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CICTE Newsletter 46

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

OAS Advances on Computer Security Incident Response Teams

In the last year, several OAS Member States have made significant progress in complying with their commitments under the 2004 OAS Comprehensive Inter-American Strategy to Combat Threats to Cyber Security, especially in establishing a national Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT). These CSIRTs function as a “watch and warning alert system” against attacks by persons who attempt to subvert the internet and computer systems for personal or ideological advantage. Today, 12 OAS Member States have established a national CSIRT and designated the personnel essential for the reduction of vulnerabilities to attacks: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Suriname, United States of America, and Uruguay. Other OAS Member States have legislation pending and will soon join this network. Recent cyber attacks, widely publicized in the news, emphasize the importance of combating this emerging new threat. The CICTE Secretariat focuses its capacity building activities on helping countries establish CSIRTs and train their formally designated personnel for managing and operating them. The OAS telecommunications committee (CITEL) works on general communications and cyber issues. A working group of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice (REMJA) works on cyber crime. All three OAS entities coordinate their activities to assist Member States.

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CICTE’S First Cyber Security Program CSIRT Training Course held in Brazil

The CICTE Secretariat organized its first training course June 25-29 in Brasilia, Brazil, on the Creation and Management of CSIRTs. Forty-three officials from the formally designated CSIRTs in Member States attended the course, which was funded by the Government of Canada and conducted by experts of the Government of Brazil with in-kind contributions from the Brazilian Intelligence Agency (ABIN) and the Department of Information Security and Communications (DSIC) at ABIN’s facilities. The training addressed the required steps for the

creation and management of a national CSIRT and the adoption of protection measures to prevent, deter, neutralize and mitigate effects of deliberate or other actions against critical cyber infrastructure. The goal was to strengthen OAS Member States' capacity to respond to such actions in a timely and effective manner.

Next Steps: The course helped to consolidate intergovernmental and interagency partnerships and to promote creation of an eventual hemispheric network of CSIRTs through the establishment of a centralized server and CSIRT LISTSERV, in compliance with the OAS Strategy. In addition, participants signed the *Charter of Brasilia* (calling for technical exchange of information and best practices among the participants). Argentina, Guatemala and Uruguay expressed interest in hosting future meetings. The CICTE Secretariat and the US Secret Service hope to offer another training course in Miami in October or November, focusing on the 22 OAS Member States that have not yet established their national CSIRT. The Secretariat is actively seeking other partners for future coordination, including in the private sector.

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OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnership

At the initiative of the Russian Federation and the United States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) organized a high-level political conference on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Vienna, Austria, May 31 to June 1: "Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism." The Conference was attended by more than 300 participants from 58 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, as well as representatives from 20 International Organizations and some 40 NGOs and Businesses. The conference addressed the important subject of how the forces of state authorities, civil society and the business community can be combined to combat terrorism. The discussions focused on issues such as underlying factors conducive to terrorism, media-related aspects, protection of critical infrastructures and countering the financing of terrorism. Stressing that the primary responsibility for counter terrorism rests with states, participants noted, however, that states alone cannot be successful in all relevant areas without the deployment of all elements of national power via joint efforts of state authorities, the business community and civil society as a whole. One of the key terms that resonated throughout the Conference was that such partnerships need to be based upon the principles of voluntary co-operation and mutual trust. It was acknowledged that enhanced public-private co-operation demands better information-sharing mechanisms and the active dissemination of best practices.

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OSCE Counter Terrorism Practitioners Roundtable

The Anti Terrorism Unit of OSCE, organized the *2007 Working Level Counter-Terrorism Regional and Select Sub-Regional Organizations*, with support provided by the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania in Vilnius, Lithuania. The event represents a follow-up to the first such roundtable, held last year in Copenhagen, Denmark. The first day of the event brought together representatives from 10 of the world's leading regional and sub-regional organizations. On the second day, they were joined by representatives from 6 international organizations and UN Offices. Complementing various higher-level meetings of regional and international organizations, the roundtable made a concrete contribution towards enhanced co-operation and coordination in combating terrorism by giving counter-terrorism practitioners an opportunity to network as well as to discuss the substance of their work, including practical matters such as project and program implementation. Deliberations on the first day, which was open to regional and sub-regional organizations and counter-terrorism centers only, were particularly frank. Participants discussed their counter-terrorism programs, organizational development including funding and budget situations. In addition to learning about actions other organizations are taking in the counter-terrorism area, they also obtained a better idea how these were being implemented, whether they were successful or not and why. In order to further facilitate networking and the timely exchange of information an e-mail group has been set up for the circulation of counter-terrorism related information.

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UN 1540 Committee Workshop in Jamaica

The United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) held a two-day workshop from 29-31 May, 2007 at the Pegasus Hotel Kingston, Jamaica, on technical assistance to Caribbean countries to help them comply with the requirements of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. This workshop was funded by the European Union and the governments of Canada and Norway and was attended by the representatives from the English speaking Caribbean countries, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Organizations participating in this workshop included the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Organization for Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the governments of United States of America, Germany, Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. The CICTE Secretariat chaired one of the panel discussions.

LACNIC X 2007 – Conference on Internet Development and Stability

The X Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC X) was held in Isla de Margarita, Venezuela, from May 21 to 25, 2007, mainly focused on the development and stability of Internet within the region. LACNIC X was hosted by the National Centre of Information Technologies (CNTI) of Venezuela. LACNIC's target audience is broad, including among others, governments, Internet service providers and operators, regulatory bodies, academic networks, civil society representatives and professionals from the telecommunications industry in general. LACNIC X concluded with decisions on concrete actions, including definition of policies to define policies for distributing Internet resources within the region— such as regional interconnection project initiatives—and the creation of working groups to provide information on developments. The CICTE Secretariat was invited to

participate and gave a presentation on its Cyber Security Program, at LACNIC's X Network Security Forum.

LACNIC is one of five NGOs managing Internet resources worldwide and covers all of Latin America and the southernmost Caribbean, including Trinidad and Tobago and the Dutch Antilles. ARIN (the American Region for Internet Numbers) covers North America and most of the English-speaking Caribbean. These NGOs contribute promote collaboration and cooperation opportunities to benefit the regional Internet community.

Guyana Ratifies Inter-American Convention against Terrorism

On June 5, Guyana became the 23rd OAS Member State to become Party to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism which had been adopted in June 2002. Minister of Foreign Affairs Rudy Insanally assured that there was no connection between Guyana and the alleged plot against the JFK Airport in New York. He told the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly in Panama City, Panama that the authorities are working with the relevant agencies to clarify those issues. Insanally delivered to OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza, Guyana's ratification instruments for the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism during a ceremony held against the backdrop of the organization's 37th General Assembly session. Insanally stressed that joining the treaty "reflects the commitment of my government to the fight against terrorism. Unfortunately, terrorism has now become the plague of the twenty-first century." He said Guyana "utterly condemns the practice because we don't believe that violence solves anything." Under the Charter of the UN and under the OAS Charter, he stated further, "we are committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes." He also said that Guyana "will work with the United Nations and the OAS to strengthen our hemisphere against the insidious threat of terrorism."

Insulza applauded Guyana's ratification of the convention, noting that although some countries have yet to ratify, "all the states in the region have been cooperating very strongly in the fight against terrorism." He said that a great deal of progress has been made in such areas as port security and personnel training, among other related activities. He urged those states that have not yet done so to ratify the convention as soon as possible.

For more information: http://www.oas.org/OASpage/press_releases/press_release.asp?sCodigo=GA-22-07

G-8 Summit Statement on Counter-Terrorism

Through the final statement adopted on Friday, June 8, at the summit held in Heiligendamm (Germany), G8 countries committed themselves to strengthen their cooperation when fighting terrorism. Furthermore, G8 countries pledged "to do everything in our power to counter the conditions that terrorists exploit, to keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of terrorists, to protect critical transport and energy infrastructures, to combat the financing of terrorism and illicit procurement networks, and to remain watchful of the ways that terrorists and criminals exploit modern communication and information technologies."

The statement emphasizes the central role of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism, and "warmly welcomes" the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy,

adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 2006, thereby explicitly reminding the need for all UN Member States to implement the universal legal instruments against terrorism. The statement also addresses other key issues such as “terrorist and criminal abuse of modern communication and information technology”—recruitment, propaganda, networks, etc.—; the protection of critical energy infrastructure—assessing vulnerabilities and effectively responding to them—; the improvement of transport security—for all major means of transport, to avoid strikes at transport networks indispensable to global commerce, tourism and other kinds of international contacts—; countering terrorist radicalization and recruitment—addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism—; countering cash smuggling used to finance terrorism and violent extremism; preventing nuclear terrorism; engaging the private sector in countering terrorism—Strategy for Partnerships between Governments and Businesses to Counter Terrorism—; countering terrorism in the Afghanistan and Pakistan border regions; and reaffirming human rights and the rule of law principles when countering terrorism.

For more information: http://www.g-8.de/nsc_true/Content/EN/Artikel/_g8-summit/anlagen/ct-statement-final.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/ct-statement-final

Specialized Training in the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism held in Chile

The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (TPB/UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat co-organized, in conjunction with the Government of the Republic of Chile, a “Specialized Training in the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism and its Financing: Legal Framework and International Cooperation Instruments”, held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Santiago, Chile, from June 11-14, 2007. The main aim of this workshop was to strengthen, from a legal perspective, Chile’s national capabilities in combating terrorism and its financing. The course drew on the expertise of international experts from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Spain, and the United States. The audience was composed of prosecutors, judges, police officers, and officials from the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Justice, the Banking national monitoring body, intelligence agencies, immigration and customs agencies, and other law enforcement related bodies of the Government of Chile. In addition to promoting an exchange of experiences, the training addressed issues such as the implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, the financing of terrorism, and international cooperation on these matters. In addition, it dealt with transnational organized crime and related legal instruments. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Relations and Homeland Security of Chile opened the course.

RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE 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 25-28: UNODC/CICTE Legislative Technical Assistance Mission, Quito, Ecuador.
- 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).

Upcoming Events

- July 9-13: TSA Aviation Crisis Management Training 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 Aviation 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 3: Document Security and Fraud Prevention Training, 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.
- August 7 – 17: TSA Aviation Security Training in Georgetown, Guyana.
- August 13-17: TSA Crisis Management Training in Bogota, Colombia.
- August 13-17: CICTE/UNODC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission. Paramaribo, Suriname.
- August 20-30: TSA Aviation Security Training in Grenada.
- 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

9 killed in Yemen bombing

A suspected al Qaeda suicide bomber plowed his car Monday, July 2, into a group of Spanish tourists visiting a temple linked to the ancient Queen of Sheba, killing seven Spaniards and two Yemenis in a part of Yemen known for its lawlessness. The attack came less than two weeks after the U.S. Embassy warned Americans to avoid the area, which until recent years was rarely visited by tourists because of frequent kidnappings of foreigners. Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos said the attacker drove into the middle of a convoy transporting the Spanish tourists, killing seven and wounding five. Two Yemenis also died, according to Yemen's Interior Ministry.

For more information: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070702/NEWS07/70702044>

UN Secretary-General hails new agreement to defeat nuclear terrorism

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has welcomed the start of a new international treaty which aims preventing acts of nuclear terrorism, bring perpetrators to justice and promote cooperation among countries. Ban's spokesperson issued a statement on Wednesday, June 13, after Bangladesh became the 22nd country to ratify or accede to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, allowing it to enter into force on July 7, almost two years after it was adopted by UN Member States. Ban “congratulates the States that have already ratified or acceded to the Convention for making it possible for it to enter into force with such speed,” his spokesperson said. Calling nuclear terrorism “one of the most serious threats of our time,” he observed that “even one such attack could inflict mass casualties and create immense suffering and unwanted change in the world forever.”

For more information:

http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10840&Itemid=2

Saudi Arrests 11 al-Qaeda Members

Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry announced that on Thursday, June 7th, it had arrested 11 al Qaeda members in the span of 48 hours who were responsible for financing and encouraging terrorism. Among the charges, the detainees are accused of recruiting youths via the internet, encouraging attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities, and producing media publications for the al Qaeda terror network. A principal goal of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has been to bring down the Saudi monarchy, and that has been one of the key motivational factors leading the Saudi authorities to keep tabs on the terror network.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/06/07/saudi.arrest/index.html>

'Kill Americans' plot: Syrian held

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York has indicted a Syrian-born detainee, Monzer al Kassar, over the charges of “conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist organization, conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens and officials, and conspiracy to acquire and use an anti-aircraft missile”. Kassar, along with two other men, was arrested by the Spanish and Romanian police force when landing in Madrid's Barajas airport on June 11th, 2007. According to U.S. authorities, the detainee has a long career of drug trafficking and money laundering and has provided weapons and military equipment to armed factions -- including known terrorist organizations, such as the Palestinian Liberation Front -- in Nicaragua, Cyprus, Bosnia, Croatia, Iran, Iraq, Somalia and elsewhere. Nonetheless, it is believed that Kassar’s most recent buyer-target was the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), a leftist guerrilla who has fought for more than three decades against the Colombian government. Tens of thousands of people have died in the conflict, and the U.S. classifies the FARC as a terrorist group.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/06/08/spain.terror/index.html>

A cyberattack turns more than 11.000 'webs' into possible virus

A cyber attack has managed to turn 11.179 webs into tools to infect the machines of the Net users who visit them. Spain is the second country, after Italy, to be harmed the most by this attack. Last night, one of the servers that hold the program used for the contagion had been neutralized. The server was in the North American State of Virginia. Experts calculate that slightly more than 6 % of the Spanish Net users who visit these pages will be infected by a malicious program (malware) that will take remotely possession of the computer. The attack has consisted of placing a linkage in the webs link to a server that lodges a program MPack. “MPack identifies it and makes use of the mistakes of the navigator of the visitor to install a trojans in his computer”, tells Jorge Ortiz, expert in safety of HP. Neither the person in charge of the attacked web nor the owner of the infected computer warn the problem. The trojans are malware that stay in the computer and allow for external control of the same to obtain information or to use it remotely without the host warning of the situation.

Anti-terrorism Convention enters into force

Following the announcement, on 1 June 2007, that the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism has entered into force, Council of Europe Secretary-General Terry Davis said: “This new weapon provides a robust and effective response to the threat of terrorism. It allows our governments to act early and effectively to stop terrorists before they can carry out their attacks.” The Convention is the first international treaty to establish as criminal offences several activities which may lead to acts of terrorism, such as incitement, recruitment and training. It also reinforces international co-operation in the prevention of terrorism by modifying existing arrangements for extradition and mutual assistance. The Convention was opened for signature at the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Warsaw in May 2005. It has served as a precursor to counter-terrorism efforts at the global level and was followed by the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005), which echoes the Council of Europe's approach to the fight against terrorism. To date (June 2007), it has been signed by 39 countries, and ratified by seven: Albania, Bulgaria, Denmark, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine.

For more information: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/security/anti-terrorism-convention-enters-force/article-164238>

The House of Representatives of Argentina passes counter-terrorism legislation

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Argentina passed on Wednesday, June 13, a draft law tabled by the Executive branch that aims to counter terrorism activities and also its financing. The Act—only its enactment and publication are still pending—is the result of a request from the United States and, to a large measure, of the pressure exerted by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF – GAFI), which will meet in Paris on June 27. The FATF threatened to publicly declare that Argentina is not a safe country in matters related to

the financing of terrorism. Representative Rosario Romero, from Nestor Kirchner's "Justicialista Party," who is part of the Criminal Law Commission, explained that the main point of this legislation—which modifies the Criminal Code—was the issue related to the financing of terrorist acts. Moreover, she denied that this legislation could be used to suppress political or social protests in the country, one of the concerns expressed by human rights organizations.

For more information: <http://www.clarin.com/diario/2007/06/14/elpais/p-00801.htm>

Spotlight on Trinidad and Tobago's Jamaat al-Muslimeen

In an article published on June 21, 2007 (Terrorism Monitor, Volume 5, Issue 12), expert Chris Zambelis analyzes the ties of the suspected Islamist extremists, who allegedly plotted to attack J.F.Kennedy International Airport, to Trinidad and Tobago's Jamaat al-Muslimeen (Muslim Association, JAM), a radical Islamist group with a history of political militancy and violence. Mr. Zambelis argues that the authorities in the United States and the Caribbean need to remain vigilant regarding the threat of terrorism in the region, although "the alleged JFK plot appears to be an isolated incident concocted by a group of aging amateurs who may have harbored some aspirations to act out their grievances through violence, but boasted little in terms of operational capabilities and resources". Nevertheless, Mr. Zambelis concludes that due to certain security issues "the region [is] susceptible to terrorist infiltration".

For more information: <http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2373482>

Bombing kills 2 in Colombia's most violent city

A bomb ripped through a popular beach on Sunday, June 24, killing two, including a 2-year-old, outside a Colombian city shaken by a series of recent bombings. Authorities said explosives were hidden in a tractor that was used to transport revelers on the beaches of Juanchaco near the Pacific Coast city of Buenaventura, Colombia's largest port and a major exit point for drugs leaving the country. A wave of bombings across Buenaventura that authorities blame on leftist rebels left 23 people injured on Friday, June 22. A naval spokesman who asked not to be named for security reasons said five wounded in Sunday's blast were being treated in a nearby military hospital. The attack took place despite increased patrols over the weekend in Buenaventura, where the mayor has declared a nighttime curfew. The defense minister is coming to oversee the response by security forces. It was not clear who was responsible for Sunday's bombing. Authorities blamed the previous bombings on rebels seeking revenge for the recent killing by the navy of a regional guerrilla commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the nation's largest rebel [terrorist] group.

For more information: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-06-24-colombia-bomb_N.htm
http://www.semana.com/wf_InfoArticulo.aspx?IdArt=104682

E.U., U.S. Reach Deal on Banking and Passenger Data

On Wednesday, June 27th, the U.S and the European Union reached provisional agreements that will strengthen their mutual efforts to guarantee higher security levels in the western

hemisphere. Both compromises are relevant and symbolic, since they deal with issues that have troubled the EU-US relations for a considerable amount of time. Since 9/11, Washington's anti-terrorism efforts have created concern among EU legislators and privacy rights groups that "criticized U.S. methods and called for better privacy safeguards."

Top EU and U.S. officials reached agreement on the transfer to the United States of private data on transatlantic air passengers and also approved arrangements setting conditions for the U.S. Treasury Department to consult records of the international banking network SWIFT in anti-terrorism investigations. Under the deal backed by EU ambassadors, the United States can only use SWIFT data for counter-terrorism purposes and keep it for a maximum of five years. Also, a European official will be appointed to monitor how the data is used. Regarding the passenger data, under the draft agreement, the 34 types of data now transferred would be reduced to 19. The United States would be able to keep the data for up to seven years. It would be able to store the data for an additional eight years but could access it only under stricter conditions.

For more information visit: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/27/AR2007062700375.html>, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/27/AR2007062701665.html>

British press fears wave of terrorism

Images of a blazing car at the entrance of the terminal building at Glasgow airport were splashed across the front pages of Britain's Sunday papers, with many warning that Britain is under attack from a new wave of terrorism. The **Sunday Mirror** published dramatic pictures of a burning man trying to ignite explosives in the vehicle while being sprayed with water by an off-duty policeman. **The News of the World** had a picture of a "hero" police officer pinning down a smoldering bomber. The **Sunday Telegraph** newspaper said Britain was feared to be under terrorist attack for the third time in 36 hours after the attack, and following the discovery of two cars packed with explosive material and nails in London. In an editorial, **The Sunday Times** newspaper says London and Glasgow appeared to have had a lucky escape.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/07/01/ukterror.press/index.html>