Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

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

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

Best Practices Workshop on Travel Document Security

CICTE, in cooperation with the Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD) Program of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), has initiated a project of subregional Best Practices Workshops on Travel Document Security under its Document Security and Fraud Prevention Program. The first workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Public Security and Justice of El Salvador in San Salvador June 9-11, 2008, and funded by the Government of Canada. Forty-four (44) participants from eight (8) countries participated in the workshop: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, Mexico and the host country El Salvador.

The principal objectives of the three (3) day session were to strengthen the capacity of passport-issuing personnel, law enforcement, customs, and immigration agents to improve the security of identity and travel documents and to increase their capacity to prevent and detect their alteration or fraudulent use. Experts from North and South America and Europe, as well as from ICAO, INTERPOL, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe addressed four main topics: ICAO's international standards and requirements for travel documents; the integrity of "breeder" documents and civil registries; handling and issuance procedures; and international cooperation and case studies.

The project was developed under the CICTE Work Plan in order to help Member States meet their international and regional commitments under UN Security Council 1373 and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism to strengthen border controls and controls on the issuance of identity and travel documents. A key outcome of the workshop was the promotion of greater international contacts and cooperation through the exchange of information and experiences during the workshop.

For more information, please contact Ms. Francine Hanna (FHanna@oas.org).

Highlights:

Click here for previous Newsletters

"Guest Editorial"

INTERPOL'S Global Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database – the key to regional security

INTERPOL, the world's largest police organization with 186 member countries, launched its global Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) Database in June 2002 after identifying a clear link between criminal and terrorist activities and the use of lost or stolen documents.

After just six years, a total of 133 countries have contributed to this database which currently contains more than 15 million records, of which 8.8 million are stolen or lost passports.

It was clear to INTERPOL that it was vital for law enforcement officers at key locations, such as border entry points at airports and sea ports, to have access to this database. To help its member countries connect these locations, INTERPOL created a solution to enable law enforcement officers to remotely access the SLTD database, called MIND and FIND (Mobile/Fixed Integrated Network Database).

The MIND and FIND systems can be easily installed directly at airports, seaports and other border entry points so that with just one swipe of a passport or identity document an official can automatically and instantaneously check the status of a travel document.

In just the first six months of 2008, law enforcement officers around the world carried out almost 30 million searches of INTERPOL's database, resulting in 6,000 individuals identified as travelling on stolen or lost travel documents.

INTERPOL is now working on further enhancing remote access to its databases, so that in addition to checking a document, frontline officers will also be able to verify the name of the bearer against INTERPOL's notices and nominal databases to establish if they are wanted internationally.

So far, 33 countries have implemented either the MIND or FIND solutions, and one of INTERPOL's main goals for the future is to expand access to its databases to hundreds of thousands law enforcement officers in the field.

In order to achieve this, INTERPOL is working to develop partnerships with international and regional organizations, especially in regions which historically have been under served such as Central and South America. INTERPOL believes that a partnership with the Organization of American States, for example, would be beneficial to all parties involved, especially to the security and infrastructure development of Central and South America.

An example of what can be achieved in through partnership and co-operation can clearly be seen by INTERPOL's recent efforts in the Caribbean within the framework of the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

INTERPOL, in co-operation and partnership with CARICOM, helped National Central Bureaus in the nine host countries to extend access to I-24/7 (INTERPOL, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), its secure global police communication system to their immigration and border services.

INTERPOL also assisted with the installation of MIND/FIND technical solutions at the airports and seaports in each of the host countries, enabling law enforcement officers to instantly check passports against the SLTD Database - making the Caribbean the first region in the world to benefit from this additional layer of border security.

In 2006, prior to the installation of MIND and FIND, countries in the region had made 28,092 searches and made 47 hits against the SLTD database. In 2007, following the installation, these same countries made 4,290,713 searches resulting in 638 hits – a significant increase.

INTERPOL strongly believes that providing access to essential police data to officers in the field is one of its highest operational priorities and will continue to encourage its member countries to both contribute to and consult the SLTD and all of its global databases thereby enhancing national, regional and global security.

Jean-Michel Louboutin
Executive Director Police Services
INTERPOL
Lyon, France

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

Best Practices Workshop on Port Security for the Andean Region

From June 9-11, 2008, the CICTE Secretariat conducted, in conjunction with Transport Canada and the U.S. Coast Guard, a "Workshop for the Andean Region on Best Practices in Port Security and Implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code." The event was hostd by the Government of Brazil through CONPORTOS (Commissão Nacional de Segurança Pública Nos Portos Terminais e Vias Navegáveis).

The principal objective of the course was to strengthen the capacity of the OAS Member States of the Andean Region to effectively comply with the security obligations established by the ISPS Code. To achieve this, the workshop format was created to promote greater coordination, cooperation and communication – specifically regarding common challenges and best practices – among the relevant port security authorities in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, to enable these authorities to more effectively address port security threats and vulnerabilities in their respective countries' port facilities. On a broader level the workshop was intended to enhance counter-terrorism, law enforcement and customs capabilities; improve port facility, cargo security, and customs controls; and raise security awareness among those involved in the various aspects of port security.

Country representatives made presentations on the state of port security and ISPS implementation in their countries, providing useful case studies for consideration by the larger group. Two practical exercises were conducted. The first required participants to work in their groups to assess security in a fictitious port and, in accordance with the provisions of the ISPS Code, draft and present a mock port facility security plan. The second required participants to assume the role of port facility security auditor and think about and note the questions that they would ask when assessing security in a port facility. During a visit to the Port of Pecém, located about 50 km from Fortaleza, participants broke into three groups of approximately 14 to conduct a mock audit of the port.

Additional Best Practices Workshops are planned for the other subregions of the Hemisphere during 2008-2009.

For more information: Brian Sullivan, bsullivan@oas.org

Security Council Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee adds names of eight individuals, one entity to consolidated list

On 4 June 2008, the Security Council Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee approved the addition of nine entries to its Consolidated List of individuals and entities subject to the sanctions measures outlined in subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 1735 (2006). For more information **click here**.

Fourth Plenary Session of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

The 4th Plenary Session of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism was held in Madrid from 16-18 of June. The initiative began during the July 2006 G-8 Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russia as a joint effort between US President George Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and it aims to strengthen international bonds and legislation to help combat nuclear terrorism. More than 200 representatives from 55 countries met, and members of the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) acted as observers for the event. The goal of the initiative is to coordinate, on a political and technical level, national and international efforts to prevent and adequately respond to radiological and nuclear attacks. Once a political framework is established, the Initiative will begin a new stage of work based on the development and consolidation of an international work plan of a technical nature to enhance efforts to combat nuclear terrorism. The States Party will share information, jointly enhance control capacity, and develop joint projects for technical, legislative and institutional strengthening. For more information **click here**.

Membership of the ICAO Public Key Directory for ePassports grows

Participation in the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) has grown to include nine countries. Most recently the Republic of Korea has joined Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Germany, Singapore, United Kingdom and United States as a PKD Participant. Germany took over the chairmanship of the PKD Board from Australia for one year. France is expected to join soon. The first 15 States who join the ICAO PKD will be invited to join the PKD Board. Beyond 15 States membership rotates. Foundation members have invested in establishing the PKD as a global broker for ePassport validation. New participants are those ePassport issuers wishing to ensure that their documents can be validated as extensively as possible in a reliable, sustainable scheme. The Directory acts as a central broker of public key certificates and certificate revocation lists for all issuers of ePassports. Public keys are part of a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) scheme inventorying an electronic document's signer certificate (i.e. the certificates identifying authorized signers) and the certificate of the country's Certification Authority.

The PKD allows document inspectors of ePassports at borders throughout the world to access the Directory and use the public keys to validate ePassports. Validating ePassports with these public keys discloses manipulations of the contactless chip integrated in the passport. As the number of States issuing ePassports has grown to above 40 worldwide, the alternative of each State managing on a bilateral basis the exchange of certificates and lists with all other States would quickly become unmanageable. The PKD's central role is critical to minimize the volume of certificates being exchanged, to ensure timely uploads and to manage adherence to technical standards to ensure interoperability is achieved and maintained.

Source: OSCE CTN Newsletter http://www.osce.org/atu/

Basic and Advanced Training for Airport Security Officers

As part of the Secretariat's continuing capacity building program in Aviation Security, two training courses were conducted in the month of June.

Guyana received Basic Security Training for seventeen of their new recruits. This training focused on the principles for detection of threat items using x-ray machines, metal detectors, physical search techniques, etc. The participants benefited from the years of experience of their instructors who utilized a combination of theoretical and practical exercises in delivery of the training.

The second training, "Aviation Security Training" was conducted in Grenada. This course addresses concepts and principles of managing aviation security operations within the unique environment of an international airport. This course is designed for mid-level managers and supervisors who are responsible for aviation security program planning, oversight or operations. Eighteen Grenadian Nationals graduated from this training.

For more information, please contact Ms. Hayda Wallen Hwallen@oas.org

Legal Workshop for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the criminal law aspects of countering maritime terrorism

The Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is hosting a "Legal Workshop for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the criminal law aspects of countering maritime terrorism in the light of relevant universal instruments," to be held on 14-16 July 2008 in Vienna, Austria. The purpose of the workshop is to support SIDS Member States in becoming party to and implementing the universal legal instruments against terrorism, in particular the 2005 protocols related to the suppression of acts of maritime terrorism adopted under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The workshop will also provide a forum directed towards national legislative drafting related to the protocols, as well as strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to maritime terrorism.

For more information: Ignacio Ibanez (iibanez@oas.org)

Radicalization of Terrorism in the UK

The June 26, 2008, issue of the Jamestown Terrorism Monitor has an interesting article by James Brandon on "The Next Generation of Radical Islamist Preachers in the UK." In the last few years the British government has imprisoned, exiled or deported most of Britain's most high-profile jihadist preachers such as Abu Hamza, Omar Bakri and Abdullah Faisal. In 2006, it also passed laws prohibiting the "glorification" of terrorism to prevent new preachers from gaining similar prominence. However, as a range of fresh plots and convictions show, these measures have not yet halted jihadist re-cruitment. Within the last two years, several groups of would-be terrorists have been convicted of planning to kidnap and behead British Muslim soldiers in Birmingham, join jihadis in Pakistan and carry out terrorist attacks in the UK. Other cases currently being heard by courts or awaiting trial include alleged plots to bomb several trans-Atlantic airliners and set off bombs in restaurants. The growing evidence that many of these plotters have often been radicalized within the last two years suggests that extremists in the UK have adapted to anti-terrorism measures rather than being silenced by them. For more information **click here**.

RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
June	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, Brazil
	9-19, 2008	Aviation Security Basic Security Training	Saint George's, Grenada
	25-28, 2008	Specialized training for prosecutors, judges and law enforce-ment officials; organized by UNODC and CICTE	Port Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

UPCOMING EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
July	7-10, 2008	Specialized training on terrorism financing for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officials; organized by UNODC and CICTE	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	7-15, 2008	Aviation Security Basic Security Training	Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda
	14-16, 2008	UNODC Workshop for developing small country islands on legislation against terrorism	Vienna, Austria
	21- August 8, 2008	Port Security Follow-on Training and Assessment	The Bahamas
	28 - August 5, 2008	Basic Aviation Security Security Training	Roseau, Dominica
August	11 - 21,2008	Adavanced Aviation Security Training	Bridgetown, Barbados
	18-28, 2008	Advanced Aviation Security Training	Roseau, Dominica
	25-26, 2008	Seminar on International Law (OAS International Law Office)	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	25-29, 2008	APEC Working Group on Transportation	Lima, Peru
September	3-4, 2008	Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation	Panama City, Panama
	4, 2008	UN General Assembly Review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy	UN, New York
	TBD	Port Security Crisis Management Exercise	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
	TBD	Sub-regional Workshop on Terrorism Financing (Caribbean region)	Kingston, Jamaica
October	7-8, 2008	Public Security Ministerial	Mexico City, Mexico
TBD	TBD	Sub-regional Course on Cyber Security Awareness and the Creation and Management of a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

NEWS

Peru's Shining Path Guerrillas on the Rise Again

Associated Press writer Monte Hayes, who has covered the rise, fall and resurgence of the Shining Path during his 23 years in Peru, asserts that the Shining Path rebels who terrorized Peru decades ago are back, moving across the jungle-draped slopes near his remote village and recruiting young fighters to their born-again insurgency. Backed by drug money, the rebels' numbers have quadrupled to nearly 800 in recent years, according to military officers, village militia leaders and Pedro Egoavil, 53, a former rebel commander who broke with the Shining Path in the 1990s over its violent strategy but retains friends inside the organization. The guerrillas also have hundreds of unarmed collaborators. Interior Minister Luis Alva Castro, who heads the national police, and other government officials argue that today's Shining Path cares more about drug trafficking than its long-term goal of imposing a Maoist regime. The Shining Path - "Sendero Luminoso" in Spanish - came close to bringing Peru to its knees with its insurgency. Its founder, Abimael Guzman, a former philosophy professor, had a messianic vision of a classless utopia based on communism. But Guzman was captured in 1992, as Fujimori's security forces jailed thousands of rebels and suspected collaborators. By 1999 there were fewer than 200 armed fighters left in the Apurimac and Huallaga valleys, the only regions where the Shining Path remained active, and many Peruvians believed the movement was in its death throes. The rebels' fortunes, however, changed after the capture that year of a top Guzman lieutenant, an ideological purist who had opposed cocaine trafficking as a stain on the revolution. Guzman, unrepentant at 73, still has a long-range strategy for taking power, the experts said. And he's working to bring errant jungle columns back under his control, said Egoavil, the former rebel commander. For more information **click here**.

Uribe promises "probation" and compensation for guerillas who desert the FARC

On June 4, Colombian president Álvaro Uribe reiterated his offer to the FARC guerillas to grant them "probation" and send them to another country such as France if they desert from the rebel group and turn over the French-Colombian national Ingrid Betancourt and other hostages. In declarations to Caracol Radio, Uribe noted that this proposal is in addition to a compensation payment to those rebels who demobilize and turn over captives for which a fund of almost 100 million dollars already exists.

For more information **click here**.

US To Tighten Visa-Waiver Program

Starting in January, travelers to the U.S. from countries whose citizens aren't required to obtain visas will have to register with the Department of Homeland Security at least three days before their arrival. The program, which Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced June 3, aims to close security holes in the visa-waiver program, which permits travelers from 27 countries -- mostly in Western Europe -- to come to the U.S. without prescreening by the State Department, a Homeland Security official said. Based on a program under way in Australia, the new electronic system for travel authorization will collect the same information now required from passengers on a form upon their arrival in the country. The information includes basic data such as name, date of birth and passport number. "It's a 21st-century version of the 20th-century paper version that exists today," the official said. "We're not asking for new information. We're just getting it earlier." For more information **click here** .

Justices: Guantanamo detainees can challenge detention in U.S. courts

On June 12, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the roughly 270 foreign terrorism suspects held at Guantanamo Bay have the Constitutional right to challenge their imprisonment in U.S. civilian courts. Until now, the men held at the prison have been classified as enemy combatant and detained indefinitely and without charges, some for more than 6 years.

For more information **click here**.

Spain extradites alleged arms dealer to U.S.

Monzer al Kassar, a suspected arms dealer accused of conspiring to sell weapons to Colombian guerrillas, was extradited from Spain to the United States on June 13, 2008. Officials from the U.S. Department of Justice claim that al Kassar has been a source of weapons and military equipment for armed combatants since the 1970s. He was arrested in Madrid last year by Spanish police working with undercover DEA officers who were posing as members of the Colombian FARC. Al Kassar and two other men stand accused of conspiring to sell millions of dollars' worth of weapons—including surface-to-air missile systems, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, thousands of machine guns, and millions of rounds of ammunition—to the FARC, which the U.S. designates as a terrorist organization. A Spanish court approved al Kassar's extradition on four counts, including conspiracy to kill U.S. nationals. If convicted, al Kassar and his co-defendants could face life in prison. For more information **click here**.

Bush Administration Lifts North Korea Sanctions

The Bush Administration announced to the U.S. Congress on June 26 that it intends to lift trade sanctions against North Korea in 45 days and remove it from the State Department's list of nations that sponsor terrorism. The announcement comes in response to North Korea's decision to hand over a long-awaited accounting of its nuclear program to Chinese officials. It is unclear whether Congress will attempt to block such a policy change due to the incomplete nature of the report. For more information **click here** and **here.**

Overhaul of U.S. wiretap laws

On June 19, House and Senate leaders of the United States Congress announced a bipartisan plan to overhaul the nation's wiretapping laws. The deal breaks a four-month impasse between the Bush administration and Congress over whether to protect telecommunication companies that took part in a program critics say was illegal. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the bill would prevent administration officials from conducting any new warrantless surveillance. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said the new plan is "not perfect" but "strikes a sound balance" between intelligence-gathering and civil liberties. President Bush said the legislation will "allow our intelligence professionals to quickly and effectively monitor the plans of terrorists abroad while protecting the liberties of Americans here at home." The bill cleared the House June 20 by 293 to 129, with near-unanimous support from Republicans and substantial backing from Democrats. It now goes to the Senate, which is expected to pass it by a wide margin. For more information **click here, here** and **here.**

Trial begins for Canada's first accused terrorist

OTTAWA (AFP) — Rooftop snipers, scores of police and concrete barriers protected a downtown Ottawa courthouse on Monday, as the trial got underway for the first defendant charged under Canada's Anti-Terrorism Act. Mohammed Momin Khawaja, 29, faces seven criminal charges of conspiracy to commit terrorist acts in Britain, including developing bomb detonators, possession of explosives, financing terrorism, and training as a terrorist. The Ottawa software developer of Pakistani descent was arrested in March 2004, in connection with a foiled bomb plot against several British targets, including a popular London nightclub, a shopping mall and a gas network. On Monday, he pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecution is considered a key test of Canada's anti-terrorism legislation, which was tweaked last year after a judge threw out a portion of it that defined terrorism. Five of Khawaja's alleged abettors were convicted in the case and given lengthy prison terms in April 2007 in Britain. Two others were acquitted. For more information **click here**.

Leader of Colombian Terrorist Organization AUC Pleads Guilty

On June 17 the Acting Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York announced the guilty plea of DIEGO FERNANDO MURILLO-BEJARANO, aka "Don Berna," aka "Don Bernardo," aka "Adolfo Paz," the top leader of the Autodefensas Unidas De Colombia ("AUC"), a former Colombian paramilitary group designated by the United States Department of State as a foreign terrorist organization. MURILLO-BEJARANO pleaded guilty before a United States District Judge to conspiring to import multi-ton quantities of cocaine into the United States. The AUC was a paramilitary organization based in Colombia which was engaged in warfare with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia ("FARC"), Colombia's main guerilla group. To support its terrorist paramilitary activities and to enrich its leaders, the AUC was involved in narcotics trafficking, and was responsible for the importation of multi-ton quantities of cocaine into the United States. For more information **click here**.

September 11th Plotters Arraigned

Five Guantanamo detainees suspected of planning and aiding in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks were arraigned in a military tribunal hearing on June 5. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-professed mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, as well as Walid Bin Attash (an alleged 9/11 supporting player and also a key figure in the October 2002 bombing of the USS Cole), Ramzi bin al-Shibh (the supposed point of contact between the hijackers and Mohammed), Ali Abdul Aziz Ali (accused of being a key financier for the attacks), and Mustafa Ahmed Adam al Hawsawi (another accused 9/11 financier) appeared before U.S. Marine Colonel Judge Ralph Kohlmann for a formal reading of the charges against them. All five have foregone their right to legal counsel and requested that they be allowed to represent themselves in their upcoming trial. Judge Kohlmann postponed the announcement of the pleas while he considered whether to allow their request. In the meantime, the attorney currently representing Ali Abdul Aziz Ali has requested that his client be granted a security clearance so that he can access all of the evidence presented by the prosecution. A trial date has not been set. For more information **click here**, **here** and **here.**

UK MPs vote for extending terror detention time

On June 11, British lawmakers narrowly approved a counterterrorism bill that allows authorities to hold terrorism suspects without charge for up to six weeks. The approval followed concerns by civil liberties groups who called the measure unjust and unnecessary. The bill would raise the current limit of 28 days to 42, let a court draw "adverse inferences" if a suspect remains silent during questioning, and would require convicted terrorists to register with authorities and would enhance sentencing for those convicted of terrorist offenses. Opponents to the bill say that doing so will only harm relations between the government, police and Muslim groups. But supporters of the legislation say that extended detention would only be used in the event of a "grave and exceptional" terrorist threat. Prosecutors would have to provide "specific details of the investigation" in order to win an extended detention order and Parliament would have the right to review the conduct of any investigation. The bill has still to be approved in the upper chamber before it progresses into law. For more information **click here**, and **here.**

Trinidad OKs extradition of JFK suspects

A judge has upheld the extradition from Trinidad and Tobago to the United States of three men charged with plotting to attack New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport in 2007. The three men face conspiracy charges. A fourth suspect, who worked as a cargo handler at the airport until 1995, is in custody in New York. For more information **click here** and **here.**

U.S. Designates Two Venezuelans as Supporters of Terrorism

On June 18 the U.S. government designated two Venezuelans, including a diplomat, as supporters of international terrorism for what it called their support of the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah, according to a U.S. Treasury Department announcement. The U.S. action highlights the administration's concern over what it calls a growing relationship between the Caracas government and Hezbollah, which Washington has branded a terrorist organization. The designation targets Ghazi Nasr al-Din, a Venezuelan diplomat assigned to a post in the country's embassy in Lebanon. He was previously assigned to the embassy in Syria. The U.S. statement said Nasr al Din's activities included arranging the travel of Hezbollah members to attend a training course in Iran. Also named by the U.S. government is Fawzi Kan'an, a Caracas resident who owns two travel agencies. He is described by U.S. authorities as a "supporter and a significant provider of financial support to Hezbollah." Kan'an "has met with senior Hezbollah officials in Lebanon to discuss operational issues including possible kidnapping and terrorist attacks," the Treasury Department said. The statement said he had also traveled with Hezbollah members to Iran for training. The U.S. action freezes any assets the individuals and the travel agencies may have in the U.S. and prohibits any U.S. business transactions with the men or the travel businesses. For more information **click here**.

Chavez urges FARC to end struggle

During his June 8 radio and television program "Hello President" President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela called for Colombia's largest guerrilla group to end its four-decade struggle to overthrow Colombia's government, a surprising policy shift just months after he called for the rebels to be recognized as a legitimate insurgent force. Mr. Chávez's comments came a day after Colombian authorities announced the capture in eastern Colombia of two Venezuelans, including one man identified as a Venezuelan national guard officer, carrying 40,000 AK-47 assault rifle cartridges, which the Colombians said were intended for use by the guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Chavez sent the uncharacteristically strong message to the leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, saying their ongoing efforts to overthrow Colombia's democratically elected government were unjustified. "The guerrilla war is history," said Chavez. "At this moment in Latin America, an armed guerrilla movement is out of place." Addressing new FARC leader Alfonso Cano, Chavez said, "I think the time has come to free all of the hostages you have. It would be a great, humanitarian gesture." For more information **click here**.

Messages Found on FARC Computers Indicate International Contacts

• Peruvian Guerrilla Sought FARC Support

The Peruvian newspaper *El Comercio* announced on June 16 that a faction of the now-defunct Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) has been preparing itself to renew its violent struggle. According to messages found on the laptop computer of the FARC's now-deceased number two man, Raul Reyes, a faction of the MRTA calling itself "MIR-Voz Rebelde" solicited the FARC's help in training and funding its members in 2007. The incident was officially announced in Lima by Colombian Attorney General Mario Iguarán, who stated that an unidentified Peruvian asked the FARC for $100,000, which the FARC refused to provide.

The attorney general stated that the data from the computer did not reveal how the money would be used or if the man writing to the FARC was associated with any other Peruvian groups. Mr. Iguarán downplayed the episode, emphasizing that the Peruvian leftist factions asking the FARC for money "are so impoverished and incapacitated that it would be very difficult for them to pose a true threat to national security." Nevertheless, Peruvian President Alan García said that authorities would work with the Colombian minister of defense to investigate the origin of the emails and identify who sent them. For more information **click here**.

- ## Emails indicate seven years of contact between FARC and FMLN

News articles in El Salvador June 11 and 12 reported that at least 39 of the more than 10,000 documents extracted by the Government of Colombia from the computer of "Raúl Reyes", second in command of the FARC who died in a military operation March 1,2008, mention the FMLN, "Ramiro," or the Front. They recount an institutional relationship which from 2001 to 2007 passed as various business deals—including arms sales—planning for "Ramiro" to visit Colombian zones controlled by the guerillas and reciprocal consultations on the political situation of both organizations. The Attorneys General of Colombia and El Salvador do not yet have an official agreement on handing copies of the emails over to the Salvadoran justice system. For more information **click here**.

- ## Connection Between ETA and FARC

The connection between Basque Terrorists and the Colombian guerrillas is becoming clearer. In an interview with the newspaper El Mundo, a former member of the FARC asserts that ETA helped them receive cocaine shipments and drug trafficking money in Spain. ETA Training, according to the source of El Mundo, is the latest in a series of relationships un-covered due to the "Raul Reyes" files, declassified by INTERPOL during May. Moreover, the Spanish Television (TVE) program "Weekly Report" (Informe Semanal) showed on June 21 a video fragment in which a guerrilla member identified as Juan Santrich, responsible for political relations of the FARC, uses the same terminology used by ETA to address Spain and send messages about the Basque Country in its press releases. For more information **click here**, **here** and **here.**

Carol S. Fuller
Secretary
CFuller@oas.org

Pablo Martínez
Deputy Secretary and Programs Coordinator
PMartinez@oas.org

Sheridon Hill
Program Manager
Immigration and Border Controls
SHill@oas.org

Hayda Wallen
Program Manager
Aviation Security - Tourism Security
HWallen@oas.org

Francine Hanna
Program Manager
Evaluation Program — Document Security and
Fraud Prevention
FHanna@oas.org

Maria Elena de la Flor Musso
Budget and Administrative Officer
Webmaster
MDelaflor@oas.org

Ignacio Ibáñez
Specialist / Program Manager
Legislation - Terrorism Financing
Port Security
IIbanez@oas.org

Brian Sullivan
Specialist / Program Manager
Port Security -
Document Security and Fraud Prevention
BSullivan@oas.org

Lilia Moraes
Program Manager
Cyber Security
LMoraes@oas.org

Belisario Contreras
Administrative Assistant
Cyber Security
BContreras@oas.org

Gillian Bristol
Program Manager
NPC Liaison - Crisis Management - Secretary for CICTE Meetings
GBristol@oas.org

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, N.W. (8th floor)
Washington D.C., 20006
U.S.A.

Telephone: +1+202.458.6960
Fax: +1+202.458.3857
E-mail: cicte@oas.org

www.cicte.oas.org