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UN, OAS urge LatAm to stiffen anti-terror legislation

05.04.2006, 08.17

MEXICO CITY, April 5 (Itar-Tass) - The United Nations and the Organisation of American States (OAS) have urged Latin American countries to introduce amendments to national legislations with a view to combating terrorism and international organised crime more effectively.

This subject is the focus of attention at the current conference of security ministers and prosecutors-general of Central American countries, as well as Colombia, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. The conference opened in Panama City on Monday.

Speakers at the forum emphasised that no country can feel secure in the face of terrorism menace even if no terrorist acts have been committed on its territory.

The conference is being held under the auspices of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the OAS Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism.

Those present at the conference are planning to take steps to expedite the ratification by national parliaments of the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism. The Convention was adopted in 2002. This important regional initiative has been legislatively ratified so far by only 17 countries (out of 34 Parties to the Convention).

The Conveniton envisages important mechanisms for cooperation among the American States in the fight against terrorism, specifically against the financing of terrorist activities. The document spells out a procedure for the extradition of people accused of terrorism.

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