



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

Newsletter No. 66 - April, 2009

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CICTE-Council of Europe Joint Conference on “Terrorism and Cyber Security”

The CICTE Secretariat and the Council of Europe (CoE) organized jointly a *Conference on Terrorism and Cyber Security* for 81 member states, funded and hosted by the Government of Spain in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain, April 16-17, 2009—the first joint conference of the two organizations. The event was organized under the Spanish Chairmanship in the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and in conjunction with the Council's Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER). More than 150 participants attended, including policymakers and experts from the CoE and OAS Member and Observer States, and representatives of several international organizations, the private sector and academia.



The conference was opened by Spain's Attorney General Cándido Conde'Pumpido, CoE Secretary General Terry Davis, CICTE Chair and Mexican Deputy Attorney General Juan Miguel Alcantara Soria, UN CTED Executive Director Mike Smith, and Spain's Director General of Terrorism and Strategic Affairs in the Foreign Ministry Carmen Buján Freire.

The conference focused on ways in which the Internet is misused by terrorist organizations and their supporters, and the numerous risks that this poses. Among the primary challenges countries may face in this regard are the use of the Internet by terrorists as a tool for supporting or perpetrating their activities, and the potential for cyber attacks by terrorists against critical infrastructure. Experts noted the presence of terrorist organizations on, and use of, the Internet for the dissemination of propaganda, as a means of promoting radicalization, as a forum for recruitment and training, and as a tool for financing terrorist activities.

While terrorist organizations appear to be motivated to launch cyber attacks against critical infrastructure and other information systems, there is a general consensus that at the present time their ability to do so with large-scale impact appears to be limited. However, terrorist groups' capabilities to perpetrate cyber attacks are likely to increase in the future, and the international community should prepare for and remain vigilant against the threats such attacks pose. While protective measures are essential in this regard, greater emphasis should be placed on ensuring resiliency in the face of an attack.

To confront these challenges experts proposed a range of innovative solutions, and cited the need for enhanced engagement among all stakeholders – including the public and private sectors and civil society – at the national, regional and international levels.

Developing a comprehensive national cyber security strategy is vital for coordinating national efforts in the areas of legislation, law enforcement, private sector and civil society engagement, and the development of watch, warning and incident response capabilities. With this in mind, the CICTE Secretariat is collaborating with the CITELE and the REMJA Group of Experts on Cybercrime to organize an OAS-wide workshop on developing a comprehensive national approach to cyber security, to be held in September of this year.



Editorial

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S STRATEGIC COUNTER-TERRORISM INVESTMENTS THROUGH CICTE PAYS DIVIDENDS FOR FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

As the smallest nation to host the quadrennial hemispheric Summit of the Americas, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has been able to host what has been acclaimed as an all-round successful major international event, by participants and observers alike.

In the process of preparing to host the Fifth Summit of the Americas (V-SOA), the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has been required to justify the economic value of the high costs associated with staging the event. However, it is noteworthy that the value of the investments made in the tactical and operational security arrangements for V-SOA has been much more easily recognized.

Less acknowledged and evident, but even more important for those successful V-SOA security arrangements though, are the strategic investments in its national security sector, in particular with respect to counter-terrorism, that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has made during the seven (7) year period 2003 – 2009. During this period Trinidad and Tobago has increasingly engaged the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) as its preferred channel for the implementation of a strategic counter-terrorism plan designed to simultaneously strengthen its own national counter-terrorism capacity to protect its national interests, such as its energy sector, and build capacity to secure those interests that have high regional value within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), most visibly through its introduction, leadership and promotion of tourism security as a necessary inclusion in the CICTE Work Plan, under the critical infrastructure programme.

Based on its strong relationship with and support for the implementation of the CICTE Work Plan, through human resource and financial contributions, particularly after serving as the Chair of CICTE for the 2005 – 2006 term, Trinidad and Tobago's V-SOA security preparations benefited directly from CICTE sponsored counter-terrorism programme activity, including the following specific areas of cooperation, as well as several specific V-SOA targeted technical cooperation activities with its larger hemispheric counter-terrorism partners.

Technical assistance with the implementation of an assessment of the critical infrastructure counter-terrorism protection requirements for the national energy sector, which commenced in September 2007 and was completed in May 2008. This assessment contributed significantly to the implementation of National Energy Sector Security Initiative (ESSI) prior to the V-SOA based on a public-private sector partnership.

Capacity building in the area of major event security through participation in a jointly sponsored Seminar with the Government of Spain and UNICRI, held in Colombia in May 2008. This led to the appointment of a National Point of Contact for Major Event Security, who served as the Security Coordinator at the V-SOA National Secretariat.

Ongoing Airport and Port Security capacity building through the delivery of CICTE sponsored training programmes during the period 2004 to the present. This training enabled the deployment of an increased number of highly trained security officials to manage the increased level of airport and port arrivals and activity associated with foreign participation in the V-SOA. This training was particularly beneficial for the port security arrangements that were required to accommodate the cruise ships that provided floating hotel accommodation for the entire week of the Summit.

Delivery of a Tourism Security training programme in March 2009. This training was used by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago as both a refresher and capacity building measure to enable tourism security officials to respond effectively to the increased visitor activity associated with the V-SOA.

Apart from its assigned leadership role for regional security within CARICOM, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has been a strong and consistent supporter of CICTE, in spite of its small size. This strong support which has involved substantial and not broadly publicized financial and human resources investments in building national and regional counter-terrorism capacity certainly provided a good return with high dividends, based on the unquestionable success of the security arrangements that were implemented for the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

LtCol Anthony Phillips-Spencer

Defense Attache, Embassy of Trinidad & Tobago to the United States



Counter-Terrorism Activities

Caribbean Sub-regional Workshop on Best Practices in Port Security and Implementation of the ISPS Code



The CICTE Secretariat organized the third in the series of Sub-regional Workshops on Best Practices in Port Security and Implementation of the ISPS Code from March 30 to April 2 in Nassau, The Bahamas, in collaboration with the Government of The Bahamas and with the support of Transport Canada and the U.S. Coast Guard, among others.

Over 50 fifty participants attended the workshop, representing seven Caribbean OAS Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis), as well as numerous private sector entities. Member State representatives consisted of Port Facility Security Officers (PFSOs), Captains of the Port, customs officials, and representatives of government agencies and ministries responsible for maritime security at a national level.

The over-arching objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the participating States to effectively comply with the security obligations established by the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and other international maritime security standards. Key themes discussed included risk assessment and management, access controls, cruise ship security, container security, reviewing and revising existing port facility security plans, security audits, and public-private partnerships.

The workshop format facilitated the sharing of perspectives, knowledge and information among the participants with the intention of promoting increased communication and cooperation among those with a common responsibility for promoting maritime security in the Caribbean region. Presentations by each national delegation as well as a range of experts on key aspects of maritime security and ISPS implementation provided a substantive foundation for subsequent discussions and working group sessions. Particular focus was given to identifying common challenges faced and best practices for addressing these. Presentations and break-out discussions were supplemented with a visit to a port facility to conduct a mock port facility security audit and a hands-on demonstration of container search techniques.

The next sub-regional workshop in the series is tentatively planned for July 2009 for the other seven Caribbean OAS Member States.

For more information: Brian Sullivan (bsullivan@oas.org)

Training Course on Fraudulent Document Detection

The Secretariat of CICTE, in collaboration with the Forensic Document Laboratory (FDL) of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Government of El Salvador, delivered on April 20-24 a training course on the detection of fraudulent documents and imposters, as part of the CICTE Program on Document Security and Fraud Prevention. The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of the participating officials and their respective countries to prevent and detect the use of altered or fraudulent travel and other identity documents.

Hosted in San Salvador, the course was attended by 9 participants from Guatemala, 10 from Honduras, 12 from El Salvador, and 1 observer from SICA, for a total of 32 participants. Participants were drawn from migration, law enforcement, customs and related authorities responsible for border controls and the examination of travel and other identity documents. Mr. Rafael Alvarez, General Director for Migration; Mr. Pablo Nasser, Deputy General Director for Migration; and Mr. Cesar Flores Murillo, Commissioner and Deputy Director of Public Security of the National Police, attended the inauguration.

For more information, please contact Mr. Brian Sullivan at bsullivan@oas.org.



Security: one of the main topics on the Declaration of Port of Spain adopted during the Fifth Summit of the Americas

The Fifth Summit of the Americas, held on April 16 - 19, 2009, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, brought together the leaders of the 34 democratically elected nations of the western hemisphere to discuss important issues that affect the lives of their citizens.

The result of the Summit was the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, "*Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*", that included the subject of public security in which the States recognized the importance of addressing the threats, concerns and other challenges to security in the hemisphere, that are multidimensional in scope and impact on the well-being of the citizens.



In this way, the States reiterated their most vigorous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and they committed to prevent, punish and eliminate terrorism and to continue the fight against all criminal activities that finance and facilitate it. Also, they committed to strengthen cooperation, including mutual legal assistance and extradition, in combating terrorism and its financing.

The States agreed to continue to fight all forms of transnational organized crime, among them, illicit trafficking in arms, terrorism and crimes associated with the use of technology, including cyber crime.

The Declaration was approved by consensus and signed by the hosting Prime Minister on behalf of all the States.

The text of the Declaration can be accessed here http://www.summit-americas.org/V_Summit/decl_comm_pos_en.pdf

OSCE-ATU Events

OSCE workshop tackles comprehensive cyber security

On 17-18 March 2009 the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) held a Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security in Vienna, in implementation of FSC Decisions 10/08 and 17/08. The Workshop was opened with a keynote speech by the Estonian Defence Minister Jaak Aaviksoo, and brought together over 200 participants, including ambassadors as well as defense and security officials from close to 50 OSCE participating and Partner States. Discussions focused on current and emerging cyber threats and the necessity of a comprehensive approach to enhancing cyber security. Participants examined threats to cyber security, national and international good practices and legal frameworks. Co-operation with the private sector and civil society was also discussed. Particular focus was placed on considering a potential future role for the OSCE in developing a comprehensive approach to enhancing cyber security. FSC Decision 10/08 specifically requested the support of the OSCE Secretariat in organizing the workshop. Consequently, the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) facilitated this event in coordination with the Strategic Police Matter Unit, the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities as well as the FSC Support unit.

For more information: OSCE/ATU, Nemanja.Malisevic@osce.org

UN Counter Terrorism Task Force gets new head

The UN News Centre reported on 4 March 2009 that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed a new director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), charged with coordinating UN counter-terrorism efforts. Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, who previously led the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch took up his position as the head of the CTITF this April. According to the press release in future the CTITF will focus on concrete activities undertaken by its working groups and centre on issues including the financing of terrorism and terrorist' use of the Internet.



More information at <http://www.un.org/news>



Council of Europe News

- In the framework of the Spanish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, Spain hosted the 16th meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) on 15-16 April in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain. During this meeting the CODEXTER continued, *inter alia*, its discussions on the issue of freedom of expression and “*Apologie du terrorisme*” and took stock of the updates from States to the questionnaire on “*Apologie du terrorisme*”. It also adopted the updates of the country profiles on counter-terrorism capacity of Croatia, Finland, Moldova and Slovenia. The CODEXTER took further note with great interest and sympathy of the testimony of victims of terrorist acts, presented by three associations, namely “Asociación de Víctimas del 11-M”, “Fundación Víctimas de Terrorismo” and “Fundación para la libertad”. Further information available at <http://www.coe.int/codexter>
- On 22 - 23 April 2009, the Conference of the Parties to the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on the Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism ([CETS No. 198](#)) held its first meeting. It discussed the Convention’s relationship with other international standards and explored the best ways to monitor its implementation in participating countries. Further information available at www.coe.int/moneyval
- **Upcoming Events:**
The 1st Consultation of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism will take place on 12 May in Madrid, coinciding with the 119th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.



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

An updated April 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>

Recommended Reading

EUROPOL’s Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT)

The European Police Office (EUROPOL) has published the 2009 edition of the Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT), which aims to describe the situation in the European Union regarding terrorism and to identify trends.

http://www.europol.europa.eu/publications/EU_Terrorism_Situation_and_Trend_Report_TE-SAT/TE-SAT2009.pdf

Film piracy profits might aid terrorism – study concludes

A new RAND study entitled Film Piracy: Organized Crime and Terrorism found that not only were organized criminals increasingly involved in the piracy of feature films, but proceeds from film piracy had also on occasion been used to support the activities of terrorist groups. Although RAND researchers found no evidence that terrorists were widely involved with film piracy, according to Greg Treverton, the report's lead author and director of the Center for Global Risk and Security, at least part of the money would go to organized crime and those proceeds funded more-dangerous criminal activities, possibly terrorism. The report described three cases where film piracy supported terror groups such as the D-Company, a terrorist organization in India which carried out the "Black Friday" bombings in Mumbai in 1993 that killed more than 257 people. The full report can be accessed at <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG742/>

Lashkar-e-Taiba: From 9/11 to Mumbai

The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR) has published the first paper in its new series on Developments in Radicalisation and Political Violence, written by Stephen Tankel, Associate Fellow, ICSR. The most successful ‘terrorist spectacular’ in recent years was *Lashkar-e-Taiba*’s (LeT) sixty-hour operation in Mumbai. Yet little continues to be known about this group. Who is behind LeT, and what are the group’s aims? How has the group evolved, and what is its relationship with the Pakistani state? Based on extensive fieldwork and numerous interviews, Stephen Tankel’s new paper sheds light on Lashkar-e-Taiba, its origins, evolution, and future trajectory. Listen to the podcast of Stephen Tankel’s presentation and download the paper free of charge at www.icsr.info



Country Reports on Terrorism 2008

On April 30, 2009, the U.S. State Department issued its annual Country Reports on Terrorism for 2008, providing a full and complete report on terrorism with regard to those countries and groups meeting criteria set forth in U.S. legislation.

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2008/index.htm>

Recent Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
April	14-22, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Cortes, Honduras
	16-17, 2009	Joint CICTE/Council of Europe Workshop on "Terrorism and Cyber Security"	Madrid, Spain
	20-24, 2009	Course on Fraudulent Document Detection	San Salvador, El Salvador
	24 April - 8 May	CICTE Port Security Training	Santo Tomas de Castillo, Guatemala

Upcoming Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
May	5-7, 2009	CITEL Meeting, CICTE presentation	Cusco, Peru
	TBD	CICTE Port Security Assessment	Trinidad & Tobago - St Vincent and the Grenadines
	11-25, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
	25-29, 2009	CICTE Aviation Crisis Management Training	Port-Au-Prince, Haiti
June	2-4, 2009	UNODC/CICTE Regional Workshop on the Universal Legal Instruments against Nuclear Terrorism	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	22-26, 2009	Advanced Aviation Security Workshop	Nassau, Bahamas
	24-26, 2009	CICTE Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Valparaiso, Chile
July	TBD	Training Workshop on APEC Manual on Maritime Security, Drills and Exercises	TBD
	TBD	Tourism Security Level II Training	Port-Au-Price, Haiti



News

Internet crime jumps by a third last year

Internet-based rip-offs jumped 33 percent last year over the previous year, according to a report from a complaint center set up to monitor such crimes presented on March 30. The total dollar loss from those crimes was US\$265 million. That's US\$26 million more than the price tag in 2007, the National Internet Crime Center said. For individual victims, the average amount lost was US\$931. For more information [click here](#).

Extremist Web Sites Are Using U.S. Hosts

On March 25, a Taliban Web site claiming to be the voice of the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" boasted of a deadly new attack on coalition forces in that country. Most remarkable about the message was how it was delivered. The words were the Taliban's, but they were flashed around the globe by an American-owned firm located in Houston. The odd pairing of violently anti-American extremists and U.S. technology companies continues elsewhere and appears to be growing. Intelligence officials and private experts cite dozens of instances in which Islamist militants sought out U.S. Internet firms -- known for their reliable service and easy terms that allow virtual anonymity -- and used them to incite attacks on Americans. "The relatively cheap expense and high quality of U.S. servers seems to attract jihadists," said Rita Katz, co-founder of the Site Intelligence Group, a private company that monitors the communications of Muslim extremist groups. For more information [click here](#).

Cyberspies penetrate electrical grid: report

Cyberspies have penetrated the U.S. electrical grid and left behind software programs that could be used to disrupt the system, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday April 8. The spies came from China, Russia and other countries, and were believed to be on a mission to navigate the U.S. electrical system and its controls, the newspaper said. The intruders have not sought to damage the power grid or other key infrastructure but officials said they could try during a crisis or war, the paper said in a report on its website. While terrorist groups could develop the ability to penetrate U.S. infrastructure, they do not appear to have yet mounted attacks, these officials say. For more information [click here](#).



Extremist websites offer intelligence 'gold mine': experts

Western governments are increasingly unwilling to close or filter extremist websites, viewing them instead as an intelligence "gold mine" on terrorist activities, experts said on April 17. "... it's better to monitor these (sites) than to try to censor everything on the Internet," said Dr Peter Neumann, director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR). He spoke to AFP on the sidelines of the two-day Conference on Terrorism and Cyber Security in El Escorial, outside Madrid, under the auspices of the Council of Europe and the Organisation of American States (CICTE). For more information [click here](#).

ETA's number one, Martitegi Lizaso, arrested

Jurdan Martitegi Lizaso, alias "Arlas", who was arrested on April 18 in Perpiñán (in the south of France), was the current "number one" of ETA since the detention of Mikel Garikoitz Azpiazu, alias "Txeroki" and Aitzol Iriondo. In 2007, the *Ertza-intza* identified Lizaso as one of the presumed authors of a scheme positioning two bombs in the Court of Getxo (Biscay) on November 11 that year. Documentation seized from the military leader of ETA, Martitegi Lizaso, confirmed that ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna) wanted to attempt an attack with a bomb van around the days of the investiture of the Socialist Patxi Lopez, said the Minister of the Interior of Spain, Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba. On April 22, the Parisian high court held a preliminary hearing for the three accused of terrorism. Martitegi and the other prisoners will be tried for possession, transport and manufacturing of explosives as well as possession and transport of weapons and munitions. For more information click here: [1 - 2 - 3](#).



The Colombian Government Announces 'Massive Military Campaign' against the FARC, Peace Processes Conditional upon Verification of a Cease of Hostilities

On March 31, 2009, the Minister of Defense, Juan Manuel Santos announced the launching of a massive military campaign against the FARC as part of a "strategic attack" to defeat the guerilla organization. He said that the FARC are "in the worst moment of their history, militarily weakened" and "internationally condemned". Santos added that "the beast is wounded and we have to continue the initiative to give it the final thrust and push it past the point of no return", while opening the conference "Contemporary Antiterrorism: the Colombian Experience" in Bogotá.

During the same event, President Alvaro Uribe stated that any peace processes that would be started with those illegal armed groups will begin with the "unequivocal sign" of a cease in hostilities. He explained that in any case the cease of hostilities is necessary in order to avoid "another deception against the Colombian people". "Otherwise we are taking the risk of simply using language of peace that clouds out terrorism, when everyday they act with the same cruelty." He said. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

Chavez urges rebels to accept the 4 months cease-fire proposed by Uribe

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez said on April 15 that Colombia's FARC rebels should lay down weapons for four months to help start peace talks, toughening his stance towards the Marxist group. Chavez assured he was neither a friend nor an enemy of the rebels. "Venezuela and our government do not support armed or violent movements in Colombia or in any part of the world," Chavez said. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).



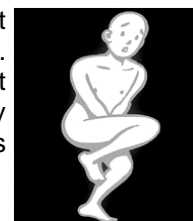
Lula asks the FARC to become a political party if it wants to come to power

The Brazilian head of state made these remarks following a meeting with Peruvian president Alan Garcia in the Brazilian Amazonian city of Rio Branco. "If the FARC want to come to power, it would be easy for them to become a political party and stand for election," he said. "If this continent allowed an indigenous Indian (a reference to Bolivian Evo Morales) and a metal worker (Lula himself) to become president, why can't the FARC come to power through contested elections?" he asked. Lula made these remarks after analyzing with Garcia the role that the new U.S. President Barack Obama could play in establishing a new scenario for relations with the countries of Latin America. For more information [click here](#).

Whole-Body Scans Pass First Airport Tests

In a shift, the Transportation Security Administration plans to replace the walk-through metal detectors at airport checkpoints with whole-body imaging machines — the kind that provide an image of the naked body. Initially, the machines were supposed to be used only on passengers who set off the metal detectors. That new X-ray technology may be capable of electronically identifying explosive chemicals, allowing the agency to drop the much-disliked rule that restricts passengers to carrying on liquids or gels solely in containers holding 3.4 ounces or less, packed in a single quart-size zip-top plastic bag.

For more information [click here](#).



Top U.K. anti-terror cop quits after blunder

Britain's top counterterrorism officer resigned from London's Metropolitan Police on Thursday, April 9 — one day after a security blunder forced police to move up a major operation in northern England.

Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick, who was the senior police counterterrorism officer in Britain, was photographed Wednesday clutching confidential documents that could clearly be seen as he arrived for a meeting with Prime Minister Gordon Brown at 10 Downing St. The documents showed details of the planned anti-terror operation in northern England. For more information [click here](#).

U.S. not lined up to defeat al Qaeda, top official warns



The United States chief counterterrorism official said on April 10 that despite a "seriously diminished" threat to the homeland, the U.S. government is still not properly organized to support the "team" effort needed to defeat al Qaeda. At an Aspen Institute conference April 9 in Washington, Mike Leiter, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, said the government has made vast improvements since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but budgets, plans, programs and personnel are still set up along individual departments and agencies. For more information [click here](#).

Guerrilla Ambush Leaves 13 Soldiers Dead in Peru

A brutal Maoist guerrilla group that terrorized Peru during the 1980s but pretty much disappeared when top leaders were captured in the 1990s is making a resurgence. Shining Path guerrillas ambushed two army patrols in a jungle area in southern Peru and killed 13 soldiers on April 9, Defense Minister Antero Flores-Araoz said. The ambushes staged by the guerrillas are "a desperate response" to the advances made by the armed forces, Cabinet chief Yehude Simon said. For more information click here: [1 - 2 - 3](#).

Somali Pirates Seized U.S. Ship in Latest Attack

In the latest in a spike of pirate attacks that have drawn an international fleet of naval vessels to the waters off Somalia's coast. On April 8, 2009, Somali pirates seized a United States-operated container ship with 20 American crew on board. The ship, carrying food aid to East Africa, was scheduled to call at the Kenyan port of Mombasa when it was intercepted by pirates early Wednesday. By late that day, the crew regained control, and the pirates were holding the ship's captain, Richard Phillips, hostage in a lifeboat.



On Thursday April 9, US redoubled its efforts to release the ship's captain by moving a US navy vessel and a FBI negotiating team. The pirates were asking for rescue and demanding that the ship chasing them be moved away.

On Sunday April 12, in a dramatic conclusion of 5 days of tension, special forces from the United States liberated the captain of the merchant ship. The rescue was achieved after an operation in which three pirates died and a fourth was captured. The next day, the pirates threatened revenge after two hostage rescues that were carried out by foreign forces ended with the death of at least five of their companions.

On Tuesday April 14, two more ships were captured in the Gulf of Aden and others were attacked by pirates.

On Saturday April 25, pirates tried to hijack an Italian cruise in the coast of Somalia. The commander of this ship said his crew successfully fended off the pirate attack. The private Israeli security forces aboard the cruise fired on the pirates Saturday with pistols and water hoses, preventing them from clambering aboard. For more information click here: [1 - 2 - 3 - 4](#).

Cuban militant Posada indicted on new charges

On Wednesday April 8, an anti-Castro militant was accused in a federal indictment of lying about his involvement in a series of 1997 bombings that targeted tourist spots in Cuba. On April 9, Luis Posada Carriles, a former CIA operative and US army soldier was indicted in Texas on 11 counts, including perjury and obstruction of a federal proceeding. Cuban authorities have long accused him of orchestrating the bombings as well as a deadly 1976 bombing of a Cuban jetliner off Barbados. For more information click here: [1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5](#).

Terrorism, kidnapping among top fears for today's youth

A study on more than 1,000 children and adolescents in grades 2 through 12 found that some of the 20 most common fears include "terrorist attacks," "having to fight in a war," "drive-by shootings," "tornadoes/hurricanes" and "drowning/swimming in deep water," based on self-reports of how scary each of 98 events or concepts seems. The study was published in a recent issue of the Journal of Counseling and Development, according to April 16 press releases. For more information [click here](#).

Minister Joseph praises security forces

On Tuesday, April 21, the National Security Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Martin Joseph, added his congratulations to the public commendation by Prime Minister Patrick Manning, to all the security forces who guaranteed the safety of all the democratically elected Heads of State and Government in the Western Hemisphere and their delegations during the just concluded Fifth Summit of the Americas. For more information [click here](#).

European Commission Steps up Fight against Terrorism and Proliferation



The European Commission adopted new measures that seek to involve and support key countries in fighting terrorism, piracy, trafficking, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. "Commission development programs must pay close attention to security issues linked with terrorism, organized crime, and trafficking", said EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner. For more information [click here](#).

Gunman captured in airplane hijacking

A gunman described as "mentally challenged" hijacked a Canadian jet on the tarmac of the Sangster International Airport near the resort city of Montego Bay and held six crew members hostage after releasing the passengers unharmed, officials said Monday April 20. Authorities say the 20-year-old Jamaican forced his way past security check points and seized the CanJet Airlines plane late Sunday night April 19. The gunman was captured after an eight-hour standoff with police. Jamaica's Prime Minister, Bruce Golding, said on April 21 that a repeat hijacking is not likely as the Government takes on a more integral role in airport security. However, the serious breach which allowed armed 21-year-old Stephen Fray to force his way through airport security, hijacking a Canadian charter flight with around 160 passengers on-board, has served as a wake-up call. For more information click here: [1 - 2 - 3](#).



Modern anti-money laundering legislation tabled in Guyana parliament

Guyana's Finance minister Dr Ashni Singh tabled the long awaited anti money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism bill in the national assembly on Thursday, April 23, after almost two years at the parliament's select committee. Singh told the National Assembly that the bill "provides for comprehensive powers for the prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes and the forfeiture of proceeds of crime and terrorist properties." For more information [click here](#).

Anti-terror raids net 5 ahead of G-20 summit

U.K. police seized weapons and arrested would-be protesters in security operation. Five people suspected of planning to join protests against the G-20 summit in London were arrested on March 30, after weapons were found during a raid on a house in southwest England. For more information [click here](#).

Swine Flu Outbreak Not Seen Linked to Bioterrorism, WHO Says



The World Health Organization stated April 28 that it does not believe that biological terrorism is to blame for the deadly swine flu outbreak that has spread around the world, and the acting head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concurred.

"There are no signs we are dealing with purposeful actions," said Keiji Fukuda, acting WHO assistant director general for health security and the environment "There's nothing that we have seen in our work that would suggest anything but a naturally occurring event," Richard Besser said Sunday. As of yesterday, the flu was believed to have killed more than 150 people in Mexico and turned up in a number of other nations, including the United States, Canada, Scotland and Spain. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).



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