



# Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

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

## COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

### Sub-regional workshop on Terrorism Financing:

The Secretariats of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/SMS/CICTE and CICAD) in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and under the auspices of the Institute on Drugs of Costa Rica (ICD), organized a "Sub-regional Workshop on countering Terrorism Financing", held in San José, Costa Rica, from February 3 to 6, 2009.



The main aim of the Workshop was to build capacity on (i) legislative issues related to the financing of terrorism and the international approach; (ii) investigation and prosecution special techniques; and (iii) international cooperation. The Workshop was divided into two segments: the first one (which took place on the first day) provided general training primarily for legislators and high-ranking officials of the Executive Branch; the second segment (days two through four) was a technical segment for prosecutors, officials of National Financial Intelligence Units and law enforcement officials with relevant experience investigating financial crimes. Experts from the organizing institutions participated in the conference, together with experts from other international and sub-regional organizations, and the private sector, such as the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), INTERPOL, the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Court (Audiencia Nacional) of Spain, and Western Union. Additionally, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Amb. Albert Ramdin, gave some closing remarks the last day of the workshop.

A technical working document with a thorough set of conclusions and recommendations was adopted by the participants of the workshop, reaffirming the commitments of participating countries—Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, and Paraguay—in the area of counter terrorism and its financing. To access the document kindly follow the [link](#).

For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, [iibanez@oas.org](mailto:iibanez@oas.org)

### Ninth Regular Session of CICTE

The Ninth Regular Session of CICTE (CICTE IX) will be held on March 4-6, 2009 in Washington DC, United States. The CICTE IX Agenda includes three topics for discussion: "Measures to combat illicit arms trafficking in the context of the fight against terrorism"; "Transfer of money or assets across borders through informal systems or networks aimed at financing terrorism"; and Measures related to improving port and airport security and controls". For more information [click here](#).



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## Editorial

International “jihadist” terrorism possesses a number of peculiarities with respect to its management, structure and functioning, which distinguishes it from traditional terrorism and noticeably complicates a response from the state by means of a criminal investigation and application of the law. As it is only too well known, the principal singularity of international “jihadist” terrorism—though sharing similarities in methods (infliction of terror through violent acts) and goals (to subvert constitutional order and disturb public peace)—is that terrorist activity develops through autonomous cells that act in each country in response to radical fundamentalist inspiration that al Qaeda and other notable radical Islamist movements transmit via a variety of means of communication (particularly the Internet and television).

In a similar fashion, each terrorist cell autonomously and independently carries out enticement, recruitment, indoctrination, and training of individuals for the “Jihad” or, in other words, unites groups with terrorist aims and supports radical fundamentalist objectives. It is worth highlighting the extraordinary importance of the diffusion and/or distribution of messages and videos with “jihadist” content (concerning training camps, executions of infidels, fabrication of arms and explosives, individuals preparing for suicide, exaltation of the “jihad”, indoctrination in radical fundamentalism, etc.) in substantiating these criminal behaviors. Such activities of diffusion and distribution are genuine breeding grounds for terrorist activities, entailing the potential risk of abstractly promoting or facilitating the commissioning of attacks.

The reality is that terrorist cells and groups use the Internet as a medium for disseminating propaganda to mobilize and recruit followers, as well as instructions and manuals for training and planning attacks. The internet acts in this manner as one of the principal propellers of the processes of radicalization and recruitment, and it serves as a source of information on terrorist means and methods. In summary, the internet is **a genuine “virtual training camp” in which the diffusion of propaganda and terrorist experiments complement and reinforce the indoctrination and training of “jihadists” and contributes to the development of a more solid base of activists and supporters of terrorism.**

It is clear that criminal law should not persecute ideas. Consequently, radical fundamentalist doctrines that fall under the concept of “Jihad”—unless exceeding the sphere of ideological expression—are nothing more than a pathogenic deviation from Islamic religion and cannot be the object of legal reproach even when defending positions that are opposite and incompatible with the fundamentals of social democracy. Nevertheless, the activities of enticement and indoctrination of individuals into such positions suppose an externalization of acts that are carried out with the sole objective of training individuals to be combatants (i.e. for a future commission of terrorist acts), which leads to the conclusion that this activity of proselytism—absolutely indispensable for the expansion of international terrorism—carries enough weight and criminal potential from a legal perspective without necessarily having carried out the preparatory or executive acts of a concrete terrorist attack.

As such, there is no doubt as to the importance of preventive criminal policies directed at the prevention of terrorist acts. Its effectiveness will depend on the legal tools at the disposal of the rule of law, amongst which two types of crimes—which constitute the core of a preventive response against terrorism—take priority: the crime of joining a terrorist organization and the crime of collaborating with such groups. It is clear that the difficulty of proof for investigators increases when the legal system acts preventively, but even considering these risks, we are obligated to articulate a **strategy of investigation of terrorist acts which also assures the specialization of the judicial bodies involved—making possible better training of said bodies in the management of proof techniques and special investigation mechanisms—which expands the legal response to criminal activity and which provides indispensable support and coverage for the achievement of its ends.**

***H.E. Javier A. Zaragoza Aguado***  
***Chief Prosecutor of the National Court of the Kingdom of Spain***

## **COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES**

### **Costa Rica passes law against terrorism and its financing**

The Congress of the Republic of Costa Rica passed, on a second and unanimous vote on February 5, national legislation to fight terrorism and its financing.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (OAS/SMS/CICTE) had been since 2004 technically assisting and supporting Costa Rica's efforts to ensure this piece of legislation is in harmony with the universal and regional legal frameworks against terrorism. For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, [iibanez@oas.org](mailto:iibanez@oas.org)

### **Legislative Technical Assistance Mission to the Dominican Republic**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the CICTE Secretariat, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, undertook a joint Follow-up Legislative Technical Assistance Mission to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on February 12 and 13. The main goal of the mission was to continue providing legislative assistance and follow-up on the implementation of a new counter-terrorism law—passed on July 2008.

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

### **Joint CICTE and Council of Europe Conference on "Terrorism and Cyber Security"**



The CICTE Secretariat and the Council of Europe are jointly organizing a conference on "Terrorism and Cyber Security," on April 16-17, 2009, which will be hosted by the Government of Spain in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain. Spain has been a supporter of the counter terrorism activities of CICTE and the Council's Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) and is currently Chair of the Council. The conference will bring together counter terrorism experts from 81 Member States in Europe and the Americas of the two regional organizations, which have increased their joint activities and attendance at each other's meetings in the last two years.

Panels of international experts will address such key issues as "The Internet as a tool to support terrorists and ways to counter such use" and "The internet and critical infrastructure as targets for cyber attacks by terrorists." CODEXTER will hold its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting on 15-16 April 2009 in El Escorial just prior to the conference.

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

### **February 2009 – Aviation Security**

During February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 the Secretariat of the Inter American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) facilitated the training of twenty-one (21) aviation security supervisors and managers from Suriname. It was the first national aviation security training program provided by CICTE to Suriname and this was reflected in the level of enthusiasm shown by the participants.

The training was provided by instructors from the US Transportation Security Administration. The course addressed concepts and principles of managing aviation security operations within the unique environment of an international airport. The course content is based on International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and recommended practices, and focuses on protection of passengers, crew, ground personnel, the general public, aircraft, and airport facilities. Subjects covered included ICAO standards and recommended practices, the threat to civil aviation, security program development, security surveys and inspections, access control, physical security, passenger screening, screening checked baggage, cargo, mail, and catering, human factors, human factors training, and crisis management. Practical exercises were used extensively to reinforce classroom learning and the interaction between participants and instructors provided opportunities to discuss country-specific issues and concerns, and to identify potential solutions and program enhancements.

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



## February 16-20 - CSIRT



The CICTE Secretariat held the “Advanced Workshop on Managing a National Computer Incidence Security Response Team (CSIRT)” on February 16-20, 2009 in San José, Costa Rica. The workshop was targeted at the Central American countries and Mexico, and approximately 20 representatives from member states participated, as well as representatives from the private sector who participated as observers. The workshop was carried out with the help of the Ministry of the Presidency and the Ministry of Science of Costa Rica and with the financial support of Canada.

With the goal of providing information about the Management of cyber incidents and mitigation methods, participants were divided up into four groups and presented with exercises that simulated the functioning of a CSIRT. Groups communicated through a network whose accounts were hosted by

the OAS, simulating the Hemispheric Network of CSIRTs. The workshop, a pioneer in the presentation of exercises simulating responses to cyber security incidents, was very well received in Costa Rica by both the representatives and experts in attendance.

In addition to the exercises, which were planned and coordinated by experts from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Uruguay, the participants received presentations given by representatives from CITEL (Inter-American Commission on Telecommunications), REMJA (Ministers of Justice of the Americas), Department of Information and Communications Security (DSIC) of Brazil, Costa Rica, and Spain, about relevant topics related to cyber security.

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

## Promoting Tourism Security and Development in the Americas

The CICTE Secretariat and the OAS Department of Trade and Tourism (DTT) are currently developing an initiative to promote, through academic training, tourism security as an investment in development for countries in the Americas. In the wake of the Mumbai terrorist attacks in November 2008 and in the face of increasing transnational and domestic organized crime, there is growing awareness of the need to heighten security in the tourist sector in order to prevent the negative economic impact that can result from security incidents. The CICTE Secretariat is already expanding to Mexico in 2009 its tourism security training program—inaugurated in the English-speaking Caribbean for the Cricket World Cup in 2007. The UN Working Group on Protection of Vulnerable Targets has selected the Mexico project as one of two test sites to test its “toolkit” and principles on public private partnerships. Since August 2008, SMS/CICTE and DTT have been discussing with partners in the French university system and French Chambers of Commerce the concept of a university degree in tourism security to be simultaneously launched in French, English, and Spanish at universities in the Caribbean.

During a joint visit to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, January 29-30, 2009, the CICTE Secretary led an exploratory team with the Deputy Director of DTT and the Deputy Chair of the Association of the French Chambers of Commerce. On the margins of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), they met officials from the Haitian Government, the University Quisqueya, and the Haitian Tourism Association to propose a CICTE training course on tourism security to be hosted at the university and to explore the possible development of a future academic curriculum of tourism security within the university’s existing tourism program. On February 2-3, the team held similar discussions with the University APEC in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, which also has a tourism program and provides training to the tourist police. All three members of the team participated in a Colloquium on “Economic Intelligence, Trade, Tourism, Security, and Transportation. The team has begun consultations with the University of the West Indies to explore similar cooperation for the English-speaking Caribbean.

For more information: Carol Fuller, [cfuller@oas.org](mailto:cfuller@oas.org)



## **UNODC Conference for CARICOM on “Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism”**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized an Expert Group Meeting February 17-18, 2009, followed by a Ministerial Conference February 19, 2009, on “Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in the Caribbean.” The events were hosted by the Government of the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo. The conference focused primarily on UNODC programming and ended with a Political Declaration of support for a regional action plan. CARICOM’s Implementation Agency for Crime and Security Planning (IMPACS) made a presentation on CARICOM strategies, and the CICTE Secretary made two presentations on “Regional Counter Terrorism Efforts” and “The UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.”

## **ICAO creates working group to speed up adoption of e-passports and the UIMRTD programme**

At its 18th meeting in May 2008 in Montreal, ICAO’s Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents (TAG/MRTD) resolved to set up the Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) to support the adoption of e-passports and the Universal Implementation of Machine Readable Travel Documents (UIMRTD) programme.



The ICBWG consists of experts from governments as well as NGOs and will assist countries in practical ways using a wide range of activities, including collaboration with a number of International Organizations already active in this field, notably the OSCE and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

This follows concerns that 13 of the 22 countries worldwide not yet issuing Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) are not expected to meet the deadlines set in 2004 which mandated all Contracting States to issue MRPs after 1 April 2010. In addition, some of the countries currently issuing MRPs are not meeting all the required specifications contained in ICAO Document 9303.

About 50 States are now issuing ePassports, with more than 100 million in circulation, and some 44 additional States are planning to issue e-passports by 2010. Securely issued ePassports are practically impossible to forge if they are protected by a Private/Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). The PKI allows the contact-less chip on ePassports to be digitally signed. This signature cannot be altered in a forgery, only duplicated in a cloned copy of the chip. Thus, the security of ePassports is heightened considerably if the digital signatures of ePassports are validated. Public keys, which allow the encrypted signature to be validated, can be shared multilaterally via the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD).

As the more secure e-passports become widespread, criminals are turning their attention to the issuance process, which necessarily must be strengthened, both for the traditional MRPs and e-passports. The CICTE Secretariat assists OAS Member States in improving travel document security through the organization of sub-regional best practices workshops which address, among other topics, the implementation of ePassports and ICAO Handling and Issuance standards.

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

An updated February 2009 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>

## Council of Europe Events

- On 16 February 2009, the third round Evaluation report on Estonia was published by the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL). The report was adopted at MONEYVAL's 28th Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 8-12 December 2008) and is available in full at: <http://www.coe.int/moneyval>
- On 18 February 2009, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights gave a keynote speech on "Human Rights in criminal justice systems" at the 9th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights. The Commissioner stressed that deprivation of liberty, from arrest to punishment, should be guided by the underlining principles of respect for human dignity and respect for the rule of law, even in situations of emergency or armed conflict. The full speech can be accessed at: [www.coe.int/commissioner](http://www.coe.int/commissioner)
- On 18-19 February 2009, the Council of Europe co-sponsored several sessions of the 6th Worldwide Security Conference organised by the EastWest Institute (EWI) and co-sponsored by the World Customs Organization (host) and Italy in its role of Chair of the G8. The CoE Counter-Terrorist Task Force participated in a number of sessions, which brought together experts from all over the world with the aim of establishing relations between governments, businesses, civil society and mass media representatives in order to consider joint action to combat terrorism. Further information at: <http://www.iews.org/>
- European Court of Human Rights: On 19 February 2009, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights delivered a unanimous judgement in the case of A. and others v. the United Kingdom. The case concerns the applicants' complaint that they were detained in high security conditions under a statutory scheme which permitted the indefinite detention of non-nationals certified by the Secretary of State as suspected of involvement in terrorism. Further information at: <http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/>
- The OCTOPUS Interface Conference on Co-operation against Cybercrime will take place on 10-11 March 2009 in Strasbourg, France. The conference will be followed by the 4th meeting of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) on 12-13 March. Further information at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dg1/legalcooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/>
- The Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) will hold its 29th plenary meeting on 16-20 March 2009 in Strasbourg, France. Further information at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/moneyval/>
- The Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) will hold its 16th meeting on 15-16 April 2009 in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain. This event will be followed by a Conference on Terrorism and Cyber Security organised jointly by the Council of Europe and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) on 16-17 April 2009.



Further information on these events as well as the Council of Europe action against terrorism is available at: <http://www.coe.int/gmt>

## OSCE-ATU Events



On 25-26 February 2009 the OSCE ATU organized a *National Expert Workshop on Combating Terrorist Use of the Internet / Comprehensively Enhancing Cyber-security*, in Belgrade, Serbia. Sessions focused on cyber-crime, terrorist use of the Internet / cyber attacks by terrorist, and cyber-warfare. For more information, contact Mr. Nemanja (Neno) Malisevic [Nemanja.Malisevic@osce.org](mailto:Nemanja.Malisevic@osce.org)

## SPS workshop rethinks approaches to cyber security

Experts from Israel, Italy and several other NATO countries attended the SPS-sponsored workshop “Operational Network Intelligence: Today and Tomorrow” held on 6-7 February 2009 in Venice, Italy. The overall purpose of the workshop was to rethink present strategies and identify urgent measures to be taken in order to minimize the strategic and economic impacts of cyber attacks.

Increasingly, organized groups of criminals and cyber terrorists seek to take advantage of modern society’s dependence on sophisticated technology in order to inflict serious damage on economies and national security. International cooperation is a vital tool against these non-state and transnational actors. For more information [click here](#).

### Recommended Reading:

- The Centre on Global Counterterrorism Co-operation released a set of recommendations entitled *Building stronger Partnerships to prevent Terrorism: Recommendations for President Obama* to help reframe the counter-terrorism discourse, strengthen co-operation, and build counter-terrorism capacities around the world. The full report can be accessed at [http://www.globalct.org/images/content/pdf/reports/obama\\_recommendations.pdf](http://www.globalct.org/images/content/pdf/reports/obama_recommendations.pdf)
- The Change Institute published two studies, one analyzing the beliefs and ideologies of violent radicals and the other detailing best practice in co-operation initiatives between authorities and civil society with a view to the prevention of and response to violent radicalisation. The studies, which were carried out for the Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission, can be accessed at [http://www.changeinstitute.co.uk/images/publications/changeinstitute\\_beliefsideologiesnarratives.pdf](http://www.changeinstitute.co.uk/images/publications/changeinstitute_beliefsideologiesnarratives.pdf) and, [http://www.changeinstitute.co.uk/images/publications/changeinstitute\\_preventingradicalisation.pdf](http://www.changeinstitute.co.uk/images/publications/changeinstitute_preventingradicalisation.pdf)
- The EU approved a *Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy - Providing Security in a Changing World* on 11 December 2008. The report is available in all EU official languages as well as Russian, Chinese and Arabic at [http://consilium.europa.eu/cms3\\_fo/showPage.ASP?id=266&lang=EN&mode=g](http://consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.ASP?id=266&lang=EN&mode=g)
- E-Qaeda: The Web as a Weapon: A special report on how jihadists use the Internet and technology to spread their message. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/custom/2005/08/05/CU2005080501141.html?whichDay=3>

## **RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS**

Month	Days	Event	Venue
February	3-6,2009	CICTE/CICAD Workshop on Terrorism Financing	San José, Costa Rica
	3-12, 2009	CICTE Advanced Aviation Security Training	Paramaribo, Suriname
	9-10, 2009	CICTE/UNODC Follow-up legislative technical assistance mission	San Jose, Costa Rica
	12-13, 2009	CICTE/UNODC Follow-up legislative technical assistance mission	Sto Domingo, Rep. Dominicana
	16-20,2009	CICTE Advanced Training on the Management of a National CSIRT for the Central American and Mexico Sub-region	San José, Costa Rica
	25-27, 2009	APEC Workshop on Implementation of APEC Manual on Port Security Drills and Practices, CICTE staff participation	Vancouver, Canada





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
March	25 Feb - 11 March, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Roatan, Honduras
	2-3, 2009	UN CTC Visit on Terrorism Financing and Port Security, participation by CICTE staff	Panama City, Panama
	2-4, 2009	Technical assistance visit to the FIU by two Colombian experts, financed by CICTE at the request of UNCTED	Kingston, Jamaica
	3-11, 2009	CICTE Scholarships to Guatemala and El Salvador to attend ICAO Instructors Development Training	Honduras
	4-6, 2009	Ninth Regular Session of CICTE and Seventh Meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE	Washington DC, United States
	9-13, 2009	CICTE Tourism Security consultation workshops	Acapulco, Cancun, Cozumel, Mexico
	13-27, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Castilla, Honduras
	18-20, 2009	2nd Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) - International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	Portugal
	19-20, 2009	CICTE Port Security Crisis Management 2nd preparatory meeting	Santiago, Chile
	23, 2009	Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) Technical Advisory Group, CICTE presentation	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	23-27, 2009	CICTE Tourism Security Training	Trinidad and Tobago
	30 March-4 April, 2009	CICTE Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Best Practices in Port Security and Implementation of the ISPS Code	Nassau, Bahamas
	30 March - 6 April, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Cortes, Honduras
April	14-22, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Cortes, Honduras
	TBD	CICTE Port Security Assessment	Trinidad & Tobago/St Vincent and the Grenadines
	16-17, 2009	Joint CICTE/Council of Europe Workshop on "Terrorism and Cyber Security"	Madrid, Spain
	20-22, 2009	CICTE Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Santiago, Chile
	24 April - 8 May	CICTE Port Security Training	Santo Tomas de Castillo, Guatemala
May	11-25, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
	25-29, 2009	CICTE Aviation Crisis Management Training	Haiti

## **NEWS**

### **Where the terrorism threat from al Qaeda is headed**

Commenting for the U.S. News and World Report, Alex Kingsbury stresses that the Mumbai attacks demonstrated that the terrorist threat emanating from al Qaeda is evolving. He outlines that the attacks were surprising not only for their bold nature and high death toll but also because of the low-tech manner which resulted in such high casualties. The author further sees a real threat in the way terrorists evolved in using the Internet and covering up their tracks.

The full article can be accessed [here](#).

### **Grand Jury Charges Enemy Combatant With Supporting Al-Qaeda**

Prosecutors today (February 27, 2009) unsealed criminal charges against suspected al-Qaeda sleeper agent Ali Sahleh Kahlah al-Marri, setting in motion his transfer from a South Carolina naval brig into the custody of the Justice Department in one of the government's most closely watched terrorism cases.

New Justice Department leaders said that Marri could be transferred into their custody as soon as the Supreme Court passes judgment on a motion they file later today to dismiss his case, which was to be heard in late April.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Mumbai attacks seen as model for future terrorism**

On 8 January 2009, the Associated Press reported that U.S. anti-terrorism officials informed the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing at Congress that the deadly terrorist attacks in India may have provided a blueprint for other violent groups to follow. The FBI's chief intelligence officer, Mr. Donald Van Duyn, clarified that the November siege showed that well-trained assailants with simple weaponry can cause major casualties.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Britain tightens hotel security after Mumbai attacks**

On 20 January 2009, Agence France Press quoted British Home Secretary Jacqui Smith who announced that Britain is in the process of tightening security guidelines for hotels in the wake of the Mumbai attacks.

The full article can be accessed [here](#).

### **Assault On Mumbai Planned In Pakistan using Internet Telephone Accounts**

The Pakistani government acknowledged Thursday, February 12, that "some part of the conspiracy" behind the November attacks in India's financial capital, Mumbai, took place in Pakistan. "The incident has happened in India and part of the conspiracy has been done in Pakistan and therefore (the charge) will be aiding terrorism," Rehman Malik -- the head of the Interior Ministry -- said.

Of the eight people charged, six are in custody, including a person from Barcelona, Spain, who Malik said made payments for the attackers' cell phone communications.



The conspirators, he said, communicated using Internet telephone accounts. "The Internet phone calls between the terrorists were set up by a militant operating from Barcelona, who was later lured to Pakistan on a pretext and arrested," Malik said. Investigators traced a \$238 payment from a Spanish account to purchase a domain name registered in Houston. Another was registered in Russia. A satellite phone used in the attacks was registered "in a Middle Eastern country," Malik said. Austrian SIM cards were used by some of the alleged conspirators, he said. For more information [click here](#).

## Cybercrime threat rising sharply

The threat of cybercrime is rising sharply, experts have warned at the World Economic Forum in Davos, on January 31. They called for a new system to tackle well-organised gangs of cybercriminals.



Online theft costs \$1 trillion a year, the number of attacks is rising sharply and too many people do not know how to protect themselves, they said. Furthermore, according to a study by McAfee, the majority of this money represents a loss of information and intellectual property, as well as reparations for the damage occurred.

To learn more about the study developed during the Davos economic summit in Switzerland, visit [http://www.mcafee.com/mx/local\\_content/reports/virtual\\_criminology\\_report/index.html](http://www.mcafee.com/mx/local_content/reports/virtual_criminology_report/index.html)

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

## Nato's cyber defence warriors

Nato officials told the BBC on February 3 their computers are under constant attack from organizations and individuals bent on trying to hack into their secrets. The attacks keep coming despite the establishment of a co-ordinated cyber defence policy with a quick-reaction cyber team on permanent standby.

The cyber defence policy was set up after a wave of cyber attacks on Nato member Estonia in 2007, and more recent attacks on Georgia. For more information [click here](#).

## Obama taps official to review cybersecurity policy

President Barack Obama announced on February 9 that Melissa Hathaway, the top cybersecurity adviser to the director of national intelligence, will lead a review of the government's cybersecurity policy.

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

## FBI Says Cyber Attacks are Amongst the Biggest Threats to the Security of the United States



In addition to nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction, these attacks constitute one of the worst risks and are more and more difficult to prevent, warned experts at the organization.

Attacks on computers "pose the greatest risk for national security aside from a weapon of mass destruction of a bomb in one of our principal cities", said Shawn Henry, assistant director of the FBI's cyber division, in a conference in New York.

For more information [click here](#).

## Worm Infects Millions of Computers Worldwide

As reported on January 22, a new digital plague has hit the Internet, infecting millions of personal and business computers in what seems to be the first step of a multistage attack. The world's leading computer security experts do not yet know who programmed the infection, or what the next stage will be.

Worms like Conficker not only ricochet around the Internet at lightning speed, they harness infected computers into unified systems called botnets, which can then accept programming instructions from their clandestine masters.

For more information [click here](#).

## ELN Leader Detained in Bogotá

The Colombian police reported on Wednesday February 25 that it had arrested Wilson Eusebio García Ramírez (alias "Juancito") in Bogotá. He is a supposed member of the leadership and the head of a front of the National Liberation Army (ELN), the second most important guerilla group in the country after the FARC. The suspected rebel had a 15-year career in the ELN and was the "instructor of special forces with an emphasis in explosives management, sniper training, unconventional arms production, cartography, and communications management." For more information [click here](#).

## FARC attacks



In less than two months two attacks have spread panic amongst Caleños. The last attack, on February 2, left two people dead, 39 more injured and damage throughout a four-block radius in the bombing of a Police station in Cali. Also, on February 9, in the department of Cauca, 6 soldiers died but the cause has not been determined; it's unknown if the military men died in combat or were victims of a mine field set up by the FARC in this area. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

## Murders of 17 indigenous Awá by the FARC



On Tuesday February 10, the United States NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Tuesday that the FARC committed the murders in the rural zone of Barbacoas, Nariño. The report specified that amongst the murdered were two minors and that numerous victims were tortured. Read the HRW's article [here](#).

On February 17, Statement from rebel group FARC takes responsibility for slayings of 8 Indians. FARC says the victims were "executed" for helping Colombian government. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

## Releases of three police men, one soldier and two politicians by the FARC

The FARC released three police men and one soldier on February 1 this year. This release had some setbacks for the declarations made by the journalist Jorge Enrique Botero to the Telesur television network about supposed military operatives in the liberation zone that provoked disputes between the parties. In addition, on Tuesday February 3 ex-governor Alan Jara was released after seven years of captivity, and on February 4, Sigifredo López was as well. For more information [click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## UK police hold 3 suspects over terror charges

February 15th—LONDON, England (CNN) -- Three men arrested by British police on terrorism charges were planning to join an aid convoy to Gaza, a police spokeswoman told CNN Sunday.

Police seized three vehicles and nine men Friday night. Six suspects were released without charge, but police have been granted court permission to hold the other three for questioning until Thursday.

The men were arrested on suspicion of planning to commit terrorist offenses overseas, police and counter-terrorism officials said Saturday.

The men were arrested Friday night on a highway south of the city of Preston, police in England's Lancashire county said. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

## Deport radical cleric Abu Qatada, orders UK court

The UK's highest court ordered, on Wednesday February 18, that the man known as Osama bin Laden's spiritual ambassador to Europe be deported to Jordan, despite claims that he faces torture.

UK ministers have described Qatada as an "inspiration" for terrorists such as Mohammed Atta, the lead hijacker behind the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States. For more information [click here](#).



## National Court of Spain Judges 14 Members of an Islamist Cell in Santa Coloma

The National Court of Spain begun, on February 23, the hearing for the 14 alleged members of an islamist cell established in Santa Coloma de Gramenet (Barcelona), accused during Operation Tigris, who the commission is prosecuting for crimes of belonging to or collaboration with an armed gang, for falsification of official documents, and for crimes against the public health.

The so-called 'Tigris Network' was using a system of "microfinancing" through common crime, narcotics trafficking, donations of goods (mobile phones), or through small quantities of money sent directly to members of the "yihadista" network, who need the funds to attain their proposed ends.

The Public Ministry claims that the network collaborated in the flight from Spain of numerous persons linked to the attacks in Madrid on March 11, 2004. For more information [click here](#).

## Nail-bomber given life sentence

A Muslim convert has been jailed for life and must serve a minimum of 18 years after launching a failed suicide bomb attack on a restaurant in Devon, as reported on Friday, 30 January 2009.

Nicky Reilly, 22, was the only person injured when he accidentally set off his home-made nail-bomb in a toilet of Exeter's Giraffe restaurant last May. He later admitted attempted murder and preparing an act of terrorism. For more information [click here](#).

## INTERPOL leader tells NYU Forum: New approaches in the US on fighting terrorism underscore importance of international police co-operation and diplomacy



The new US commitment to the rule of law, and the willingness of the United States, as stated by President Barack Obama during his inaugural address, to engage with those who would 'unclench their fists,' underscore the importance of shifting from a predominantly military-led approach to fighting terrorism to one that includes global police co-operation, INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble told the prestigious New York University (NYU) Law School Hoffinger Criminal Justice Colloquium.

Speaking on Monday, January 26, Secretary General Noble said INTERPOL and its 187 member countries remained committed to investigating, identifying, locating and bringing to justice international terrorists and criminals whether they are guilty of single victim or massive crimes. For more information [click here](#).

## Financial Crisis Called Security Threat to U.S. and Great Britain

February 13— Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair told Congress on February 12 that instability in countries around the world caused by the current global economic crisis, rather than terrorism, is the primary near-term security threat to the United States. "Roughly a quarter of the countries in the world have already experienced low-level instability such as government changes because of the current slowdown," Blair told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, delivering the first annual threat assessment in six years in which terrorism was not presented as the primary danger to this country. Nonetheless, the economic crisis presents a potential cause conducive to terrorism as Blair also raised the specter of the "high levels of violent extremism" in the turmoil of the 1920s and 1930s along with "regime-threatening instability" if the economic crisis persists over a one-to-two-year period. In fact, during the nearly two-hour hearing, Blair took lawmakers on a virtual tour of every other major and minor security threat, from terrorism and cyber-attacks to the country's evolving relations with Russia and China.

On another note, in an interview with The Daily Telegraph on 7 January 2009, the head of the British Secret Service MI5, Mr. Jonathan Evans, said that the global economic crisis would add to the security threats facing Britain. For more information [click here](#).

## Coddling pirates aids terrorists

Writing for the Washington Times on 11 January 2009, Fred Ikle and Stephen Rademaker voice their concern over how incongruencies in the international regime dealing with pirates off the coast of Somalia might impact on global terrorism. The authors highlight that international efforts to block financial transfers to terrorists in accordance with relevant UNSCRs are ineffective if they are bypassed by shipping companies that keep paying ransoms to pirates. They propose a series of measures which could prevent terrorists acquiring both a safe haven in Somalia and ready access to millions in piracy-generated money. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

## Schools pack to tackle terrorism

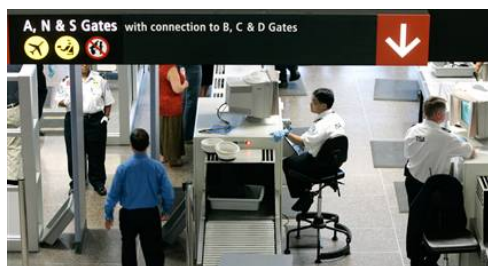
A teaching pack for schools aimed at preventing religious extremism and violence has been launched by a West Yorkshire council, as reported on Thursday, 29 January 2009.

Three of the 7/7 [London 2005 attacks] bombers, Siddique Khan, Shezad Tanweer and Hasib Hussain, came from the county and their actions form one of the modules in the booklet.

"Things do Change" looks at all the facets of terrorism and extremism. Author Sail Khan Suleman, of Calderdale Council, said it asks: "Is religion the problem or the solution?" For more information [click here](#).



## TSA's new secret weapon: politeness



Feb. 12, 2009—In an effort to address a variety of problems and improve overall checkpoint security, the Transport Security Administration of the US (TSA) rolled out last October a new skills training program. It's called Engage! (exclamation point included!) and all 50,000 TSA workers are required to attend.

Don't be surprised or alarmed if the next time you go through the security checkpoint at the airport you find TSA staff handing out smiles and warm greetings instead of barked orders, mean looks and stern commands. There may even be some TSA-approved hugging and high-fiving going on back there behind the X-ray machines. For more information [click here](#).



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