



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

Newsletter No. 67 - May, 2009

[Click here for previous newsletters](#) - [Click here for subscription](#)

[Editorial](#) - [Counter-Terrorism Activities](#) - [Recommended Reading](#)
[Recent Events](#) - [Upcoming Events](#) - [News](#) - [Contact Information](#)



Aviation Security Crisis Management Training for Haiti



In a significant development, the CICTE Secretariat and Haiti's National Airports Authority (AAN) hosted the first Aviation Security Training Program course in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 25-29, 2009: a five-day training workshop on Crisis Management Response conducted by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Although the Secretariat has regularly offered scholarships for Haitian representatives to attend CICTE training in other countries, this Aviation Security course was the first ever conducted by the Secretariat inside Haiti itself with the government of Haiti.

The Crisis Management Workshop was designed to provide mid to senior-level aviation-management and other government officials with the knowledge and skills needed to develop and implement sound crisis management procedures in accordance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Subjects included: crisis management concepts; crisis management planning; role of the crisis management team; crisis management facilities and crisis management exercises. The training was highly interactive and utilized many case studies, interactive discussions and comprehensive exercises to illustrate effective crisis management concepts and principles.

The Secretariat hopes that this would be only the first of a series of programs designed to assist AAN in strengthening its capacity. Another course in Tourism Security is being planned for Port-au-Prince in August 2009.

For more information about this or any other Aviation Security training courses please contact Ms. Hayda Wallen-Jaganath via Email HWallen@oas.org.

Scholarships for ICAO Aviation Security Courses

Under CICTE's Aviation Security program, scholarships are provided for suitably qualified nationals of the OAS Member States to attend training programs and workshops organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). These training programs are based on various aspects of Security and are held at ICAO training centers throughout the Americas. The scholarships cover expenses of travel, hotel accommodation, inland transportation and meals for the participants.

The latest course – National Aviation Security Quality Control Workshop – was planned to be held in Ecuador, May 25-29, 2009, but has been postponed to a date to be determined. The Secretariat has offered six (6) scholarships to participate in this program, one for each of the following Member States: Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Another six (6) scholarships were offered, one each to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to attend the National Civil Aviation Security Training Program (NCASTP), June 16-26, 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Please look out for these scholarships which are offered through ICAO's regional office in Mexico. For more information please contact Ms. Hayda Wallen-Jaganath via email HWallen@oas.org.



Editorial

Terrorism, Piracy and Maritime Security

By land, by sea, by air... the security of air, maritime and metropolitan traffic has been threatened by the terrorists of *Al Qaeda* and its affiliate groups on numerous occasions. We all remember the horrific images of the USS Cole destroyer in Aden in 2000, the 11th of September in the United States, the 12th of October in Bali, the 11th of March in Madrid, the 7th of July in London, and the 26th of November in Mumbai.

In his most recent harangue in March 2009, Osama Bin Laden outlined a new objective: the president of Somalia, Sharif Sheik Ahmed, who is supported by the international community with the aim of stabilizing a country that has experienced almost twenty years of civil war. It doesn't seem crazy to think that *Al Qaeda* seeks to take advantage of the chaos in Somalia to attack Western economic interests linked with maritime transport. The absence of a Somali State is favorable to the existence of significant pirate activity. The year 2008 saw more than 100 attacks against the 20,000 ships that navigate each year through the waters off the Horn of Africa, many of them under the Panamanian flag. According to the United Nations, the pirates collected this year some 30 million U.S. dollars.

The presence of warships representing the European Union, NATO, the Combined Naval Forces and other countries has increased the pressure on the pirates in the Gulf of Aden. Nevertheless, in the past weeks we have witnessed a shift in attacks to the south: Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, and the Seychelles. Arriving in these waters from Somalia in mother ships, pirate launches are deployed against all types of other vessels, from recreational yachts to cargo ships, to hijack them for ransom.

A case of great resonance was the attack in the waters of the Seychelles against the cruise ship *Melody* - the property of the Italian company *MSC Crociere* sailing under Panamanian flag and carrying more than 1500 passengers onboard - on April 25th by a launch carrying pirates armed with Kalashnikov rifles. The ship repelled the attack through evasive maneuvers, the extinction of the exterior lights, and the actions of the private security team. The incident has further alarmed shipping companies, given the potential consequences of a hijacking of that scale. There are already voices calling for the end of pleasure boating in the Indian Ocean, with all the negative consequences that such a measure would have on the economies and tourism in the countries of the region.

The impact of piracy on the important tourism industry of the Seychelles is yet to be seen, but both the maritime shipping organization BIMCO (Baltic and International Maritime Council) to the U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) have warned about the risks of sailing in its waters. Weeks after these warnings, six attacks were carried out in three days around the archipelago.

According to the Center of Information on Piracy of the International Maritime Bureau, in 2009 there were incidents of piracy in the American ports of Guanta (Venezuela), Port-au-Prince (Haiti), Cartagena and Buenaventura (Colombia), Fortaleza (Brazil), and Callao (Peru), although less spectacular than those carried out in African waters.

While in 2007 and 2008 there were attacks on five ships near the port of Callao, in the first four months of 2009 there have already been 7 ships attacked. These assaults are normally carried out at night under the cover of darkness and with the aim of stealing cargo, personal effects, provisions, etc. The attackers regularly utilize a small boat to approach the vessel, carry knives, and have even attacked people. It is a *modus operandi* similar to that utilized by thieves in the port of Dar es Salaam, which is second in the world (after Lagos) for the most such reported attacks carried out in 2008: 12.

Piracy and its effects on port security or the tourism industry are happening not only in failed states incapable of maintaining control of their own territory. South American waters also run the risk that pirates may discover the benefits of this activity there as well.

Fernando Ibáñez
Expert, University of Zaragoza, Spain
Collaborator with the Institute of Intelligence
Carlos III of Madrid University, Spain



Counter-Terrorism Activities

Maritime Security Assistance to Honduras and Guatemala

One of the key objectives of the CICTE Maritime Security Program is to help the OAS Member States to strengthen their capacities to comply effectively with the security requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) of the International Maritime Organization. Towards this end, the CICTE Secretariat facilitates a series of port facility security and training needs assessments, to evaluate access controls at port facilities, counter terrorism and law enforcement capabilities, cargo security, customs, crisis management capabilities, in order to detect vulnerabilities and help mitigate them. Hart Security Maritime Services Ltd. was contracted to execute the “Port Security Assessment and Training Project in Guatemala and Honduras”, which included assessments in 2008 and follow-on training in April and May 2009 in the following five ports: the port of Puerto Cortés in Honduras; the Roatan cruise ship terminal in Honduras; the port of Puerto Castilla in Honduras; the port of Puerto Santo Tomas de Castilla, and its cruise ship terminal, in Guatemala; and the port of Puerto Quetzal (Guatemala).

Previously in April 2009, follow-on training was conducted in the three ports in Honduras. In May, training took place in Guatemala at the port of Puerto Santo Tomas de Castilla (Access control, Security Guards, Security Awareness, Customs and Crisis Management Exercise related training) and the port of Puerto Quetzal (Port Facility Security Officer course; Train the Trainer, Access control, Security Guards, Security Awareness and Customs related training) its adjacent cruise ship terminal. For more information: Pablo Martinez (pmartinez@oas.org)

Science and Technology for Defense and Security Fair – Expodefense 2009

 On April 29-30 2009, a first Science and Technology Fair – Expodefense 2009--was sponsored by the Ministry of National Defense, the Military Forces, the National Police, and the Defense Social and Business Group (GSED) in Bogota, Colombia. During the event, domestic and foreign firms had the opportunity not only to show the latest advances on technology related to defense and security, information and communication technology, and police and military technology, but to participate in business discussions which took place throughout Expodefense 2009.

Guests and exhibitors participated in the International Symposium that was held at the Fair, with prominent speakers on issues of science and technology for defense and security, where they could learn first-hand about the latest developments in the Defense Sector. The CICTE Secretariat was invited to give a talk on how it advises and collaborates with the Member States to comply effectively with the requirements of the OAS Comprehensive Strategy to fight threats against cyber security.

CITEL’s XIV meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee

A representative of the CICTE Secretariat participated in the XIV meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) of the OAS, held in Cusco, Peru, from May 5 to 8, 2009. The meeting was organized by the CITEL Secretariat in conjunction with the Organismo Supervisor de la Inversión Privada en Telecomunicaciones (OSIPTEL) of the Government of Peru, and attended by representatives of government and the private sector from throughout the Americas.

During a session on cyber and critical infrastructure security, the CICTE representative delivered a presentation on CICTE efforts to promote cyber security and the development of Computer Security Immediate Response Teams (CSIRTs) in the OAS Member States, as well as on the on-going collaboration between CICTE, REMJA and CITEL. Particular mention was made of the upcoming OAS-wide Hemispheric Conference and Workshop on Developing a National Strategy for Cyber Security, tentatively planned for September 2009.

Other key themes addressed during the meeting included convergence, network infrastructures, network inter-connection and inter-operability, fraud in telecommunications services, and internet resources, among others.

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



Preparations for an International Workshop of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points

The CICTE Secretariat was invited by the Government of Switzerland to participate in the Preparatory Meeting held in Bern, Switzerland, May 15, 2009, for an International Workshop of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points to be held in October on the need to better link national, regional and international efforts in the fight against terrorism. In order to help ensure a successful outcome of the October meeting, Switzerland organized this Preparatory Meeting with the support of the Center on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation (CGCTC) for 25 participants, including the co-sponsors of this initiative (Switzerland, Costa Rica, Japan, Slovakia and Turkey) and a handful of other key states from different regions, as well as representatives from the United Nations and regional organizations like the European Union, the Council of Europe, the CICTE Secretariat, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB), the UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), and the UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED).

The objectives of the preparatory meeting were to identify the needs of national counter-terrorism focal points, how best to organize the October workshop, and to identify possible panel topics, the logistics and the methodology to ensure that the event allows for the desired practical discussion and concrete outcomes.

For more information: Pablo Martinez (pmartinez@oas.org)

Global Cyber Security: Threats, Challenges & Opportunities

The Department of Homeland Security's Directorate for Science & Technology and the United States Secret Service are sponsoring a three-day cyber security conference--"Global Cyber Security: Threats, Challenges & Opportunities"—that will take place August 4-6, 2009, in Washington D.C. The conference will bring together an unprecedented number of partners from government, international, federal, state and local law enforcement, the private sector and academia. Also supported by the Cyber Science Laboratory (CSL), the conference will include seminars on: Emerging cyber threats; Cyber security policy; Cyber crime prosecution and safe havens; Digital forensic landscape; Cutting edge cyber security technologies.



To RSVP for this conference, follow this link

https://www.ectf.usss.gov/cyber/Conference/meeting_html?m=1235166722.29

V International Congress of Victims of Terrorism

The Princes of Asturias arrived in Bogota, Colombia, on May 26 to conduct an official visit that included their participation in the V International Congress of Victims of Terrorism held on May 29-30 in the city of Medellin and attended by over a thousand victims of terrorist violence in 11 different countries. The Prince of Asturias said, during a tribute to the victims of the takeover of the Palace of Justice by the M-19 on 1985, that violence has no place in the Colombia and in the Latin America of the Third Millennium and that 'methods and acts of terrorism are always unjustifiable and inhuman.' For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

Council of Europe News

Council of Europe Conventions:

- On 12 May 2009, Moldova ratified the Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185).
- On 15 May 2009, Estonia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196).



Events:

The first Consultation of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism was held in Madrid on 12 May 2009 on the margins of the 119th session of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. The representatives of 19 State Parties, 23 Observer States and that of European Commission discussed the first results of the Convention's implementation and considered the best means to ensure the follow-up to the implementation of the Convention on a regular basis in the future.



The Consultation, in an adopted decision, invited the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to instruct the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) to conduct a regular follow-up of the effective use and implementation of the Convention in the intervening period between the meetings of the Consultation of the Parties.

Until now, the CODEXTER, which prepared the draft Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, together with its explanatory report, has been the intergovernmental body responsible for monitoring the implementation of this instrument.

The Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism was adopted in 2005. It aims to strengthen States' efforts to prevent terrorism by establishing as criminal offences certain acts that may lead to the commission of terrorist offences, (public provocation, recruitment and training); and by reinforcing co-operation on prevention both internally (national prevention policies), and internationally (modification of existing extradition and mutual assistance arrangements and additional means). The Convention contains a number of provisions on respect of human rights obligations and stipulates on the protection and compensation of victims of terrorism.

Further information available at <http://www.coe.int/codexter>

Upcoming Events:

- Forum on "Anti-terrorism legislation and its impact on freedom of expression and information" will take place in the margins of the 1st CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and New Communication Services, 27 May 2009, Reykjavik, Iceland
- The plenary meeting FATF-MONEYVAL will take place on 22-26 June in Mexico.

For further information on these events, as well as on the Council of Europe action against terrorism, please visit <http://www.coe.int/gmt>

Recommended Reading

U.S. Must Work to Prevent Radicalization

By Tim Roemer and Lorne Craner

In recent congressional testimony, Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair cited violent extremism -- largely perpetrated by Islamist terrorist groups -- as one of the most serious national security concerns confronting the U.S. In an Op-Ed issued by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy May 3, two experts say that radicalization is a process with identifiable stages that can be interrupted. Yet U.S. policy until now has been defined by an approach that focuses only on violent extremism -- and combating it through primarily military means. To break the radicalization cycle, the United States and its allies must engage in a competition of ideas for the would-be "radicalizer."

For more information [click here](#).



From Adoption to Action: The UN's Role in Implementing its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Eric Rosand

This paper published by the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation in April highlights some of the UN's achievements in its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It focuses in particular on the Task Force established in 2005 to improve coordination and cooperation among the UN actors engaged in counterterrorism. It further enumerates some of the challenges facing the organization as it seeks to enhance these efforts and offers suggestions on how to overcome them.

For more information [click here](#).

What Makes Piracy Work?

By Virginia Lunsford

An expert in the field graphically identifies five fundamental factors that have long kept pirates afloat.

For more information [click here](#).

Europe's Oldest Terrorist Organization: The Basque ETA Marks 50 Years of Operations

By Jules Stewart, Jamestown Foundation Terrorism Monitor

For more information [click here](#).

Does Nuclear Deterrence Apply in the Age of Terrorism?

By Adam Garfinkle

Adam Garfinkle is editor of The American Interest. This essay is based on his talk at the FPRI Wachman Center's History Institute for Teachers on Teaching the Nuclear Age, held March 28-29, 2009.

Morocco's Multi-Pronged Counterterrorism Strategy

Matthew Chebatoris

This May marks the sixth anniversary of the deadly night of suicide bombings in Casablanca. The attacks, characterized by many as Morocco's 9/11, took the lives of 33 innocent victims, while the attackers, hailing from the slums of Sidi Moumen, lost 12 of their own. Since that dark night, Moroccans have been led by King Mohammad VI on a path to cleanse the kingdom of the scourge of violent extremism. In pursuit of this goal, Morocco has embarked on a multi-pronged strategy to combat terrorism and thwart the efforts of the Algerian-based Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) to widen the theater of regional jihad in North Africa. The strategy is comprehensive in nature and sets out multiple objectives which illuminate Morocco's position as a beacon of hope in the often tumultuous North African political environment.

For more information [click here](#).

New U.S. Cyber Security Strategy

President Obama released the long-awaited new government cyber security strategy during a speech on May 29. He announced that the country's disparate efforts to "deter, prevent, detect and defend" against cyber attacks would now be run out of the White House, but he also promised that he would bar the federal government from regular monitoring of "private-sector networks" and the Internet traffic that has become the backbone of American communications. For more information click here: [1 - 2 - 3 - 4](#).



Recent 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

Upcoming Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
June	2-4, 2009	UNODC/CICTE Regional Workshp on the Universal Legal Instruments against Nuclear Terrorism	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	8-12, 2009	Basic Aviation Security Training	Belize City, Belize
	16-26, 2009	Six Scholarships for OAS Member States to attend ICAO National Civil Aviation Security (AVSEC) Training Program	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	22-26, 2009	Advanced Aviation Security Workshop	Nassau, Bahamas
	24-26, 2009	CICTE Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Valparaiso, Chile
	24-26, 2009	Training Workshop on APEC Manual on Maritime Security, Drills and Exercises	St Lucia
July	20-21, 2009	GAFISUD Plenary	Uruguay
	20-24, 2009	CICTE Advanced Training on the Management of a National CSIRT for the southern Cone sub-region	Santiago, Chile
	27-31, 2009	CICTE Sub-regional Workshop for the southern Caribbean on Best Practices in Port Security and Implementation of the ISPS Code	Port Lisas, Trinidad & Tobago
August	TBD	Tourism Security Level II Training	Port-Au-Price, Haiti
	TBD	Tourism Security Level II Training	Acapulco, Mexico



News

Former 'enemy combatant' pleads guilty

On Thursday April 30, Ali al-Marri, once the only designated "enemy combatant" on U.S. soil, pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to provide material support to al Qaeda, the Justice Department said. Al-Marri made the surprise plea during a two-hour hearing in a federal courtroom in Peoria, Illinois. Under a plea agreement in the case, he faces a sentence of up to 15 years in prison. For more information [click here](#).

Canadian pleads guilty in plot to attack parliament

A Canadian man has plead guilty to participating in a jihadist terror plot three years ago to attack the Canadian parliament and take the prime minister hostage, prosecutors said Wednesday May 6. Saad Khalid is the first adult in the group to admit a role in the alleged plot. For more information [click here](#).



Leader of Liberty City Six Convicted on All Counts, Four Others Convicted on Multiple Counts, and One Defendant Acquitted on Charges of Conspiring to Support Al Qaeda, Attack Targets in the United States - May 12, 2009

After a three-month trial, a Miami jury convicted five men of multiple charges that include conspiring to provide material support to the al Qaeda terrorist organization and conspiracy to levy war against the U.S. by discussing and planning attacks on targets in the U.S., including the Sears Tower in Chicago and the FBI building and other federal buildings in Florida. For more information [click here](#).

Italy charges two Frenchmen with Al-Qaeda terror plots

On Tuesday May 12, Italian authorities charged two French prisoners with membership of an Al-Qaeda cell which was allegedly preparing an attack on France's main international airport, police said. European intelligence agencies are on alert for new al Qaeda terrorist plots following those arrests. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).



Terrorism reports in Bolivia

On the morning of April 16, Bolivian police gunned down three alleged criminals and detained two more supposedly linked to several attacks and an alleged plot to assassinate president Evo Morales. The Bolivian vice-president, Alvaro Garcia Linera, confirmed that "it was a gang of foreign mercenaries made up of Croats, Irishmen, Rumanians and also Bolivians". The Ministry of Government asserted that investigations made on the existence of violent groups confirm the setting off of plans to assassinate president Morales and divide the country.

The terrorism charges against the five people made by the Bolivian government have been a cause of confrontation between pro-government and opponents. The Croatian, Hungarian and Irish governments, the Bolivia's Press National Agency and La Paz businessmen demand that the Government of Bolivia conduct a serious investigation in the case and INTERPOL is expected to contribute to the process. For more information click here: [1-2-3-4](#).

Judges say terrorism is in force in Paraguay

On Wednesday April 23, an explosive device exploded in the courtyard of the Palace of Justice, generating an alarm among officials, judges and users of justice. Fortunately there were no victims or damage to property. The next day, the Association of Judicial Magistrates of Paraguay condemned the attack and pointed that that kind of attacks show that Paraguay is not free of terrorism and judicial sector officials can be victims anytime. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

The revival of Shining Path



The Maoist group that imposed the terror in Peru during the 80's and part of the 90's is not a political movement that aspires to take the power through the revolution anymore; today it is a gang dedicated to drug trafficking. The drug business is in a peak in Peru after a considerable decreasing in the 90's. The attacks of Shining Path against the Army are increasingly common; they have killed 50 soldiers in one year. Experts say Shining Path could have around 400 men well armed and that has doubled its firepower with sophisticated armaments and is in conditions to shoot down helicopters. The government says that the new Shining Path differs a little from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC); it is simply militarized gangs dedicated to

drugs. This "narcoguerrilla" forces the Government to review its defense strategy and the principal fear is that the problem will leave the coca producing valleys and that Peru will suffer the levels of narco-violence experienced in Colombia and Mexico.

On May 6, the Peruvian police detained an alleged ex political/military leader of the Shining Path's former South Regional Committee. Among the crimes of which he is accused is that of being the author of several alleged acts of sabotage and involvement in the attack with explosives against the headquarters of the Ministry of Labor in Arequipa, Peru on April 18, 1982. For more information click here: [1-2-3-4](#).

Batasuna documentation found in the home of a Mapuche activist in Chile

The Chilean police ordered the arrest of a French woman Julia Guillaumette Gayout in whose house were found documents relating to Batasuna (the political wing of the terrorist group ETA), regarding the attack suffered on October 2008 by the Chilean prosecutor Mario Elgueta, in charge of investigating the Mapuche conflict. For more information [click here](#).

Captured alleged FARC's link with Central American drug cartels

On May 12 Colombian police captured Wilson Burbano Ordoñez alias "Fabian Ramirez" who was considered FARC's key international link with Central American drug cartels. Burbano Ordoñez was one of the architects for the construction of clandestine runways used for drug trafficking and there the FARC Southern Bloc Burbano belongs to was said by sources to have exchanged drugs for weapons and explosives with traffickers in Surinam, Brazil, and Peru. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

Suspects in alleged synagogue bomb plot denied bail



Four men accused by prosecutors of being "eager to bring death to Jews" were ordered held without bail May 21, accused of trying to bomb two New York synagogues and planning to fire surface-to-air missiles at U.S. military planes. The plot was uncovered in a yearlong investigation involving an FBI informant, authorities said.

For more information [click here](#).

Argentina seeks Colombian for 1994 terror strike

On May 20 Argentina issued an international arrest warrant for a Colombian man in connection with the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center building in Buenos Aires that killed 85 and injured 300. Samuel Salman El Reda, a Colombian of Lebanese descent who formerly lived in Buenos Aires, was the top local connection in the attack, Prosecutor Alberto Nisman told a press conference. For more information [click here](#).





Brazil Police Free Man Held After FBI Terror Tip

Brazilian police tipped off by the FBI detained a citizen of Arab origin for three weeks for inciting anti-American hatred on the Internet but released him after finding no evidence of links to a militant group, a federal prosecutor said on Tuesday. Folha de Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest daily newspaper, earlier reported the man was suspected of being an al Qaeda communications operative. The federal prosecutor in the financial hub Sao Paulo, where the arrest was made in April, released a statement on May 26, saying police had received information from the FBI about a closed Internet group in Arabic that was inciting hatred against Americans. For more information [click here](#).



14 percent of those freed from Guantanamo reoffend, source says

The Defense Department released information that showed fourteen percent (14%) of former detainees have turned to, or are suspected of having turned to, terrorism activity since being released from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The statistics indicate that there has been a slight increase since the end of 2008, and the number of released detainees turning to or suspected of turning to the insurgency is almost doubled from the 7 percent in that category a few years ago, according to Pentagon officials familiar with the information. For more information click here: [1 - 2 - 3](#).

Spanish police arrest 13 over terrorism fears

Spanish police arrested 12 Algerians and an Iraqi early Wednesday May 20 on suspicion of using money from common criminal activities to fund Islamic terrorism in Algeria, Spain's Interior Ministry said in a statement. "The 13 formed a group dedicated to robbery and drug trafficking. The police are investigating if the suspects diverted funds they obtained from criminal activities to finance Islamic terrorism in Algeria," the statement said. For more information [click here](#).

Ministry of Defense of Chile's website was successfully attacked

In an action that described as protest against the acquisition of 18 used airplanes F-18, cyber pirates took control of the home page of the Chilean Ministry of Defense' website, police said. For more information [click here](#).

Chinese hackers using ghost network to control embassy computers



According to investigators of the Information Warfare Monitor (IWM), the spy network dubbed GhostNet, believed to have been controlled from China, is alleged to have compromised 1,295 machines at NATO and foreign ministries, embassies, banks and news organizations across the world, as well as computers used by the Dalai Lama and Tibetan exiles. The Chinese Embassy in London said that there was no evidence to back up the claim that the Chinese Government was behind GhostNet and alleged that the report had been "commissioned by the Tibetan government in exile". According to the editor of IWM, "Regardless of who or what is ultimately in control of GhostNet, it is the capabilities of exploitation, and the strategic intelligence that can be harvested from it, which matters most. Indeed, although the Achilles' heel of the Ghost-Net system allowed us to monitor and document its far-reaching network of infiltration, we can safely hypothesize that it is neither the first nor the only one of its kind." For more information [click here](#).

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

New U.S. requirements for identity documents under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative take effect June 1, 2009, for all travelers to the U.S. from Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean by land, sea or air. For more information [click here](#).



Carol S. Fuller

Secretary

CFuller@oas.org

Pablo Martínez

Assistant Secretary and Programs Coordinator

PMartinez@oas.org

Sheridon Hill

Program Manager

Immigration and Border Controls

SHill@oas.org

Lilia Moraes

Program Manager

Cyber Security

LMoraes@oas.org

Brian Sullivan

Specialist / Program Manager

Maritime Security - Document Security

BSullivan@oas.org

María Elena de la Flor Musso

Budget and Administrative Officer - Webmaster

MDelaflor@oas.org

Belisario Contreras

Administrative Assistant

BContreras@oas.org

Hayda Wallen

Program Manager

Aviation Security - Tourism Security

HWallen@oas.org

Alejandro Díaz de León

Program Manager

Tourism Security - Bioterrorism

ADiazdeLeon@oas.org

Ignacio Ibáñez

Specialist / Program Manager

Legislative Assistance and Terrorism Financing -

Maritime Security

Ibanez@oas.org

Paola Fernández

Assistant Project Manager

Document Security

PFernandez@oas.org

Daniela Westphal

Administrative Assistant

DWestphal@oas.org

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

Tel.: +1+202.458.6960 - Fax: +1+202.458.3857

E-mail: cicte@oas.org