



December 2006/January 2007

CICTE Informe 41

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Germany to Trawl Islamist Websites for Terror Clues

Germany is to set up a specialist unit to search the Internet for clues to extremist attacks being planned by Islamist extremists, a federal prosecutor said on Friday December 15th. The unit will be based in Berlin and comprise 50 staff chosen from the police and intelligence services, said Rainer Griesbaum, a federal prosecutor in charge of terrorism investigations. He said it was being created because of the growing threat from extremist websites which exhort young Muslims to carry out attacks. The Chief Federal Prosecutor, Monika Harms, said at the same end-of-year press conference that an extremist attack in Germany “could not be ruled out”. An attempted bomb attack on two trains in Germany in July had shown that Germany could not be complacent, she said. The bombs were packed into cases and consisted of gas canisters, alarm clocks, wires and batteries and soft drink bottles filled with a flammable liquid.

For more information: Agence France Presse

Muslim Extremists Recruited in Ireland

Shia leader tells RTE we must tackle bin Laden support. Muslim extremists are being recruited in Ireland, it was claimed last night. Former al-Qaeda leader Abu Musab Al Zarqawi had plans to set up a branch in Ireland, where support for Osama bin Laden is high. Speaking on RTE’s Prime Time Investigates on December 18th, Shia leader Ali Al Saleh said that terrorist attacks happening in Iraq are being celebrated by extremists in Dublin. He added that jihadi recruitment is also taking place here and that Irish passports are turning up in Iraq. This is the first time that a major figure in the Muslim community here has stated that there are difficulties with extremists in Ireland. He said: “We need to accept that yes we have a problem in our community, we should come forward with courage to stop terrorism. We cannot deny that there is fundamentalism. This is affecting our life. It’s not good to deny it.” The program also explored allegations by former US intelligence officials that Dublin man Ibrahim Buisir is linked to a European cell of al-Qaeda.

For more information: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/>

Kuwait and NATO sign intelligence-sharing pact

Kuwait signed an agreement to share certain types of classified intelligence with NATO on Tuesday December 12th, the first such accord between the Western military organization and a Gulf state. NATO already has similar pacts with partners in Eastern Europe and Middle East states and is looking to extend them to the Gulf, which it sees as a strategically key region in the fight against terrorism. "This is a security pact to maintain confidentiality in the exchange of information between NATO and Kuwait," Sheikh Thamer Ali al-Sabah, acting director of pro-Western Kuwait's National Security Agency, told reporters. "It's basically for exchange of security information and maintaining its confidentiality," he said. The pact gives Kuwait access to classified NATO information on security, defense and counterterrorism, he added. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of a conference of Gulf Arab states and NATO.

For more information: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20061212-0608-kuwait-nato-intelligence.html>

Al Qaeda is Recruiting Youths at job centers

Thousands of young British Asians who have dropped out of school are being targeted at job centers by Al Qaeda press gangs. The security services are becoming increasingly worried because the number of Muslim youths neither in employment nor school has rocketed by 17 per cent to about 6,000 in the past two years. The disaffected youngsters spend their days wandering the streets after congregating at inner city job centers, where terror groups have sent senior operatives to draw them into their net. The youngsters have to turn up for interviews with job center staff and it is then that the terror cells strike. A security source revealed: "An influx of families from Pakistan, often pretending they are from Iraq to guarantee the right to remain in Britain, is one of the main reasons for the rise in Pakistani and Bangladeshi teenagers who have dropped off the system.

For more information: <http://www.express.co.uk/> (December 3)

Italian Police Strike at Suspected Islamist Network

Italian police conducted a major operation Friday December 1st against a suspected Islamist extremist network, raiding the homes of several Bosnian and Macedonian nationals, the ANSA news agency reported. The 38 raids were aimed mostly at Bosnian and Macedonian citizens living in Italy, and their contacts, and were carried out in the Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Lombardy and Tuscany regions. Police have been investigating the suspected Islamist network for 18 months under an anti-terrorism law passed after the September 11, 2001 US attacks. Members are accused of glorifying Islamic holy war or jihad by distributing cassettes, CDs, DVDs, other publications and broadcasting radio programs, ANSA said. They were also being investigated for breaking Italy's immigration laws.

For more information: Agence France Presse

China Tightens Export controls on Nuclear Technology

China has tightened controls on exports of nuclear technology, announcing Friday December 1st revised regulations to prevent sensitive items from passing into the hands of governments at risk of colluding with terrorists. The revised rules, published by the Xinhua News Agency, come as China is still fuming over neighbor North Korea's October nuclear test-explosion and as Beijing is expanding nuclear energy cooperation with ally Pakistan. The revisions to earlier regulations issued in 2001 expressly state that the rules are for "preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons (and) safeguarding against nuclear terrorism." Among the items added to the new controls are uranium enrichment facilities, equipment to produce heavy water, which can be used to generate fuel for nuclear weapons, and facilities and equipment that deal with radioactive materials.

For more information: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/12/01/asia/AS_GEN_China_Nuclear.php

Pakistan installs first biometrics system at border crossing with Afghanistan

Pakistan opened its first biometrics system to screen travelers at a land border point with Afghanistan as a measure to curtail cross-border movement of militants, an official said on Wednesday 10 January. The sophisticated identification system was inaugurated at the main border crossing between southern Afghanistan and Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province, near the Pakistani town of Chaman, said Brig. Akhtar Hussain Shah, an official with the government National Data and Registration Authority that issues identity cards to Pakistani nationals. After it was inaugurated, some 40 people were screened through the system that records a person's fingerprints, retinas or facial patterns, for identification, Shah said.

For more information: Associated Press (Jan. 10)

ASEAN Leaders sign pact to combat Terrorism

On Saturday January 13th, leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations signed the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism that will serve as a framework for deeper regional cooperation to "counter, prevent and suppress" the continuing threat of terrorism in the region. The ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism identified areas of cooperation among the 10 ASEAN countries, including sharing of information, suppressing the financing of terrorist acts and preventing the movement of terrorists through stricter border control. "We stressed the need to maintain and intensify cooperation among the states in the region to combat terrorism and seriously address its root causes," says the convention signed at the end of the daylong ASEAN leaders' summit in Cebu.

For more information: Kyodo News (Jan. 13)

Russia, India set to conduct counter-terrorism exercises in 2007

Russia and India are planning to conduct joint land and naval counter-terrorism exercises in 2007, a Russian Defense Ministry official said Saturday January 20th. INDRA-2007 is a biennial

joint exercise between the armed forces of Russia and India aimed at coordinating cooperative engagement in the fight against terrorism.

“The details of the upcoming joint Russian-Indian exercise will be discussed during a visit of Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov to India,” said Colonel General Anatoly Mazurkevich, head of the Main Directorate for Foreign Military Cooperation. The naval part of INDRA-2007 will be held in April 2007 at the Pacific Ocean involving naval units of the Russian Pacific Fleet and the Indian Navy. The land part of the war games is scheduled for mid-September at the training grounds of the 76th Airborne Division near the city of Pskov in north-western Russia.

For more information: <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20070120/59413319.html>

Recent events

Sponsored by CICTE

- December 4-8 December: Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security training, Level 2 Trinidad & Tobago.
- December 4-14: TSA Aviation Security Training, Jamaica.
- December 5-12: TSA Basic Security Training, St. Lucia.
- December 10-14: CBP- Customs and Immigration assessment in Jamaica.
- December 11-14: Joint event with UNODC on Antiterrorism legislation on international instruments and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, Montevideo, Uruguay.
- December 15: CICTE VII Preparatory Meeting - Second Session, OAS, Washington D.C.
- December 15-17: CBP- Customs and Immigration assessment in St. Lucia.
- December 18-20: CBP- Customs and Immigration assessment in Grenada.
- January 8-12: DTRA security surveys and risk assessment in Grenada W.I.
- January 3-16: Port security assessment in five major ports of the Dominican Republic
- January 23-26: TSA Crisis Management Training in Barbados.
- January 22-26: TSA Crisis Management Training in Trinidad and Tobago.
- January 22-26: CBP- Customs and Border Protection training in Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- January 22-26: CBP- Customs and Border Protection training in Castries, St. Lucia.
- January 29-30: Joint event with UNODC on Antiterrorism legislation, Antigua, Guatemala.
- January 22-31: Port security training in Antigua & Barbuda.
- January 29-February 2: CBP- Customs and Border Protection training in Kingston, Jamaica.
- January 22-February 2: CBP- Customs and Border Protection training in St. George's, Grenada.
- February 5-7: ITRS training program in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.
- February 5: CICTE VII Preparatory Meeting - Third Session, OAS, Washington D.C.

Other Training and Meetings

- November 30 -December 1: II International Intelligence Seminar; “State, Media, and Terrorism”, Brasilia (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)

- December 4-6: U.S. Department of Justice Cyber Crime CCIPS Program Workshop, Brasilia, Brazil.
- December 7: UNICRI conference on “Enhancing Security for Massive Events,” UN, New York City (presentation by CICTE Secretariat).
- February 7-9: APCERT annual conference, Langkawi, Malaysia (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)

Upcoming Events

- February 12-16: UNICRI conference on “Enhancing Security for Massive Events,” Cartagena, Colombia (presentations by CICTE Secretariat)
- February 19-22: Joint CICTE/CICAD training: “First Seminar on Terrorism Financing,” Bogota, Colombia
- February 23-24: International Security Advisory Group on Cricket World Cup, Barbados.
- February 28-March 2: Seventh Regular Session of CICTE, Panama City, Panama.
- March 19-22: TPB/UNODC – CICTE/OAS joint Ministerial Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

NEWS

- **CICTE will hold its Seventh Regular Session in Panama**

The Government of Panama and the OAS signed an agreement on Monday, February 5, 2007, for the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE to be held in Panama City, Panama from February 28 to March 2. Vice President of the Republic of Panama and Foreign Minister Samuel Lewis Navarro will deliver the keynote address during the Inaugural Ceremony which will be presided by current CICTE Chair, Ambassador Camilo Ospina, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Colombia to the OAS. OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza will also address the CICTE participants.

As the host of the meeting, the Government of Panama proposed the topic of Critical Infrastructure Protection for the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegations and as the main topic for the meeting. Several experts will address the participants on this topic during the meeting, including the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Task Force of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, Ambassador for International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Park Sang-Ki; Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America; and Executive Director of the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council, Ambassador Javier Ruperez.

All events will take place in the conference center of Hotel El Panama. An Information Bulletin including information on hotel reservations and logistics will be available soon. Letters of accreditation listing the delegations planning to attend the Session should be faxed now to the CICTE Secretariat (202 458-3857) in response to the letter of invitation by current CICTE Chair, Ambassador Ospina, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Colombia to the OAS.

For additional information or questions concerning the meeting, please contact CICTE Secretariat Specialist and Committee Secretary, Ms. Gillian Bristol (gbristol@oas.org; 202 458-3509).

http://www.oas.org/OASpage/press_releases/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-035/07

- **Uruguay ratifies the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism**

On January 30, the Government of Uruguay deposited at the Organization of the American States its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. Drafted in the months following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Convention was opened for signature in June 2002 and entered into effect in July 2003. Uruguay now joins 21 other countries that have ratified the Convention.

For more information: http://www.oas.org/OASpage/press_releases/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-025/07

- **UNODC and CICTE to host a Ministerial Conference in Dominican Republic**

The Terrorism Prevention Branch from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (TPB/UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat will jointly sponsor a Ministerial Conference for Caribbean States on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, to be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from March 19-22, 2007. The main objective of the meeting is to build awareness about the importance of becoming parties to the international and regional instruments against terrorism, as a step towards the ratification of the international conventions and protocols related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. For more information, contact CICTE Secretariat Program Manager, Ms. Johanna Salah (jsalah@oas.org; 202 458-3031).

- **UN approves resolution on Weapons' Trade**

The U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution on December 6th that could lead to the first international treaty on controlling the trade in assault rifles, machine guns and other small arms. The nonbinding resolution asks the secretary-general to seek the views of the 192-member General Assembly on the feasibility of a comprehensive treaty "establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms." Global trade in small arms is worth about \$4 billion a year, of which a fourth is considered illegal. The arms cause 60 percent to 90 percent of all deaths in conflicts every year. The resolution asks the secretary-general to submit a report in the next General Assembly session, which starts in September 2007. It also asks the secretary-general to establish a group of government experts to examine the feasibility of a treaty based on the report.

For more information:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/UN_WEAPONS_TRADE_TREATY?SITE=COCAN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

- **Southern African Development Community to establish anti-terrorist unit**

The Southern African Region has taken a bold step forward in the global fight against terrorism, and recently the Southern African Development Community (SADC) meeting resolved to establish an anti-terrorist unit to be stationed in Harare. For the first time, close to 40 senior government officials and experts from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and United Nations representatives came together in the fight against terrorism. Namibia was selected to host the first-ever “United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/SADC Counter-Terrorism Legal Capacity-Building Workshop.” Namibia was nominated at a security meeting which started in Windhoek yesterday. Officially opening the workshop, the Deputy Minister of Safety and Security, Gabes Shihepo, said the fight against terrorism is a global problem particularly when it concerns human security.

For more information: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200612060937.html>

- **Estonia offers to set up a Cyber Defense Center for NATO**

NATO newcomer Estonia has proposed setting up a cyber defense centre for the military alliance, officials said Thursday December 7th. “The aim of the centre would be to promote cooperation between NATO members on cyber defense, to draft training programs and deal with the legal aspects of fighting cyber terrorism,” Lauri Allmann, undersecretary at the Estonian Defense Ministry, told reporters. “The centre would not be countering attacks in cyber space but would deal with conceptual work,” stressed Mihkel Oidsalu, head of the security department at the Estonian Defense Ministry. “This will not be military unit,” he said.

For more information: Agence France Presse

- **Peru’s President renews calls for death penalty for terrorism**

On December 18th President Alan Garcia asked lawmakers to back his proposal to impose the death penalty for terrorism, two days after eight people including a boy were allegedly gunned down by members of Peru’s dwindling rebel movement. Congress should “give the necessary tools to the judges and to the executive branch to definitively eliminate these leftover (rebels) who require the most energetic and harshest sanction that the law, human and divine, permits,” Garcia said during an address at the Government Palace. Capital punishment has not been practiced since the 1970s in Peru, a signatory to the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, which explicitly forbids the death penalty. Peru’s constitution calls for the death penalty in cases of treason during times of war or terrorism. But the penal code does not allow capital punishment for acts of terrorism, as spelled out in the death penalty bill Garcia sent Congress last month.

For more information: Associated Press

- **Alert on Al Qaeda “super spy”**

MI6 has warned all Western intelligence agencies that Al Qaeda has appointed its first full-time intelligence chief. The Government's secret intelligence service believes that the official, Abu

Jhad Muhammad Khalil al-Hakayamah, will train agents to penetrate Western intelligence services, as well as coordinating terrorist attacks. The “red alert” warning document says that MI6 agents have discovered that Al Qaeda terrorists will be trained to beat lie-detector tests and plant biological and chemical poisons. The MI6 alert comes after Home Secretary Dr John Reid warned of a serious terrorist threat against the UK during the run-up to Christmas. His warning was based on information from US, French and German intelligence services. A senior intelligence source said: “There is credible evidence that Al Qaeda sleeper agents in Europe have received orders to attack oil and gas installations in Britain.” Al-Hakayamah, 49, has a long history analyzing the tradecraft of Western intelligence.

For more information: <http://www.express.co.uk/> (17 December)

- **Guyana is taking maximum security measures against chemical threat to airlines**

Guyana has classified an email warning of a chemical attack against airlines operating out of the South American nation as “Alert Condition 3” which means additional screening of passengers, more stringent access control measures and additional security checks of checked baggage and hand-carried items. Officials said they have established that the email was sent from a yahoo address that was created on Friday December 1st, the same day that the email was sent to several airlines, the media and the local US Embassy.

For more information: <http://www.caribbeanetnews.com/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000045/004586.htm>

- **Blast at U.S. Embassy called “Terrorism”**

A rocket struck the U.S. Embassy early Friday January 12th, exploding inside the modern, glass-fronted building and shattering hopes that Greece's leftist anti-American militant networks had been dismantled. Greek authorities said the attack, which caused no injuries, was probably carried out by a domestic terrorist group. The small anti-tank missile, fired from across a six-lane boulevard, narrowly missed the large blue-and-white U.S. seal on the embassy's facade and the ambassador's office, and pierced the building above the front entrance shortly before 6 a.m. It damaged a third-floor bathroom and shattered windows in nearby buildings.

Form more information: Associated Press (Jan. 12)

- **Guyana Cabinet ratifies Convention against Terrorism**

Head of the Presidential Secretariat and Cabinet Secretary of Guyana, Dr Roger Luncheon, said at a media briefing on Thursday January 18th that the Guyana Cabinet has considered the ratification of the Convention against Terrorism and agreed to its ratification. He said, “Guyana will thus soon deposit the Instrument of Ratification at the Organisation of American States in Washington, DC. The convention aims to prevent, eliminate and punish terrorism in accordance with the provisions and measures outlined.”

For more information: <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000052/005244.htm>

- **L.A. terror task force probes mercury spill**

The Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force is investigating an incident involving an unidentified man who spilled a vial of mercury inside a subway station just before Christmas and then disappeared after reporting it to authorities. A statement released by the task force Wednesday evening shows a picture of the man taken from a frame in a surveillance video. The caption reads: "Wanted for questioning in connection with unexplained activity." That activity can be seen in a copy of the surveillance video - obtained exclusively by CNN - which shows the Pershing Square subway station in Los Angeles late on the evening of December 22.

California authorities on Tuesday arrested a man suspected of spilling mercury in a Los Angeles subway station before Christmas, according to an FBI spokeswoman. Armando Bustamante Miranda, 27, was being held on parole violation charges and was being questioned, said Laura Eimiller. He was arrested by the Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force. Eimiller could not say whether Miranda is a U.S. citizen. Los Angeles County Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said Miranda is homeless. He would not comment on why he allegedly had mercury in his possession.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/01/18/mercury.spill/index.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/01/23/mercury.spill/index.html>