



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

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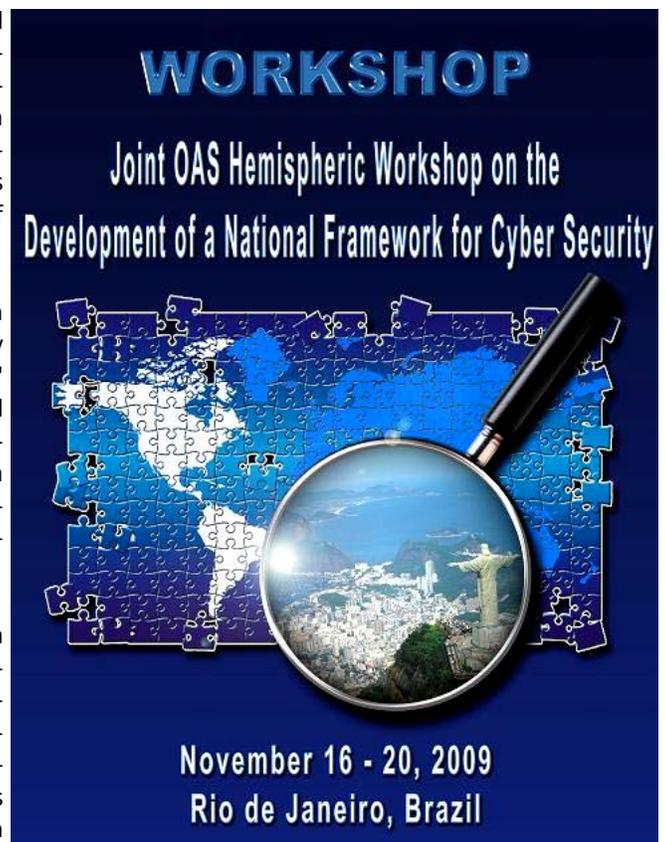


Joint OAS Hemispheric Cyber Security Workshop

The "Joint OAS Hemispheric Workshop on the Development of a National Framework for Cyber Security" was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from November 16 to 20, 2009, and was organized by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), and the Group of Government Experts on Cyber-Crime of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), in conjunction with the Government of Brazil.

The workshop was borne out of on-going OAS efforts in accordance with the mandates established by the Comprehensive Inter-American Strategy to Combat Threats to Cyber Security and reflects the OAS Member States' firm commitment to strengthening cyber security and protecting critical information infrastructure at the national and regional levels. In accordance with the OAS Cyber Strategy, the workshop sought to promote a collaborative approach to cyber security at the national and regional levels; one in which all relevant stakeholders are engaged and working together in a coordinated fashion.

With 32 OAS Member States officially represented, participants included a wide range of national and international experts as well as policy, regulatory, law enforcement, and technical representatives working on the various aspects of cyber security and critical information infrastructure protection. The workshop provided a discussion-oriented forum for exchanging expertise, information, experiences, ideas, and innovative approaches for more effectively addressing cyber security at the national level. Each national delegation was encouraged during the course of the workshop to prepare a draft action plan for establishing, developing and/or implementing a national framework or strategy for cyber security in their respective country.



At the conclusion of the workshop, participants offered numerous concrete recommendations for how the OAS, and specifically CICTE, CITEL and the REMJA group of experts, can continue to lead regional efforts to enhance cyber security and critical information infrastructure protection going forward.

For more information, please contact Ms. Lilia Moraes, LMoraes@oas.org



Happy
Holidays
From the
CICTE
Secretariat!

Wishing
you peace,
joy and
happiness
throughout
2010!

Happy
New Year!

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Specialized training Workshop in the prevention and fight against terrorism and terrorism Financing - Bahamas

A specialized training for judges, prosecutors, financial intelligence analysts, and law enforcement and criminal justice officials took place in Nassau, Bahamas, on November 24 to 27, 2009. The workshop was jointly organized by the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat, under the auspices of the Ministry of National Security of the Bahamas and the Attorney General's Office.



The workshop, which was opened by the Ministry of National Security and closed by the Attorney General of Bahamas, gathered around 40 Bahamian officials as well as experts from Brazil, Canada, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Italy, Spain and the United States. During the workshop participants exchanged experiences and best practices on how to fight against terrorism and terrorism financing from a legal perspective, and following a comprehensive and internationally cooperative approach.

For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

Aviation Security Incident Management Course - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE/OAS) sponsored the Incident Management Workshop which was organized through the collaboration of the Airport Security Specialized Agency (CESA) responsible for implementing aviation security in Dominican Republic and the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Office of Global (OGS), Capacity Development Branch (CDB). This workshop was held at the new CESA headquarters in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic from November 2-6, 2009. Twenty participants attended the workshop including officials from the Airport Security Specialized Agency, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Police Armed Forces and other Airport Authority Officials. The Lead Instructor at the workshop was Mr. David Flores from TSA accompanied by the Associate Instructor Mr. Kevin Martin of West Palm

Beach, Florida. Dr. Peg Halloran, CDB Manager and TSA Representative Mr. Victor Guardia monitored the workshop.

This interactive performance-based workshop combined case studies, discussions and comprehensive exercises to illustrate effective crisis management concepts and principles and provided mid-level to senior level aviation and government officials with the knowledge and skills needed to develop and implement sound crisis management procedures. Ultimately, participants learned how to develop crisis exercises and a sound incident management plan.

Lt. General Pena Antonio of the Armed Forces of Dominican Republic presented an appreciation award to the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE/OAS) and Dr. Peg Halloran from TSA accepted it on behalf of CICTE.

For more information: Alana Wheeler, awheeler@oas.org

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Aviation Security Training - San Jose, Costa Rica

The Secretariat for the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism sponsored a 5-day National Aviation Security training on Preventative Security Measures in San Jose, Costa Rica from November 2 to 6, 2009. The course participants included personnel from the local airport authority, law enforcement, customs, immigration, national defense, and members of the national civil aviation authority. The instructors for this course were Betty Butzco of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Office of Global Strategies-Capacity Development and Mr. Charles Heinrich, a Transportation Security Inspector at the Indianapolis International Airport.



Based on the standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Security Manual Volume IV and Annex 17, this highly interactive workshop sought to challenge participants to explore civil aviation security from a local perspective. Participants worked in teams to explore four specific topics with their respective country's needs in mind: 1. Passengers and Cabin Baggage; 2. Cargo, Catering, Mail; 3. Access Control and Aircraft Security; and 4. Hold Baggage. This workshop also included an airport visit where participants had the opportunity to apply what they learned.

For more information: Alana Wheeler, awheeler@oas.org

Crisis Management Training in Panama

The Secretariat for the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism sponsored a 5-day National Crisis Management Training for Aviation Security in Panama City, Panama from November 30th to December 4th, 2009. A total of 20 participants including managers and supervisors from the Civil Aviation Authority, Foreign Affairs and Firefighting Department were involved in this training exercise. The training was conducted by two instructors from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Office of Global Strategies-Capacity Development - Michael Kiel, Assistant Federal Security Director and Michael Yoka, International Analyst.

The objective of the crisis management training was to ensure that authorities were able to design effective crisis management plans with an identified crisis management team that would respond to emergency situations in airports.

For more information: Alana Wheeler, awheeler@oas.org

Paraguayan Delegation Cyber Security Technical Visit to Brazil

From November 30th to December 4th, a delegation composed of six Paraguayan officers visited the government of Brazil's Department of Security of Information and Communications (DSIC) in the Bureau of Institutional Security. The facilities of the General Coordination of Treatment of Incidents of Networks for the Federal Government – CTIRGov shares the same location.. Members of the delegation had the opportunity to participate in the XXII Information and Communications Security Seminar which was held in the Ministry of Health facilities, and subsequently to visit and to exchange information on the operations and performance of CTIRGov.



This technical visit, organized by the Cyber Security Program of the CICTE Secretariat, was developed with the purpose of contributing to define technical, operative and coordination aspects, in support of the implementation and development of the Paraguayan Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT).

For more information, please contact Ms. Lilia Moraes, LMoraes@oas.org

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ITU Regional Cyber Security Forum for the Americas

The Instituto Dominicano de las Telecomunicaciones (INDOTEL) and the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) organized the ITU Regional Cyber security Forum for the Americas from November 23 - 25, 2009 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Forum, dedicated to "Connecting the World Responsibly", aimed to identify some of the main challenges faced by countries in enhancing cyber security and securing critical information infrastructures. During the forum a representative of the CICTE Secretariat's Cyber Security Program gave a presentation about the work of the Secretariat and other OAS entities to lead hemispheric efforts to enhance cyber security and critical information infrastructure protection.



For more information: Belisario Contreras, BContreras@oas.org

Best Practices Workshop on Travel Document Security

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), in cooperation with the Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD) Program of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UN-CTED), and the Government of Grenada, delivered a sub-regional Best Practices Workshops for Caribbean Countries on Travel Document Security on St. Georges, Grenada, WI from December 2-4, 2009, under its Document Security and Fraud Prevention Program.

Sixty Three (63) participants from fourteen (14) Caribbean countries participated in the workshop: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The principal objectives of the three (3) day session were to strengthen the capacity of passport-issuing personnel, law enforcement, customs, and immigration agents to improve the security of identity and travel documents and to increase their capacity to prevent and detect their alteration or fraudulent use. Experts from North and South America and Europe, as well as from ICAO, UN-CTED, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the private sector addressed four main topics: ICAO's international standards and requirements for travel documents; the integrity of "breeder" documents and civil registries; handling and issuance procedures; and international cooperation and case studies. The workshop was developed under the CICTE Work Plan in order to help Member States meet their international and regional commitments under UN Security Council 1373 and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism to strengthen border controls and controls on the issuance of identity and travel documents. A key outcome of the workshop was the promotion of greater international contacts and cooperation through the exchange of information and experiences during the workshop.

For more information, contact Mr. Brian Sullivan (bsullivan@oas.org), Document Security Program Manager; or Ms. Paola Fernandez (pfernandez@oas.org), Program Assistant.

Poland hosts NATO summit on WMD



Warsaw, Poland, hosts the annual NATO conference on WMD, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Foreign officials descended on Poland on December 9 for a two-day summit on the weapons-of-mass-destruction policy adopted by NATO in September for preventing the proliferation of WMD and defending against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, the alliance announced.

For more information http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2009/12/07/Poland-hosts-NATO-summit-on-WMD/UPI-41791260210339/

OSCE Activities



National workshop in Zagreb on enhances cyber-security

On 23-24 November 2009, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) organized a national expert workshop on combating terrorist use of the Internet and comprehensively enhancing cyber-security in Zagreb, Croatia.

Participants in the two-day workshop included more than 140 Croatian representatives and decision makers as well as some 20 leading experts in the cyber-security field from both the public and private sector. The expert meeting raised awareness of concrete steps to strengthen cyber-security, the impact - including the economic impact - of potential attacks and pertinent legal frameworks, as well as to showcase defensive measures, including lessons learned and relevant best practices. It was the second national training workshop organized by the ATU addressing cyber-security in a comprehensive manner and sessions focused on terrorist use of the Internet, cybercrime and other threats, including those to critical infrastructures.

For more information contact Nemanja.Malisevic@osce.org

Legislative drafting workshop held in Kyrgyzstan

On 4-5 November 2009, at the request of authorities of Kyrgyzstan, the ATU with administrative and financial support from the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and in co-operation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held a workshop in Bishkek on Criminal Law Aspects of Countering Terrorism in Light of Universal Anti-Terrorism Treaties.

The workshop raised awareness of the need to become party to all universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols as well as aimed to strengthen national criminal legislation and international legal co-operation against terrorism. In addition, the 35 participants from 14 parliamentary, judicial and governmental bodies of Kyrgyzstan reviewed their legal provisions in detail and discussed UNODC/OSCE proposals on amendments to the criminal - and criminal procedure codes of Kyrgyzstan so as to harmonize the national legislation with international law related to terrorism.

For more information contact Andrey.Stytsenko@osce.org

National Action Plan for the introduction of ePassport and ID card in Armenia

On 6 November 2009, the ATU together with the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) presented the OSCE/IOM National Action Plan for the Introduction of an ePassport and ID Card in Armenia. The Plan, co-written by the OSCE and IOM after jointly conducting a needs assessment mission to Armenia on 15-19 June 2009, was presented to government under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office and also included the main stakeholders from the police, Ministry of Economy, Central Bank, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and border control.

For more information contact Christopher.Hornek@osce.org

Additions to the ATU webpage

A new page has been added to the website of the OSCE ATU highlighting recent OSCE decisions and directions for future activities in the area of countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT). The OSCE is becoming more involved in counter radicalization initiatives to facilitate better understanding of the dynamics and mechanisms of VERLT as part of assisting OSCE participating States in their efforts to counter this phenomenon. The page can be accessed at <http://www.osce.org/atu/39853.html>

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News from the Field

From 12 to 28 October 2009, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in co-operation with the Internal Troops of the Ministry of the Interior, organized the first bomb disposal training course in the newly renovated Anti-Terrorism/Bomb Disposal Training Centre in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The course, in which a number of law enforcement agencies participated, built capacity of law enforcement agencies to identify and deal with devices which may be used by terrorist groups.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS – NOVEMBER 2009

CoE Conventions

On 1st November 2009 the Additional Protocol to the Convention on cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems entered into force for Romania.



Council of Europe events

On 2 November 2009, the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg published his viewpoint “Intelligence secrecy must not be used as an excuse to ignore or cover up human rights violations on intelligence secrecy and human rights violations”. He underlined in particular that there is an urgent need to improve the democratic oversight of intelligence and security agencies and to regulate cross-border co-operation between them. The Viewpoint article is available at: http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/091102_en.asp

On 6 November 2009, in Strasbourg, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) of the Council of Europe and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) organised a conference on the prevention of torture in Europe. At the conference, which marks the 20th anniversary of the CPT, the delegates examined how the existing national, European and universal monitoring bodies can best complement each other in the fight against torture and ill treatment in places of detention in Europe today. The information about the conference is available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dc/press/source/20091106_prog_cpt_en.pdf.

On 15-18 November 2009, the Council of Europe was represented at the 2009 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) “Creating opportunities for all”, in Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt). The Council of Europe co-organised six Workshops at this event and this gave to the Organisation an opportunity to share with other participants its legal standards in various fields and to promote the accession of States to international conventions such as the Convention on Cybercrime, the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the Convention on the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Automatic Processing of Personal Data and the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. Information about the forum is available at: www.coe.int/internetgovernance.

On 17-18 November, the CoE Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) held its 17th meeting in Strasbourg. Following the 1st Consultation of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No 196), held on 12th May 2009 in Madrid, the CODEXTER discussed the follow-up of the effective use and implementation of this convention and held an exchange of views on a possible flexible and dynamic follow-up system for the convention. The Committee also authorised the publication of the country profiles on counter-terrorism capacity, as submitted by Liechtenstein and as updated by Slovenia. The information on the meeting is available at: www.coe.int/gmt

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) took place in Strasbourg. The issues discussed were, *inter alia*, preparation of normative texts concerning modernisation of the European Convention on Extradition and the follow-up of the 29th Conference of the European Ministers of Justice, which took place on 18-19 June 2009, in Tromsø, Norway. The information on the meeting is available at: <http://www.coe.int/tcj/>

Upcoming events

- On 1-2 December 2009, Council of Europe Workshop “Bringing Terrorists to Justice: Promoting the Implementation of European Standards and Documenting Good Practices” will take place in Skopje, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”;
- On 7-11 December 2009, the 31st Plenary meeting of MONEYVAL will take place in Strasbourg;
- On 16-17 December 2009, the joint UNODC and CoE Workshop on “Enhancing International Legal Co-operation related to Terrorism, including the Drafting of Requests for Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance” will take place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

An updated November/December 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

“Homeland Insecurity” by Daniel Byman, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. is facing rising terror threats from its own citizens. What made the country safer after 9/11 is changing, and not for the better, argues Daniel Byman (December 12, 2009)

For more information [click here](#).

High Casualty Terrorist Bombings. September 1993 – 2009

This publication of the Center for Systemic Peace shows the numbers of people killed in *high casualty terrorist bombings* (HCTB--bomb attacks on non-combatant targets resulting in 15 deaths or more) from 11 September 1993 to 10 September 2009.

For more information [click here](#).

Planning Green for Aviation Security by Professor Francis Spranza

One key area, yet to be fully exploited within today's airport environment is that of Aviation Security. As key to a successful “green” program, Security Planners must not limit themselves in their thinking. Every aspect of the security operation, from uniforms and personal equipment, to policies and procedures, all must be carefully scrutinized and often, re-structured from the ground up. “Green” policies – such as the use of e-documents can be written into the Airport Security Plan, Emergency Plan and AVSEC Quality Assurance Program. Operations procedures can easily contain provisions for such simple solutions as the use of recycle bins in break areas, terminal lounges and the like.

For more information [click here](#).

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Recent 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	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	Brasilia, Brazil
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

Upcoming Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
January	11-15, 2010	National Aviation Security Training Course	Belize
	26-29, 2010	Specialized Workshop on Terrorism Financing (CICTE-UNODC)	Bogota, Colombia
February	9, 2010	Third Preparatory Session for X Annual Meeting of CICTE	Washington DC, USA
March	9-17, 2010	Aviation Security ICAO Scholarships for National Training Course	Ecuador
	17 -19, 2010	Tenth Regular Session of CICTE	Washington DC, USA

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

NEWS

OAS condemns attack attributed to the FARC in which 2 children and 6 adults died in Nariño

On December 4, a group from the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) attacked and set a passengers bus on fire in which the six victims traveled at a location 700 km southwest of Bogota, where Colombian Police and Army troops fight the guerrilla group.



**Organization of
American States**

The Organization of American States (OAS) mentioned that these acts of violence against civil society “do not contribute to generating paths that would allow the difficult situation of the public order which is being lived by this region of the country and only infringes the fundamental rights of the population”.

The OAS also called to the subversive group to cease its violent actions throughout the national territory.

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

Arrests raise fears of American Jihad

As published on December 12, U.S. counterterrorism officials say 2009 has turned into the year of homegrown jihad, with the unmasking of the most serious suspected terror plots involving Americans in about five years.

In September, terrorism investigators trailed Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old Afghan-born U.S. resident, as he made his way from Denver to New York City in what they later alleged was an aborted plot to carry out attacks using explosives made from beauty supplies. A month later, investigators arrested David Headley, a U.S.-born son of a Pakistani father and American mother, and charged him with plotting with al Qaeda-linked Pakistani militants to attack a newspaper in Denmark that printed satirical cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. In recent weeks, investigators alleged that Mr. Headley told them he helped a Pakistani group, Lashkar-i-Taiba, scout locations for the deadly 2008 Mumbai terror attack. Last month, U.S. Army Maj. Nidal Hasan was arrested and charged with killing 13 people in a shooting spree at Fort Hood Army base in Texas. Prior to the attack, Maj. Hasan was in touch with an extremist Muslim cleric in Yemen, Anwar al-Awlaki, investigators say. Also last month, the U.S. unveiled charges against several men who allegedly recruited about 20 young men of Somali descent to join an Islamist insurgent group, al Shabaab, which is fighting Somalia's U.S.-backed government.

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

Accused 9/11 defendants to be tried in NY Court



Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and four co-conspirators will be tried in Manhattan federal courthouse less than a mile from Ground Zero, the Justice Department announced on Friday November 13, the most concrete demonstration yet of the Obama administration's desire to reassert the primacy of the criminal justice system in responding to terrorist acts.

In planning to transfer Mohammed and his co-defendants from the U.S. military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to civilian court, the administration takes a significant step toward reversing the Bush administration's practice of declaring suspected members of al-Qaeda and related groups to be unlawful enemy combatants subject to extra-judicial or military detention. The decision also adds some momentum to the administration's lagging effort to close the military prison camp on the southeastern tip of Cuba.

For more information [click here](#).

Bogota and Quito reactivate their Border Committee suspended two years ago

On November 19, 2009, the governments of Colombia and Ecuador re-instated, the Bi-National Border Commission (Combifron according to its initials in Spanish), and organ responsible for security and cooperation issues in the inactive border lines since November, 2007 in Bogota. The Bi-National Committee "coordinates, evaluates and supervises the fulfillment of military and police agreements regarding border security" as its main goals. It also "proposes mechanisms that help the prompt solution of problems regarding those issues and the strengthening of (bilateral) relations. The bilateral links were severed by Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa on March 3, 2008, two days after the Colombian bombings to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC according to its Spanish initials), in the Northern Ecuadorian jungle.



For more information [click here](#).

The FARC and the ELN could be tried for war crimes

The FARC and the ELN have both had seven years to change; instead they are progressively becoming more cruel and violent. The two existing Colombian Guerrilla groups- the FARC and the ELN- face the possibility of being tried in the international courts for their various war crimes beginning on November 1, 2009. On November 1st 2009, the safeguard signed by Presidents Andrés Pastrana and Alvaro Uribe to avoid the implementation of the Treaty of Rome in Colombia expired.

In either case, although Colombia is "under official observation" of the International Criminal Court (ICC), alongside countries like Georgia, Afghanistan and Guinea, it is a fact that one day FARC assassins Alfonso Cano and Jorge Briceño will be present on the defendant's bench that was once occupied by Milosevic. Despite its faults, the Colombian judiciary system tries to do its job even though their results tend to be emaciated.

For more information [click here](#).

Emergency responders prep for toxic terror attack

Emergency planning for the 2010 Olympic Games in Canada includes a review of how the military, police and government agencies will respond to a sudden release of radioactive material contaminating the population.

"I don't want to give away the exercise," John Oakley, director of the integrated public-safety office of Emergency Management B.C., said in an interview. But the five-day security exercise that began yesterday, 10 minutes away from the Olympic Oval skating rink, involves "a chemical incident" that would end up with radiological isotopes contaminating people, he said.

The security exercise has no link to any current threat to the Games. "For the purpose of this exercise, it is simulated that there are different groups that want to harm or draw attention. We certainly do not specify them," he said.

For more information [click here](#).

Paraguay leader withdraws anti-terrorism bill

President Fernando Lugo withdrew an anti-terrorism bill after critics complained it would give judges too much discretion to limit individual freedoms.

Paraguayan law already provides for a sentence of up to 30 years in prison for terrorist actions, and as written, the bill would have enabled judges to interpret "any kind of meeting between three or four people" as terrorist-related if the participants were seen to be instigating violence, said Sen. Carlos Filizzola, a supporter of Lugo's government. For more information [click here](#).



St Kitts-Nevis lawmakers to debate firearms, anti-terrorism and money laundering legislation

Lawmakers went to the St Kitts and Nevis National Assembly on November 5 to strengthen legislation dealing with firearms, anti-terrorism and money laundering. The Firearms Act No. 23 of 1967 is being amended to reflect the policy of the Government to protect the citizens and to maintain peace, order, liberty and to promote public safety. This is part of the ongoing effort to reduce if not totally eradicate crime and violence in St Kitts and Nevis. The Bill seeks to address the element of illegally obtaining and being in possession of firearms by classifying this as the offense of smuggling and providing stiff penalties for its commission.



For more information [click here](#).

Cancun's Customs found more than 4 million dollars undeclared

At the Cancun International Airport, officers from the Secretariat of National Defense and the Secretariat of Navy carried out a Merchandises and Transport Verification Order and found 4 million dollars undeclared in the luggage of two Mexican passengers travelling to Panama. The money was confiscated and the two men were arrested and transferred to the Attorney General's Office of the Nation. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

US visitor in the Bahamas carrying \$219k has money seized

It's not illegal to travel with large sums of money, but it's against the law not to report traveling with more than \$10,000 on a special form. Retiree Duane Leroy Fouraker's apparent misunderstanding of the reporting laws cost him big time when a magistrate forfeited his \$219,185 to the government of Bahamas on November 26. For more information [click here](#).

Brazil approves Battisti extradition



The Supreme Federal Tribunal (STF in Portuguese) of Brazil passed on November 18 the extradition to Italy of former leftist activist Césare Battisti, sentenced in his country to life imprisonment for four murders. Césare Battisti, 54, was sentenced by the Italian justice for the murders of four people –among them, two policemen- committed at the end of the decade of the 70s, during the so called “Lead Years” in the Italic Peninsula. During those years, Battisti was the leader of a clandestine extreme left group that was known as the “Armed Proletariats for Communism”. For more information [click here](#).

Suriname to join Caricom Arrest Warrant Treaty

Suriname's minister of Justice and Police disclosed on December 2 that with the approval of the draft legislation by the Council of Ministers, Suriname moved one step closer to joining the Caricom Arrest Warrant Treaty, which simplifies extradition of wanted suspects between Caricom member states. This clears the way for the bill to be presented to the State Council and parliament to complete the ratification process.

However, while Suriname will join the treaty, the country made a significant reservation, stating that as long as national legislation has not been amended Suriname will not extradite its nationals to Caricom member states -the national laws prohibit extradition of Surinamese nationals to a foreign nation.

For more information [click here](#).

Panama Canal Manager received the International Maritime Award

The International Maritime Organization presented the 2008 International Maritime Award to the Panama Canal Manager, Alberto Alemán Zubieta, for managing an entity focused on customer service and successfully starting the extension of the water route. For more information [click here](#).

Border Agency Deploys 179 Radiation Monitors at U.S. Entry Points

U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced on November 24 that in fiscal 2009 it fielded 179 radiation detection devices to entry points across the country. That brings the total number of deployed radiation monitors at seaports and land-based entry locations to 1,354. The monitors give inspection agents the ability to check nearly all incoming mail, truck freight, ship cargo and personal vehicles for material that could be used in a nuclear or radiological weapon. For more information [click here](#).



Documents identify terrorism threat in border gaps

Shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, a secret government report highlighted a way terrorists might easily enter the United States carting weapons of mass destruction.

The classified analysis pointed to an arid and sparsely populated stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona teeming with drug runners.

"This area has become very active with smuggling and encrypted radio traffic," says the report titled "Threat Assessment for Public Lands" completed by the Interior Department in late 2002. "This would be an ideal area to smuggle a weapon of mass destruction." Terrorists who want to smuggle nuclear, biological or chemical weapons into America, the report says, could use "well-established smuggling routes" over Interior-managed lands and in fact, those routes "invite" that type of activity. For more information [click here](#).

U.S. Announces New Strategy for Biological Weapons Convention



As informed on December 9, the Obama administration has developed a strategy designed to boost the goals of the Biological Weapons Convention but stopped short of endorsing the creation of an international monitoring system to verify compliance with the pact.

"The Obama administration will not seek to revive negotiations on a verification protocol to the convention," Undersecretary of State Ellen Tauscher said. "We have carefully reviewed previous efforts to develop a verification protocol and have determined that a legally binding protocol would not achieve meaningful verification or greater security."

Noting that some might disagree with the administration's decision, the undersecretary said the United States wants to develop a rigorous program of information exchange that builds on and modifies as necessary the existing "work program" approach. She was referring to the "intercessional process," in which separate annual meetings of experts and member nations consider issues related to the convention. For more information [click here](#).

F.A.A. Computer Problem Snarls Flights

Flights over much of the eastern United States were delayed on November 19 by a pre-dawn failure in a fairly new communications system, which led to the shutdown of a computer that accepts flight plans from the airlines and feeds them to air traffic controllers. For more information [click here](#).

U.S. Wants START Replacement Pact Signed This Month

As informed on December 9, the Obama administration wants to ink a replacement to the now-expired Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty before 2010.

Lawmakers in both states would have to sign off on the new deal, a process that could take some time. Despite agreeing to reduce its strategic arsenal further under the new accord, Russia said yesterday it would continue on as a nuclear power for some time.

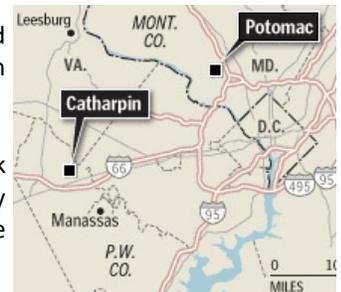
Russian media quoted Russian presidential adviser Arkady Dvorkovich that Moscow and Washington "intend to complete these talks in December."

For more information [click here](#).

Prosecutors tie Iran, U.S. assets

Federal prosecutors on Thursday, November 12, moved to seize several U.S. assets allegedly controlled by entities linked to the government of Iran, including a mosque and Islamic school in Potomac, land in Prince William County and a Manhattan skyscraper.

Prosecutors described an intricate web of ties allegedly connecting the properties to an Iranian bank that has been identified as a key financier of Tehran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and possibly acts of terrorism. At the center of that web, they said, is a New-York based organization known as the Alavi Foundation, which U.S. authorities have for decades suspected of being a possible Iranian front.



For more information [click here](#).

Lockerbie Bomber Might Have Bought Chemical Weapons for Libya

New documents produced by the U.S. government indicate that the man convicted for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103, which killed 270 people, might have had a role in procuring chemical weapons for the Libyan government.

For more information [click here](#).

Italian Police Arrest Two Pakistanis Linked to Mumbai Attacks



Italian police arrested on November 21 two Pakistani nationals who were charged with aiding terrorists in connection with the Mumbai attacks in November 2008. They were arrested in the northern Italian city of Brescia, said Stefano Fonzi, head of Italy's Division of General Investigations and Special Operations.

On November 25, 2008, the day before the attacks in Mumbai, the two men arrested allegedly transferred \$229 that was used to activate a voice-over-Internet-protocol phone account to be used by the terrorists and their accomplices.

For more information [click here](#).

Israel says intercepted arms shipment was destined for Hizbollah

Israel's navy has seized a container ship originating in Iran and loaded with arms, including rockets, destined for Syria and Lebanon's Shia group Hizbollah, the Israeli military said on November 4, 2009.

For more information [click here](#).



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