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A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Innovations In The Fight Against Corruption In Latin America
Beth Simone Noveck – Forbes: 9 December 2018

The Inter-American Development Bank published a report with recommendations on combating corruption. Particularly useful was a proposal to apply new technologies, including big data, blockchain and collective intelligence, in the fight against graft.


World Marks Anti-Corruption Day
Voice of America: 9 December 2018

“Corruption is a serious crime that can undermine social and economic development in all societies,” the United Nations said in a prepared statement. “No country, region or community is immune.” The U.N. said graft costs the world economy more than 5 percent of global gross domestic product, approximately $2.6 trillion each year.

https://www.voanews.com/a/world-marks-anti-corruption-day/4692242.html

For more on this theme:

Can East Africa sustain its promising anti-corruption efforts?
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/can-east-africa-sustain-its-promising-anti-corruption-efforts

Around the World, Anti-Corruption Drives Face the Law of Unintended Consequences

Voters send decisive message against corruption in Peru

UK at the forefront of international efforts to tackle corruption

Inside China’s corruption epidemic: Data survey shows who is taking what

Corruption Charges Won’t Bring Netanyahu Down

Government will explore modern technology to fight corruption-Bawumia

Central American Activists Renew Efforts to Fight Elite Corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Considering Heroin-Assisted Treatment and Supervised Drug Consumption Sites in the United States
Beau Kilmer, Jirka Taylor, Jonathan P. Caulkins, Pam A. Mueller, Allison J. Ober, Bryce Pardo, Rosanna Smart, Lucy Strang and Peter H. Reuter – Rand: December 2018

The United States experienced a shattering 47,000 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2017. In response, communities have been trying a range of interventions, from increasing the availability of the antidote naloxone to upping treatment resources. But a Rand Corp. analysis concludes that it’s time to offer pharmaceutical-grade heroin as a form of supervised treatment for heroin users who haven’t had success with other treatments.
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2693.html

With Wide-Spread Legalization of Marijuana, Has A Public Employer’s Ability to Test for Marijuana Gone up In Smoke?
The National Law Review: 10 December 2018

With the growing legalization of marijuana in the U.S. and Canada, can an employer ensure employees are following company drug policies?

For more on this theme:

Pope Francis Calls to Fight Drug Trafficking and Consumption

Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan agree to intensify joint fight against drug trafficking in the region
https://en.trend.az/casia/tajikistan/2987394.html

New Mexican President Vows Military Will Tackle Drug Crime

A nice little earner – for everyone
https://en.qantara.de/content/afghanistans-opium-trade-a-nice-little-earner-for-everyone

Mexican barons are the new Colombian drug trade orchestrators

Do supervised drug consumption facilities save lives?

Testimony: Mexico’s ‘narco’ crisis
https://www.aei.org/publication/testimony-mexicos-narco-crisis/

‘Cash Luna’ Corruption Case May Reveal Guatemala Nexus of Drugs and Religion
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegin Mining, ‘Worse Than at Any Other Time,’ Threatens Amazon, Study Finds

An increase in small-scale gold mining has taken a toll on the Amazon, increasing deforestation and polluting waterways, according to a new report. Mining in protected indigenous areas has increased exponentially.

Tech partnership to combat wildlife crimes online
ITWeb: 11 December 2018

With revenues up to $23 billion in the illicit wildlife trade, it’s time to try new approaches to combating poaching. The African Wildlife Foundation partnered with digital security firm Irdeto to combat poaching and wildlife crimes online. The organizations will use cyber security services to investigate, identify and disrupt the sale of animal parts on the internet.
https://www.itweb.co.za/content/j5alr7iq9g1vpYQk

For more on this theme:
Social marketing campaigns can help threatened wildlife species recover

Stopping wildlife crime with the help of local communities

SPECIAL REPORT: Changing the behaviour of society can help end wildlife trafficking
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30360018

EAC states take on wildlife crime

The brutal new threat to Africa’s lions
https://gulfnews.com/lifestyle/community/the-brutal-new-threat-to-africas-lions-1.60165257

“Authorized Plunder”: Report on Illegal Logging in Guinea Bissau

International experts were shocked by the scale of illegal logging in the Carpathians
https://sivtimes.com/international-experts-were-shocked-by-the-scale-of-illegal-logging-in-the-carpathians/163992/

Peru’s Brazil nut harvesters learn to monitor forests with drones

Turkey’s illegal mining problem

US, Ecuador Train Together to Eradicate Illegal Fishing
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Global Compact for Migration: what is it and why are countries opposing it?
Marcia Vera Espinoza, Leila Hadj-Abdou and Leiza Brumat – The Conversation: 7 December 2018

More than 160 countries have signed a historic agreement to cooperate on managing migration following months of international controversy. The debate over the Global Compact for Migration, the first of its kind, has proven to be a pivotal test of the U.N.-led effort to crack down on a worldwide industry that smuggles people across borders.


Many worldwide oppose more migration – both into and out of their countries
Philip Connor and Jens Manuel Krogstad – Pew Research Center: 10 December 2018

People across the world are increasingly losing their enthusiasm for migration, according to a new study by the Pew Research Center.


For more on this theme:

HK can't be in denial over human trafficking problem

Central Asian Governments Improve Regional Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking

To stop human trafficking, we need to follow the money: Cooper
https://globalnews.ca/video/4750497/to-stop-human-trafficking-we-need-to-follow-the-money-cooper

Survivors of human trafficking need more support
https://vietnamnews.vn/society/481922/survivors-of-human-trafficking-need-more-support.html#Fb-ss0UWJvLbq7.97

Central American migrants pay as much as $10,000 to be smuggled into the US

Turkey detains 251,794 irregular migrants, deports 53,860 people in 2018

How EU agriculture policy endangers migrants' lives
https://euobserver.com/opinion/143650

EU Migration Policy Bears No Relation to Reality
https://www.fairobserver.com/region/europe/eu-migration-policy-european-union-europe-news-headlines-today-23009/
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**Quo Vadis ICANN?**
Klaus Stoll and Sam Lanfranco – CircleID: 11 December 2018

The inability of internet bodies such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to create a viable, effective and legitimate multistakeholder system of internet governance threatens the internet.

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20181211_quo_vadis_icann/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Google-led AMP project unveils ‘open governance’ committees consisting of Microsoft, Twitter, others

(Global) New forms of governance needed to safely and ethically unlock value of data

(Global) It’s time to strengthen global digital cooperation

INTERNET FREEDOM

**Google CEO doesn’t rule out censored search engine in China**
Nicholas Sakelaris and Danielle Haynes – UPI: 11 December 2018

Google CEO Sundar Pichai said the internet giant has no solid plans for a censored version of its search engine specifically aimed at the Chinese market.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) FCC Effort to Stop Robotexts Prompts Censorship Concerns

(Global) The Speech That Facebook Plans to Punish

(China) State Censorship, the ‘Great Firewall’ & VPNs in China
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

China Is Now the Greatest Threat to Americans’ Privacy
Eli Lake – Bloomberg: 13 December 2018

United States citizens are used to looking over their shoulders to find their government is violating their privacy. But now they face a much bigger threat — China.
https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2018-12-13/marriott-hack-china-is-greatest-threat-to-americans-privacy

For more on this theme:

(Global) As Exports of Surveillance Tech Rise, Freer Countries Face a Choice

(Global) Reinventing Spycraft, Democracy And Identity In The Digital Era

(U.S., Global) Data Privacy Disruption In The U.S.

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Egypt launches its 2020-2017 national cybersecurity strategy
Ecofin Agency: 12 December 2018

The Egyptian Supreme Cybersecurity Council launched a new national strategy for 2017-2021.

For more on this theme:

(Yemen) Underlying Dimensions of Yemen’s Civil War: Control of the Internet

(EU) Blockchain technology: Building the European Union’s global leadership
https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/blockchain-technology-european-unions-global-leadership/55622/

(Russia, Ukraine) Russia ramps up cyber warfare as it loses economic footing in Ukraine
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

House Cyber Report: Current Defenses Are Inadequate
John Eggerton – Multichannel News: 7 December 2018

The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations released recommendations for addressing cyber security vulnerabilities that included a call to strengthen public/private partnerships. “Traditional information technology strategies seem largely ineffective at stemming the growing tide of cybersecurity incidents,” the subcommittee report said.


For more on this theme:

(EU) Member States and Commission to work together to boost artificial intelligence ‘made in Europe’

(Russia, Global) Another Episode of Russian Information Warfare and Active Measures

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Chinese Internet Court Uses Blockchain to Protect Online Writers’ Intellectual Property
Adrian Zmudzinski – CoinTelegraph: 8 December 2018

An internet court in Hangzhou province in eastern China is using blockchain to help writers fight the unauthorized use of their material, according to China.org.cn.


For more on this theme:

(China, U.S.) The Cybersecurity 202: Trump is getting tough on Chinese hacking. Will it work?

(EU) Millions of Europeans Sign Petition Opposing EU’s Updated Copyright Directive
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Internet milestone reached: More than 50 percent go online
*Modern Diplomacy: 8 December 2018*

The United Nations telecommunications agency announced that 3.9 billion people — roughly half of the world’s population — will be using the internet by the end of this year.

https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/12/08互联网-milestone-reached-more-than-50-per-cent-go-online/

For more on this theme:

*(Global)* With 60% of the global economy forecast to be digitised by 2022, there remains huge potential to lift more people out of poverty, here’s how

*(Ghana)* Government to establish Cyber Security Authority

*(Europe)* EU negotiators agree on strengthening Europe’s cybersecurity

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cybercrime Damages $6 Trillion By 2021
*Cybersecurity Ventures: 13 December 2018*

The toll from cyber crimes is expected to surpass $6 trillion in the next three years, according to a report by Cybersecurity Ventures. No crime is growing faster in the United States than cyber crime, and it is increasing in scope and sophistication, the company said.

https://cybersecurityventures.com/cybercrime-damages-6-trillion-by-2021/

For more on this theme:

*(Global)* Cyberattacks Skyrocketed in 2018. Are You Ready for 2019?

*(Eastern Europe)* DarkVishnya: Banks attacked through direct connection to local network
https://securelist.com/darkvishnya/89169/

*(EU)* Fresh EU Directive strengthens powers against financial cyber fraud
INFORMATION SHARING

Federal Agencies Met Legislative Requirements for Protecting Privacy When Sharing Threat Information

United States Government Accountability Office: 6 December 2018

The U.S. Government Accountability Office issued a report highlighting the success of several federal agencies in keeping information secure and private while sharing cyber threat indicators as part of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015.


For more on this theme:

(Zimbabwe) Govt launches cyber-security booklet

(Africa, Global) Collaboration is key to protecting critical infrastructure from cyber threats

(U.S.) DoD Sets Schedule to Deploy Unified Platform to Integrate Cyber Ops

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Global hacking campaign targets critical infrastructure
Steven Musil – CNET: 12 December 2018

A global phishing campaign called Operation Sharpshooter used fake job recruitment documents to infect defense, government and critical infrastructure organizations with a malicious backdoor implant, presumably for cyber espionage.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Secure Critical Infrastructure Top of Mind for U.S.

(U.S., Global) The New Normal: Critical Infrastructure and the Cybersecurity Conundrum
https://www.cbronline.com/opinion/critical-infrastructure-forescout

(Australia, Global) Old thinking about critical infrastructure won't stop new risks
ISIS

‘We’re entering a very risky period’: Experts say ISIS not defeated, just transforming
Agence France-Presse: 13 December 2018

ISIS is returning to its guerrilla warfare tactics, taking on tribal leaders, government officials, police and members of the armed forces. In a television interview last month, the Iraqi Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani said that ISIS “is not defeated and will not be ended easily. ISIS was on the ground, now they are underground.”

https://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/were-entering-a-very-risky-period-experts-say-isis-not-defeated-just-transforming

‘Terrorist’ as job title: The professionalization of ISIS
Francesca Astori – Al Arabiya: 7 December 2018

As foreign fighters return home, there is a chance that several thousand well-trained fighters will be looking for work. “No one knows how the returnee threat is going to play out, but it might lead to a professionalization of attacks,” said Peter Neumann, director of the International Center for the Study of Radicalization at King’s College in London.


For more on this theme:

The Islamic State in Libya: Operational Revival, Geographic Dispersal, and Changing Paradigms

Attacks Continue as Iraq Marks One Year Since Islamic State Victory

The Islamic State Research Office’s Self-History

Tajikistan: From childhood outcast to Islamic State propaganda guru
https://eurasianet.org/tajikistan-from-childhood-outcast-to-islamic-state-propaganda-guru

Now Academics Studying ISIS Are Feeling The Heat Of An Internet Crackdown
https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/mitchprothero/isis-researchers-have-become-the-collateral-damage-of-the

Ep. 31: The true origins of ISIS and the future of counterterrorism with Hassan Hassan

Battered ISIS Keeps Grip on Last Piece of Territory for Over a Year
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

When Jihadis Kill Jihadis: The Implications of Militant Infighting
Tore Hamming – World Politics Review: 13 December 2018

While still a definite threat to the public, terrorists have now become a threat to one another. Though they are not apt to kill each other, this intra-terrorist conflict damages the organizations involved.


Hezbollah Threat to Western Hemisphere as ‘Dangerous’ as ISIS, Top US Official Warns
Algemeiner: 11 December 2018

Hezbollah is “just as dangerous and just as close” as ISIS, and operates within “our own borders,” a senior U.S. State Department official warned diplomats from 12 countries.


For more on this theme:

Another Hezbollah-Israel war on the brink?

EU counter-terrorism chief: Europe ‘may see something like Daesh 2.0’
https://www.euractiv.com/section/defence-and-security/interview/eu-counter-terrorism-chief-%D0%95urope-may-see-something-like-daesh-2-0/

ISIS and al-Qaeda clash not only on the battlefield, but also in their propaganda

Bloody Rivalry Erupts Between al-Shabab, ISIS Group in Somalia

Boko Haram, ISIS designated ‘entities of particular concern’

Islamist Terrorism Spreads to Eastern Burkina Faso
https://www.cfr.org/blog/islamist-terrorism-spreads-eastern-burkina-faso

Why Pakistan will not give up terrorism
http://www.atimes.com/why-pakistan-will-not-give-up-terrorism/

Boko Haram Gathers Strength as Nigeria Prepares For Elections
https://idsa.in/idsacomments/boko-haram-strength-as-nigeria-elections-akumar-111218

What’s Next for Hezbollah After its Syria Adventure?
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

How AlQaeda and ISIS Teach Central Asian Children: Different Methods, Common Goals
Uran Botobekov – Modern Diplomacy: 11 December 2018

The recruiting and teaching methods of al-Qaida and ISIS in Central Asia are compared, focusing on children and youth ideological education.


German jails ill-equipped to handle inmate radicalization
Ralf Bosen – Deutsche Welle: 13 December 2018

Europe has a problem with prison overcrowding and the inability to separate criminals from radicals. The head of Germany's prison officer union says it’s a lack of resources that can be blamed for the potential radicalization of prisoners serving time there.


For more on this theme:
De-radicalisation? Not now
https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/de-radicalisation-not-now.html

Radicalisation of young people in Pakistan under scrutiny

Is protest a safety valve against ISIS in Tunisia?

The meek wives of Isis exposed as best recruiters
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-meek-wives-of-isis-exposed-as-best-recruiters-pphxcmm2b

Radicalization and Terrorism in Greece

How Muslim Segregation Can Be A Pull to Radicalization
https://clarionproject.org/muslim-scholar-on-segregation-in-islam/

Launch of National Strategy on Countering Radicalization to Violence and Update on Terrorist Threat to Canada: Terrorism threat level unchanged

How the U.S can Benefit from Deradicalization Programs

Is France’s deradicalization strategy missing the point?
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

UN Review Should Help Children Caught in ISIS Conflict
Letta Tayler – Human Rights Watch: 13 December 2018
When reviewing guidelines for foreign fighters, the United Nations Security Council should focus on the 2,000 children and 1,000 women from more than 20 countries who are detained in Syria, Libya and Iraq, Human Rights Watch recommends.

For more on this theme:
LILLEY: Trudeau fails to punish foreign fighters
https://canoe.com/opinion/columnists/lilley-trudeau-fails-to-punish-foreign-fighters/wcm/fd1d63ad-340e-4ac0-8245-28fcded7399f
EP proposes stricter monitoring of militants returning to Europe to combat terrorism better
https://bnn-news.com/ep-proposes-stricter-monitoring-of-militants-returning-to-europe-to-combat-terrorism-better-195058
EU Countries Oppose Return of ‘ISIS Widows, Orphans’ from Syria

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Start Small to Stop the Next ISIS
Dafna H. Rand and Rebecca Wolfe – Foreign Policy: 11 December 2018
To stop the next terrorist group from growing into a dangerous organization, the United States needs to focus on long-term strategies to prevent violent extremism.

For more on this theme:
Creating an Effective Strategy to Combat Terrorism
https://inhomelandsecurity.com/strategy-combat-terrorism/
Combatting #Terrorism – Parliament sets out proposals for a new EU strategy
Positive branding and soft power: The promotion of Sufism in the war on terror