



May 2007

CICTE Newsletter 45

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

UN Counter-terrorism assessments

By the end of May 2007, assessments of counter-terrorism measures taken by all United Nations Member States will have been presented to the Security Council committee that monitors the global fight against the menace, its chairman said on March 22nd. Ambassador Ricardo Alberto Arias of Panama, the chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), established by UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) after the 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States, said that this will give the Committee a comprehensive picture of the implementation of that resolution, as well as a better idea of assistance needed by States to better comply. Assisting Member States to fulfill their reporting responsibilities was also a top priority for the Committee established pursuant to UNSCR 1540 (2004) to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) by non-State actors, particularly terrorists, said its chairman, Ambassador Peter Burian of Slovakia.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=22645&Cr=terror&Cr1=>

At UN meeting, countries offer practical steps for countering terrorism

From sharing best practices on preventing radicalization to ensuring that the voices of victims are heard, United Nations Member States, regional organizations and civil society groups held a symposium in Vienna May 17-18 on advancing the Global Counterterrorism Strategy by proposing a raft of practical measures to defeat the scourge. The two-day symposium – the first major forum on the issue since the landmark UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted at the General Assembly last September – concluded with calls for Member States to work together more closely to try to put an end to terrorist activity. This was the first time that all 192 Member States accepted a common blueprint for a coordinated, consistent and comprehensive response to terrorism at the national, regional and global levels. Apart from a political commitment to combat terrorism, the strategy also contains some 50 practical, operational measures for Member States to take, both jointly through the UN system and on their own. In adopting the strategy, the General Assembly also agreed to review its implementation in the second half of 2008.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=22599&Cr=terror&Cr1=>
http://www.unodc.org/unodc/press_release_2007_05_09.html

UN counter-terrorism body launches online information assistance

In its continuing bid to help countries bolster their ability to fight terrorism around the globe, the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has launched an online database containing information about technical assistance both requested by and provided to States. The technical assistance matrix provides potential donors with a snapshot of where assistance is still needed by States in implementing Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the relevant provisions of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, according to the Executive Director of CTED, Assistant Secretary-General Javier Rupérez.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=22522&Cr=terror&Cr1=>

Studies on Crime, Violence, and Development

UNODC and the World Bank issued two significant reports in March and May—the first on “Crime, Violence and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean” and the second on “Crime and Development in Central America.” Both emphasize that law enforcement is not the only key to ensuring security. A holistic, integrated approach to security and crime prevention must address development, good governance and the rule of law, as well as crime prevention. They also emphasize that success requires a new partnership between governments and civil society to address the underlying causes holistically and promote greater understanding and security awareness within society.

UNODC's “Central American Study on Crime and Development” provides a clear view of the trap that governments and citizens alike have fallen into: “Part of the confusion around the best way of dealing with crime appears to be rooted in a false dichotomy of short-term law enforcement interventions versus long-term social development.” In fact, the study goes on to say that “The second [distinct area in which the international community can assist the countries of Central America in dealing with the crime problem] is the integration of crime prevention thinking into all development interventions, whether initiated by international actors or by local government.”

For more information: http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Cr_and_Vio_Car_E.pdf
www.unodc.org/pdf/Central%20America%20Study.pdf

US presses EU to share airline data in anti-terror

Following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, the United States requested access to the personal information that passengers provide when booking a plane ticket, including their names and addresses, but also information about their credit cards, email addresses, telephone numbers and hotel or car reservations (Passenger Name Records (PNR)). A first agreement was signed in May 2004, allowing the US to access 34 different pieces of information but, following a

complaint from the European Parliament, it was ruled illegal by the European Court of Justice two years later, on the basis that it failed to protect travellers' fundamental rights and was not "founded on an appropriate legal basis". US Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff visited the European Parliament on 14 May 2007 to convince the Members of Parliament that gathering private data on passengers flying from Europe to America is crucial in fighting terrorism. The summer deadline now looms and, without an agreement, European airlines will be forced to choose between facing lawsuits in Europe for breaching EU data-privacy rules or being fined up to €4,700 or denied landing rights in the US for refusing to pass on information.

For more information: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/security/us-presses-eu-share-airline-data-anti-terror-drive/article-163783>

Multi-Hazard Contingency Planning Manual

The Tourism Division of the OAS Department of Sustainable Development held a two-day workshop in St. Lucia on May 16 and 17, 2007, to launch and test a Multi-hazard Contingency planning Manual for the Tourism Sector in Caribbean Region. The Multi-hazard Contingency Planning Manual provides information on standard operating practices and guidelines to assist the tourism industry in preparing for, responding to and recovering from critical hazardous events that threaten the industry. It was developed out of a need to extend the tourism sector's ability to deal with unplanned catastrophic events should they occur and to expand current disaster preparedness plans beyond Hurricane emergency planning. Given the current global environment, the contingency planning was expanded to include other events such as terrorist attacks.

The Tourism Division coordinated the development of this manual with funding provided by the U.S. Department of State as part of the Third Border Initiative (TBI). Technical Support was obtained from regional bodies such as CDERA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Resource Agency), CHA (Caribbean Hotel Association), CTO (Caribbean Tourism Organization) and others. The CICTE Secretariat was invited to contribute towards the terrorism component of the manual, coordinated additional input, and participated in the testing. Training programs based on the principles outlined in the manual will be needed to support the effective application of measures outlined in the manual.

RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

- April 16 – May 11: Port Security training, Dominican Republic (sponsored by CICTE)
- May 2-9: Transportation Security Agency (TSA) Basic aviation security training course, Georgetown, Guyana (sponsored by CICTE).
- May 2-4: UNODC/CICTE Technical Legislative Assistance mission, Managua, Nicaragua.
- May 7-9: UNODC/CICTE Technical Legislative Assistance mission, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- May 15-23: Transportation Security Agency (TSA) Basic security training course, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (sponsored by CICTE).

- May 17-18: UN Symposium on Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, Vienna, Austria (presentation by CICTE).
- May 21 - 25: X Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC X); Margarita Island, Venezuela; (presentation by CICTE).
- May 22-25: Ibero-American Seminar on “Balancing State Powers and Respecting Democratic Guarantees while Fighting Terrorist Crimes,” seminar organized by the Government of Spain and co-sponsored by CICTE and UNODC, Cartagena, Colombia..
- May 23-29: Conference of Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP), Nassau, Bahamas (presentation by CICTE).
- May 28-June 2: Ibero-American Seminar on “The Evolution of the Terrorist Phenomenon: New Counter Terrorism Strategies,” sponsored by the Government of Spain, Cartagena, Colombia (presentations by CICTE).
- May 30 – June 1: Anti Phishing Working Group Counter e-Crime Operations Summit, San Francisco, USA.
- May 31 – June 1: High-level Conference organized by Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on “Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism,” Vienna, Austria.

Upcoming Events

- June 4-14: TSA Aviation Security Training in Antigua and Barbuda, sponsored by CICTE.
- June 11-14: Specialized training for prosecutors, judges and criminal justice officials on “Fighting and Preventing Terrorism and its Financing: Legal Framework and International Cooperation Instruments”, sponsored by CICTE and UNODC, Santiago, Chile.
- June 18: Initiation of Port Security Assessment, Grenada (sponsored by CICTE)
- June 19-20: 2007 Working Level Counter Terrorism Practitioners Roundtable from Relevant Regional and Select Sub-Regional Organizations, organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- June 25-29: Cyber security training course for Computer Security Incident Response Teams, Brasilia, Brazil, sponsored by CICTE in collaboration with the Brazilian Intelligence Agency (ABIN) and the Brazilian Department of Information Security and Communication (DSIC).
- July 9-13: TSA Aviation Security Training in Crisis Management in Antigua and Barbuda, sponsored by CICTE.
- July 9-13: APEC Maritime Security Experts Group, Taipei, Taiwan
- July 16-17: CICTE/UNODC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission, Mexico City, Mexico
- July 16-26: TSA Advanced Security Training in Trinidad and Tobago, sponsored by CICTE.
- July 18-26: CICTE/UNODC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission and Specialized Training for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials, Panama City, Panama
- July 30-August 2: Document Security Fraud Prevention Workshop, sponsored by CICTE and implemented by the U.S. Forensics Document Laboratory, Asuncion, Paraguay.
- August 6-9: CICAD/CICTE Second Terrorism Financing Workshop, Lima, Perú

- September TBD: Port Security Crisis Management Exercise, sponsored by CICTE in partnership with CICAD, CIP, Transport Canada, US Coast Guard, US State Department, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

NEWS

EUROPOL Report on Terrorist Threat in Europe (Correction)

In some versions of CICTE Newsletter #44 of May 10, 2007, p. 3, this report was attributed to INTERPOL rather than EUROPOL.

For more information: <http://www.europol.europa.eu/publications/TESAT/TESAT2007.pdf>

‘Triple Border’ a smugglers' haven

Men lugging shiny stereos, new tires and heavy bundles on their backs stream like ants across the Friendship Bridge, where smugglers lower contraband from Paraguay on ropes to Brazilian runners on the riverbank below. No one checks passports and anyone asking questions is hustled away in this smugglers' haven near the “Triple Border,” where Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina meet - and where contraband electronics, toys, drugs and arms flow across porous borders. Paraguayan President Nicanor Duarte and Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met in Paraguay's capital, Asuncion, on March 21st and vowed to boost legitimate trade and to strengthen cross-border cooperation in fighting smuggling in the Triple Border. They also signed a pledge to build another bridge on the Parana River separating their countries.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/americas/05/22/paraguay.smugglers.ap/index.html>

European Commission proposes new cyber-crime strategy

The European Commission has proposed a strategy to increment the fight against cyber-crime, which is growing in a worrisome way. Credit card and bank fraud, dissemination and selling of child pornography, identity fraud and the spreading of internet viruses are some of the cyber-crimes that Brussels wants to intensify the fight against. The United Kingdom is an example of insecurity, where the “phishing” attacks have increased an 8,000% in the last two years. The European Commissioner for security, Franco Frattini, explained that the first objective of this new strategy is to establish an “authentic network” of specialized units in cyber-crimes, which are not well connected yet.

For more information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/199&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Fugitives “planned UK troops attack”

The three terror suspects on control orders who absconded May 21-25 were suspected of planning attacks on British troops abroad. Lord Carlile, the independent reviewer of anti-terrorism laws, told the BBC the security services believe the men wanted to target British troops

in Iraq or elsewhere. “These three men were the subject of solid intelligence that they intended, not to cause damage in the UK, but that they intended to damage our national security by going as insurgents to kill British and other allied troops abroad,” he said. Home Secretary John Reid will issue a statement later on Thursday. Scotland Yard said it was hunting the missing men, named as Lamine Adam, 26, Ibrahim Adam, 20, and Cerie Bullivant, 24, after they failed to contact a monitoring company or report to a local police station.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/05/24/uk.terror.reut/index.html>

Al Qaeda terrorist plotter freed from Australian jail

A British-born Muslim convert who pleaded guilty to plotting with al Qaeda to blow up the Israeli embassy in Australia with a truck bomb was released on parole May 17th after serving half of his nine-year sentence. Jack Roche, an Australian citizen, was convicted in May 2004 after he confessed to being involved in a plan hatched by Osama bin Laden and senior al Qaeda operatives to attack the embassy building in Canberra, the nation's capital. The plot was never carried out. The 53-year-old had faced up to 25 years in jail, but was sentenced to nine years in a maximum security prison after he agreed to tell officials about his involvement with al Qaeda and its Southeast Asian offshoot, Jemaah Islamiyah.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/05/16/australia.terrorist.ap/index.html>

Militants free Pakistani workers

Suspected Islamist militants have released eight Pakistani government development workers abducted last week in a tribal region on the Afghan border, a senior official said on May 23rd. The workers, including five women, were kidnapped on May 18th while visiting sites for aid projects in North Waziristan, where the government signed a controversial peace deal aimed at ending militant violence last September. “They released the hostages on May 22nd in Bannu and all of them are well,” said the security chief for the tribal region, Arbab Arif, referring to a city bordering North Waziristan. The hostages were released because of pressure on the kidnapers from tribesmen in the area, he said. “They released them on their own. We don't know their motive nor did they demand anything from us,” Arif said.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/05/23/pakistan.violence.reut/index.html>

Muslim schools to tackle extremism

Muslim educators in Britain's religious schools are worried by some lessons that are part of a new curriculum designed to steer children away from extremism. One lesson plan goes something like this: A group of Islamic extremists want to buy fertilizer that could be used to make a bomb. Should the shop keeper sell it to them? Or take Ahmad, whose friends want to attack a local supermarket in retaliation for the war in Iraq. Is it right for Ahmad to harm innocent Britons because their government invaded a Muslim country? The curriculum's answer

in both cases is no, but the fact that these scenarios are being considered at all has prompted concern among Muslim teachers, who question whether they are appropriate for young students.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/05/23/muslim.schools.ap/index.html>

Siege ends at Russian Embassy in Costa Rica

A 20-year-old Kazakhstan native turned himself over to police May 11th, ending a three-hour standoff and safely releasing a man he had been holding at the Russian Embassy in Costa Rica, authorities said. Roman Bogdanyants covered his face as he was escorted by police from the building, followed by a Russian man that police spokesman Francisco Ruiz identified as a former hostage. Officials originally reported an armed man had seized eight hostages, quickly releasing five. But Russian Ambassador Valery Nikolayenko told Channel 7 Telenoticias in a phone interview during the standoff that he and three other officials had remained in the building to help negotiate a peaceful end to the situation.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/americas/05/11/costa.rica.embassy.ap/index.html>

Mickey Mouse and Al Qaeda in Palestine

On Sunday 6 May, Palestinian militants attacked a UNRWA school in Gaza, killing one person and wounding seven, simply because they thought that in the school young boys and girls were dancing together. Apparently, the authors of the attack are the same people who, in the past months, targeted and attacked internet-cafes and swimming pools, places responsible for “keeping people away from Islam”.

Mickey Mouse program and propaganda - Many international media reported that the official Hamas television station, Al Aqsa TV, in the last few weeks aired a program hosted by a Mickey Mouse look-alike mouse, which teaches children radical Islamist values.

For more information: http://www.peacereporter.net/dettaglio_articolo.php?idc=0&idart=7920

How I Nixed 'Ft. Dix 6'

[Six men were arrested in the United States on May 7 on suspicion of planning an attack on Ft Dix, New Jersey, who reportedly intended to kill “as many American soldiers as possible.” These men had no apparent connection to any international terrorist organization aside from ideology. What was the tip off? In January 2006, a clerk in an electronics store became suspicious when copying onto a DVD a home video showing them training with weapons and threatening a terrorist attack.]

The moment they saw the men pull guns from the back of a pickup and start shooting while shouting in a foreign language, clerks at a New Jersey electronics store knew they weren't looking at a run-of-the-mill home video. “It was scary, to say the least,” said Nate Sierer, 25, one

of three Circuit City workers who helped bring down the six suspected terrorists arrested this month in an alleged plot to massacre soldiers at Fort Dix. “You could definitely tell that all the weapons were fully automatic,” said Sierer, a store manager who, with two co-workers, watched the first several minutes of the tape after it was dropped off at the Mount Laurel store to be copied. “There were four to six guys talking in a foreign language, and they'd just shout and shoot. They're screaming and shooting,” Sierer recalled. “I didn't know what they were saying, but it was scary.”

For more information:

http://www.nypost.com/seven/05212007/news/regionalnews/how_i_nixed_ft_dix_6_regionalnews_jana_winter_in_wilmington_del_and_jeane_macintosh_in_n_y.htm

Digital Fears Emerge After Data Siege in Estonia

When Estonian authorities began removing a bronze statue of a World War II-era Soviet soldier from a park in this bustling Baltic seaport last month, they expected violent street protests by Estonians of Russian descent. They also knew from experience that “if there are fights on the street, there are going to be fights on the Internet,” said Hillar Aareleid, the director of Estonia’s Computer Emergency Response Team. After all, for people here the Internet is almost as vital as running water; it is used routinely to vote, file their taxes, and, with their cell phones, to shop or pay for parking. What followed was what some here describe as the first war in cyberspace, a month-long campaign that has forced Estonian authorities to defend their pint-size Baltic nation from a data flood that they say was set off by orders from Russia or ethnic Russian sources in retaliation for the removal of the statue.

For more information:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/29/technology/29estonia.html?ex=1181102400&en=5ba60a7a1f332d46&ei=5040&partner=MOREOVERNEWS>

4 Accused of Plot to Blow Up Facilities at Kennedy Airport

Four men, including a onetime airport cargo handler and a former member of the Parliament of Guyana, were charged June 2 with plotting to blow up fuel tanks, terminal buildings and the web of fuel lines running beneath Kennedy International Airport. One of the suspects was taken into custody in Brooklyn and two others were detained in Trinidad, the authorities said, while the fourth man was still at large. One defendant, the former cargo handler, Russell Defreitas, is a 63-year-old Guyanese native and naturalized American citizen who lives in Brooklyn. Abdul Kadir, 55, a former mayor of a town in Guyana and a onetime member of Parliament and a third suspect, Kareem Ibrahim, 61, were arrested in Trinidad June 1. The fourth suspect, Abdel Nur, 57, remained a fugitive, the officials said, and was believed to be in Trinidad

Officials said the motive behind the planned attack “was a pattern of hatred toward the United States and the West in general.” They said the men had also traveled repeatedly to Guyana and Trinidad in recent months, seeking the blessing and financial backing of an extremist Muslim group based in Trinidad and Tobago called Jamaat al-Muslimeen, which was behind a bloody coup attempt in Trinidad in 1990. Comparing the case with the plot in which a group of men

were arrested last month on charges of planning to attack soldiers at Fort Dix in New Jersey, the official said the New Jersey plotters “were a bit further along.” Though the New York area has been the subject of several terrorist plots, Police Commissioner Kelly said this one was different because it was largely developed in the Caribbean.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/03/nyregion/03plot.html?th&emc=th>

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/06/04/jfk.plot.ap/index.html>

Spain: in the Forefront of the War on Terrorism

Sixteen men, fourteen Moroccan and two Algerian citizens were arrested in Spain on May 28, on suspicion of having close links with Islamist terrorist groups. According to the police, they were part of a web of jihadist recruiters. Allegedly, after indoctrinating the recruited young men, they were sent to locations such as Iraq or Afghanistan. The detentions were the result of more than a year of investigations and of relevant international cooperation.

One of the most prominent models of sound international cooperation in the fight against terrorism is represented by Spain and France’s joint efforts, not only against jihadist terrorism, but also against the Basque terrorist group ETA. As part of these efforts, on May 24, a new joint law enforcement team was presented in Paris. The team aims at contributing to the on-going investigations on ETA’s bombings against the airport of Madrid on December 30, 2006 that killed two people. This is the seventh time that Spain and France have had a successful experience in creating one of these joint teams in their fight against ETA’s terrorist activities. The swift and smooth exchange of counter-terrorism information is one of the greatest advantages of these joint teams.

For more information:

<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2007/05/25/espana/1180104645.html?a=517c30d7e0b26770bf7e792978a9296e&t=1180127198>

<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2007/05/28/espana/1180334708.html>