



# Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Organization of American States (OAS)

## COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

### Eighth Regular Session of CICTE



The Eighth Regular Session of CICTE took place March 5-7, 2008, at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The agenda included an in-depth focus with expert presentations on three substantive topics: cyber security, document security and fraud prevention, and port security--trade and safe transportation. The experts included the Cyber Terrorism Unit of the Civil Guard of Spain, ICAO, INTERPOL, the Vice-chair of the Maritime Security Working Group of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Northrop Grumman Corporation, and an advisor to the National Security Council of Panama, as well as the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council and the OAS Secretary for Multidimensional Security.

Peru was elected Chair of CICTE and the Peruvian Minister of Defense Antero Flores-Araoz took over leadership for 2008 to 2009. The Deputy Attorney General of Mexico, José Luís Santiago Vasconcelos, accepted the Vice Chair for his country. The Member States adopted the "Declaration: Reaffirmation of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fighting Terrorism."

Two important meetings took place outside of the formal CICTE VIII proceedings. First, government experts met to evaluate CICTE's Pilot Project for Security in Tourism and Recreational Facilities on March 4 prior to CICTE VIII. Second, the Sixth Meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE was held on the morning of March 5 and focused on the topic of Terrorism Financing Legislation, with an expert presentation by UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch.

For more information see [www.cicte.oas.org](http://www.cicte.oas.org)



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### Highlights:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <a href="#">Editorial</a>  | 2  |
| <a href="#">OAS Secretary General will implement a mechanism to restore confi-</a>                   | 3  |
| <a href="#">Seminar on Assistance to Victims of Terrorism and other Violent Crimes</a>               | 4  |
| <a href="#">International Seminar on</a>   | 5  |
| <a href="#">Council of Europe News</a>   | 6  |
| <a href="#">CICTE Approves Expansion of Security Program for Tourism and Recreational Facilities</a> | 7  |
| <a href="#">NATO to strengthen cyber defense role</a>  | 8  |
| <a href="#">RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS</a>  | 9  |
| <a href="#">UPCOMING EVENTS</a>  | 10 |
| <a href="#">Government warns of terror threat to trains</a>  | 11 |
| <a href="#">Suspicious Operations Under Investigation</a>  | 12 |
| <a href="#">Apparent FARC cash uncovered in Costa Rica</a>   | 13 |
| <a href="#">Contact us</a>   | 14 |

## **Editorial**

### **INTERVENTION OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF PERU, HIS EXCELLENCY ANTERO FLORES- ARAOZ AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF CICTE 5 MARCH 2008**



On the international stage, our countries are active participants in the globalization of production, trade, financial trends, the digital revolution in communications, as well as in the dissemination of shared values such as promoting democracy and the protection of human rights.

On the other hand, we also take notice that the world is fragmenting due to social inequality, the proliferation of civil wars, the collapse of states, genocide, terrorism, international crime and to the degradation of the environment.

Our challenge is to mold the simultaneous processes of globalization and fragmentation in a way that, in our region and in our countries, they unfold with more justice and equality and with more prosperity and security.

The hope for peace is no longer the absence of armed international conflicts. We are now conscious of the fact that it is essential to eradicate all forms of violence and to build bases for dialogue and for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Societies around the world have seen how old scourges such as terrorism have reached new levels that transform them into threats to world peace and security. Terrorists groups also take their criminal activity in new directions, with methods of violence and destruction that overrun national boundaries and threaten all states without distinction, constantly searching for new illegal sources of financing.

Recent experience indicates that states, regardless of their geographic location or economic wealth or development, are vulnerable to terrorism and its consequences. That experience also indicates that terrorist acts not only threaten the territorial integrity and security of the states, but also destabilize legitimately elected governments and undermine the social and economic development of the states.

That is why cooperation in collective, multilateral action against terrorism is more necessary today than ever before. In that sense, as our countries have done already in the midst of the United Nations, we must reemphasize our unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and expressions because these are acts carried out with the purpose of destroying human rights, fundamental liberties and democracy.

Let us be clear: no end justifies intentional attacks on civilians and non-combatants. Terrorist acts are a violation of the right to life, to liberty, to security, to well being and to the right to live without fear.

Given the threats facing our region, Peru would like the OAS to strengthen its prevention and control role in order to help improve regional security.

Our organization must increasingly play a central role in coordinating the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, activities that tend to become interrelated.

In that sense, CICTE must become the regional forum to exchange best practices and lessons learned with regard to establishing expertise in the states, as well as facilitating inter-American cooperation in specific areas such as: i) the protection of critical infrastructure; ii) control and prosecution of terrorism financing, including the so called "cash courier"; iii) cyber security; iv) the security of recreation and tourist sites; v) preventing terrorists from acquiring biological, chemical, or nuclear materials; and, vi) improving border security and security measures regarding travel documents.

## **COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES**

### **OAS Secretary General will implement a mechanism to restore confidence between Ecuador and Colombia**

The hemisphere's Foreign Affairs Ministers concluded their 25th Meeting of Consultation at the Organization of American States in Washington early morning March 18 with a resolution instructing the organization's Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, to use his good offices to implement a mechanism to restore a climate of confidence between Ecuador and Colombia. The Secretary General stated that the resolution from the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs "has a pro-active component underscored in operative paragraph 7, with reference to the creation of a mechanism for observation, which, as concerns the incident, is one way of ensuring follow-up of the decisions taken at the meeting, and that generates confidence in both countries that were involved in the crisis we have resolved tonight."



Convocation for the Meeting of Consultation was issued on March 5 during a lengthy meeting of the OAS Permanent Council which, among other things, called for a Commission, headed by the Secretary General, to draft a report on the events of March 1st. Operative paragraph 8 of the resolution expresses appreciation for work undertaken by the Commission that visited the scene of the incidents, noting in particular the efforts of the Secretary General; Permanent Council Chairman Ambassador Cornelius A. Smith of the Bahamas; and Ambassadors Rodolfo Gil, of Argentina; Osmar Chohfi, of Brazil; Aristides Royo, of Panama; and María Zavala, of Peru. The group of diplomats visited Ecuador and Colombia March 8 through 12 to verify the facts of the March 1st incidents.

In their resolution, the Foreign Ministers furthermore decided to "reject the incursion by Colombian military forces and police personnel into the territory of Ecuador, in the Province of Sucumbíos, on March 1, 2008, carried out without the knowledge or prior consent of the Government of Ecuador, since it was a clear violation of Articles 19 and 21 of the OAS Charter." Taking note of Colombia's "full apology" for the events that occurred as well as the country's pledge that they would not be repeated under any circumstances, the resolution reiterates the firm commitment of all member states "to combat threats to security caused by the actions of irregular groups or criminal organizations, especially those associated with drug trafficking." For more information [click here](#).

### **APEC/OAS Port Security Cooperation**

In an example of international partnership, the Maritime Security Working Group of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Secretariat of OAS/CICTE cooperated in sending six port security experts from Peru to a "train the trainers" workshop at the U.S. Coast Guard training facility in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, March 17-19, 2008. The objective was to help strengthen the port security capacity of the Government of Peru in preparation for two major international meetings in 2008, including the APEC Summit in August. The workshop included briefings on the Incident Command System, best practices for auditing Port Facility Security Plans and development of effective drills and exercise programs, and participation in an emergency response table top exercise. The training concluded with a visit to several nearby port facilities to observe and learn about each of their best security practices. At APEC's request, the CICTE Secretariat provided advance funding and logistical arrangements for the Peruvians on a reimbursable basis with APEC. More joint projects may follow this model in the future.

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## Seminar on Assistance to Victims of Terrorism and other Violent Crimes



From February 25 to 28, 2008, Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Ministry of the Interior co-organized a seminar on Assistance to Victims of Terrorism and other Violent Crimes" in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The main objective of the Seminar was to exchange international, regional and national experiences with relevant officials from across the Latin-American region on how to deal with victims of terrorism and other violent crimes, as well as to raise awareness on the importance of the issue when fighting against terrorism. The Attorney General of Colombia, Mr. Mario Iguarán, opened the Seminar, which also had the participation of other relevant authorities such as the Ombudsman of Spain, Mr. Enrique Múgica, as well as representatives from UNICRI and the Council of Europe. The CICTE Secretariat also participated as observer."

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## Legislative Technical Assistance Mission to Guatemala

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the CICTE Secretariat, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, undertook a joint Follow-up Legislative Technical Assistance Mission to the City of Guatemala, Guatemala, on March 11 and 12. The main goal of the mission was to continue providing legislative assistance and follow-up on the drafting of a new counter-terrorism law that is currently under study in Guatemala.

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## THE UN GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

### UN Working Group on Protection of Vulnerable Targets

Following adoption by the UN General Assembly of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September 2006, the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) of 24 UN agencies and International Organizations was created to "ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system." On March 17-18, UNICRI chaired at its headquarters in Turin, Italy, the second brainstorming session of the UN CTITF Working Group on Public-private partnerships (PPP) for the Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks. Convened under the auspices of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Working Group focuses on vulnerable targets in the crowded space category, including, *inter alia*, parks and markets, tourist and recreational facilities, and financial, cultural, religious or historical centers. Approximately 30 representatives from public and private sector organizations worldwide, including representatives of the CICTE Secretariat and OSCE, shared ideas on model projects in their countries, best practices, and strategies for promoting PPPs. The two brainstorming meetings have produced a number of PPP basic principles and recommendations for further research and testing of best practices and tools developed. Key recommendations included UNICRI testing the PPP "toolkit" over an extended period in a developing country and observing how certain principles can be applied through smaller events organized by its various partners. As a research institution, UNICRI is well placed to bring together appropriate sectors of society to help forge PPPs, even where none have existed before. For more information: Dr. Carol Fuller, [cfuller@oas.org](mailto:cfuller@oas.org)



### International Seminar on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic hosted the Second Workshop in the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation on March 17-18 in Bratislava with the support of the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation: "Engaging with Regional, Sub-Regional and Functional bodies and Civil Society on Implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy." The focus was to assess the UN engagement with regional, sub-regional and functional bodies and civil society on implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and on identifying ways and recommendations to make its institutions more relevant to national counter-terrorism strategies. Some 60 experts representing states, multilateral bodies, and civil society from around the world engaged in a frank discussion of the role that these stakeholders could play in furthering the implementation of the UN Strategy and what steps the UN, in particular its Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), might take to stimulate this engagement. There was broad agreement that functional, regional, and sub-regional bodies, civil society and other stakeholders have essential roles to play in furthering the implementation of the UN Strategy, but that their potential in this area has yet to be realized. It was emphasized that global counter-terrorism efforts can only be effective if all relevant stakeholders are involved and if the different needs and realities of each region are reflected in efforts to promote implementation of the UN Strategy. Throughout the course of the workshop, a number of concrete proposals were offered on ways to deepen Task Force engagement. For more information: Mr. Pablo Martínez, [pmartinez@oas.org](mailto:pmartinez@oas.org)



### UN Security Council Extends Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate's Mandate Until End of 2010

On 19 March 2008, the UN Security Council unanimously voted in Resolution 1805 to extend the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which is tasked with monitoring the efforts of countries to combat the global scourge of terrorism, until the end of 2010. The Security Council agreed to conduct an interim review by 30 June 2009 and a comprehensive look at the work of CTED prior to the mandate's expiration. CTED Executive Director Mike Smith told the Council that considerable progress has been made worldwide in the fight against terrorism, including the endorsement of important treaties and the sharing of information between law enforcement agencies. He said that Resolution 1373 (2001) is as relevant today as it was when it was adopted nearly seven years ago, and that most countries in the world have now criminalized terrorism." He noted that today the Counter-Terrorism Committee tended to spend less time establishing whether countries had put appropriate legislation and counter-terrorism machinery in place, and more time evaluating the effectiveness of their border-control arrangements, counter-terrorism coordination machinery and law-enforcement capabilities. CTED is close to finalizing the 192 preliminary implementation assessments (PIA), one for each United Nations Member State. The principal organizational change to CTED was the establishment within its Assessment and Technical Assistance Office of five cross-cutting function groups in the areas of technical assistance; terrorist financing; border control, arms trafficking and law enforcement; general legal issues; and issues raised by resolution 1624 (2005) and human rights aspects of counter-terrorism. The groups had been meeting regularly and were already producing useful revisions of strategy in the case of the technical assistance group, and revised criteria for harmonizing technical judgments about the implementation of particular elements of resolution 1373 (2001) in the case of the other groups. The Council urged CTED to strengthen its role in facilitating technical assistance for the resolution's implementation with the aim of increasing Member States' capabilities in the fight against terrorism. The Council also urged the Directorate to intensify cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. For more information [click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS

For information on this section see [www.coe.int/gmt](http://www.coe.int/gmt)

### 1. Terrorism and Human Rights

The CoE Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Human Rights and Legal Affairs adopted a Resolution calling upon the EU to include the human rights clause from the CoE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism alongside the Convention's offences in its revision of the EU Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism. In this connection, CoE Parliamentary Assembly member Dick Marty and CoE Anti-Terrorism Coordinator, Rafael Benitez will attend a hearing by the European Parliament Civil Liberties Committee in Brussels, 7 April 2008. See also the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation and Report on "the UN Security Council and EU Blacklists" at [www.assembly.coe.int/documents/adoptedtext/ta08/erec1824.htm](http://www.assembly.coe.int/documents/adoptedtext/ta08/erec1824.htm) and the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights' viewpoints on Human Rights and Terrorism at [www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/Default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/Default_en.asp)

### 2. Cyberterrorism and use of Internet for terrorist purposes

The CoE Committee of Experts on Terrorism (**CODEXTER**) released a new **database** on the situation in member and observer states at [www.coe.int/gmt](http://www.coe.int/gmt). See also details of the CoE international conference on cybercrime, including cyberterrorism and use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, in Strasbourg, 1-2 April 2008 at [www.coe.int/cybercrime](http://www.coe.int/cybercrime).

### 3. CODEXTER

At its next meeting, CODEXTER will also conduct a review on the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy with a view to the formal review by the UN General Assembly in New York, September 2008. CODEXTER will discuss practical implementation of the CoE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, in particular its offences on *Incitement* and *Recruitment* bearing in mind developments at national level.

### 4. Upcoming meetings

- CoE: 14th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), Strasbourg, 7-9 April 2008 – [www.coe.int/gmt](http://www.coe.int/gmt)
- Joint CoE-OSCE-UNODC Workshop on Enhancing International Legal Co-operation related to Terrorism, including the Drafting of Requests for Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance, Ankara (Turkey), 1-2 April 2008
- CoE: Octopus Interface Conference on cybercrime including cyberterrorism and use Internet for terrorist purposes, Strasbourg, 1-2 April 2008 - [www.coe.int/cybercrime](http://www.coe.int/cybercrime).
- CoE: 26th meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), Strasbourg, 31 March-4 April 2008 - [www.coe.int/moneyval](http://www.coe.int/moneyval).



## Diplomatic Security Helps Colombian Police Bust Visa Counterfeiting, Human Trafficking Rings

Two joint investigations conducted by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) and Colombian police have shut down criminal syndicates involved in human smuggling and the sale of counterfeit U.S. visas. On Feb. 26, 2008, Colombian police arrested five individuals in Bogotá on charges of document and credit card counterfeiting. During a raid on the suspects' office, police seized a large cache of counterfeit documents, including bogus U.S. and Canadian visas, credit cards, bank checks, and Colombian police and military identification cards. "Counterfeit or fraudulently obtained passports and visas are potential threats to the national security of the United States. Foreign nationals who have acquired passports and visas fraudulently or counterfeit travel documents to enter the United States could perpetrate further illegal acts, including terrorism," said Charlene Lamb, Acting Director of the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service. Additional investigative support was provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which was essential to the success of the investigation. For more information [click here](#).

## Updated Field Reference for OSCE anti-terrorism efforts

The OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) has published an updated version of the *Field Reference for OSCE anti-terrorism efforts*. The document aims to inform not only OSCE field personnel but also offices, Institutions, and interested international organizations of OSCE commitments, projects and programmes related to the prevention and combating of terrorism. The Reference also provides strategic planning guidelines for OSCE personnel to use as an aid in conceptualizing, planning and implementing activities within the general scope of OSCE anti-terrorism goals. An online version of the document is available [here](#).

## Regional Seminar on Security for Major Events (Update)

From May 6-10, the Government of Spain, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the CICTE Secretariat, will convene a Regional Seminar in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on Security for Major Events. The event will take place under the umbrella of UNICRI's International Permanent Observatory (IPO) program on Security for Major Events and in particular the regional initiative IPO Americas, jointly implemented with the CICTE Secretariat. Eleven CICTE Member States have so far designated their National Focal Point (NFP) on Security for Major Events with the understanding that this new network will function as a sub-network of the CICTE National Points of Contacts (NPCs): Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St Vincent and the Grenadines. We look forward to receiving responses from the other Member States. For more information: Ms. Gillian Bristol, [gbristol@oas.org](mailto:gbristol@oas.org)

## CICTE Approves Expansion of Security Program for Tourism and Recreational Facilities

In 2005, CICTE began developing a program of technical support for the tourism and major events sectors. This program was executed as a Pilot Project between 2006 and 2007, utilizing the Caribbean countries that would host the ICC-CWC (International Cricket Council – Cricket World Cup) in March 2007 as the sample area. At the end of the project, CICTE requested that the Secretariat convene a Meeting of Experts to evaluate the results and make recommendations on the future scope and applicability of the program. The Meeting of Experts took place March 4, 2008, prior to CICTE VIII, with reports by the CICTE Secretariat, by two Member States which participated in the project (Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis), and two private sector firms, Atlantis Resort (Bahamas) and Jamaica Pegasus Hotel (Jamaica).

At the end of the day's proceedings, the experts recommended that CICTE "... continue providing technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, as appropriate, on the security of tourism and recreational facilities, taking into account the results of the Pilot Project and the Specific realities and needs of the tourism sector in the Member States." This recommendation is the successful culmination of three years' work of the Secretariat and allows for continued support to the Member States in this vital and growing area. For more information [click here](#) or Ms. Hayda Wallen, at [hwallen@oas.org](mailto:hwallen@oas.org).

## National Program Development Workshop

The CICTE Secretariat hosted a National Program Development Workshop in Airport Security in Barbados on March 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. The training was implemented by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and hosted by the International Transport Division of the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport, Barbados. This workshop focused on the managerial representatives of the various departments and agencies that comprise the National Aviation Security Committee. The discussions of the workshop covered the national security program, national legislation, oversight, the national security committee and program approval process based entirely on ICAO (International Civil Aviation) recommended practices. For more information: Hayda Wallen, [hwallen@oas.org](mailto:hwallen@oas.org)



## NATO to strengthen cyber defense role



The military alliance has agreed to set up a new body to coordinate responses to cyber attacks carried out against its members and gather intelligence to prevent them from happening in the future. It is expected that the move will be endorsed at the NATO summit which will take place in April in Bucharest, Romania. For more information [click here](#).



## RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

| Month | Days               | Event   | Venue                                 |
|-------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| March | March - May, 2008  | Port Security Training  | Jamaica & Guyana                      |
|       | Postponed TBD      | Aviation Security Crisis Management Training  | Georgetown, Guyana                    |
|       | 4, 2008            | Meeting of Experts to Evaluate the Results of the Pilot Project on Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security | Washington D.C, U.S.                  |
|       | 5, 2008            | Sixth Meeting of CICTE National Points of Contact   | Washington D.C, U.S.                  |
|       | 5 - 7, 2008        | Eighth Regular Session of CICTE   | Washington D.C, U.S.                  |
|       | 10 - 20,2008       | Port Security Training Needs Assessment   | The Bahamas                           |
|       | 10 - 14,2008       | International Organization on Migration (IOM) In country Assessment   | St. Lucia                             |
|       | 10-14,2008         | Aviation Security National Development Workshop   | Barbados                              |
|       | 11-12,2008         | Legislative Technical Assistance Mission--Follow-up. Organized by CICTE and UNODC                               | Guatemala City, Guatemala             |
|       | 17-18,2008         | Second Workshop in the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation                            | Bratislava, Slovakia                  |
|       | 17-18,2008         | UN CTITF Working Group on Vulnerable Targets  | Turin, Italy                          |
|       | 17-19,2008         | APEC Port Security Training for Peru by US Coast Guard  | Elizabeth City, North Carolina - U.S. |
|       | 31, 2008           | Discussion of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the Americas   | New York, United States               |
|       | 31 - April 3, 2008 | Specialized training for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officials (UNODC and CICTE)                    | San Salvador, El Salvador             |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

| Month | Days              | Event   | Venue                     |
|-------|-------------------|---|---------------------------|
| April | 1 - 2, 2008       | Conference against Cybercrime - Council of Europe   | Strasbourg, France        |
|       | 7-9, 2008         | 14th Council of Europe CODEXTER meeting   | Strasbourg, France        |
|       | 7-11, 2008        | Sub-regional Course on Cyber Security Awareness and the Creation and Management of a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) | Antigua, Guatemala        |
|       | 7-11, 2008        | Aviation Security Crisis Management Course  | Lima, Peru                |
|       | 10-14, 2008       | Aviation National Development Program Workshop  | Bridgetown, Barbados      |
|       | TBC               | Port Security Crisis Management Exercise  | Lima, Peru                |
| May   | 5-7, 2008         | Eighteenth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents   | Montreal, Canada          |
|       | 6-9, 2008         | Sub-regional Course on Cyber Security Awareness and the Creation and Management of a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) | Bogota, Colombia          |
|       | 26-Jun 3, 2008    | Aviation Security Basic Security Training   | Georgetown, Guyana        |
|       | 26 - 29, 2008     | Ministerial Conference, Legislative Assistance and Terrorist Financing. Organized by CICTE and UNODC.                                 | Panama City, Panama       |
| June  | June - July, 2008 | Port Security Follow on Training  | The Bahamas               |
|       | TBD               | Best Practices Workshop for Central America on Travel Document Security   | San Salvador, El Salvador |



## **NEWS**

### **Government warns of terror threat to trains**

In a bulletin released Friday, February 29, to U.S. law enforcement officials, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is warning of “continued strong terrorist interest” in targeting mass transit systems in the U.S. [The 10-page threat assessment](#), labeled “Unclassified/For Official Use Only” and obtained by NBC News, cautions that the “U.S. mass transit and passenger rail systems are vulnerable to terrorist attacks because they are accessible to large numbers of the public and are notoriously difficult to secure.” Previous rail attacks in Madrid, London and Mumbai “could inspire terrorists to conduct similar attacks in the United States,” the report adds. However, the authors of the intelligence analysis make clear that there are no known, immediate dangers. “At this time, there is no credible intelligence regarding specific plans by any extremist groups or individuals to perpetrate an act of terrorism against the U.S. mass transit system,” they write. For more information [click here](#).

### **'Most-wanted' arms dealer arrested in Thailand**

On Thursday, March 6, Viktor Bout and his associate, Andrew Smulian, were arrested in Thailand in a capture that involved law enforcement agencies from at least five countries, including two undercover agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration posing as Colombian rebels. Bout and Smulian are accused of conspiracy to provide surface-to-air missiles and other weapons to Colombian rebels, said Michael Garcia, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. In a complaint filed by a DEA agent, they are said to have conspired to sell millions of dollars worth of weapons to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. For more information [click here](#).

### **Eight arrested in probe of Jewish seminary attack**



Israeli police have arrested eight people during an investigation into Thursday's (March 6) deadly attack at a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem, spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said Saturday, March 8. Eight students, including an American, died Thursday evening after a man armed with an automatic weapon and a handgun slipped into the Merkaz Harav yeshiva. At least nine others were wounded before an off-duty Israel Defense Forces officer shot and killed the gunman, Jerusalem District Police Cmdr. Aharon Franko said. A Jerusalem police spokesman identified the shooter Friday as Ala Abu Dehein from East Jerusalem's Jabel Mukaber neighborhood. The attack was planned and conceived by the Free Men of Galilee, an operation with purported ties to Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group in Lebanon, sources in Gaza said. For more information [click here](#).

### **Alleged Manila bomb plotters arrested**



Philippine authorities have arrested three Middle Eastern men suspected of involvement in a plot to bomb the American embassy and three other foreign missions in Manila, officials said Thursday, March 6. For more information [click here](#).

## US Homeland Security Lists Successes at Five Years

To observe the five-year anniversary of its creation, the U.S. Homeland Security Department issued March 5 an extensive list of its accomplishments in protecting the country from terrorism. A five-page fact sheet covers achievements in several areas, including protecting the nation from dangerous individuals and materials, safeguarding critical infrastructure and developing a culture of preparedness. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and President George W. Bush lauded the administration's antiterrorism efforts but warned that the threat against the United States persists, the *Washington Post* reported on March 7. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

## U.S. Northern Command Focused on WMD Defense

The commander of the U.S. Northern Command said on March 2 that his "No. 1 priority" is to help prepare the nation for an act of terrorism involving a weapon of mass destruction, the *White House Bulletin* reported. "This potential availability of WMD to terrorist groups is of vital concern, especially as terrorists thrive in the 'gray area' where notions of crime and armed conflict overlap," Gen. Victor Renuart, who has led the command since March 2007, said during a hearing on Capitol Hill. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

## Members of the European Parliament assess future security tasks of new EU Telecoms watchdog

The EU's proposed Telecoms authority should be responsible for the security of communication networks, which face a growing number of attacks in an area where Europe is not yet well protected. This is the argument of Information Society Commissioner Viviane Reding, who on March 5 defended her latest proposal. For more information [click here](#).

## US / EU air security plans

Officials have condemned a US move to bypass the EU by contacting individual member states in a bid to introduce tougher restrictions on transatlantic air travel. The United States is pushing for a number of EU countries to transfer additional information on transatlantic passengers and allow armed air marshals on board US carriers flying to and from the bloc in exchange for visa-free travel to America. For more information [click here](#).

## China: Olympics terror plot, plane crash foiled

Chinese police killed alleged terrorists plotting to attack the Beijing Olympics, while a flight crew managed to prevent an apparent attempt to crash a Chinese jetliner in a separate case just the week before, officials said Sunday, March 9. For more information [click here](#).

## Suspicious Operations Under Investigation

James Sassoon, chief of the International Financial Action Group (GAFI) met with Alberto Abad, director of the Federal Administration of Public Revenues of Argentina (AFIP) on March 10<sup>th</sup> to request information on policies of this country related to the money laundering and financing of terrorism. Abad talked to Sassoon about the work that has been done during the last years related to information technology and also in the political arena. Last year, pressured by GAFI, Argentina voted the so called anti-terrorist law; had it not been voted, the country would have been considered as insecure. The financial and real estate sectors are the two sectors that have been placed under high scrutiny by the national government and should receive a rating by the multinational organism. For more information [click here](#).



## **FARC's tentacles**

The event that occurred in the morning of March 1<sup>st</sup>, during which the second man of the FARC, Luis Edgar Devia, alias Raul Reyes, revealed that the organization had trespassed the Colombian border and was advancing to conquer new spaces and militants. The photographs, supposedly found in the computer of the defunct Raul Reyes, showed that the youth of some regional countries had joined the group. Chileans and Mexicans visited the clandestine camp. In Mexico, this situation has brought high commotion. The Universidad Autónoma de México refuses to accept the existence of insurgent groups while the authorities pursue their investigation into the possible formation of a cell related ideologically and financially to the FARC. In Chile, according to a police source, although less evident, there is also an investigation related to the young people photographed with Raul Reyes. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

## **Apparent FARC cash uncovered in Costa Rica**

Tipped by the Colombian military, Costa Rican authorities found, on March 15, almost \$500,000 believed to belong to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in an old safe in a house near the Costa Rican capital of San José. In a computer belonging to late FARC leader Raúl Reyes, Colombian police investigators found the name of Costa Rican teacher Francisco Gutiérrez Pérez, the amount of money -- \$480,000 -- he was supposed to be holding for the FARC and the address of the house. Colombian sources said the discovery indicates that Costa Rica is still a strategic country for the rebels, who in 2001 tried to open a regional office in San José after their Mexico City base was shut down by the government. For more information [click here](#).

## **Mukasey 'surprised' by scope of terrorist threats**

US Attorney General Michael Mukasey has been taken aback by the scope and variety of potential terrorism threats facing the United States, he told reporters March 21 at an informal meeting in his office. "It's surprising how varied [the threat] is, how many directions it comes from, how geographically spread out it is," he said. The attorney general said that after meeting with his European law enforcement counterparts the week before in Slovenia, he understands their degree of anxiety as well. For more information [click here](#).

## **Canada court to hear Guantanamo detainee's case**

Canada's Supreme Court heard arguments on Wednesday, March 26, about the legality of the detention of a Canadian detainee at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an event that essentially puts the U.S. military war-crimes trial system on trial in a foreign jurisdiction. The court is to decide whether the Canadian government should release details about his interviews with Canadian officials in 2003 and 2004 so that the lawyers can provide a full defense against U.S. charges. Khadr is charged with killing a U.S. soldier in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan when he was 15. For more information [click here](#).

## **Departments of State and Homeland Security of the US Announce WHTI Land and Sea Final Rule**

The Department of State and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced March 27, 2008, the final rule for the land and sea portion of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), a core 9/11 Commission recommendation. The WHTI final rule requires travelers to present a passport or other approved secure document denoting citizenship and identity for all land and sea travel into the United States. WHTI establishes document requirements for travelers entering the United States who were previously exempt, including citizens of the U.S., Canada and Bermuda. These document requirements will be effective June 1, 2009.

Specific information on documentation requirements may be found at [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/ready\\_set\\_go/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/ready_set_go/). For general information on WHTI or other travel-related programs, please visit [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) or [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).



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