



June 2006

CICTE Informe 35

Counter-Terrorism Activities

OAS General Assembly Passes Terrorism Resolutions

- In its 36th Regular Session, the OAS General Assembly passed several new resolutions relating to counterterrorism in the Americas. Resolution 2170 emphasizes the General Assembly's support for the work of CICTE, and Resolution 2238 notes the need to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Finally, in Resolution 2249, the General Assembly asks Member States to reaffirm their commitment to extraditing and denying safe haven to terrorists. The meeting was held in the Dominican Republic from June 2 to 8.

U.S. Counter-Terrorism Drill Simulates WMD Crisis

- A \$3.5 million counter-terrorism drill carried out over three days in late June in the Washington D.C. area simulated the impact of a WMD attack on the U.S. by terrorists. Organized by the Department of Homeland Security, the exercise involved over 4,000 public servants at the federal, state, and local levels. Participants were told to imagine that terrorists had smuggled two weapons of mass destruction into the United States—one had already been detonated on the West Coast, and the other was bound for Washington. An even larger drill is planned for next year in which police, fire and other first-responders will take part.

For more information see: "Regional Exercise is a Rehearsal for a Terrorism Crisis," *Washington Post*, June 23, 2006.

U.S. and Philippines Create New Joint Security Body

- The first meeting of the Security Engagement Board (SEB), a joint U.S. and Philippine security body, took place in early June in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Mutual Defense Board (MDB) already provides for communication between the two countries regarding issues such as an external armed attack, but Philippine Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz says that the SEB will cover more "nontraditional areas where the two countries can cooperate like disaster response, transnational crime, maritime safety and counter-terrorism."

For more information see: "New U.S.-Philippines Security Body Set for First Meeting in Hawaii," *Xinhua News Agency*, June 6, 2006.

Researchers Tout Anonymous Data Mining

- While government surveillance programs have garnered much negative attention in recent months, especially in the United States, some computer science researchers think that the furor may be unnecessary. Experts like Latanya Sweeney of Carnegie Mellon University and Rafail Ostrovsky of the University of California, Los Angeles are studying ways to continue intelligence gathering without unnecessarily invading citizen privacy. Data can be totally encrypted and calculations can be performed without ever using the information in its unencrypted form. Additionally, user audit logs can ensure that information in a particular file is not examined beyond the appropriate scope of an investigation. It remains to be seen, however, if such technology will eventually be adopted by relevant organizations.

For more information: www.wired.com/news/wireservice/1,71184-0.html

CODEXTER Releases Counter-Terrorism Profiles

- In conjunction with its meeting this past month in Strasbourg, France, the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) released nine new country profiles on counter-terrorism capacity. The profiles cover the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal and Switzerland. Ten additional profiles will be released at its next meeting in December, including: Albania, Armenia, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Italy, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Recent Events

- 2-8 June, 2006: OAS General Assembly in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- 3-9 June, 2006: TSA National Development Program in Trinidad and Tobago.
- 19-21 June, 2006: 10th meeting of CODEXTER in Strasbourg, France.
- 19-23 June, 2006: TSA National Development Program in St. Lucia.
- 19-23 June, 2006: FATF on Money Laundering Plenary in Paris, France.
- 22-24 June, 2006: Terrorism and Security Conference, Center on Law and Security at New York University School of Law, New York City.
- 28-29 June, 2006: International Forum on Security Preparedness for Data Centers in Brasilia and Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- 5-7 July, 2006: CICTE and UNODC National Seminar on Legislation, Santo Domingo - Dominican Republic.

Future Events

- 9-12 July, 2006: Interpol Conference on Bio-terrorism, Santiago, Chile
- 10-14 July, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop, St. Kitts and Nevis.
- 11-13 July, 2006: Training on Passport and International Documents Security and Issuance System - Miami, Florida.
- 13-14 July, 2006: Latin American Cargo and Border Security Summit in Miami, Florida.
- 17-21 July, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop, Guyana.
- 24-28 July, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop, St. Vincent.
- 27-28 July, 2006: OSCE Working Level CT-Practitioners Roundtable with Relevant Regional Organizations in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Latest News

- **The governments of the United States and Jamaica have agreed to screen cargo for radiation at Jamaican ports.** Officials in both countries believe that the installation of such screening equipment will effectively lessen the threat of nuclear terrorism, and will protect global shipping lanes. The Declaration of Principles signed by the two countries pledges the implementation of two initiatives—the Customs and Border Patrol Container Security Initiative, and the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Megaports Initiative.

For more information: <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000020/002074.htm>

- On Thursday, June 22, **U.S. law enforcement officials arrested seven people in the Miami area** as part of a terrorism investigation. One official said that the group’s targets may have included the Sears Tower and the Miami headquarters of the FBI, but that their plot had not yet progressed very far.
- **Cooperation and aid between CARICOM countries and the UK will result in stronger border security for the Caribbean region.** The attempted security boost comes prior to the 2007 Cricket World Cup to be held in nine states across the Caribbean region in March and April of next year, and the plan calls for preventative measures for this event. The effects of the comprehensive and multi-phase security improvement, however, are meant to enhance security in CARICOM countries well beyond 2007. As part of the plan, Britain has agreed to provide scanning equipment and training for use at air and seaports, and to help with the expansion of the Caribbean Intelligence and Information Sharing System. Preparations are also underway for the introduction of more modern border security technology, and for the drafting of necessary legislation to enable border security initiatives.

For more information: www.barbadosadvocate.com/NewViewNewsleft.cfm?Record=26648

- **Canada is increasing its security measures, especially in the transportation area.** Officials announced on Friday, June 16 that it would soon implement new counter-terrorism measures at airports, railways and ports—spending that will require a portion of

the country's \$1.4 billion federal security budget. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper also says that attempts will be made to tighten border security, something that different parties have pressed for, especially in the aftermath of the Toronto terrorist plot and the consequent arrest of 17 men and boys just last month.

- **The Colombian government has announced on its website the use of a new method of fighting money laundering and terrorism.** The new tool is a database comprised of information from 15 public entities and one private entity (including government ministries, banks and law enforcement offices) that can be instantly analyzed to track assets, financial transactions and financial history. Santos Calderón, vice president of the country, believes that the system will significantly increase the success of law enforcement officers in fighting money laundering and terrorism.
- **On June 7, U.S. forces launched an airstrike that killed Al Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.** Unspecified tips aided coalition forces in their location of Zarqawi and Iraqi police were the first on the scene after the bombing of the terrorist leader's safe house in Baguba, 35 miles north of Baghdad. Observers believe that Zarqawi's death will be a major blow to Al Qaeda, but the comprehensive effects of the leader's removal remain to be seen. Al Qaeda has already named a successor in Egyptian-born Abu Ayyub al-Masri, a militant who has worked in Iraq with Zarqawi.
- A \$502,000 contract has been put in place to **upgrade Guyana's airport security system and prevent possible terrorist attack.** About \$50,000 of the cost will be fronted by the Guyanese government, and the rest will be supplied by the Inter-American Development Bank. The money will pay for both the upgrade of airport security equipment and the training of airport personnel. The contract will ensure that the Guyanese airport system is in compliance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). CICTE plans to start the training component on July 17.

For more information: <http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article?id=56497863>

- **In pre-dawn raids on June 20, Spanish and French police arrested 12 people on charges of involvement with illegal financing of the armed Basque separatist group ETA.** One of those arrested was a founder of the ETA, Julen de Madariaga, now 74 years old. Police believe that some of the 12 acted as intermediaries between the ETA and businesses, collecting the extortionist tax that has been a main source of funding for the group.

New Books

- **Counterterrorism Strategies: Successes and Failures of Six Nations**, edited by Yonah Alexander. Alexander and five other authors look at the efforts of six nations to combat their particular problems with terrorism throughout the last three and a half decades, including the United States with Al Qaeda; Italy with the Red Brigades and the New

Order; Germany with the Red Army Faction; France with separatist movements and Carlos the Jackal; Egypt with Islamist terrorism; and Sri Lanka with the Tamil Tigers. As the title implies, all of these countries have been discouraged and encouraged at different times in their battles against terrorism, and learning from these failures and successes is crucial to making an effective stand against terrorism in the future. José María Aznar, former president of Spain, maintains that Alexander's book is a "useful tool to help us learn from one another, so that we might develop a philosophy that inspires a shared strategy against terrorism, a phenomenon that threatens us all equally."