



# Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)  
Organization of American States (OAS)

## COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

### Sub-regional Cyber Security Workshop in Colombia

A second sub-regional training on the “Fundamentals for the Creation and Management of a CSIRT,” was held in Bogota, Colombia, from May 26-30 for 71 representatives from Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia. The seminar was organized by the CICTE Secretariat in coordination with the Ministry of External Relations and the Colombian National Police (DIJIN). The majority of the attendees have technical and/or policy-oriented responsibilities



relating to the development of their national cyber security infrastructure, including the creation and development of a national Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT). CICTE partners, including the Government of Brazil (DSIC), the Government of Uruguay (ANTEL), CERT-CC / Carnegie Mellon University, the International Telecommunications Union

(ITU) and others, collaborated to provide in-depth and focused technical training on a range of issues relevant to building an effective national CSIRT, and to guide country delegates in identifying potential solutions and tools that can help them overcome the key challenges confronting their respective countries. A third sub-regional training along the aforementioned lines will be organized in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and IMPACS for the Caribbean region and will take place later this year. For additional information: Ms. Lilia Moraes, [lmoraes@oas.org](mailto:lmoraes@oas.org). Also, please [click here](#).

### Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the Americas for Security for Major Events

The Second Annual Seminar on “Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the Americas for Security for Major Events” was held May 12-16, 2008 in Cartagena, Colombia, organized by the Ministry of the Interior of Spain, in conjunction with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).

The Seminar was the first meeting of National Focal Points for Security of Major Events (NFPs), individuals with responsibility for security operations for large-scale events appointed by the governments of each CICTE Member State. The 36 participants adopted eleven conclusions in which they underscored, among other points, the importance of the UNICRI’S (International Permanent Observatory (IPO) Americas and the related IPO National Focal Points Network as “an important platform to promote forms of mutual cooperation to design and plan security for major events within the region, as well as other forms of cooperation to exchange or share different types of resources.” The CICTE Secretariat, collaborated in the organization of the Seminar and delivered a feature presentation on “Regional Initiatives for the protection of major events from terrorist attacks and synergies with the IPO”.



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## **Editorial**

### **CICTE's "Platform" for International Cooperation**

The new UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has focused attention on the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach between the UN and Regional and Subregional organizations, as well as individual countries and private sector organizations. Increased recognition of the value offered by CICTE's "platform" has led to coordination with more than 30 governments, international and regional organizations, and private sector organizations and multiplied the impact of capacity building and technical assistance efforts throughout the Americas. Largely because of partnerships, the number of Secretariat training activities more than doubled in 2007--61 training courses and technical assistance missions, benefiting some 2,692 participants in the Hemisphere.

CICTE's cooperation with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC reflects our oldest UN partnership. The two organizations regularly conduct joint workshops in OAS countries, providing technical assistance on drafting legislation to ratify and implement the various counter terrorism legal instruments. Now, INTERPOL and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) are joining with us to offer a first Best Practices Workshop on Travel Document Security for Central America in June; in the future, all three will coordinate to promote the INTERPOL Lost and Stolen Passport database in the countries of the Americas. In 2006 and 2007, the UN Institute for Crime and Research (UNICRI) worked through CICTE to launch its International Permanent Observatory on Enhancing Security for Major Events in the Hemisphere and to create a network of National Focal Points on the topic. In May, Spain, UNICRI, and the CICTE Secretariat co-organized a second hemispheric workshop on Security for Major Events in Colombia. The Secretariat began participating in the UN Working Group on Vulnerable Targets in March. Recently, the International Atomic Energy Agency asked for our help to organize hemisphere events on terrorism through weapons of mass destruction. With CARICOM, the Secretariat will conduct cyber security training in the Caribbean; with the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNODC, we will work in the Caribbean on legislation and terrorist financing issues.

Another major success has become a model--the Port Security Assistance Partnership Program (PSAP) with Transport Canada, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Department of State, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP). In the last year the PSAP conducted assessments and training in 10 ports in five countries, held Crisis Management Exercises in another three, conducted a national workshop in Mexico in January, and developed a sub-regional workshop for Andean countries to be hosted by Brazil in June. Experts from the World Customs Organization and several other countries and private sector companies will participate along with our regular PSAP partners. This multiplication of efforts is further exemplified by the port security training for Peru: facilitated by the CICTE Secretariat, funded by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and held at the U.S. Coast Guard facilities in the United States in March—all at Canada's suggestion. Under the PSAP, we are training trainers as part of our Crisis Management Exercises in port security; observers in one country become instructors at the next.

CICTE's Airport Security program—with our partners, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA)--will soon expand like the PSAP model. Spain has recently agreed to provide both technical and financial assistance for our South American airport security training, and we are negotiating with other countries to provide additional trainers.

From the beginning, the Member States adopted as CICTE's main purpose to "promote and develop cooperation among Member States to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism." CICTE, and its "platform" for international cooperation, have much to offer for the September 2008 review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

## **COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES**

### **Trinidad & Tobago Hosts Workshop on Cybercrime Legislation**

Government representatives from the Caribbean region met May 13-15 in Trinidad and Tobago to participate in a workshop on strengthening legislation against cyber-crime. The two-day event included sessions on international cyber-crime standards and existing national legislations, and the drafting of procedural and substantive cyber-crime legislation.

The workshop comes at a timely moment – a recent survey conducted by the OAS General Secretariat among member states indicated that only 15 of the OAS member states have substantive cyber-crime legislation in place, while only 12 states have enacted procedural cyber-crime legislation.

40 participants from 13 OAS member states attended the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.



The workshop was organized pursuant to Recommendation 12 from the Fifth Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber-Crime, which took place at OAS Headquarters in November, 2007. This Group is one of the working groups of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), and the REMJA has issued various mandates to the Group, including the identification of cooperation mechanisms to combat cyber-crime, and the completion of a diagnosis of national legislation, policies and practices on the topic.

The OAS, through its Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, and the United States Department of Justice, through its Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS), co-sponsored the workshop, and the United States funded the participation of OAS member state representatives. For more information [click here](#).

### **Workshop on implementing UNSCR 1540 May 13-14 Argentina**



From May 13-14, 2008 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Government of Argentina and the United States Department of State, on behalf of the Organization of American States (OAS), jointly hosted a regional workshop on implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540(2004) – the control of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) agents to prevent them from getting into the hands of terrorists. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense of 20 OAS Member States.

The principal objective of the workshop was to improve compliance among OAS Member States with UNSCR 1540 and had many objectives. Other objectives included submission of the country reports to the 1540 Committee of the United Nations, review of the elements of the 1540 reporting matrix, technical assistance to help Member States achieve full 1540 compliance, discussion of donor countries technical assistance programs and technical assistance efforts. Following the meeting there was renewed focus on this matter and agreement on a number of initiatives to improve compliance with this resolution among Member States, including closer collaboration between the U.N.1540 Committee of experts and the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security (CHS) and formulation of actions plans to expedite compliance with UNSCR 1540 among the Member States.

### **UNSC 1267 Monitoring Team Issues 8th Report**

The Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team has issued its 8th report pursuant to resolution 1735 (2006) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities. The document is also available online at the following site: <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/3432907.html>



## 2007 Country Reports on Terrorism – US Department of State



At a press conference on April 30, 2008, the U.S. Coordinator for Counterterrorism Ambassador Dell Dailey released the U.S. Department of State's annual Country Report on Terrorism.

For more information: <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2007/>

## Workshop on Document Security & Fraud Prevention

From May 5-9 the CICTE Secretariat organized, in conjunction with the Brazilian Federal Police (DPF), a specialized workshop on document security and fraud prevention at the DPF training center in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Instruction was provided by experts from the Forensic Document Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS/ICE/FDL). Of the 34 total participants in the course, 30 officers were from the DPF, all of whom are engaged in some aspect of document security, whether in the context of airport security, passport issuance, customs, and/or drug interdiction. The main objective of this activity was to provide training in detection of fraudulent documents to help improve the ability to detect and identify fraudulent travel and identity documents. In addition, the workshop provided an opportunity to share information and discuss best practices by bringing together DPF officials from throughout Brazil and furthering communication and institutional links within the DPF that can lead to greater cooperation and collaboration on DPF efforts to counter document fraud. The course entailed a combination of interactive classroom instruction and hands-on, practical exercises.

For more information: [bsullivan@oas.org](mailto:bsullivan@oas.org)

## Eighteenth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents (TAG-MRTD) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) took place in Montreal, Canada, May 5-8, 2008. This is a yearly technical meeting that has for main objective to discuss the activities of the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG), its work related to the e-Passports specifications and other ongoing issues that remain under active consideration such as the publication of a Supplement that is to be read in conjunction with the specifications related to the e-Passports. A final technical report on how e-MRTDs (Machine Readable Travel Documents) could be used to facilitate passenger travel has been completed and any future work in this area will be the responsibility of one of the proposed new working groups to assist in this process.

The NTWG continues to participate in number of activities involving all Member States of ICAO together with various organizations such as INTERPOL for its Lost and Stolen database which continues to be a file of interest to all Member States. The next meeting of the NTWG will be in September 2008 in Bern, Switzerland. Generally, the NTWG will continue its review of technologies, their application and the role of MRTDs in facilitating international travel.

In this context, the Document Security and Fraud Prevention program of the OAS/CICTE in a close partner in the achievement of the objectives defined by the NTWG. In collaboration with the OAS Members States, OAS/CICTE has initiated a series of Workshops on Travel Documents Security. The first one will be held in San Salvador, El Salvador June 9-11, 2008. It will involve, together with El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic and Mexico.

For more information, please contact Ms. Francine Hanna, [Fhanna@oas.org](mailto:Fhanna@oas.org)

## Secure Airport = Secure Skies

CICTE continued its Airport Security Program in 2008 executing as of May seven "in-country" training courses utilizing instructors from the US-TSA (Transport Security Administration) and providing six scholarships to nationals throughout the region to attend Screener Certification Workshops organized under the ICAO/Canada Training Awareness Program Phase II. This represents 155 Airport Security personnel from ten countries trained within the first five months of 2008. Beneficiary states include Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Uruguay. This is a major accomplishment for the CICTE Secretariat and represents a significant contribution to the airports security of the region, remembering always that safer airports translate to safer skies for everyone.



## 6<sup>th</sup> ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism

On April 3-4, 2008, the Sixth ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism was held in Madrid, Spain. Participants were representatives from ASEM partners as well as relevant counter terrorism institutions: Eurojust, the Council of Europe, OHCHR, CTED, UNODC, OSCE, SEARCCT, and JCLEC. The Conference was chaired by Mr. Ángel Lossada, Director General of International Affairs of Terrorism, Non proliferation and Disarmament (Spain) with the support of Indonesia, as co-host, and Denmark, Italy, Japan, Philippines, and Portugal as co-sponsors. The meeting focused on: evaluating terrorist threats both in Asia and in Europe; encouraging the exchange of information, knowledge, experience and techniques related to contemporary challenges; pushing for the establishment of regional organizational counterterrorist strategies. Proposals are to be implemented in the UN Global Counterterrorist Strategy. For more information [click here](#).

## Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security in Peru



On April 28-30, 2008, the Secretariat of CICTE, in conjunction with its Port Security Assistance Project (PSAP) partners—the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Ports Committee (CIP), Transport Canada, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Department of State (Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, INL)—and under the auspices of the National Port Authority, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, undertook a Crisis Management Exercise (CME) on Port Security in Lima, Peru. The CME was implemented as a tabletop exercise, preceded by a one-day training on procedures of the International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code (ISPS) of the International Maritime Organization and the preparation of the tabletop. The main objective of the CME was to improve the coordination and cooperation between the various players who would be involved in a crisis situation and who share port security responsibilities at the strategic-political and tactical-operative decision levels. Colombia contributed with auxiliary instructors to the CME, and Panama and Trinidad and Tobago were invited as observers. For more information, please contact Mr. Pablo Martínez, [pmartinez@oas.org](mailto:pmartinez@oas.org)

## LACNIC XI

The eleventh meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Address Registry –LACNIC XI—was held in Salvador/Bahia, Brazil from May 26 to 30, 2008, hosted by the National Internet Committee of Brazil (NIC.br).

LACNIC meetings focus mainly on the development and stability of the Internet within the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Its target audience is very broad including, among others, Internet service providers, regulatory bodies, academic networks, ccTLD operators, NAP operators, civil society representatives and professionals from the telecommunications industry in general.

The meetings produce actions, e.g. the definition of policies for Internet resource distribution within the region, such as regional interconnection project initiatives, or the creation of working groups for providing information on IPv6 and promoting its adoption. For more information, please contact Ms. Lilia Moraes, [lmoraes@oas.org](mailto:lmoraes@oas.org)



## ARIN Caribbean Sector Meeting



The American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN – the nonprofit corporation that distributes Internet number resources, including Internet Protocol addresses, to Canada, many Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the United States) hosted a Caribbean Sector Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, on Wednesday, 21 May 2008. The CICTE Secretariat's Cyber Security Program Manager attended the meeting as an observer. As an introduction to the issues that were discussed in the event, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and ARIN held a workshop (CTU Workshop on IPv4 -- IPv6 Transition) on 20 May 2008 that provided information on the subjects of IPv4 address depletion and the need for IPv6 deployments, with a special emphasis on how these issues related to the Caribbean region.

During the Caribbean Sector Meeting, ARIN provided information about its services, reviewed current policy discussions taking place on ARIN mailing lists, highlighted the opportunities of contribution to the policy development process and encouraged participation in ARIN activities and events, including its mailing lists and Public Policy and Members Meetings.

For more information, please contact Ms. Lilia Moraes, [lmoraes@oas.org](mailto:lmoraes@oas.org)

## II Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime



The "II Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime" was held in the City of Panama, from May 26 to 29. The Conference was jointly organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Government and Justice and the Office of the Attorney General of Panama. The main aim of the Conference was to exchange national and international experiences on the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime, to assess progress in these areas since the I Ministerial Conference that took place in April 2006, and to find new ways of cooperation for the future.

Around 40 Ministers, Attorney and Prosecutor Generals, and high-ranking officials of Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panama and Perú, participated in the Conference. In addition, international experts from the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations 1267 and 1540 Committees, Interpol, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, Eurojust, the Finance Guard of Italy, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the CICTE Secretariat, gave presentations and participated in the discussions. The Chief Prosecutor of the National Court (Audiencia Nacional) of Spain and the Attorney General of Spain also addressed the Conference.

One of the main outcomes of the Conference was the adoption of the "Declaration of Panama" by all participant countries, on May 29.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ignacio Ibáñez, [iibanez@oas.org](mailto:iibanez@oas.org). Also click here: [Ministerial 1](#), [Ministerial 2](#), [Ministerial 3](#), [Ministerial 4](#) and [Ministerial 5](#).

## RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
May	5-7, 2008	Eighteenth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents	Montreal, Canada
	5-9, 2008	Course on Document Security and Fraud Prevention	Sao Paulo, Brazil
	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
	12-16, 2008	Aviation Security Crisis Management Training	Montevideo, Uruguay
	12-16, 2008	Seminar on the Strengthening Regional Cooperation in The Americas for Security During Major Events	Cartagena, Colombia
	21, 2008	Caribbean Sector Meeting of the American Registry for Internet Numbers – ARIN	Kingston, Jamaica
	26-30, 2008	XI Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry	Salvador/Bahia, Brazil
	26 – June 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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
June	June - July, 2008	Port Security Follow on Training	The Bahamas
	3 - 6, 2008	Ibero-American Seminar on Human Rights and Terrorism	Cartagena, Colombia
	9-11, 2008	Central America Sub-Regional Workshop on Travel Document Security	San Salvador, El Salvador
	9-12, 2008	Workshop on Best Practices in Port Security and ISPS Code Implementation	Fortaleza
	9-17, 2008	Aviation Security Basic Security Training	Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda
	25-28, 2008	Specialized training for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officials; organized by UNODC and CICTE	Port Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
	23-Jul-02	Aviation National Development Program Workshop	Bridgetown, Barbados
July	7-15, 2008	Aviation Security Basic Security Training	Roseau, Dominica
	16-25, 2008	Aviation National Development Program Workshop	Roseau, Dominica
	28 - 31, 2008	Workshop on Terrorism Financing (Caribbean region)	Montego Bay, Jamaica
August	4, 2008	Aviation Security Crisis Management Training	Bahamas
	11.2008	Aviation Security Crisis Management Training	Port-au-Prince, Haiti
	25-26, 2008	Seminar on International Law (OAS International Law Office)	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
October	TBD	Workshop on Terrorism Financing (Caribbean region)	Montego Bay, Jamaica



## **NEWS**

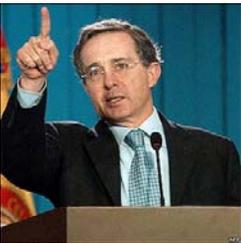
### **FARC, through 'Timochenko,' confirms that 'Tirofijo' is dead**

"The great leader is gone," says the member of the secretariat, announcing that Alfonso Cano will take command. In a carefully edited two-camera video, purportedly produced in "the mountains of Colombia," "Timochenko," one of the secretariat members who three weeks ago managed to escape a strong military offensive in the border area with Venezuela, in North Santander, confirmed the death of 'Marulanda.' As intelligence agencies had anticipated, the FARC insisted that the Colombian guerrilla strongman had died of natural causes, not as the result of a military assault: "He died on March 26 of a heart attack, in the arms of his female companion and surrounded by his personal guard (...) after a brief illness."

Although even the Government acknowledges that the date of his death does not coincide with the dates of the operations against him, military intelligence is not discarding the possibility that he was wounded in one of the operations. Another fact is that 'Marulanda,' unlike Jacobo Arenas, died amid the largest offensive ever conducted against the FARC. Their room to move was shrinking, and the attacks on their camps were increasingly frequent.

For more information [click here](#).

### **'What Colombia needs is to overcome terrorism permanently'**



Brasilia, Brazil, May 23 (SP). From Brasilia, where he was attending the UNASUR Summit, President Álvaro Uribe Vélez reaffirmed that what Colombia needs is to overcome terrorism permanently. He said the democratic security policy undertaken by his administration has been, and is, essential in this regard.

In response to an initiative to form a security council in South America, the Colombian leader, who before traveling to Brasilia had indicated that the time was not right for his country to participate in this organization, called the international community's attention to the severe problem of terrorism in Colombia.

The head of state also said that "Colombia needs effective partnerships in the war on terrorism and the war on drugs."

For more information [click here](#).

### **Terrorist group ETA's number 1 arrested**

The Spanish Civil Guard and the French Gendarmerie detained four members of ETA in Bordeaux, France, May 21—among them Francisco Javier López Peña, alias 'Thierry,' considered the terrorist group's 'number one,' according to sources involved in fighting terrorism.

Also arrested along with 'Thierry' were Ainhoa Ozaeta Mendiondo, Igor Suberbiola, and Jon Salaberria—the latter a former member of the Basque Parliament representing the now-illegal Batasuna party. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

### **Morocco arrests alleged terror plotters**

Eleven people with alleged ties to Iraq's insurgency have been arrested on suspicion of plotting attacks in Morocco and Belgium, the state news agency reported Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. The suspects were arrested in the cities of Nador and Fez, the MAP agency reported, citing unidentified police officials. The report did not say when the arrests took place. The suspects are accused of having links to cells sending fighters to Iraq's insurgency and to camps run by an Algeria-based militant group that calls itself al Qaeda in Islamic North Africa. Authorities believe they were planning attacks in Morocco and Belgium, the report said. For more information [click here](#).

### **Al-Qaida threatens to make soccer's Eurocup «an inferno»**

Al-Qaida is not about to let an important sports event go by without calling attention to itself. This time it's the soccer Eurocup, to be contested by Switzerland and Austria from June 7 to 29. The terrorist network has launched its offensive online, sending messages such as «we will make the two safest countries in Europe an inferno, like the infernos in Iraq and Afghanistan,» or «the time has come for the soldiers of the faith. They must make their voice heard.»

For more information [click here](#).

## Results of INTERPOL's Investigation of Captured "Raul Reyes" Computers



On May 15 INTERPOL presented the results of its forensic analysis of eight instrumental tests, consisting of computer and information equipment captured from the FARC. Ronald Noble, Secretary General de INTERPOL, stated that the team of specialists who participated in this forensic information investigation did not discover "evidence of any modification, alteration, additions, or deletions" in the user files of the three laptops, the three USB drives and the two external hard discs captured during an antiterrorist and antidrug operation by Colombia against a FARC camp March 1 2008.

"INTERPOL has never had a personal interest in the results, except to determine the truth and bring it to light." Noble stated clearly in the report that the forensic computer investigation was undertaken with the support of the Organization of American States and that none of INTERPOL's 186 Member States had been opposed.

Bernardo Álvarez, Venezuela's ambassador to the United States, did not discard the possibility that the alleged tests had been manipulated and suggested that there are many "doubts" about the captured computers of "Raul Reyes," who was killed during a Colombian military incursión into Ecuador March 1. For her part, Ecuador's Minister of External Relations María Isabel Salvador declared that these files "have no validity for a very clear reason: The chain of custody of these computers, which were supposedly found in the FARC encampment in our territory when Colombia bombarded it, was not guaranteed."

For more information, please click here: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#) y [11](#).

## OAS General Assembly to Discuss Ecuador/Colombia Crisis

The OAS General Assembly which will take place in Medellin, Colombia June 1-3 will deal on June 2 with the conflict Colombia and Ecuador have been experiencing since March 1. The Secretary General of the OAS, Jose Miguel Insulza, will present the results of his efforts to try to normalize relations between the two countries. Questioned about the "Raul Reyes" computers found in the rebel camp March 1 and about the claims of Venezuela and Ecuador in the face of the alleged messages that link their governments to the FARC, he remarked that he is not going to polemicize this issue. Nevertheless, he emphasized the importance of "verifying if any of the messages in the computer are true or not, if the information was occurring or not in reality." In this case, "the countries will have to explain themselves and conduct the necessary investigations," he asserted after stating that he had not received "the contents of the computers" and that for that reason he has no knowledge of the matter.



For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

## Indictment: Arms dealer offered weapons to kill Americans

The U.S. government has charged an international arms dealer with conspiring to sell a rebel group millions of dollars in weapons "to be used to kill Americans in Colombia," federal prosecutors announced Tuesday, May 6, 2008. Viktor Bout, who was recently captured in Thailand, had agreed to sell the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) surface-to-air missiles, armor-piercing rocket launchers, "ultralight" airplanes, unmanned aerial vehicles, and other weapons, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a news release.

For more information [click here](#).

## London's 7/7 Conspiracy Trial Offers Inside View of Terrorists' Lives

In the Jamestown Foundation's newsletter for May 13, *Rafaello Pantucci from the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London describes the intriguing amount of information revealed about the mechanics of the July 7, 2005 (7/7) bombings of London's public transportation system that killed 52 commuters and four suicide bombers. "...Alarming normal pieces of trivia are becoming the most intriguing aspect of this ongoing trial, helping flesh out further the character of these distinctly British boys who chose such violent means to express their rage against the society they were born into. The trial is also an interesting test for the British Crown Prosecution Service, to see whether an intelligence-led operation can culminate in a conviction for the 7/7 attacks."* For more information [click here](#).

## "The Thing We Have to Fear"

In a Washington Post editorial May 26, Fareed Zakaria calls attention to two interesting, but little noted, reports that show a decline, rather than an increase, in terrorism: the "Human Security Brief 2007" released by the Simon Fraser University in Canada May 21, 2008, and the University of Maryland's "Peace and Conflict 2008" released September 21, 2007. For more information [click here](#).

## "Thinking through Doomsday" - global terrorism scenarios

In a Washington Post editorial May 23, 2008, David Ignatius reports on the doomsday scenarios being developed by the strategic analytical group at the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center which is paid to think about "the meta-questions of global terrorism: 'What's the nature of the threat? Is it getting worse or better? What can the United States do to bend its trajectory.'" For more information [click here](#).

## U.S. ports vulnerable to terrorists, probe finds



A Department of Homeland Security program to strengthen port security has gaps that terrorists could exploit to smuggle weapons of mass destruction in cargo containers, congressional investigators have found. The report by the Government Accountability Office, being released Tuesday, assesses the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), a federal program established after the September 11, 2001, attacks to deter a potential terrorist strike via cargo passing through 326 of the nation's airports, seaports and designated land borders. The GAO urged Customs and Border Protection to require consideration of third-party and other outside audits and take steps to make certain companies comply with any additional security improvements requested. The report also calls for some technological improvements to help improve consistency and better information-gathering in Customs' security checks. For more information [click here](#).

## Presumed Alliances or Attempted Alliances between the FARC and ETA

General Oscar Naranjo, Director of the Colombian National Police, asserted May 30 that the FARC was planning to attack Vice President Francisco Santos in Spain with support from the separatist Basque group ETA. The official told Caracol Radio that information on the criminal plans against Francisco Santos was found in one of the computers of the fallen head of the FARC "Raul Reyes" in some emails sent by the new commander of the illegal armed group "Alfonso Cano." Colombian Minister of Defense Juan Manuel Santos affirmed that there were some emails in the computer of "Raul Reyes" which mentioned "the possibility" of seeking collaboration with ETA to attack Colombian officials in Madrid. The Attorney General's office of Spain has decided to "send an investigative commission to Colombia to ask for all the information that they have about the relation between the FARC and ETA and with the 'abertzale' community," that is to say the independent Basque movement, indicated law officers of this country on June 2. Also the Commission "will request reports from the police and the Spanish Civil Guard about the possible relation between ETA and FARC."

For more information [click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).



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