COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

CICTE/CICAD: Second Terrorism Financing Workshop in Lima

The Second Workshop on Terrorism Financing was held in Lima, Peru, from August 6 to 9. It was aimed at a second group of countries, as a continuation to the one held in Bogota, last February. There were 40 participants from the following South America countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and Chile. The participant profiles were: analysts from Financial Intelligence Units, national legislators, prosecutors, and judicial police officers. In addition to CICTE and CICAD’s experts, international experts, such as judge Baltasar Garzon and chief prosecutor Javier Zaragoza, both from the Audiencia Nacional of Spain, and Juan Manuel Gramajo, representative of UNODC, gave presentations on terrorism financing. The event was jointly organized by the CICTE Secretariat and the CICAD's Anti-Money Laundering Unit under its partnership in combating terrorist financing. The objective of the Workshop was to share experiences and best practices on combating terrorist financing, applying a multidisciplinary approach. This was also an opportunity for the CICTE Secretariat to promote the application of its “Practical Guide to the Prevention, Detection and Suppression of Terrorist Financing”—recently updated—and to distribute copies of the CD. For more information contact Ms. Johanna Salah, JSalah@oas.org.

Border Security and Migration Management

Through an MOU with the CICTE Secretariat, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been conducting border security and migration management assessments in 12 countries of the Caribbean since 2004, with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of border management systems and processes. Six have been completed to date—the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago. Four more assessments should be completed in the near future—Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname—with two assessments remaining to be scheduled for St Kitts and Nevis and St Lucia. The IOM project focuses on strengthening Migration Management capacity in the Caribbean Region to enhance national and regional security by assessing border management capabilities, weaknesses or strengths and identifying gaps in the border security operations as well as legislation and policies on migration. The project is two-tiered; the local authorities complete and submit a self-assessment questionnaire to IOM and b) a team of experts from IOM conduct an in-country assessment of the immigration, migration and border management operations, policies and supporting legislation. For more information contact Mr. Sheridan Hill, SHill@oas.org.
Airport Security Activities

The main objective of CICTE’s Aviation Security Program, one of its largest, is to build the capacity of the OAS Member States to improve and standardize security controls in airports and comply with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. At the request of the Government of Colombia, the CICTE Secretariat organized an Aviation Security Crisis Management training session in Bogotá, Colombia, from August 13-17, 2007, conducted by instructors from the International Division of the Transport Security Administration (TSA) of the United States. The 21 participants selected to take part in this training were senior officials from government entities related to aviation security such as: Civil Aviation, National Police, Customs and Immigration, Security Administration, National Army. The timing of this session was appropriate as the El Dorado airport in Bogotá is in the planning process for renovations and new constructions to better respond to the aviation security requirements in Colombia.

As part of its increasing focus on assisting countries to prevent and respond to potential acts of terrorism, the CICTE Secretariat plans to offer this Crisis Management course to other South American countries which have expressed interest, given available funding. For more information contact Ms. Hayda Wallen HWallen@oas.org.

Under Agreement With OAS, Antigua & Barbuda Gets Automated Jamaican Customs Program

Jamaica’s US$2 million Customs Automated Services (CASE) solution is to be implemented in Antigua & Barbuda, under a tri-partite cooperation agreement the Organization of American States (OAS) signed on Friday, July 20, 2007, with the governments of Jamaica and Antigua & Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda’s Minister of Finance and the Economy, Dr. Errol Cort, signed the agreement along with Director General of Jamaica’s Tax Office Vinnette Keene, and OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza. Launched in 2003, the CASE solution was developed by the Jamaican government to address customs challenges unique to small states like Jamaica. The Internet-based system was designed primarily to provide the trading community all over the world an online interaction with Jamaica Customs.

For more information click here.

OAS informs Lima on Hemispheric Plans to Counter-Terrorism

The Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the OAS, Dr. Carol Fuller, officially visited Lima to undertake consultations with Peruvian authorities on hemispheric and national plans on the fight against terrorism. Dr. Fuller met Under-Secretary of State Gonzalo Gutiérrez, as well as the Vice Ministers of Defense, Interior, and Justice and the Director General of the Civil Aviation agency (“Aeronáutica Civil”), on Friday, August 3. The promotion and cooperation among OAS’ Member States to prevent combat and eliminate terrorism was the main subject of the meetings. The OAS official also participated in the “II Workshop on the Financing of Terrorism” that took place in Lima. For more information click here and here.

UN Security Council 1267 Committee Approves Amendments To Identifying Information of 60 Individuals On Consolidated List

On July 18, 2007, the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee approved amendments to identifying information with regard to 55 individuals on its Consolidated List. Additionally, on July 27, the Committee approved amendments to identifying information with regard to five individuals on its Consolidated List. For more information click here.
Government of Argentina Informs OAS on Progress of the Fight against Terrorism

The Minister of Interior, Aníbal Fernández, held a closed meeting with the Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the OAS, Dr. Carol Fuller, in which they discussed topics related to international crimes. The 30 minutes-meeting took place in the office of the Minister, located in the basement floor of the Government House—“Casa de Gobierno”.

The Minister shared with the Secretary of CICTE Argentina’s efforts to fight terrorism. For more information click here.

First Meeting of the OAS Transnational Organized Crime Technical Group, July 26-27, 2007

The First Meeting of the OAS Transnational Organized Crime Technical Group was held in the External Relations Secretariat of Mexico, in Mexico D.F., on July 27, 2007. Delegations from 24 Member States participated, as well as observers from another five countries and representatives of other organizations (INTERPOL, UNODC and OAS).

The agenda included an Opening Session and five Plenary Sessions where experts and delegates of the Member States to the Technical Group, as well as members of other organizations, presented cases and national experiences related to the fight against transnational organized crime.

During the Opening Session, remarks on the aims of this First Meeting of the Technical Group were made by Ambassador Juan Manuel Gomez Robledo, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the External Relations Secretariat of Mexico; Ambassador Alexandre Addor-Neto, Under-Secretary of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the OAS; Mr. José Patiño Arias, Under-Secretary of the Federal Investigation Agency of the Attorney General's office of the Republic and Commissioner of the Preventive Federal Police of Mexico; and Mr. José Luis Santiago Vasconcelos, Deputy on Legal and International Affairs of the Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico. For more information click here.

RAND Study Analyzes Ways to Reduce Terrorist Threat from Regions with Weak Governmental Control

Governments around the world should take a new approach to fighting terrorism by treating regions where governmental control is weak as a distinct category of security problems, according to a RAND Corporation study issued on August 23.

It is not enough to simply focus on individual regions like the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and how they become havens for terrorists, according to the study titled “Ungoverned Territories: Understanding and Reducing Terrorism Risks.”

“Ungoverned territories are areas where the central government's authority is weak or non-existent, and they can generate a myriad of security problems,” said Angel Rabasa, a RAND senior policy analyst and lead author of the report. “All these areas have certain elements in common. In order to design appropriate responses, the factors that produce ungoverned territories and their effects on U.S. security interests need to be analyzed and understood.”

For more information click here.
OSCE High-Level Meeting On Victims Of Terrorism

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is inviting all relevant national actors, including civil society and NGOs, to participate in a High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism. This meeting will take place in Vienna from 13 to 14 September 2007.
For more information click here.

13th Meeting of the Committee on Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)

Council of Europe is organizing the 13th Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER). This meeting will take place in Strasbourg, France from October 17-19, 2007.
For more information click here.

Meridian Conference on Critical Information Infrastructure

The Government of Sweden is hosting the annual Meridian Conference on the topic of “Connecting and Protecting: Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) in Stockholm, October 24-26, 2007. The conference is part of the Meridian process for Governments to discuss how best to work together to protect critical information infrastructures as new challenges of connectivity and dependencies arise beyond national borders. The conference will explore the benefits and opportunities of sharing information between government and the private sector, and between governments internationally, and will examine best practices from around the world. This year’s conference will feature the relevance of the G8 CIIP principles in developing CIIP policies, the emerging relationships between CIIP and CIP, and the new challenges to protecting process control systems in critical national infrastructure assets.
For more information click here.
RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

- **August 6-9, 2007:** CICTE-CICAD: Second Terrorism Financing Workshop. Lima, Peru.
- **August 7-17, 2007:** Aviation Security Training. Georgetown, Guyana.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 9-11, 2007:** International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), South American Executive Policing Conference. Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.
- **September 10-14, 2007:** Meetings of the Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) and Fifth meeting of CIP. Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.
- **September 10-14, 2007:** US Department of Justice and OAS/REMJA Regional Cyber Crime Workshop. Bridgetown, Barbados.
- **September 13-20, 2007:** CICTE-UNODC Legislative technical assistance mission and specialized training for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officials on international cooperation and counter terrorism. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- **September 14-17, 2007:** High-Level Meeting On Victims Of Terrorism, organized by OSCE. Vienna, Austria.
- **September 24–28, 2007:** CITEL XI Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications – Mendoza, Argentina.
- **October 16-19, 2007:** CICTE-UNODC Regional Seminar on Extradition and Terrorism: Lima, Peru, co organized by CICTE and UNODC. Lima, Peru.
- **October 17-19, 2007:** 13th Meeting of the Committee on Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)—Council of Europe. Strasbourg, France.
- **October 24-26, 2007:** Meridian Conference on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection, organized by SEMA. Stockholm, Sweden.
- **November 5–9, 2007:** II Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop organized by
NEWS

UK Airport Terrorism Suspect Dies

A man seriously injured in the terrorist incident at Glasgow International Airport on June 30 has died, Strathclyde police said. Although other sources identified him as Kefee Ahmed, police would not provide the man's name, saying he had never been positively identified but said his death occurred Thursday June 30 at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Ahmed and another man drove a vehicle packed with propane tanks into the airport's terminal entrance in an attempted suicide attack, one day after two explosives and nails-laden cars were discovered separately in London. For more information click here.

Colombian Rebels Increase Land Mine Use, Raising Casualties

The world community is condemning a leftist Colombian guerrilla group—the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)—whose increased planting of anti-personnel land mines is causing casualties in the South American nation. The nongovernmental organization Human Rights Watch says in a new report published on July 30, that the increased use of mines during Colombia’s extended period of civil unrest has caused a dramatic escalation in the number of mine victims in recent years. Colombia is considered to have Latin America's most severe problem with land mines.

José Miguel Vivanco, Americas director for Human Rights Watch, said in a July 25 statement that “there is simply no excuse” for the guerrilla group FARC, to use these “indiscriminate weapons.” Vivanco said the mines are leaving Colombian civilians, “who have no part in the country’s internal conflict, “maimed, blind, deaf or dead.” For more information click here.

‘Ring of Steel’ Coming to New York

In 2005, about two weeks after 52 people in London were killed in bombings targeting the English city's mass transit system, terrorists decided to strike again. Similar to the July 7 attacks, they chose the city's transit system -- three subway trains and a double-decker bus -- as the targets. But this time, four homemade bombs stuffed into backpacks did not fully explode. One person was injured.

About a day later, photographs of four suspects were broadcast on television. Their images had been captured on surveillance cameras near the sites of the attempted attacks. The remarkable speed of that investigation was repeated in June this year when terrorists attempted to detonate two car bombs in London. Police officials credited the "Ring of Steel" - a network of thousands of surveillance cameras that line London's intersections and neighborhoods -- for providing license plate numbers, suspects' image and other important clues in investigations. For more information click here.

Al-Qaeda Claims Madrid Train Bombings and “Feels Proud” For It

Through a video published on Internet on August 5, a spokesman of the terrorist group claimed for al-Qaeda the bombings occurred in the Spanish capital on March 11,2004. “We feel proud of the destruction in Madrid and London”, states the American head of the terrorist group Adam Gadhan—better known as Azzam al Amriki—, while images of the brutal attacks, which left 191 deaths and more than 1400 injured people, are shown.

For more information click here.
**Terrorists Teaming With Drug Cartels**

Islamic extremists embedded in the United States — posing as Hispanic nationals — are partnering with violent Mexican drug gangs to finance terror networks in the Middle East, according to a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration report, a copy of which was obtained by the Washington Times—as explained in an article published on August 8.

"Since drug traffickers and terrorists operate in a clandestine environment, both groups utilize similar methodologies to function ... all lend themselves to facilitation and are among the essential elements that may contribute to the successful conclusion of a catastrophic event by terrorists," said the confidential report.

The 2005 report outlines an ongoing scheme in which multiple Middle Eastern drug-trafficking and terrorist cells operating in the U.S. fund terror networks overseas, aided by established Mexican cartels with highly sophisticated trafficking routes. For more information click here.

**Garzón Talks In Lima About The Financing Of Terrorism**

The magistrate, who arrived in Lima on August 7, told the press agency EFE at the international airport "Jorge Chávez" that it had been "a pleasure visiting Peru, once more" and that he will be back "in the near future".

Garzón, together with the Chief Prosecutor of the “Audiencia Nacional” of Spain, Javier Zaragoza, was one of the main lecturers at an event organized the Organization of American States (OAS).

Due to the strict security measures, the presence of Mr. Garzón in the country was unknown until last Thursday, day in which the event finished.

Mr. Garzón is internationally renowned since 1998, when he declared an arrest warrant against the late Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990), who at the time was living in London, to be prosecuted in Spain. For more information click here.

**Government Describes Threats Against Botnia As “Terrorist”**

On August 13, the government described as "terrorist" the threats of eventual programmed attacks—even with explosives—against Botnia (in Fray Bentos). These threats came from Gualeguaychú activists and were caused by the imminent opening of a cellulose factory. This information was part of the analysis that led to the ministerial agreement of Suárez and Reyes.

The President of the Republic of Uruguay, Mr. Tabaré Vázquez, asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to table these concerns before the proper judicial bodies—national and international—so relevant measures could properly be adopted. For more information click here.

**Extradition Ordered for Three Accused in NY Airport Bomb Plot**

The ruling, by Chief Magistrate Sherman McNicolls, brings the three men one step closer to Brooklyn and the bombing conspiracy charges against them, which were announced by federal and local authorities in New York City on June 2.

The three men being held without bail in Port of Spain, Trinidad — Abdul Kadir, 55; Kareem Ibrahim, 62; and Abdel Nur, 57 — have until Aug. 20 to appeal the decision. Rajiv Persad, a lawyer who represents Mr. Ibrahim and Mr. Kadir, said after the ruling that he intended to appeal. Richard Clarke-Wills, a lawyer for Mr. Nur, said that he would also appeal and that a decision should take at least six weeks.

For more information click here.

**Homeland Security Chief Vows To Move Forward With ID Law**

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told a group of state lawmakers gathered in Boston on Wednesday, August 8 that he would not retreat from a plan to impose nationwide standards for driver's licenses.

Chertoff acknowledged at the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures that it will be a challenge for states to implement the so-called REAL ID Act, especially if they are not given more federal funding to do so. But he said he would not support legislative efforts to repeal the controversial law and insisted that insecure travel documents in the hands of terrorists are dangerous.

Several states across the United States already have decided not to comply with the law. The Homeland Security Department still has not issued final compliance regulations, but it has estimated that it will cost states about $23 billion to implement the mandate.

For more information click here.
DHS Announces Predeparture Screening of International Passengers and First Step Toward Secure Flight

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on August 9 steps that will strengthen aviation security through uniform and consistent passenger prescreening against government watch lists. DHS is publishing two regulations which will initiate these changes: (1) Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) Predeparture Final Rule, which enables DHS to collect manifest information for international flights departing from or arriving in the United States prior to boarding; and (2) Secure Flight Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), which lays out DHS plans to assume watch list matching responsibilities from air carriers for domestic flights and align domestic and international passenger prescreening. Both programs carry out 9/11 Commission recommendations. For more information click here.

Turkish Hijack Ends Peacefully

All passengers and crew were released from a hijacked Atlas Jet aircraft that made an emergency landing while flying from northern Cyprus to Istanbul on August 18.

Most of the 136 passengers on board fled out of a rear exit when the plane touched down at Antalya in Turkey, after two men entered the cockpit and demanded to be taken to Iran.

Tuncay Doganer, a company official, said the two hijackers, who had claimed to have a bomb, wanted to take the aircraft to Iran, but the pilot told them that he needed to refuel.

As a result, the jet made an emergency landing in the Mediterranean resort in southern Turkey. For more information click here.

UN’s Website Breached By Hackers

On August 12, hackers attacked the United Nations official website, forcing some sections to be taken offline. Slogans accusing the US and Israel of killing children appeared on the pages reserved for statements from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. Other pages on the site were also breached by the group, who described their actions as a ”cyberprotest”. The hackers named themselves as “kerem125”, “Gsy” and “M0sted”. In other attacks by hackers using the same names, they have claimed to be from Turkey. Groups using the same names have attacked many websites.

For more information click here and here.

Danish Arrests ‘Prevent Terrorism’

Police from the Danish Security Intelligence Service arrested eight people accused of storing "unstable explosives" in a heavily populated area of Copenhagen, agency Director Jakob Scharf said Tuesday, September 4. Scharf told reporters in Copenhagen that the arrests overnight near Denmark’s capital city had "prevented a terror act." "We would describe the main suspects as militant Islamists with international contacts," he said. Those contacts include "leading members of al Qaeda," he added.

For more information click here and here.
China Denies Hacking into Pentagon

China strongly denied reports on Tuesday, September 4th that its military was behind a successful hacking attack on the Pentagon computer network earlier this year. Jiang Yu, a foreign ministry spokeswoman, said at a regular news briefing on Tuesday the accusations against China were “absurd.” “The criticism is unfounded, which represents cold war thinking,” she said. Ms Yu was responding to a report in Monday’s Financial Times that the Peoples’ Liberation Army in June successfully penetrated an unclassified computer network serving the office of Robert Gates, the US defense secretary. The Pentagon is still investigating to see exactly how the attack occurred. But current and former US officials told the FT that the PLA had managed to obtain information from the network, which was then shut down for more than a week for repairs.

For more information click here.

Correction Note:
The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism wishes to correct the information printed in Newsletter No. 46 of 2007, in which it was incorrectly stated that Mexico had established a Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT).
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