://www.pharmatimes.com/web_exclusives/the_very_real_online_threat_to_the_pharma_industry_1212764

(Canada, Global) Cyber Crime is a Grave Threat to Resource Firms
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

NATO mulls ‘offensive defense’ with cyber warfare rules
Robin Emmott – Reuters: 30 November 2017
To better combat state-sponsored computer attacks, several NATO nations are considering rules that would guide their responses in the event of a cyber attack.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Building a Defensible Cyberspace
https://www.cfr.org/blog/building-defensible-cyberspace

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cybersecurity: Fighting a Threat That Causes $450B of Damage Each Year
Jeff Desjardins – Visual Capitalist: 28 November 2017
By 2021, the cost of cyber crime to individuals, businesses and governments is expected to be $1 trillion annually. As such, businesses are investing more heavily in cyber security.
http://www.visualcapitalist.com/cybersecurity-fighting-450b-damage/

For more on this theme:
(UAE) Experts suggest new efforts to protect children from internet crimes

(U.K.) Russian cyber criminals stealing British people’s reward points and airmiles to go on luxury holidays

(U.K., Europe) UK cops to lose access to Europol’s cyber crime resources after Brexit
http://www.itpro.co.uk/cyber-crime/30078/uk-cops-to-lose-access-to-europols-cyber-crime-resources-after-brexit
INFORMATION SHARING

Open information sharing is key to tackling cyber security
Paul Nicholas – The Straits Times: 29 November 2017

Singapore recently prioritized information sharing as a critical component of its national cyber security strategy.

http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/open-information-sharing-is-key-to-tackling-cyber-security

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Senate appropriators ramp up cyber at DHS

(Global) Cybersecurity breaches: It’s time to break the silence and work together

(U.K., Global) ‘Data sharing key in cyber crime fight'

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

U.K. NCSC Head Warns of Russian Cyber Threats to Critical Infrastructure
Jeff Goldman – eSecurity Planet: 24 November 2017

According to the U.K.’s National Cyber Security Centre, Russian interference in Britain’s cyber security poses a significant threat to its critical infrastructure.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Water, Electricity and Gas Most Likely to Suffer a Cyber Attack

(U.S.) FBI, DHS Warn of Hacker Mercenaries Funded by Nation-States

(U.S.) Electronic voting infrastructure must become more resilient against attacks
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Stop portraying Islamic State as a band of exotic globetrotters
Tom Smith – The Conversation: 20 November 2017

The author, a senior lecturer in international relations at the University of Portsmouth in England, presents an alternative point of view to the constant warnings that ISIS is down but not out. The author suggests that while attacks may continue in the group’s name, the idea that it is still a global force to fear is giving the group too much credit.


Islamic State’s new frontline in the Philippines
Bong S Sarmiento – Asia Times: 22 November 2017

The Philippine government is still trying to deal with the presence of ISIS in the country. The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, an ISIS affiliate, continues to put up a fight in Manila, and experts are wondering if ISIS is establishing a more permanent foothold in the country.

http://www.atimes.com/article/islamic-states-new-frontline-philippines/

For more on this theme:

Islamic State seizes new Afghan foothold after luring Taliban defectors

How an Egyptian village became a target of the Islamic State

EU official: Despite losing ‘caliphate,’ Islamic State still a threat

ISIS Targeting U.S. Children as Revenge for Syrian Airstrikes

ISIS turns to lone wolves for Christmas attacks as caliphate crumbles

New Complexity Emerges With Islamic State Footprint In Kashmir – Analysis

Is the Philippines the Next Caliphate?

Islamic State Claims Southeast Asian Countries Part Of Caliphate

Singapore on edge as Islamic State circles
http://www.atimes.com/article/singapore-edge-islamic-state-circles/
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Official: IS, Taliban battle in eastern Afghanistan
The Associated Press: 28 November 2017
Fierce clashes between the Taliban and Islamic State terrorists in eastern Afghanistan are reported to have spilled into adjoining areas, with both sides suffering heavy casualties and thousands of citizens fleeing the violence.
https://www.apnews.com/91e4162354c840489074617fa8702dc

ALARMING: Al-Qaeda puts India on hit list, calls for fresh attacks
Times Now: 30 November 2017
Al-Qaeda is targeting religious places in India to incite communal tensions, intelligence sources said after the terror group released a video titled Saffron Terror.

For more on this theme:
Afghan Taliban Says IS Deputy Leader Has Joined Its Ranks

The Taliban Executes Its Own Local Commander for Colluding With ISIS: Report

Report: As Islamic State Falls, 'Al-Qaeda Is Growing Stronger' in Syria

Sinai Bedouins and Sisi's Failed Battle Against Jihad in Egypt
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sinai-bedouins-and-sisis-failed-battle-against-jihad_us_5a1d15f64b09413e786aeaa

Hamas leader stresses 'military ties' with Hezbollah

Top US general says Taliban 'living in comfort' in Pakistan

How Hezbollah became Iran's regional enforcer

ASEAN terror groups are sanctuaries for IS militants fleeing Syria and Iraq: Malaysian defence minister

Zawahiri’s statements reveal plenty about Syria’s fractured jihadi scene
https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/comment/zawahiri-s-statements-reveal-plenty-about-syria-s-fractured-jihadi-scene-1.679892
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Terrorism, the Internet, and the Islamic State’s Defeat: It’s Over, But It’s Not Over
David P. Fidler – Council on Foreign Relations: 28 November 2017

There seems to be a debate among scholars regarding the current state of ISIS’ propaganda wing. The author argues that the propaganda machine has been significantly harmed by the loss of territory and while it may not be out, it certainly is down.


Why moderate Muslims come to support extremist groups

The idea that the “average” Muslim became radicalized over time, thus creating jihadist groups, is flawed, according to the author, a professor at the School of Global Policy and Strategy at the University of California, San Diego. Instead, moderate Muslims have always had good reason to support such groups in time of war, without necessarily subscribing to their ideology.


For more on this theme:

The Wider Jihadi Movement Will Take Over Where the Islamic State Left Off
https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/23696/the-wider-jihadi-movement-will-take-over-where-the-islamic-state-left-off

Israel’s Social Media War: How The IDF Uses the Internet To Fight Hezbollah

Huge Decline in ISIS Propaganda Mirrors Losses on Battlefield

Extremists go Hollywood to recruit ‘heroes’ in their ranks

Radically difficult: the problem of home-grown terrorism in Europe

Beware of radicalization campaigns on social media, Punjab CM Amarinder Singh tells police

Outdated Islamic discourse fuelling radicalism, says Indonesian NU scholar
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Germany invites ‘indoctrinated’ children of ISIS fighters BACK to Europe
Allan Hall – Express: 24 November 2017

German officials have asked Iraq to grant visas to the ISIS-born children of Germans. The government would like the children and any German women returned so they can be deradicalized.

https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/883861/Germany-ISIS-children-fighters-Europe

For more on this theme:

Islamic State fighters could slip back into Europe after waging war in the Middle East, Theresa May warns as she praises Saudi Arabia’s efforts to tackle jihadis

Children born of sexual violence under Islamic State need support

What next for the IS fighters returning to Tunisia
https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2017/11/28/what-next-for-the-is-fighters-returning-to-tunisia

Five-Star Jihad: Al-Qaeda and Taliban Fighters Receive Luxury Treatment in Saudi Arabia
http://www.newsweek.com/five-star-jihad-these-al-qaeda-and-taliban-fighters-are-receiving-luxury-725412

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Arab anti-terror coalition stepping up fight against Islamic State
Ed Adamczyk – UPI: 27 November 2017

At a recent anti-terrorism conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Arab nations agreed to improve their counterterrorism abilities. In a keynote speech, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman vowed to “pursue terrorists until they are wiped from the face of the earth.”

https://www.upi.com/Arab-anti-terror-coalition-stepping-up-fight-against-Islamic-State/5921511797230/

For more on this theme:

What’s Malaysia’s Role in the New Islamic Anti-Terror Coalition?

UAE’s Share of the Task Fighting al Qaeda in Yemen
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/article/middle-east/uaes-share-task-fighting-al-qaeda-yemen

If You Can’t Beat ISIS Online, Ban ’Em
https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-11-30/if-you-can-t-beat-isis-online-ban-em