OSCE Promotes Effective Counter-Terrorism Co-operation in the Mediterranean Basin

Seventy-eight experts from judiciary and law enforcement agencies met on 17-18 September 2013, in Malaga, Spain, to share good practices on effective legal and operational co-operation during the pre-investigation-, investigation- and prosecution of terrorist cases based on the universal Anti-Terrorism Instruments.

Among other topics, discussion focused on the state of play, gaps and challenges for the timely exchange of operational information about terrorists and terrorist networks in the Mediterranean basin and beyond, as well as the use and gathering of operational intelligence including as evidence in court.

Experts also shared initiatives on how to better build trust among and between judiciaries and law enforcement practitioners in the region. In this respect experts underscored a trend to create so-called fusion centres where counter-terrorism actors are brought together to create synergies in efforts to bring terrorists to justice.

The event was organized by the Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit (TNTD/ATU) jointly with the UNODC and in close co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior of Spain. The event targeted in particular countries around the Mediterranean Basin.

The final remarks, by the Head on Antiterrorism Issues, TNTD/ATU, are posted here

A Factsheet on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation can be accessed here
OSCE/ODIHR Delegation Visits United States and Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility

A delegation from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) visited the United States from 28 July to 10 August 2013 to assess the feasibility of a potential trial monitoring of proceedings before the military commissions at Guantanamo, and gather information on the human rights situation of the detainees at the Guantanamo Detention Facility.

The visit included meetings with officials from the U.S. Departments of Defense, Justice and State as well as civil society representatives. The delegation also met the commander and other senior members of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Command and visited parts of the Guantanamo Detention Facility center as well as the Expeditionary Legal Complex at Guantanamo where military commissions proceedings are taking place.

The visit came as part of the ODIHR’s activities to assist OSCE participating States in meeting their commitments to respect human rights in the fight against terrorism, by safeguarding the rule of law, individual liberties and the right to equal justice under the law.

For more information, please contact Lucile.Sengler@odihr.pl

OSCE Promotes Multi-dimensional Understanding of Violent Radicalization in Pristina

On 4-5 September 2013, TNTD/ATU jointly with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo organized a Seminar on Community Policing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) in Pristina.

The seminar facilitated discussions among some 120 experts from public authorities, civil society, academia and the media promoting a multi-dimensional understanding of the threat of VERLT which recognizes interlinkages between security measures and human rights considerations.

Specifically, the seminar discussed effective policies and measures to counter VERLT including Public-Private Partnerships and community policing approaches as part of an effective and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating terrorism.

ODIHR underscored the need to respect human rights while countering VERLT, highlighting that it is not only a legal obligation under international law but also a pre-condition to more effectively prevent this phenomenon, not least because it reduces the risk of alienation and stigmatization of communities.

For more information contact Jarkko.Jokinen@osce.org
OSCE Trains Police and Prison Administration to Prevent Extremism in Prisons in Kyrgyzstan

Some 50 prison and police officers of Kyrgyzstan’s State Penitentiary Service (GSIN) discussed on 4 September 2013 in Bishkek ways to prevent extremism and radicalization in prisons at an OSCE-supported training seminar.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek organized the event together with GSIN, the Kyrgyzstan Interior Ministry and the State Committee on National Security. The opening ceremony was attended by the Grand Mufti of the Kyrgyz Republic Rahmatulaazhy Egemberdiev who delivered a speech on countering religious extremism.

The three-day course aimed to help the authorities to improve co-operation between government institutions in countering extremist tendencies in prisons and strengthen skills of the prison officers involved in inmates’ education. During the Seminar, participants learned about behavioural monitoring aimed at preventing potential involvement of inmates in terrorist activities, and human rights concerns that need to be addressed when conducting such monitoring.

This seminar was part of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek efforts in assisting the penitentiary reform process in Kyrgyzstan. Since 2010, the OSCE Centre organized some 50 training events and seminars on similar topics for more than 500 Kyrgyzstan’s prison administration officers. For more information contact atu@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Astana Supports Training Seminar on Combating Laundering of Drug Trafficking Proceeds

The OSCE Centre in Astana co-organized with the Kazakh Ministry of Internal Affairs a four-day training seminar on the legislative framework to combat money laundering derived from drug trafficking on 1-5 October 2013, in Almaty.

Some 40 representatives from regional departments of internal affairs responsible for money laundering-related crimes learned about best international practices in tracing funds and prosecuting cases involving the laundering of drug money. Participants also learned how profits from drug trafficking are channeled to finance terrorism.

During her opening speech, Ambassador Natalia Zarudna, Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, underscored that international co-operation is a must when combating money laundering and terrorism financing, since money laundering and terrorism are by their very nature, manifestations of cross-border crime.

Among others, experts from the United States shared their country’s experience in combating the crime. The event is part of the OSCE Centre in Astana’s activities to support Kazakhstan’s efforts to prevent drug trafficking and prosecute financial crimes. For more information contact atu@osce.org
OSCE holds Roundtable Meeting in Tajikistan on Terrorist Use of Explosives

Improving the control of explosive substances to hinder access to them by terrorists was the topic of a roundtable discussion organized by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan jointly with the TNTD/ATU on 1 October 2013.

Some 30 experts from Tajikistan, government departments and the private sector, along with experts from Spain, United Kingdom and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), shared their experiences and legal as well as practical tools to improve the control of explosives. These explosives include chemical substances such as fertilizers, which are easily acquired and can be used by terrorists to prepare homemade explosives.

Major General Tohirjon Normatov, Head of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) underscored the importance of the event pointing to the fact that Tajikistan had first-hand experience in countering the use of explosives for terrorist purposes. Since 1997, the MIA had to deal with approximately 170 terrorist acts, of which 40 were committed using explosives.

The participants acknowledged that a (new or amended) regulation in Tajikistan that includes explosive chemical precursors among the substances to be controlled would allow better monitoring of such substances as they are currently not covered by the national Law on Explosives (2003). For more information contact Manuel.Marion@osce.org

OSCE Exercise Tests Capacities to Respond to Life Threatening Incidents

On 03 July 2013, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo organized a table-top exercise for 14 Kosovo Police officers aimed at enhancing capacities of the Kosovo Police to respond to emergency events involving an immediate threat to life.

The exercise included six stages which represented new information becoming available in an unfolding scenario. Participants had to discuss new intelligence at every stage, agree and implement a joint response to the event. The Tabletop exercise “Threats To Life” was successfully completed. For more information contact Ibrahim.Gultekin@osce.org

OSCE Trains Kosovo Police on Criminal Intelligence and Ethics

From 26 to 30 August 2013, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo delivered a five-day training course on Criminal Intelligence and Ethics for 15 Kosovo Police officers.

The main goal of the event was to enhance the capacities of law enforcement officers to effectively use criminal intelligence in compliance with ethical and democratic standards as part of safeguarding the public against threats and crimes.

Specifically participants learned about institutional and individual shortcomings and biases during the information gathering process as well as how to analyze and disseminate intelligence taking into account logical frames of ethics. Democratic controls related to intelligence gathering, the role of the media and associated challenges were also discussed. For more information contact Ibrahim.Gultekin@osce.org
OSCE Mission to Skopje Trains Police Officers on Combatting Terrorist Organizations

The OSCE Mission to Skopje organized a training course on combatting terrorist organizations fuelled by religious extremism, from 19 to 23 August 2013, in Skopje.

The five-day training course organized at the Interior Ministry’s Police Training Center in Idrizovo, Skopje, brought together 25 participants from the Ministry’s Administration for Security and Counter Intelligence and regional Sectors for Internal Affairs.

Participants learned about the causes and the process of violent radicalization and ways to prevent it. They also assessed risks, discussed the role of intelligence in the prevention of violent radicalization, and examined case studies related to suicide attacks.

The training course was designed to help participants better identify potential terrorists as well as preventive measures such as ‘de-radicalizing’ violent extremists. The course was delivered by three Turkish National Police experts. For more information contact Mikail.Turker@osce.org

Noteworthy

- OSCE-FATF-ICFO Discuss Co-operation on Prevention of Abuse of NPOs for Terrorist Financing: On 22 July 2013, representatives discussed with the representatives of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the International Committee on Fundraising Organisations (ICFO) at the Security Committee possibilities for co-operation in the implementation of the TNTD/ATU Programme on “Supporting the prevention of abuse of non-profit organizations for financing of terrorism”. Both FATF and ICFO expressed strong interest in the programme, the objective of which is supporting the implementation of FATF Recommendation 8.

- Launching of the guidebook on Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection: On 11-13 September 2013, TNTD/ATU and the United States Mission to the OSCE co-organized a side event during the Concluding Meeting of the ‘21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum’ in Prague, Czech Republic, to present the recently published Good Practices Guide on Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection (NNCEIP) from Terrorist Attacks Focusing on Threats Emanating from Cyberspace. The presentation was the official launching event of the guidebook with the intention to draw attention of both government and business representatives to issues related to the critical infrastructure protection as well as recommendations of the publication.

- GCTF Criminal Justice Sector and Rule of Law Working Group Meeting: On 10-11 September 2013, TNTD/ATU participated in GCTF Criminal Justice Sector and Rule of Law Working Group Meeting in Rabat, Morocco. Among other issues the meeting identified ways to further integrate the work of the Working Group with that of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum’s (GCTF) regional working groups, and of the UN and regional organizations and training centers. The meeting also aimed at improving co-ordination among criminal justice-related counterterrorism capacity-building efforts. TNTD/ATU briefed on forthcoming TNTD/ATU initiatives of relevance to this working group and the GCTF Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector.
Upcoming or Recent Events

- **2013 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Working session on the protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism, 23 September-4 October 2013, Warsaw:** This meeting organized annually by ODIHR allows OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, civil society, international organizations and OSCE structures took stock of the implementation of the human dimension commitments, discussed associated challenges, shared good practices and made recommendations for further improvements. For more information, please contact Lucile.Sengler@odihr.pl

- **2013 Counter-Terrorism Conference, 10-11 October 2013, Kyiv:** TNTD/ATU is supporting the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office in organizing this conference, which will focus on “Priorities issues for international co-operation in the fight against terrorism. For more information contact Mehdi.Knani@osce.org or Jarkko.Jokinen@osce.org

- **Roundtable on the Terrorist Bombings Convention, 15 October 2013, Yerevan:** TNTD/ATU and the OSCE Office in Yerevan will organize a roundtable on “Good Practices to Enhance Implementation of Preventive Aspects of the Terrorist Bombings Convention.” For more information contact Manuel.Marion@osce.org

- **Expert Roundtable on Addressing the Link between Travel Document Security and Population Registration/Civil Registration Documents and Processes, 26-27 November 2013, Warsaw:** This roundtable is co-organized by TNTD/ATU and ODIHR and will gather a select group of experts to explore practices criminals and terrorists employ to obtain genuine travel documents (including electronic Passports) under a fake identity, as well as best practices of interlinking civil registries with travel document issuance systems to prevent such identity fraud. The key objective of the roundtable will be to identify potential contributions by TNTD/ATU and ODIHR building on existing mandates to complement international efforts seeking to address a noticeable shift from document fraud to identity fraud in connection with the introduction of securer travel documents. For more information contact Ben.Hiller@osce.org or Paul.Picard@osce.org

UN News

Sanctions Lists

The Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) regularly conveys changes to the Committee’s list of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 1988 (2011) adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. An updated version of the 1988 Sanctions List is accessible in XML, PDF and HTML formats on the Committee’s website.

The Secretariat of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) regularly conveys updates to the Committee’s list of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 1989 (2011) adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. An updated version of the Al-Qaida Sanctions List is accessible in XML, PDF and HTML formats on the Committee’s website.
On 8 August 2013, the Republic of Moldova ratified the Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (ETS No. 182).

On 14 August 2013, Albania ratified the Fourth Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (CETS No. 212).

On 22 August 2013, the Czech Republic ratified the Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185).

The 3rd meeting of the Ad hoc drafting group on Dangerous Offenders (PC-GR-DD) took place on 18 - 20 September 2013 in Paris. The group prepared the draft recommendation on dangerous offenders, which will provide the guidance for the Member States regarding the treatment and conditions of imprisonment of dangerous offenders, the conditions of secure preventive detention and preventive supervision, as well as the risk assessment and risk management measures.

On 16 – 20 September 2013, the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) held its 42nd plenary meeting in Strasbourg.

Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

On 18 July 2013, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a judgment in the case Taziveva and Others v. Russia (no. 50757/06), which concerned the search of the family’s home by a large group of armed officers who were looking for a terror suspect.

Upcoming Events

The 25th plenary meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) will be held on 23 – 24 October 2013 in Istanbul.

The International Conference on National and International Coordination in Counter-Terrorism, organised by the Undersecretariat of Public Order and Security of the Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey and by the Council of Europe, will take place on 24 - 25 October 2013 in Istanbul.


For more information on the Council of Europe activities against terrorism, please consult www.coe.int/terrorism.
Westgate Mall Attacks: Urban Areas Are The Battleground Of The 21st Century

David Kilcullen, The Guardian

Attacks like the siege in Nairobi reinforce what we've already seen in places like Mumbai and Karachi: Urban environments, including complex pieces of urban terrain like shopping centres, hotels and industrial facilities, are the battlegrounds of the future. And the urban siege, with its commando-style tactics and guerrilla infiltration of a big city's ebb and flow, is increasingly the tactic of choice for a wide range of adversaries.

To understand this, we need to treat cities (not nation states) as the primary unit of analysis. We need to bring that analysis down to the city and sub-city level, understanding communities and cities as systems in their own right. We need to understand how a city's subsystems and sub-districs fit together, as well as how that city nests within regional and transnational flows. Taking the time to observe a city for long enough to see the rhythms of its metabolism turns out to be critical in understanding it. In Kenya, it seems al-Shabaab conducted meticulous, intensive surveillance on the Westgate Mall while planning their attack.

The attack in Nairobi didn't involve weapons of mass destruction or hi-tech equipment. The raiders used small arms (rifles and pistols), improvised explosive devices, and grenades. Small arms, however – because they involve intimate contact between attackers and victims, because their use implies the presence of an enemy on the spot, and because gun battles last longer than bombings – can have a greater terror effect than a bombing or hostage situation.

Interpol issued an international wanted persons alert on 26 September for United Kingdom national Samantha Lewthwaite, 29, following a request by authorities in Kenya. Lewthwaite – colloquially referred to in media reports as the “White Widow” – is wanted in Kenya on suspicion of possession of explosives and conspiracy to commit a felony dating back to December 2011. She has also been widely alleged in local and international media reports to have been involved in the 21-24 September attack on the Westgate shopping centre in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, although this remains completely unverified.

The terrorists who attacked Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi made active use of Twitter to broadcast their goals. Twitter Inc. suspended the account of Somalia's al-Shabaab militant group after the rebels used the service to claim responsibility for the deadly attack. Hours later, the group resurfaced using a different account name to give real-time updates of the siege. That account, too, has since been suspended. The use of social media platforms by terrorists illustrates a growing challenge as terrorist organizations and supporters increasingly use such platforms to spread their views and activity.