



# Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

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



## COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

### Aviation Security Techniques

The CICTE Secretariat facilitated training of fifteen (15) Nationals from Antigua and Barbuda in Basic Aviation Security techniques. This training took place July 7 - 15 for front line security staff of the V.C. Bird International Airport, located on the northeast end of Antigua. The Basic Aviation Security Training Course is delivered by International Training specialists from the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). It focuses on the screener as the first line of defense against terrorism in international aviation.



For more information: Ms. Hayda Wallen, [hwallen@oas.org](mailto:hwallen@oas.org).

### Specialized Training on counter-Terrorism Financing in Buenos Aires



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat (CICTE/SMS/OAS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, Security and Human Rights of the Republic of Argentina, organized a "Workshop on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism, its Financing and Money Laundering", which took place in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina on July 7, 8 and 10, 2008.

The workshop was focused on the universal legal framework related to the prevention and fight against terrorism and its financing, as well as the international legal instruments against money laundering, and international cooperation issues related to these topics. The 103 participants of the workshop went through the different topics proposed in the agenda under the guidance of European and Latin-American experts, as well as the organizers. The Minister of Justice, Security and Human Rights of the Republic of Argentina opened the workshop.

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## **“Guest Editorial”**



Opening the OAS General Assembly in June, Secretary General José Miguel Insulza reminded the assembled foreign ministers that security in the Americas is not only multidimensional in scope, but that stability in the region is inextricably linked to—and reinforced by—development, social justice, democracy, and human rights.

Although there is a growing recognition of the interconnected relationship between security and development in the Americas and around the world, it has yet to be followed by a commensurate shift in national spending habits of many donor countries. Today, development assistance worldwide is approximately US\$105 billion, while total military expenditures exceed US\$1.1 trillion. Although development and security programs are often treated as competitive priorities, untapped opportunities exist to leverage each in mutual support.

In April 2004, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1540, which mandates that all Member States implement a set of supply-side controls related to the nonproliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and criminalize activities of proliferation within their territories. The Resolution encourages states with the capacity to provide international assistance to do so; and, in turn, encourages states-in-need to request any assistance they may require to enable them to meet the demands of 1540.

When viewed in detail, the Resolution provides a unique opportunity for poorer countries to begin tapping security-related assistance to simultaneously meet many of their development and capacity building objectives. For instance, the technical assistance and communications infrastructure to address detection and interdiction of weapons of mass destruction are equally critical for emergency management authorities and first responders in response to a natural disaster—a particularly pertinent fact in the midst of hurricane season. The ability to prosecute criminals who may be marketing materials of mass destruction requires a well-trained police force and functioning judiciary. The prevention of human trafficking relies upon many of the same resources and capacities necessary to detect and prevent nuclear proliferation. And “safe ports” standards that challenge governments’ ability to remain competitive in the global supply chain can be achieved, in part, with nonproliferation security assistance that ensures borders and ports are secure and ultimately efficient.

The importance of 1540 implementation in the Americas was subsequently underscored by OAS AG/RES 2333 (XXXVII-0-07) which vowed to keep the topic on the agenda of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CHS) and support Member States by holding periodic meetings, sharing lessons learned, identifying opportunities for assistance, and setting regional priorities.

The Stimson Center, a nonprofit NGO, has launched an initiative designed to develop scalable, sustainable, and replicable pilot efforts that pragmatically pair states in need of development assistance with those states willing to offer such assistance under the auspices of national security. Unlike traditional assistance programs, this effort bridges the gap between global development needs and traditional security objectives like nonproliferation and counterterrorism, by addressing the immediate needs of the developing world while building governments’ capacity to promote sustainable security.

For example, in February 2007, at the behest of the former chairman of the UN 1540 Committee which oversees the Resolution’s implementation, the Stimson Center and the office of the Assistant Secretary General, with participation of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and CHS, organized a regional meeting in Santo Domingo to operationalize this security/development strategy. The discussion focused on local concerns—citizen security, human and drug trafficking, border and maritime security, public health, disaster preparedness and mitigation—and sought to pair the need for responsive capacity-building with new avenues of financial support. The meeting yielded an immediate response from participating states: two of the six participating countries have submitted reports to the UN Committee, while two others are known to be developing assistance requests. Our goal is to expand this model to other regions within the OAS.

Implementation of UN Resolution 1540 need not be a burden on OAS governments. Indeed, if viewed more expansively, the Resolution provides a unique opportunity for all countries of the region to identify new assistance streams required to meet critical development and capacity building priorities while simultaneously preventing the acquisition of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons by terrorists.

Brian Finlay  
Senior Associate  
The Henry L. Stimson Center  
Washington, DC

## **COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES**

### **“Initiatives against Computer Crimes” – Meeting in Buenos Aires**



On July 22, 2008, Argentina held a one-day meeting on “Initiatives against Computer Crimes”, which was attended by nearly 500 people. The event brought together local and international experts on computer security topics.

The session aimed to deepen attendees’ familiarity with the recently-approved Law No. 26.388 of the Penal Code reform (also known as the “Computer Crimes Law”), to analyze the tenets of the Budapest Cyber-Crime Convention, and to publicize the work of ArCERT (Computer Emergency Response Team of the Argentine Public Administration) in Argentina and the INTECO-CERT, in Spain (INTECO-CERT supports incident response and security services for all Spanish Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Citizens).

Increasing dependency on information technology compels countries to adapt their behavior and update their sanctions. The Computer Crimes Law is a reform of the Penal Code that aims to adapt it “to scientific and technical advances” (as is stated in the document’s framework), and to help to determine the appropriate response to the challenges and regulatory needs associated with cyber threats. For more information [click here](#).

### **UNODC Legal Workshop for Small Island Developing States on the criminal law aspects of countering maritime terrorism**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized 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", on July 14-16, 2008 in Vienna, Austria.

The purpose of the workshop was 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. The workshop also provided a forum directed towards national legislative drafting related to the instruments, as well as strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to terrorism.



Thirty-six (36) UN Member States (including 13 OAS Member States) participated in the workshop, together with observers and experts from the Fiji Islands, France, South Africa, the United States, the Executive Directorate (CTED) of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN, the UN 1540 Committee, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Indian Ocean Commission (COI), and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). The CICTE Secretariat also participated and was invited to give a presentation on the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and on the counter terrorism Legislative Assistance and Terrorism Financing Program. For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, [iibanez@oas.org](mailto:iibanez@oas.org)

### **UN OHCHR – New report on Human Rights, Terrorism and Counter Terrorism**

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, recently released a new fact sheet on Human Rights, Terrorism and Counter Terrorism. To access the report: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Factsheet32EN.pdf>

### **July Revisions to Consolidated List of the United Nations Security Council Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee**

An updated July 28, 2008, version of the Consolidated List is accessible in XML, PDF and HTML formats on the Committee's website at the following URL: <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/consolist.shtml>

## UNODC on-line course – Global Norms against Terrorism at Work: Getting International Law in Motion



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the DIPLO Foundation have developed a new online training course on the Universal Legal Regime Against Terrorism. The course aims to strengthen national capacities by assisting criminal justice officials and other individuals involved in counter-terrorism issues to develop the skills and knowledge required to effectively utilize the channels for international legal cooperation envisaged in 16 treaties adopted within the UN system between 1963 and 2005, and a number of binding resolutions of the Security Council. To achieve these aims, the course:

- introduces the main concepts and requirements of the universal legal regime against terrorism;
- familiarizes participants with the main legal issues involved in counter-terrorism;
- raises awareness and develops specialized expertise in the effective implementation of relevant legal instruments, including the adoption of appropriate national legislation;
- raises awareness on the work of the UN on counter-terrorism, international standards and norms, regional arrangements and national obligations in the field of counter-terrorism legislation.

This course will be conducted entirely online, over a period of 6 weeks. Reading materials and tools for online interaction are provided through an online classroom. The course is offered free of charge as part of a capacity building initiative on the part of UNODC. For full details on the course and application instructions, please visit the course website at:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/online-training-course.html>

The application deadline is September 20, 2008. In case of questions, please contact Ms. Petya Dimitrova: ([Petya.Dimitrova@unodc.org](mailto:Petya.Dimitrova@unodc.org))

## Nortel's study on quantifying the state of today's connectedness

The unclear line between business and personal use of technology together with the increasing of IT and telecommunications have led to 'Hyperconnectivity' or a new culture of connectivity, meaning that everything that can be connected and would benefit from being connected will be connected.



Nortel - a Canadian communications equipment vendor – sponsored a global study of almost 2,400 working adults in 17 countries focused on quantifying the state of today's connectedness, tracking its acceptance and use across devices and applications as well as determining the pace of its growth and impact on an enterprise. The study found that Latin America has the largest percentage of hyper/increasingly connected users who made up 64% of the respondents from the region. This compares to 59% in Asia Pacific, 50% in Europe, and 44% in North America.

The increasing levels of connectivity will have a profound impact on the global workforce, stimulating the management of the new connectivity tools while defying security and protection of critical information, raising the need for establishing means of response to cyber incidents.

[http://www.nortel.com/promotions/idc\\_paper/index.html](http://www.nortel.com/promotions/idc_paper/index.html)

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## New Rand Corporation Counter Terrorism Study



A new report published July 29 by the nonpartisan RAND National Defense Research Institute, a research and development center that does research for the U.S. Department of Defense, asserts that current U.S. strategy against the terrorist group al Qaida has not been successful in significantly undermining the group's capabilities. In looking at how other terrorist groups have ended, the RAND study-- "How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for Countering al-Qaeda"--found that most terrorist groups end either because they join the political process, or because local police and intelligence efforts arrest or kill key members. Police and intelligence agencies, rather than the military, should be the tip of the spear against al Qaida in most of the world, and the United States should abandon the use of the phrase "war on terrorism," researchers concluded. According to the authors, Seth Jones and Martin Libicki, "The term we use to describe our strategy toward terrorists is important, because it affects what kinds of forces you use." "Terrorists should be perceived and described as criminals, not holy warriors, and our analysis

suggests that there is no battlefield solution to terrorism."

Among the other findings, the study notes:

Religious terrorist groups take longer to eliminate than other groups. Since 1968, approximately 62 percent of all terrorist groups have ended, while only 32 percent of religious terrorist groups have done so.

No religious terrorist group has achieved victory since 1968.

Size is an important predictor of a group's fate. Large groups of more than 10,000 members have been victorious more than 25 percent of the time, while victory is rare when groups are smaller than 1,000 members.

There is no statistical correlation between the duration of a terrorist group and ideological motivation, economic conditions, regime type or the breadth of terrorist goals.

Terrorist groups that become involved in an insurgency do not end easily. Nearly 50 percent of the time they end with a negotiated settlement with the government, 25 percent of the time they achieved victory and 19 percent of the time, military groups defeated them.

Terrorist groups from upper-income countries are much more likely to be left-wing or nationalistic, and much less likely to be motivated by religion.

<http://www.rand.org/news/press/2008/07/29/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/29/AR2008072902041.html>

## Final Workshop on the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation



A final workshop on the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation was held at the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in New York on July 10, 2008. The Process, which included a series of workshops focusing on discrete aspects of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Strategy, was co-sponsored by Costa Rica, Japan, Slovakia, Switzerland and Turkey, with support from the Center on Global Counter Terrorism Cooperation.

The discussions focused on assessing the overall UN contributions to the fight against terrorism over the past seven years and identifying ways to make its institutions more relevant to national and regional counter-terrorism efforts and better able to support implementation of the UN Strategy. During the process it was recognized that the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy remains a key political achievement that should be built upon during the review in September 2008 and beyond. The Final Document, presented by the co-sponsors to UN Member States on July 23, 2008, identifies a number of proposals for strengthening the implementation of the UN Strategy. Without endorsing each one, the co-sponsors stated that they merit consideration by the wider UN membership during the September 4, 2008, review of the Strategy by the General Assembly and beyond. For the final document and more information:

<http://www.globalct.org/index.php>

## **RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS**

Month	Days	Event	Venue
July	7-10, 2008	Specialized training on terrorism financing for Argentina for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officials; organized by UNODC and CICTE	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	7-15, 2008	Aviation Security Basic Security Training for Antigua and Barbuda, organized by CICTE	Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda
	14-16, 2008	Global Workshop for developing small country islands on legislation against terrorism, organized by UNODC	Vienna, Austria
	21- August 8, 2008	Port Security Assessment and Follow-on Training for The Bahamas, organized by CICTE	The Bahamas

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Month	Days	Event	Venue
August	11-21, 2008	Advanced Aviation Security Training for Barbados, organized by CICTE	Bridgetown, Barbados
	18-28, 2008	Basic Aviation Security Training for Dominica, organized by CICTE	Roseau, Dominica
	25-26, 2008	OAS Seminar on International Law, organized by the OAS International Law Office	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	25-29, 2008	APEC Working Group on Transportation	Lima, Peru
September	3-5, 2008	Cybercrime Legislation Workshop for Latin American countries, organized by OAS-REMJA Working Group on Cybercrime and the US Department of Justice	Bogota, Colombia
	4, 2008	UN General Assembly Review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy	UN, New York
	8-12, 2008	Advanced Aviation Security Training for Dominica, organized by CICTE	Roseau, Dominica
	25-27, 2008	Port Security Crisis Management Exercise for Trinidad and Tobago, organized by CICTE	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
	TBD	Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Terrorism Financing, organized by CICTE	Kingston, Jamaica
October	7-8, 2008	OAS Ministerial Conference on Public Security	Mexico City, Mexico
	26-31, 2008	Document examination and document fraud workshop, organized by CICTE	Mexico City, Mexico
November	19-21, 2008	Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation, organized by Government of Panama	Panama City, Panama
December	TBD	Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Cyber Security Awareness and the Creation and Management of a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), organized by CICTE and CARICOM	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
	8-12, 2008	Aviation Security Crisis Management Exercise, organized by CICTE	Roseau, Dominica

\*NOTE: Only events that have formally accepted by host countries appear on this list.

## **NEWS**

### **Al-Qaeda network funding Jihad brought down in Spain**

On June 6, the Spanish Civil Guard dismantled a cell with ties to al-Qaeda that was dedicated to financing jihad and holy war. Three individuals of Algerian descent were detained in Huelva and Guipúzcoa provinces during what was termed "Operation Emir." According to the Minister of the Interior, the investigation revealed a network dedicated to sending money obtained from the sale of falsified goods (documents and clothing labels) to known members of Islamic terrorist organizations.

The defunct cell, which has been under investigation by the Civil Guard since 2005, had been sending money to terrorist organizations since at least 2001, which is the earliest year that authorities have been able to trace the group's activity. The detained group members had sent small installments of money (not exceeding 2400 euros) to terrorists in Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Algeria using businesses that specialize in money transfers. Officials from the United Kingdom-- where the cell members were known for their ties to terrorists and detainees held in the country-- collaborated with Spanish authorities throughout the investigation. For more information [click here](#).

### **Nine ETA members arrested**

Spanish Civil Guards arrested on July 22 nine suspected members of the Basque terrorist group ETA, who are thought to be behind the May bombing that killed a Civil Guard, Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said. Elite agents used explosives to blast open the apartment door of the suspected cell leader, longtime fugitive Arkaitz Goikoetxea, in the northern city of Bilbao. Also arrested were eight other suspects who allegedly worked secretly for ETA while maintaining the appearance of normal lives, Rubalcaba said at a nationally-televised news conference in Madrid. The group arrested is thought to be the most active cell since ETA officially ended its unilateral cease-fire last year.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Post-9/11 Dragnet Turns Up Surprises Biometrics Link Foreign Detainees to Arrests in U.S.**

In the six-and-a-half years that the U.S. government has been fingerprinting insurgents, detainees and ordinary people in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa, hundreds have turned out to share an unexpected background, FBI and military officials said on July 5. They have criminal arrest records in the United States. The records suggest that potential enemies abroad know a great deal about the United States because many of them have lived here, officials said. The matches also reflect the power of sharing data across agencies and even countries, data that links an identity to a distinguishing human characteristic such as a fingerprint. The effort is being boosted by a presidential directive signed June 5, which gave the U.S. attorney general and other cabinet officials 90 days to come up with a plan to expand the use of biometrics by, among other things, recommending categories of people to be screened beyond "known or suspected" terrorists. For more information [click here](#).

### **Senate sends no-warrant wiretapping bill to Bush**



On July 9, 2008, the US Senate voted 69-28 to approve a bill to put new rules in place for intelligence agency eavesdropping on suspected terrorists. The bill, officially called the FISA Amendments Act, also effectively protects telephone companies from being sued for cooperating with a government surveillance program launched in the wake of the 2001 attacks on New York and Washington. The White House pushed hard for the provision, with a threat to veto the bill if it did not contain protection for phone companies. President Bush signed the bill into law on July 10. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).



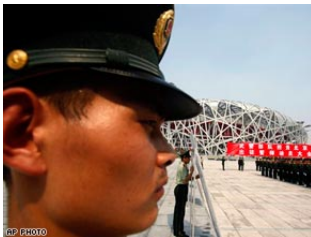
## Chertoff Seeks More Radiation Scans on Small Planes



Conducting radiation screens of small aircraft entering the United States is a top priority for the U.S. Homeland Security Department, Secretary Michael Chertoff said yesterday. He reaffirmed earlier concerns that terrorists could try to smuggle radiological materials for "dirty bombs" on small planes or boats. In testimony to the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee, Chertoff also worried that terrorists are recruiting new members with European Union passports that might receive less scrutiny at U.S. borders. "Terrorists are deliberately focusing on people who have legitimate Western European passports, who don't appear to have records as terrorists," he said.

"I have a good degree of confidence we can catch people coming in. But I have to tell you ... there's no guarantee. And they are working very hard to slip by us". For more information [click here](#).

## China Tightens Olympic Security



Security preparations for the 2008 Olympic Games in China have continued at a feverish pace, with the recent bus bombings in China's western Yunnan province only exacerbating worries about terrorist attacks and potentially-violent anti-government protests. Recently, a group calling itself the Turkestan Islamic Party released a video asserting responsibility for the July 21 bus bombings in the Yunnan capital of Kunming, which killed 2 and injured 14. The speaker in the video, identified as "Commander Seyfullah," says the group aims "to target the most critical points related to the Olympics." Chinese officials have rejected the group's claim that is responsible for the blasts and have continued to insist that there is no link between the bus bombings and the

upcoming Olympic games. Xinjiang police say they have broken up five separatist groups this year and arrested 82 people on suspicion of plotting against the Beijing Games. The Chinese government has set aside specially designated protest zones throughout Beijing in the hopes of containing any riots, and security measures in airports and train stations throughout the country have been tightened. Although many experts say the actual threat to the Beijing Games from terrorism is low, China has nevertheless prepared an anti-terror force of nearly 100,000 commandos, police, and troops. For more information [click here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## New Zealand Plans WMD Interdiction Drill

New Zealand plans to conduct a simulated interdiction of a ship smuggling potential weapon of mass destruction ingredients in an exercise Sept. 15 to 19. The drill, dubbed Exercise Maru, would be held through the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative, a group of more than 85 nations aiming to prevent shipments of WMD materials. Australia, Japan and the United States are expected to participate in the drill, which is expected to involve more than 200 regional participants and spectators, including a P-3 Orion patrol plane sent by Japan, ships and aircraft from the Australian Navy, and more than 30 Navy and Coast Guard personnel as well as military, customs and homeland security officials. For more information [click here](#).

## UK ban for Hezbollah military arm



Britain's Home Office said July 2 it is banning the military wing of Hezbollah, the Lebanese political movement, because of its support for "terrorism" in Iraq and the Palestinian territories. Parliament must approve the order for it to become law. The announcement would make it a crime to belong to or encourage support for Hezbollah's military wing. The order does not apply to Hezbollah's political or social activities. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the ban came after "new evidence" of Hezbollah's involvement in terrorism in Iraq and the Palestinian territories. For more information [click here](#).

## Betancourt and US contractors rescued from FARC kidnappers

On July 2, the Colombian military infiltrated In a secret operation rebel group FARC and deceived its members into giving up 15 hostages including former Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt. Many article references are cited on the CICTE website. For more information [click here](#).



## The FARC Has Kidnapped 300 Children Since 1996

The guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have kidnapped 300 children since 1996, according to a report released July 2 by the Bogota police. Of those 300 children, 214 were captured for the purpose of extortion and 86 are considered “normal” kidnappings. In terms of gender, 96 girls were victims of extortion and 48 were “normal” kidnappings, while the numbers for boys were 118 and 38, respectively. For more information [click here](#).

## 37 Emails from Raul Reyes’ PC Mention Swiss Negotiator Jean –Pierre Gontard

On July 7, Luis Carlos Restrepo—Colombia’s High Commissioner for Peace—said that the Colombian government would assume direct negotiations with the FARC after discovering that Jean-Pierre Gontard, a Swiss negotiator for the hostages’ release, is mentioned several times in the files found on Raul Reyes’ PC. For more information [click here](#).

## The OAS Urges the FARC to Disarm

On July 8, member countries of the Organization of American States expressed their wholehearted congratulations to the nation and government of Colombia for its successful and peaceful rescue of 15 hostages held by the FARC. Camilo Ospina, the Colombian ambassador to the OAS, thanked the organization for its support and for the “declarations of solidarity from leaders throughout the continent” for the rescue operation. He then reiterated an earlier “invitation to the FARC to make peace.” For more information [click here](#).

## With note of protest to Nicaragua, the new Chancellor Jaime Bermudez started his mandate

The official rejected the pretension of the Central American president, Daniel Ortega, to meet with leaders of the FARC to discuss peace, as “constituting a violation of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States,” stated in a document released by Chancellor Bermudez. The note, which was sent on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July to the government in Managua, concludes by stating that “a case will be presented to the Organization of American States for making expressions that violate the letter and spirit of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.” For more information [click here](#).

## World rallies for FARC hostages' freedom

More than a million Colombians, clad in white and shouting “No more kidnapping,” marked their independence day on Sunday, July 20, with marches and concerts demanding freedom for hostages still held by FARC. Demonstrators chanted “Libertad!” -- the Spanish word for freedom -- in rallies across the Andean nation and in some 40 cities abroad, including Paris, London, Miami, Beijing, Sydney, New York and Washington D.C. For more information [click here](#).

## Presidents Chávez and Uribe Meet Following FARC Hostage Rescue



Following his country’s peaceful rescue of 15 high-profile hostages held by the FARC, Colombia’s President Álvaro Uribe met July 17 with Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez for the first time since relations between the two presidents turned sour last November. The meeting marked a remarkable easing of tensions between the two neighbors, who came almost to the brink of war in March over a border dispute between Colombia and Ecuador. Since the hostage rescue, both Chavez and Uribe have expressed an interest in improving political relations between the two countries and strengthen their economic ties. The two nations conducted roughly \$6 billion in trade last year. For more information [click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## Abu Hamza loses extradition fight

Radical Muslim cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri has been refused leave to appeal to the British House of Lords against his extradition to the United States. U.S. prosecutors want the 50-year-old to face trial on charges which include providing support to al-Qaeda. The Egypt-born preacher is currently serving a seven-year jail term in the United Kingdom for inciting murder and racial hatred. For more information [click here](#).

## Military Trial In Progress for Guantánamo Detainee



The trial for Salim Hamdan, the first Guantánamo detainee to be tried by the United States, began in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, on July 21. Hamdan, a former driver for Osama bin Laden, faces charges of material support for terrorism and conspiracy. A recent Washington Post article asserted that Hamdan's case is being used to test an "essentially new legal system and... work out the kinks" in preparation for the trials of higher-ranking al-Qaeda defendants. It noted that the Bush administration is hoping for "a smoothly run, credible trial with few theatrics, resulting in an easy conviction," which could help consolidate the validity of the proceedings. Despite the defense's claim that Salim Hamdan was one of several low-level, uneducated drivers for bin Laden, a conviction for at least one of the charges, material support for terrorism, is probable, according to the article. The prosecution does not need to prove to the military judge and the jury of six senior military officers that Hamdan committed violent acts, but merely that he knew al-Qaeda was a terrorist group and that he nonetheless acted to support it. The charge of conspiracy may be more difficult to prove because prosecutors would have to show that Hamdan actively agreed to support terrorist activities, rather than just knowing about them. For more information [click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## How to Try Terrorism Cases?

The war crimes tribunals, which are the first held by the US since WWII, have created a great deal of controversy within the American judicial system regarding the proper procedure for trying Guantánamo detainees. Two recent editorials in the Washington Post presented opposing views on the subject, highlighting the challenges that trying terrorism cases may present. John Coghenuor, a federal judge, argued that terrorism cases can and should be handled within the traditional federal court system and that exempting terrorists from the conventional trial process marks a sacrifice of the values we depend upon to forge alliances and secure international cooperation against terrorism. But the Post's editors asserted that federal courts are designed to address crimes after they have been committed, a condition that is difficult to reconcile with cases in which defendants were apprehended before they executed a terrorist attack. They propose instead that foreign nationals suspected of terrorist activities are best prosecuted in a specialized national security court that can balance the needs of national security against the demands of due process. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

## House to debate anti-terrorism amendments

Parliamentarians were expected to debate amendments to anti-terrorism legislation July 17 when the House of Assembly reconvened. The Bahamas passed its anti-terrorism act in 2004, but parliamentarians want to amend the legislation to remove requirements for reciprocity, which allows The Bahamas government to provide foreign governments with information. According to the bill, the reciprocity provision in the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2004, appears to be inconsistent with The Bahamas' policy regarding international cooperation and the international standards relating to international cooperation to combat terrorism. For more information [click here](#).

## Honduras Deep-Water Port Security Scans 100% of Containers Shipped to the U.S.



Honduras' Caribbean port Puerto Cortes is the only port in the Western Hemisphere and one of only 3 worldwide currently scanning all inbound and outbound shipments for nuclear substances. Puerto Cortes has adopted a fast and efficient container-scanning system that involves three processes and takes only 48 seconds to completely examine each container. First, a Radiation Portal Monitor (RPM) screens the container for any radiation; then, Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) equipment provides imaging of the container's interior using Gamma-Ray technology. Finally, if radiation is detected, Radiation Isotope Identification Devices (RIIDs) are used to identify the source.

Puerto Cortes ranks 29th in the world in volume of shipments to the United States and is also a partner in the U.S. Government's Container Security (CSI), Megaports, and Secure Freight (SFI) Initiatives. Puerto Cortes' comprehensive scanning program is part a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) pilot program conducted by DHS at foreign ports. For more information [click here](#).

## U.S. to Expand Domestic WMD Response Forces

According to news reports July 24, the United States has begun to reorganize its military response to a domestic WMD attack by establishing three widely dispersed groups, each numbering in the thousands. The first such force would include specialists in responding to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attacks. That group, the WMD Consequence Management Response Force, is set to begin operating its first unit on U.S. soil for in October. For more information [click here](#).



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