



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

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Organization of American States

Specialized Workshop on Border Controls

The first “OAS Specialized Workshop on Border Controls” was held April 12 to 16, 2010 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The workshop was organized jointly by the three entities of the OAS responsible for assisting OAS Member States in strengthening aspects of border controls—namely the CICTE Secretariat, the CICAD Executive Secretariat, and the Department of Public Security, all of them part of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security—in collaboration with the Ministry of the Armed Forces of the Dominican Republic.



The over-arching objective of the workshop was to highlight the inter-connections between the various transnational threats confronting the Dominican Republic and other Member States – including trafficking in drugs and weapons; human trafficking; and terrorism – and to strengthen the capabilities of the various responsible authorities within the Dominican Republic for addressing these. As such, key topics include: passenger and behavioral profiling; detecting the fraudulent use of travel and identity documents; identifying victims and perpetrators of human trafficking; and luggage and cargo screening.

Reflecting the commitment of the Government of the Dominican Republic to strengthening border controls, the opening ceremony was chaired by the Minister of the Armed Forces, and other leading officials from its various component parts.

A total of 45 participants represented each of the national authorities having some responsibility relating to border controls. Presentations were made both by officials from within the Dominican Republic working on aspects of border controls, and representatives of numerous other national and international authorities, including: the Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s Drug Branch and National Anti-Counterfeiting Bureau; the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority; the International Civil Aviation Organization; the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Canada Border Services Agency; and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

On the final day, participants were tasked with dividing into groups to identify and discuss key lessons-learned and best practices that could be applied towards enhancing border controls going forward. These will be compiled by the OAS Coordinators and presented back to senior leadership in the relevant national authorities within the Dominican Republic, for their use as a guidance document going forward.

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Editorial

Public Private Partnerships in the Fight against Terrorism

By Hon. Tommy Turnquest, Chair of CICTE
Minister of National Security of The Bahamas

Terrorism is among the greatest threats to our world today. Terrorist events in countries around the world, including bombings of commercial centers, tourism facilities, critical transportation networks, utilities and other critical infrastructure clearly demonstrate the grave challenge from which no state can consider itself immune.

Terrorism destroys lives, damages and destroys property, creates conflict and undermines economic and social progress. This is why there is a compelling global consensus against terrorism in all its manifestations, why terrorism remains a critical issue for the United Nations, and why the international community has adopted a broad range of treaties to counter terrorism and the threat of terrorism.

The traditional approach to terrorism has been that it is a critical security matter, and is therefore the responsibility of the state. Recent attacks by terrorists, however, show that their willful and wanton destruction is intended to inflict maximum damage, in terms of lives and property, and they are not concerned about whether what they destroy is public or private. In fact, much of the property that is damaged is privately owned. Therefore, Governments and the private sector should understand and envision security – and their partnerships on security – as an investment in development.

There is, consequently, a growing appreciation that the traditional approach to countering terrorism does not create a sufficient space for the business community and other civil actors, whose interests can be devastated by acts of terrorism. It also does not take into account the vital information, creative and innovative capacities of the private sector and civil society, which could be brought to bear to combat terrorism and the potential threat from terrorist activities.

Increasingly, the realization that there is significant value in public-private sector partnership is encouraging Governments to establish such partnerships, as a critical countermeasure from which states and the private sector can mutually benefit in the fight against terrorism and to guard against potential terrorist threats. Such partnerships heighten public interest, raise awareness, build mutual understanding, and allows for private sector input in Government's anti-terrorism policies and programmes.

The cost of combating terrorism and the substantial resources that must be mobilized to wage an effective counter terrorism strategy, places a significant burden on States, particularly during the present global economic crisis. This is particularly true for Small Island States in the hemisphere, as it is for larger States. Public-private sector partnership also helps to broaden the resource base, both financial and human, in the fight against terrorism.

Under the leadership of the state, public-private sector partnerships are having a positive impact in many states in areas including security for major events, crisis management, capacity building, and protection of infrastructure, including critical economic infrastructure. Much of these activities are benefitting significantly from technological advances.

My country is committed to building public-private partnerships, in particular, to underpin security in our tourism industry, which is critical to the economy and stability of the country, as it is for many of the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). One of our most important partnerships is that with The Bahamas Hotel Association (BHA), whose Mission includes the security of the tourism industry.



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The Government of The Bahamas has partnered with the BHA to develop strategies and policies to help it to carry out its responsibility that includes securing vital tourism infrastructure. The installation of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) is one such strategy. The BHA is providing resources, together with Government, to monitor by CCTV areas in our capital, Nassau, particularly areas that tourists frequent.

We expect that the CCTV system would be extended in our most populous islands, introducing not only an important crime fighting capacity, but also providing the means for guarding against potential terrorism.

The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) was established to “promote and develop cooperation among Member States to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism.” As The Bahamas assumes the Chairmanship of CICTE for the period 2010-2011, we will encourage those Member States of CICTE that have taken significant steps in this area to share the accomplishments and challenges of public-private sector partnerships, the lessons that have been learnt through these partnerships, and based on the sharing of best practices, what might go into creating effective partnerships, and strategies and policies to create and manage them.

We will also ensure that our hemispheric initiatives, conducted through CICTE and its Secretariat, continue to advance the global consensus against terrorism, and regional and international efforts in the anti-terrorism area, including those of the United Nations bodies, and that they accord with the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions, as well as with the universal and regional legal instruments against terrorism.

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Counter-Terrorism Activities

Second Workshop on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism Financing – San Jose, Costa Rica

The Secretariats of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (OAS/SMS/CICTE) and of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control (OAS/SMS/CICAD), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and under the auspices of the Government of Costa Rica and the Drug Institute of Costa Rica (*Instituto Costarricense sobre Drogas, ICD*), organized the “Second Workshop on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism Financing” in San José, Costa Rica, on March 6-9, 2010.



The Workshop, a follow-up to a sub-regional workshop held also in San José in February 2009, brought together experts from Colombia, Peru, the United States, and representatives from international organizations such as OAS/CICTE and CICAD, and UNODC to share their experiences and exchange best practices with public prosecutors, judges, financial intelligence analysts and criminal justice officials from Costa Rica. Main topics of the workshop included: the regional and international legal framework in the prevention and fight against terrorism financing; special investigative techniques; evidence aspects of judicial inquiry; bulk-cash smuggling for terrorist purposes; and the role of the private sector when investigating this crimes. The Workshop took a hands-on approach and developed a one-day case study specifically designed to address the issues presented during the theoretical sessions from a practical perspective.

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Aviation Security Preventive Security Measures National Training in Belize April 12-16, 2010

The CICTE Secretariat in conjunction with Belize Department of Civil Aviation sponsored and organized an Aviation Security Training in Preventive Security Measures. This workshop was held from April 12 to the 16th, 2010 at the Global Village Hotel in Ladyville, Belize. Using modules on Risk Management, this interactive workshop led by instructors from the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) challenged participants to look at civil aviation from a local perspective with special focus on four specific topics: Passengers and Cabin Baggage; Cargo, Catering, and Mail; Access Control and Aircraft Security; and Hold Baggage. This course brought approximately 20 representatives from Belize Customs; Immigration; Department of Civil Aviation; Police; Defense Force; Belize Airport Concession Company; Border Management Control Agency; Anti-Drugs Unit; Belize Agricultural and Health Authority (BAHA); Maya Island Air; Tropic Air; and US Airways airline. The course included an airport site visit in Belize led by Mr. Louis Escobar from Department of Civil Aviation.



Mr. Gilberto Torres, Operations Officer, Department of Civil Aviation and local coordinator for the workshop initiated the opening ceremony which included remarks from Ms. Kim Osborne, OAS representative for Belize; Mr. Michael Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture; and Ms. Shevaun Culmer, OAS/CICTE Program Manager for Aviation Security. Also present were Mr. Jose Contreras, Director of Civil Aviation and Mr. Oliver Del Cid, National Point of Contact before CICTE for Belize.

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Aviation Security Sub-regional Workshop in Cargo Security Inspections in Trinidad and Tobago April 19-23, 2010



The CICTE Secretariat in conjunction with the Trinidad and Tobago Airports Authority sponsored and organized the first Sub-regional Workshop for the CICTE Secretariat's Aviation Security Program as well as the first CICTE Cargo Security Course. This course was held at the Trinidad and Tobago Regional Aviation Security and ACI Global Training Center in Mausica, Trinidad from April 19-23, 2010. The newly designed course by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) entailed the participation of approximately 15 mid to senior level aviation and cargo security officials from Grenada, Suriname, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. The main objective of this course is to use air cargo security risk management tools to assess the vulnerability to air cargo operations at an international airport and make recommendations to the appropriate authority to adopt, modify, or create a comprehensive air cargo security program for the airport.

This course will be offered to the other Caribbean member states over the next two months.

Mr. Oswald Bruce, Manager from the Airports Authority of the ACI Global Training Hub and ICAO Regional Aviation Security Training Center and local coordinator for this event initiated the opening ceremony for the course which included remarks from Mrs. Antoinette Lucas- Andrews, National Point of Contact before CICTE for Trinidad and Tobago; Mrs. Roselind Chinnia-Ramadeen, Airports Authority Acting General Manager; Mr. Michael Labadie, Human Resources Manager Airports Authority; and Ms. Shevaun Culmer, OAS/CICTE Program Manager for Aviation Security.

For more information: Shevaun Culmer, sculmer@oas.org

CICTE Scholarships for ICAO Workshop: Cargo and Mail Training Course in Trinidad and Tobago April 12-16, 2010

The CICTE Secretariat, through its Aviation Security program, issued 8 scholarships to aviation security officials from Belize (1), Suriname (2), Barbados (1), Grenada (2), and Dominica (2) for their participation in the ICAO Aviation Security Cargo and Mail Training in Trinidad and Tobago from April 12 to 16th, 2010. The course was developed to provide selected personnel involved in the handling of cargo, courier and express parcels, mail and company stores, with the knowledge and skills to enable them to apply preventive security measures in accordance with approved aviation security programs.

For more information: Shevaun Culmer, sculmer@oas.org

Cyber Security Technical Assistance Mission – Dominican Republic

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) conducted, on April 14-16, 2010, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, a Technical Assistance Mission on Cyber Security. The goal of this meeting was to assist the Dominican Government with the development of a basic framework in order to establish a national Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT). Directed by the experts Gabriel Moline (VenCERT), Eduardo Martinez (ArCERT), Leonardo Huertas (CoCERT) and Eduardo Carozo (CSIRT ANTEL), the works focused on organizational, legal and political issues related to this purpose. As a result, the 33 officials who attended the activity elaborated a final document containing fundamental elements for the creation of the Dominican CSIRT and designating an institution to take the leadership in the implementation of the aforementioned project. This event took place at the facilities of the Technological Institute of the Americas (ITLA, for its initials in Spanish).

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Cyber-Security Technical Visit from Ecuador to the United States

On the 29th and 30th of April, 2010, a delegation of officials from the Ecuadorian Joint Command of the Armed Forces and the Secretariat of National Intelligence of Ecuador visited the facilities of the US Secret Service (USSS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) of the United States. During the visit the officials had the opportunity to interact with their counterparts in the US government regarding key themes such as inter-institutional coordination, incident mitigation, and the cyber security national structure. Officials from the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (USCERT) attended this activity and exchanged operating and best practices information with the visiting officials.



This technical visit, organized by the CICTE Secretariat's Cyber Security Program, was held in order to contribute to defining technical aspects, operatives, and coordination, in support of the implementation and development of the Ecuadorian Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT).

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

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

An updated April 2010 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>

OSCE-ATU Activities

OSCE Workshop on 2005 Universal Legal Instruments against Terrorism

On 29-30 April 2010 in Vienna the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit held an OSCE-wide Workshop on 2005 Universal Legal Instruments against Terrorism and the Implementation of their Provisions in National Legislation. It was organized in close co-operation with the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and funded through generous extra-budgetary contributions from Spain and Liechtenstein. About 140 experts from 53 participating and Partners for Co-operation States and 8 International Organizations took part in the event.



The objective of the workshop was to assist States in fulfilling the Athens OSCE Ministerial Decision No.3 calling on OSCE participating States "to consider becoming party" to the universal anti-terrorism instruments adopted in 2005 and "to fully implement their provisions thereafter". The four instruments concluded in 2005 are:

- The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,
- The Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material,
- The Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, The Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf.

Thus the workshop aimed at speeding up the process of States becoming party to these four anti-terrorism instruments and assisting in drafting the implementing criminal legislation. Model legislation provisions against terrorism prepared by UNODC were made available to participants in English, French and Russian and discussed at the event.

For more information, please contact Andrey.Stytsenko@osce.org.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS:

Council of Europe news - April 2010

Activities

1. The Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) held its 18th meeting in Strasbourg, France, from 7 to 8 April 2010. The main part of this meeting was devoted to the discussion on the regular follow-up mechanism to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196). Moreover, the Committee approved the analytical study on false identity information as a challenge to immigration authorities as well as the updated version of the Progress Report on future priority areas for the work of the Council of Europe against terrorism. The CODEXTER also authorised the publication of the country profiles on counter-terrorism capacity as submitted by Serbia and as updated by Albania, Germany and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Next meeting of the CODEXTER will take place in Istanbul, Turkey on 15-16 December 2010. For further information refer to www.coe.int/gmt.



2. On 13 – 14 April 2010, the Council of Europe organised in Tirana, a training workshop on "international co-operation in investigating and prosecuting organized crime and other forms of serious crime: international legal instruments". The event was organised in the frame of the project "Support to Prosecutor's Network in South-Eastern Europe" (PROSECO) and in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice of Albania. It focused on the practical application of international legal instruments related to the extradition and recognition of foreign judgments in criminal matters. For further information refer to:

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/>

3. An International Seminar on anti money laundering took place on 21-22 April 2010 in Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation in the frame of the Project MOLI-RU2. MOLI-RU2 continues the series of international seminars for detective officers specializing in AML and disruption of the economic basis of terrorism. These seminars are organised in cooperation with the Nizhny Novgorod Academy of the Ministry of the Interior and aim at raising awareness of the key elements of the AML/CFT regime and exposing AML/CFT specialists to European standards of the sector. Investigations methods ("Follow the money trail") and case studies are also discussed during the course. For further information refer to:

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/>

4. On 29 – 30 April 2010, the third European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) took place in Madrid. This event, organised with the support of the Council of Europe, addressed issues such as the public and economic value of the Internet, "cloud computing" and jurisdiction questions, the delivery of online content by the private sector, new top-level domain names, privacy, network neutrality, and the well-being of children and young people in online environments. For further information refer to: <http://www.eurodig.org/>

Upcoming events

1. On 4 – 6 May 2010, the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions in the Penal Field (PC-OC) will hold its 58th meeting in Strasbourg.

2. On 13 May 2010, a regional workshop on cybercrime will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia. This regional workshop will gather representatives from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Ukraine as well as international experts and the private sector to share best practices and experiences in adopting a legislative framework in line with the Convention on Cybercrime (CETS 185) and in facing challenges related to cybercrime investigations.

3. The Convention Committee on Cybercrime (T-CY) will hold its fifth meeting on 24-25 June 2010.

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Stopping terror in and on its tracks

In this article published by the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute, Kip Hawley, Frank J. Cilluffo y Sharon L. Cardash comment on the suicide attacks in the Moscow metro and the ways in which transportation security can be improved.

For more information: http://www.gwumc.edu/hspi/policy/commentary11_TransitSecurity.pdf

Recent Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
April	12-16, 2010	Aviation Security Scholarships for ICAO Cargo and Mail Training Course	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
	14-16, 2010	Cyber Security Technical Assistance Mission	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
	19-23, 2010	Aviation Security Caribbean Sub-regional in Cargo Security Inspections	Trinidad and Tobago

Upcoming Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
May	3-7, 2010	ICAO Scholarships for Cargo and Mail Training Course	Argentina
	10-12, 2010	Cyber Security Technical Assistance Mission	Lima, Peru
	11-13, 2010	American Regional Workshop on Major Events Security.	Vancouver, Canada
	10-14, 2010	Aviation Security Caribbean Sub-regional in Cargo Security Inspections	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
	17-21, 2010	Course on Travel Document Security and Fraud Prevention	Brazil (TBC)
	25-28, 2010	Best Practices Workshop on Travel Document Security	Montevideo, Uruguay
	27-28, 2010	OSCE Workshop on the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD)	Vienna, Austria
June	TBC	Virtual Meeting of the Hemispheric network of CSIRTs	Online
	7-11, 2010	Aviation Security Caribbean Sub-regional in Cargo Security Inspections	Nassau, Bahamas
	17-21, 2010	Aviation Security "Excellence in Screening Techniques" National Training	Lima, Peru
	17-25, 2010	Aviation Security Scholarships for ICAO National Training Program Workshop	Washington DC, USA

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

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News

2nd American woman charged in 'Jihad Jane' case

Federal prosecutors filed terrorism charges April 2nd against a pregnant American woman in the so-called Jihad Jane case. The two American women are accused of plotting online to attend a terror training camp. The new indictment charges that LaRose and Paulin-Ramirez, 31, separately traveled to Europe to support violent jihad, or Muslim holy war. The court papers also say that once LaRose was in Europe, she invited Paulin-Ramirez to join her to attend a "training camp."

For more information [click here](#).

U.S. Consulate attacked in Pakistan, Taliban claims responsibility

Militant groups targeted a U.S. consulate and an anti-Taliban political party in a pair of deadly attacks in Pakistan on Monday, April 5, serving notice that they remain formidable despite a sustained campaign to wipe them out. Witnesses said the attackers were disguised in the uniforms of the Frontier Constabulary, a paramilitary force that provides security throughout northwestern Pakistan. A Pakistani Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the assault and vowed there would be more like it.



For more information [click here](#).

Ministerial meeting between the EU and US addresses judicial and police cooperation

On April 9th, the European Union (EU) and the United States discussed bilateral cooperation in judicial matters, the exchange of information, aviation security and the fight against cybercrime. The Spanish Minister of Justice, Francisco Caamaño, and the Minister of the Interior, Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba, and the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, attended the meeting, which took place in El Pardo. Those present discussed issues such as the exchange of information between Europe and the United States through the PNR program – related to the register of passenger names – and the TFTP program – regarding the tracking and financing of terrorism-, and the Toledo Declaration, approved in the informal meeting on January 21.



For more information [click here](#).

Chile gives US weapon-type uranium

With U.S. President Barack Obama shifting his nuclear nonproliferation strategy to rogue states and terrorists, Chile has become an example of how small countries can play a big part in making the world safer.

Even as aftershocks from last month's magnitude 8.8 earthquake shook their equipment, U.S. and Chilean engineers worked together to carefully extract Chile's last HEU. It was no simple operation — the radioactive material was carefully loaded into specially designed casks and then lowered into two huge shipping containers for the ocean voyage. All told, 60 tons of metal were needed to keep just 18 kilograms (40 pounds) of HEU from leaking radioactivity.

The U.S. has already helped convert or verified the shutdown of 67 reactors in 32 countries from HEU to low-enriched uranium, or LEU, which is much harder to weaponize. It also has secured HEU supplies in more than 750 vulnerable buildings and removed 2,691 kilograms of weapons-grade nuclear material for safer storage."

For more information [click here](#).

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Obama and Medvedev sign nuclear treaty

“Today is an important milestone in nuclear security,” Barack Obama, the US president, said after the signing ceremony in an ornate hall in the Prague castle. He said that the treaty made “significant reductions” in both countries’ nuclear arsenals without harming US security. Dmitry Medvedev, his Russian counterpart, called it a “document that fully balances the interests of the United States and the Russian Federation”.

The treaty will reduce the number of operationally deployed nuclear warheads to 1,550, nearly a two-thirds drop from the level agreed in the first Start treaty signed in 1991 at the conclusion of the cold war, as well as below the 2,200 allowed under a 2002 pact. It also calls for cuts in launchers and for verification procedures. For more information [click here](#).

US shifts stance on nuclear weapons

The Obama administration on April 6th announced a doctrine to reduce US reliance on nuclear weapons, bolster the global non-proliferation regime and pave the way for Congressional ratification of an arms control deal with Russia.

The policy forswears the use of nuclear weapons in deterring chemical and biological attacks, while retaining the option against states such as Iran and North Korea that do not comply with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty or associated agreements. For more information [click here](#).

Al Qaeda threatened to commit attacks during the Soccer Football World Cup

The terrorist network Al Qaeda warned that its targets would be the United States, England, France, Germany and Italy, all teams that are playing in the World Cup.

The television network reported about the threat, and added that this is contained in a declaration issued by Al Qaeda in its Internet site. For more information [click here](#).



U.S. changing way air travelers are screened

The Obama administration is abandoning its policy of using nationality alone to determine which U.S.-bound international air travelers should be subject to additional screening and will instead select passengers based on possible matches to intelligence information, including physical descriptions or a particular travel pattern, senior officials said April 1st. After the attempted bombing of an Amsterdam-to-Detroit flight on Christmas Day, U.S. officials decided that passengers from or traveling through 14 specified countries would be subjected to secondary searches. Critics have since called the measures discriminatory and overly burdensome, and the administration has faced pressure to refine its approach. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).



Leader of FARC that planned attacks is captured in Bogota

The Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Interpol (DIJIN) informed about the capture in Bogota of the second commander of the front 26 of the FARC, Fabian Bedoya, known by the alias of “Pablo Neruda”, who supposedly planned attacks with the aim of sabotaging the presidential elections on May 30. For more information [click here](#).

The ‘dossier’ of the links of the FARC with the guerrilla in Paraguay

The Paraguayan Popular Army (EPP for its initials in Spanish), a guerrilla group that massacred four people in the north of this country in the week of April 19 and led the president Fernando Lugo to order a state of exception, has a relation of at least one decade with the FARC, according to media sources. For more information [click here](#).

Europol says that the FARC go to Europe as a strategic area for its activities

Exiled members are in charge of the information, the formation and to create clandestine cells to facilitate the trafficking of drugs and provision of arms.

The European Police Office (Europol), with headquarters in The Hague, revealed that the Colombian guerrilla group FARC considers Europe to be an "area of strategic interest in its ambitions to expand its activity" of the trafficking of drugs and arms.

For more information [click here](#).

U.S. Navy frigate captures pirate mother ship

U.S. naval forces said April 1 that they've captured five pirates after exchanging fire with them, sinking their skiff and confiscating a mother ship. The USS Nicholas was just west of the Seychelles in international waters April 1 when crew began taking fire from a suspected pirate skiff, NBC News reported. The Nicholas returned fire and disabled the pirate boat, then pursued the skiff until it finally broke down.



The U.S. sailors were able to board the skiff and arrest three suspected pirates. On board, the sailors found ammunition and several cans of fuel, NBC News reported.

For more information [click here](#).

Pressure on China as cyberspies steal Indian Security data

A network of cyberspies apparently operating out of China has stolen classified information relevant to India's national security from a host of compromised computers, an independent investigation has shown.

Experts at the University of Toronto said they had recovered secret assessments of the security situation in some Indian states, personal information on a high-ranking military official and information on visa applications to the country out of Afghanistan.



Symantec, the IT security company, previously announced that China had become the largest source of targeted attacks in March and that there had been a string of cases in the past year in which Chinese IP addresses had been identified as the location from which cyberattacks had originated.

For more information [click here](#).



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