



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

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

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



Organization of American States

International Workshop of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points

The Governments of Austria, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey and the other cosponsoring Governments of Costa Rica, Japan and Slovakia organized the International Workshop of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points on “Better linking national and global counter-terrorism efforts”, at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) on October 12-13, 2009.

During this workshop Mr. Gonzalo Gallegos, CICTE’s Executive Secretary, made a brief presentation on the topic of “Usefulness of Initiating a Global network of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points to Engage among themselves and the United Nations”. The Workshop aimed to provide a forum to exchange views on how to better link global and national counter-terrorism efforts by fostering greater networking among national counter-terrorism focal points and facilitating their role as an interface between national, regional and global counter-terrorism efforts.

Jean-Paul Laborde, Special Adviser to the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs addressed a message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who said that the role as focal points can ensure a holistic national response, promote the participation of the relevant national ministries and provide a means for the exchange of information between domestic and foreign counterparts. This event was jointly organized by the sponsoring Governments and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).



For more information visit www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sqsm12538.doc.htm or contact Mr. Gonzalo Gallegos at GGallegos@oas.org.

Editorial

“Cyber Security: a worldwide challenge”

The Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the Group of Experts on Cyber Crime of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) and the government of Brazil are organizing a Cyber Security Workshop in Rio de Janeiro, November 16-20th 2009, with the objective of proposing hemispheric planning guidelines for the formulation of national strategies for cybernetic security by the American countries.

This workshop will bring together a mix of national and international experts, as well as policy, regulatory, law enforcement, and technical level representatives working on the different aspects of cyber security and critical information infrastructure protection.

What is Cyber Security? In Brazil we defend the concept that Cyber Security is the art of ensuring the existence and continuity of the information society of a country, and the protection, in Cyberspace, of their information assets and critical infrastructure. Exchanging knowledge on what is understood as Cyber Security is fundamental to achieve conceptual alignment and to demonstrate the difficulties of attaining a common understanding about a theme that is discussed worldwide.

In the last 20 years, the increased use of technology to spread information and communication, especially through the extensive use of the internet by governments, has increased concern relating to the security of information. It is important to remember that the protocols used for access to the internet, including the TCP/IP, were created to facilitate the use and access to the World Wide Web; however, this was done without taking into consideration the security of information. In the cyber world, the security of information, defined by the Brazilian Government as “security of information and communications”, has gained importance and greater relevance due to the Government’s determined efforts to guide actions in order to ensure and preserve the availability, integrity, confidentiality and authenticity of information.

Considering information as intangible and volatile assets, then the alternative for information security management is to focus its efforts on information assets. We consider information assets to be the means used for storing, transmitting and processing information; the equipment necessary to do so, such as computers, communications and interconnections equipment and systems; the physical location of these means; and also the people who have access to them. Finally, information assets can be understood as the main infrastructure of the Information Society and therefore should be treated as critical infrastructure of a country.

Given this, it is our perception that information security alone is not sufficient to protect the critical information infrastructure, which is considered as part of the information assets that directly affects the achievement and continuity of the mission of the State as well as the security of Society. This gives rise to the importance of Cyber Security.

Developing guidelines for national strategies for Cyber Security is not a simple task. It requires integration and joint effort. The boundaries of cyberspace do not coincide with the limits of the national territories of every country. International cooperation, joint action, the creation of government infrastructure to respond to incidents, the development of clear policies for Cyber Security, the exchange of information, building awareness, training personnel responsible for the development of a culture of Cyber Security, the training of teams, sharing experiences, among other measures, are examples of the topics that will be discussed during the Workshop in Rio de Janeiro.

Since 2005, Brazil has contributed to the training of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) from several governments in the Americas. The highest point of collaboration between the Brazilian government and CICTE occurred in 2007, when a training course was conducted in Brasilia for 23 representatives from 11 countries in the hemisphere. During that training course, the “Letter of Brasilia” was signed by 8 delegations establishing a several commitments, the accomplishment of these have been pursued since then. Much has been achieved; however there is still work to be done. For this reason, much is expected from the Workshop in Rio de Janeiro. We are counting on the presence of a great number of participating delegations to engage in meaningful discussions on a cyber security strategy for the Americas - our home.

Raphael Mandarino Jr
Director
Department of Security of Information and Communications (DSIC)
Presidency of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Joint Legislative Technical Assistance Mission OAS/CICTE -UNODC-UNCTED visited Haiti

The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB), the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council (UNCTED) and the CICTE Secretariat, jointly conducted a legislative technical assistance mission in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on October 19-23, under the auspices of the government of Haiti and in collaboration with MINUSTAH (United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of Haiti).



The main objective of the mission was to emphasize the importance of ratifying and implementing the universal and regional legal instruments against terrorism, as a way for Member States to comply with their international obligations, including their reporting obligations. To that end, high-level consultations were held with representatives of a number of Haitian ministries and agencies, such as the Minister of Justice, the Vice-minister for National Security, the Advisor to the President on Justice Matters, the Chief of Staff of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Senator chairing the Justice Affairs Commission, representatives of the National Bank and of its Financial Intelligence Unit, as well as the National Customs Agency and the Attorney General's Office.

During the last day of the mission a workshop was held with the inter-institutional working group charged with drafting a piece of legislation against terrorism financing and money-laundering with the objective of developing technical-legislative recommendations aimed at ensuring that the draft legislation that was produced is congruent with the universal and regional legal framework against terrorism. Haiti ratified last April the 1999 UN Convention against Terrorism Financing. For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

CICTE Chair Convoles Tenth Regular Session of CICTE

In a note circulated to all Missions on October 22, the Chair of CICTE officially convoked the cycle of meetings leading to the Tenth Regular Session of CICTE. The meeting cycle includes three Preparatory Meetings and the Tenth Regular Session, which are scheduled to take place at OAS Headquarters in Washington D.C. The dates for the Preparatory Meetings are November 2, 2009, December 7, 2009 and February 9, 2010. CICTE's Tenth Regular Session is scheduled to take place on March 17-19, 2010.

For more information: Michael Bejos, mbejos@oas.org

MERIDIAN 2009 - Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP): Our Shared Responsibility



The United States Department of Homeland Security, with the support of the Meridian Programme Committee, hosted the 2009 Meridian Conference in Washington, DC from October 28-30, 2009. During the conference the CICTE Secretariat's representative gave a presentation about the work the Secretariat has been doing since the third Regular Session of CICTE, when Cyber Security and the internet were recognized as emerging terrorist threats.

Meridian seeks to facilitate sharing of experiences and good practices on CIIP from around the world. Conferences and interim activities are held each year to build trust and establish collaboration among member nations. The United Kingdom initiated the Meridian concept in 2005 and hosted the first conference, and was further strengthened with Meridian 2006 being held in Budapest, Meridian 2007 in Stockholm, and Meridian 2008 in Singapore.

For more information visit www.meridian2009.org or contact Mr. Brian Sullivan at BSullivan@oas.org.

OSCE-ATU ACTIVITIES

Expert Workshop on 'Public-Private Partnerships: Engaging with the Media in Countering Terrorism', 19-20 October 2009

The Expert Workshop on 'Public-Private Partnerships: Engaging with the Media in Countering Terrorism' was successfully held in Vienna, Austria on 19-20 October 2009. The 2-day event, partially funded by the Moscow City Government of the Russian Federation, was organized by the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) in accordance with the OSCE Helsinki Ministerial Council Decision on Further Promoting the OSCE's Action in Countering Terrorism (MC.DEC/10/08).



The workshop offered a forum for public-private dialogue on options for voluntary engagement between government structures and the news media in reporting on terrorism and counter-terrorism and addressed, inter alia, ways on how the dissemination of accurate and objective information to the public in the event of a terrorist attack can be improved through such partnerships.

Participants agreed that building up mutual trust and understanding for each other's roles and responsibilities is essential in this regard. Other issues discussed during the workshop included the need for free and independent media and respect for basic human rights such as e.g. freedom of expression. Workshop website: www.osce.org/conferences/atu_ppp_2009.html

COUNCIL OF EUROPE EVENTS

On 8-9 October 2009, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Spain in co-operation with the Counter-terrorism Task-Force of the Council of Europe organised in Málaga, with the support of the University of Málaga and of the Valsain Foundation, a high level seminar on the protection of Human Rights within the Framework of the Fight against Terrorism. The participants - coming from diplomatic, ministerial, judicial and academic circles and also from civil society - discussed consecutively the integration of Human Rights in national counter-terrorism policies, the tools available for this purpose at national and international level and legal challenges faced by States in this field.



Information about the event is available at: <http://www.coe.int/gmt>

On 8 October 2009, the Lisbon Network of the Council of Europe adopted a 'Concept paper for the training of judges and prosecutors in cybercrime and electronic evidence matters'. This concept is aimed at helping judicial training institutions develop and integrate such training in regular initial and in-service training. It shall furthermore facilitate networking among judges and prosecutors to enhance their knowledge as well as consistent support to training initiatives by interested partners. Information on the Concept paper is available at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/lisbonnetwork/>

On 12-16 October 2009, the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) had its 58th Plenary Session in Strasbourg. The topics discussed have been, inter alia, the approval of the draft 3rd Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition, the recent and forthcoming work of the Council of Europe related to penitentiary issues and international cooperation in criminal matters. Information about the work of CDPC is available at: http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_cooperation/steering_committees/cdpc/

On 20 October 2009, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) published its 19th General Report. During the 20 years of its existence, the CPT has been at the forefront of efforts in Europe to stamp out ill-treatment by State officials. The report stressed the fundamental need for States founded on human rights and the rule of law to remain true to these basic values when fulfilling the obligation to protect their citizens against, inter alia, acts of terrorism. Information on the Report is available at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/annual/press/2009-10-20-eng.htm>

On 21-22 October 2009, an international seminar for detectives specialising on AML and terrorist-financing offences took place in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. The target audience was (senior) detective officers for most serious crimes, in particular those specialising in the investigation of money-laundering offences and offences providing an economic basis for terrorism. The purpose of the event was to discuss the key elements of an anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regime, present investigation methods (following the money trail) and provide useful information on financial institutions. Information about the event is available at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/>

Upcoming events:

- On 6 November 2009, a Conference on New Partnerships for Torture Prevention in Europe will take place in Strasbourg.
- On 7 -11 November 2009, the 31st Plenary meeting of MONEYVAL will take place in Strasbourg.
- On 17 -18 November, the 17th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) will take place in Strasbourg.
- On 17 -20 November 2009, the 57th Meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-Operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC) will take place in Strasbourg.

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

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

An updated October 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

Flow of terrorist recruits increasing

U.S. and European counterterrorism officials say a rising number of Western recruits -- including Americans -- are traveling to Afghanistan and Pakistan to attend paramilitary training camps. The flow of recruits has continued unabated, officials said, in spite of an intensified campaign over the past year by the CIA to eliminate al-Qaeda and Taliban commanders in drone missile attacks.

For more information [click here](#).

Reflections on Jihad: A Former Leader's Perspective



While many counterterrorism experts pay much attention to the tactics and modus operandi of specific organizations in an effort to defeat them, al-Qaeda, its franchises, and like-minded groups tap into a much broader narrative that inspires and shapes their operations. The thinking of former members of al-Qaeda and associated groups provides a unique window into this narrative.

Noman Benotman was a core member of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group LIFG, an Islamist organization that for decades dedicated itself to the overthrow of Muammar Qadhafi. At one point, Benotman served as a member of LIFG's governing Shura Committee and even advised Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri on strategy. In the summer of 2000, Benotman began to break with al-Qaeda's leaders over differences in opinion about strategy.

This report gives Benotman's perspectives on jihadism.

For more information [click here](#).

Paper on "A Primer on the ICAO Public Key Directory"

As part of its "Joining the International Civil Aviation Organization Public Key Directory" project, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has published a white paper on its Public Key Directory, an expert group established to support the global interoperability of ePassport validation to act as a central broker to manage the exchange of certificates and certificate revocation lists. The paper explains the objectives, responsibilities and how to be part of such group, among other topics.



For more information [click here](#).

U.S. Congressional Research Service - Latin America: Terrorism Issues



Since the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, U.S. attention to terrorism in Latin America has intensified, with an increase in bilateral and regional cooperation.

The current goal is of bolstering capacity and cooperation of Western Hemisphere countries in order to counter current and emerging threats, promote Western Hemisphere cooperation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and secure universal adherence to agreements regarding nuclear proliferation. For more information [click here](#).

Recent Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
October	12-13, 2009	International Workshop of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points	Vienna, Austria
	19-23, 2009	Legislative Technical Assistance Mission (CICTE, UNODC and UNCTED)	Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

Upcoming Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
November	2, 2009	First Preparatory Session for X Annual Meeting of CICTE	Washington DC, United States
	2-6, 2009	CICTE Aviation Crisis Management Training	Dominican Republic
	2-6, 2009	CICTE Aviation Security Training	San Jose, Costa Rica
	11 - 13, 2009	Bioterrorism Crisis Management Exercise	Cancun, Mexico
	16-20, 2009	Joint OAS Hemispheric Workshop Cyber Security (CICTE-CITEL-REMJA)	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	23-26, 2009	Specialized workshop for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officials (CICTE and UNODC)	Nassau, Bahamas
	30 - Dec.4, 2009	CICTE Aviation Crisis Management Training	Panama City, Panama
	30 - Dec.4, 2009	Cyber Security Technical Assistance Mission for Paraguay	Brasilia, Brazil
	TBD	Legislative Technical Assistance Mission (CICTE, UNODC)	La Paz, Bolivia (TBC)
	TBD	Specialized Training on Tourism Security	Cancun, Mexico
December	2 -4, 2009	Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean countries on Best Practices on Travel Document Security	Grenada
	7, 2009	Second Preparatory Session for X Annual Meeting of CICTE	Washington DC, United States
	7 - 11, 2009	CICTE Aviation Basic Security Training	Paramaribo, Suriname
	15-18, 2009	Second Sub-regional Workshop on Bulk Cash Smuggling for South American countries	Lima, Peru

News

Paraguay: Senad Arrests Lebanese Drug Trafficker With Ties to Hizballah

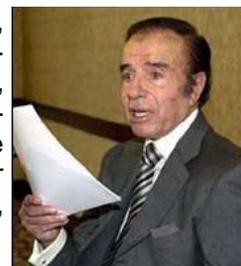
A Lebanese drug trafficker wanted by the Brazilian justice system and suspected of having ties to the fundamentalist Islamic group Hizballah was captured on October 21 in a building in downtown Ciudad del Este by Senad [Paraguay's National Anti-Narcotics Secretariat] agents and deported to Iguazu Falls. The foreigner was expelled from the country and handed over to the Brazilian Police.

The detained Lebanese man, Mustafa Ahmad Abu Hamdan, 39, has an outstanding international arrest warrant for drug trafficking. Details provided by Senad sources reveal that the detainee is suspected of heading an organization dedicated to international drug trafficking from Paraguay by means of "mules" who are recruited by the gang.

For more information [click here](#).

Carlos Menem is charged with obstructing the investigation of the bombing of the AMIA

Former Argentine President Carlos Menem (1989-1999) was brought up on charges this Thursday, October 1st by the Justice Department of Argentina for alleged obstruction of the investigation of a terrorist attack against the headquarters of a Jewish AMIA in Buenos Aires which took place on July 18, 1994, killing 85 people. As reported by the Judicial Information Center (ICJ), Judge Ariel Lijo prosecuted without remand the former president and six other people "for obstructing the investigation of the so called Syrian track or Iranian track of the attack". The former head of state and his brother Munir Menem are considered "instigators of the crime of concealment, identity fraud- repeated eight times, tampering with the evidence and abuse of power and authority," informed the ICJ.



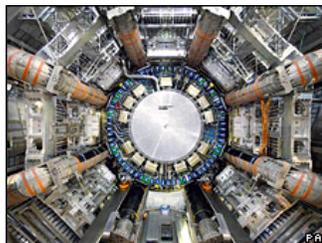
For more information [click here](#).

FBI Arrests Fugitive Hijacker 40 Years After

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested on October 12, Luis Armando Peña Soltrén, who participated in the 1968 hijacking of Pan Am flight 281 and who has been a fugitive from justice ever since. On November 24, 1968, Luis Peña Soltrén, 66 years old, and two other men entered the cockpit of a Pan Am airplane that was flying en route from New York City to Puerto Rico. The hijackers demanded that the pilot divert the plane to Cuba. According to the New York Post, Peña Soltrén, who is currently married and has two children who apparently live in Florida or Puerto Rico, recently said to the authorities that he would like to turn himself in. The U.S. State Department organized the transfer and provided the security personnel that accompanied the defendant Saturday morning on a flight to New York. For more information [click here](#).

For more information [click here](#).

'Al-Qaeda-link' CERN worker held



France has arrested a researcher at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) for suspected links with al-Qaeda, officials have said. The 32-year-old man of Algerian descent was one of two brothers detained in the south-east town of Vienne on October 8, 2009. Police believe they had been in contact over the internet with people linked to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and had been planning attacks in France. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb emerged in early 2007, after the Algerian militant group, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), aligned itself with Osama Bin Laden's international network.

CERN's large Hadron Collider is aiming to recreate conditions of the Big Bang. The organization confirmed that a physicist working at its site had been arrested "under suspicion of links to terrorist organizations", but specified that he had been hired by an external institution. CERN has been helping the French police with their investigation.

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

Trinidad and Tobago signs comprehensive nuclear-test-ban-treaty

Trinidad and Tobago signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on October 9. The signing ceremony took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Overall, the Treaty enjoys near-universality with 182 States now having signed and 150 of them having ratified it. Cuba and Dominica are the only remaining Latin American and Caribbean States that have not yet signed the Treaty.

For more information [click here](#).

New York City spending \$24M Homeland Security windfall on wide-ranging security update

As reported on October 5, the "Ring of Steel" security plan is coming to midtown New York. The Empire State Building, Grand Central Terminal and the United Nations will be surrounded with cameras, license-plate readers and chemical-weapons detectors under the new plan to go in effect by 2011.

The eye-in-the-sky security gadgets that police now use to scan lower Manhattan will also be used in midtown, thanks to \$24 million in federal Homeland Security funds. The city launched its lower Manhattan program, modeled on London's "Ring of Steel," in 2006. It set up a command center in the Financial District last year, where police and other security officials review a constant flow of images and information from the streets.



Privacy advocates question the value of cameras that mostly capture mundane street life and don't necessarily prevent crime. "There's no information with regard to who has access to the information, exactly what's being collected, how long it's being kept and whether it's been digitized into a massive database on the innocent and lawful comings and goings of millions of New Yorkers and visitors," said New York Civil Liberties Union Director Donna Lieberman.

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

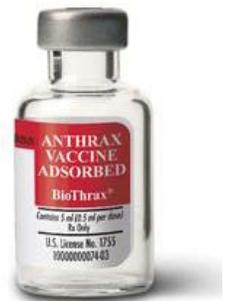
Maryland Company Receives \$4.9 Million for Anthrax-Vaccine Development

Maryland biopharmaceutical company Emergent BioSolutions announced on October 2 that it had received \$4.9 million for the development of a new anthrax vaccine that could require only two doses to provide protection.

The new vaccine is being formulated as a dry powder, according to an Emergent press release. Along with requiring minimal doses, the vaccine has prospects for a long and stable shelf life that would allow for "ambient storage" in the Strategic National Stockpile. The funding, provided by the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a branch of the National Institutes of Health, is expected to be provided over two years.

The agencies involved look forward to advancing dmPA7909 to continue to support the U.S. government's approach of funding the development of multiple medical countermeasures against the threat of bioterrorism.

For more information [click here](#).



Air travelers on 'naked' scanners



A new security scanner which produces "naked" images of passengers is being tested at Manchester Airport, enabling staff to instantly spot any hidden weapons or explosives. This means that passengers will no longer need to remove their jackets and shoes as they can scan right through.

Testing had been delayed until now as civil rights groups were worried about the invasion of privacy. Five years ago the x-ray machine was used at Heathrow Airport, but it quickly ended after travelers expressed shock at the clarity of the pictures. Transport officials in the U.S. initially decided not to use the equipment until manufacturers found a way of electronically masking sensitive body parts.

During the 12-month trial, passengers at Manchester Airport can volunteer to go through the "human x-ray" or opt instead for a hand search.

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

Al-Qaeda "suppository bombs" cast doubt on airport security

Suicide bombers associated with Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda terrorist network have begun carrying bombs inside their bodies in the form of suppositories to circumvent strict security controls, the French daily Le Figaro reported Monday, October 5th.

Citing information supplied by the newly formed French anti-terrorist service DCRI, the report highlighted a recent assassination attempt in Saudi Arabia in which the terrorist carried the bomb within his body. The target of the attack, Mohammed bin Nayef, the son of the Saudi interior minister, suffered only minor injuries. However, the method used by the bomber has forced security officials to reconsider the controls used to prevent suicide bombings, particularly at airports.

According to an expert from the French Technical and Scientific Police, it is necessary "to not act on the receptor, the explosive and its detonation system, but on finding the telephone that emits the signal for the explosion. That could mean that passengers may in future be forced to hand their cell phones on boarding.

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

US Officials say Zazi had links to bin Laden's Afghan Lieutenant

As reported on October 15, the airport shuttle driver accused of plotting a bombing in New York had contacts with al-Qaeda that went nearly to the top, to an Osama bin Laden confidant believed to be the terrorist group's leader in Afghanistan, according to U.S. intelligence officials.

Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, an Egyptian reputed to be one of the founders of the terrorist network, used a middleman to contact Najibullah Zazi, the Afghan immigrant charged in the plot, two intelligence officials said. Officials declined to say whether al-Yazid offered Zazi mere encouragement or substantive help with the alleged plot.



Al-Yazid's contact with Zazi indicates that al-Qaeda leadership took an intense interest in what U.S. officials have called one of the most serious terrorism threats crafted on U.S. soil since the 9/11 attacks.

For more information [click here](#).

British spies: growth in Islamist threat halted

"The Defense of the Realm," by Cambridge University historian Christopher Andrew, was commissioned by the agency, MI5, to mark its 100th anniversary this year — the first time a major intelligence agency has granted an outsider access to its secret files.

The 1,000-page volume, published October 5th, describes an organization that fought Hitler with stunning success but struggled to combat Soviet espionage during the Cold War and initially failed to grasp the threat from Islamic extremism. Andrew claims MI5 was "slow to see the coming menace of Islamist terrorism. This, however, changed with the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Since then MI5 has foiled several major terrorist plots against Britain, including a plan to blow up trans-Atlantic airliners using liquid explosives, for which several British Muslims were sentenced to life in prison last month.

The book says that in 2000, MI5 — without realizing it at the time — foiled a plot by al-Qaida to obtain biological weapons when it found samples and equipment in the luggage of a Pakistani microbiologist, Rauf Ahmad, who had attended a conference on pathogens in Britain. U.S. intelligence later revealed that Ahmad had been in touch with al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

For more information [click here](#).

Turkey nabs 33 al-Qaeda linked suspects



Turkey announced Thursday, October 15, that it had arrested 33 al-Qaida terror suspects in a plot to target Israelis and others. Ankara announced that anti-terrorism police had arrested 33 al-Qaida-linked suspects who had been planning attacks on Israeli, US and NATO targets in the country. The arrests took place in simultaneous raids in the cities of Van, Erzurum, Konya, Batman and Istanbul. The police did not say which facilities or missions were to have been targeted.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ayalon, said it demonstrated the "mutual interests between Turkey and Israel and between Turkey and the Western world in general." Another government official said that Israeli-Turkish intelligence cooperation was strong and continuing, despite the recent chill in relations.

For more information [click here](#).



Organization of American States

Gonzalo Gallegos

Executive Secretary

GGallegos@oas.org

Pablo Martínez

Assistant Secretary and Programs Coordinator

PMartinez@oas.org

Lilia Moraes

Program Manager

Cyber Security

LMoraes@oas.org

Brian Sullivan

Specialist / Program Manager

Maritime Security

Document Security

BSullivan@oas.org

Alana Wheeler

Interim Program Manager

Aviation Security

AWheeler@oas.org

Paola Fernandez

Assistant Project Manager

Document Security - Aviation Security

PFernandez@oas.org

María Elena de la Flor Musso

Budget and Administrative Officer - Webmaster

MDelaflor@oas.org

Karoline Oliveira

Administrative Assistant

KOliveira@oas.org

Alejandro Díaz de León

Program Manager

Tourism Security - Crisis Management

ADiazdeLeon@oas.org

Ignacio Ibáñez

Specialist / Program Manager

Legislative Assistance and Terrorism Financing

Maritime Security

Ibanez@oas.org

Michael Bejos

Specialist

Technical Secretary for CICTE Meetings

MBejos@oas.org

Belisario Contreras

Assistant Project Manager

Cyber Security

BContreras@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