

# CTN Newsletter

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**Conference on The Role of the OSCE in Addressing Current Terrorist Challenges, 28– 29 April 2014, Interlaken, Switzerland. See page 4**

## Travel Document Security Starts with Modern Civil Registration and ends with Integrated Border Solutions – Seminar Concludes

On 8-10 April 2014, TNTD/ATU and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan supported the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with organizing a *Regional Seminar on Machine Readable Travel Documents and Traveller Identification Management*, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



H.E. Nicolas Brühl, Ambassador of Switzerland in Uzbekistan, Representative of the Swiss Chairmanship

Focusing on Central Asia and neighboring regions, some 164 experts examined how to enhance processes and security features associated with modern travel documents to offer greater protection against terrorist and criminal use. Specifically, sessions explored best practices and standards for travel documents as well as effective procedures for identifying travelers and related border-security processes.

Speakers pointed out that measures to enhance travel document security could no longer focus solely on the actual document itself. In fact, experts stressed, there is little value in issuing securer electronic passports if issuance processes can be abused by fraudsters using a fake birth certificate to apply for a passport under an alias. Likewise, there is little value in investing in securer travel documents if they cannot be read and checked at the border.

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A key objective of the seminar was therefore to underscore the need to take a comprehensive approach towards travel document security - from secure and reliable civil registry systems to integrated border security solutions.

The seminar was a continuation of OSCE efforts to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists and other criminals using forged or fraudulent travel documents. The OSCE assists participating States with upgrading security features of passports and issuance systems. Efforts also promote effective solutions at borders to cut waiting times for travellers whilst giving greater assurances to border control officers that travel documents are genuine.

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## **National Seminar Promotes Comprehensive Approach to Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes**

TNTD/ATU in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Astana organized a national workshop on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes in Astana, Kazakhstan on 26-27 March 2014.

The seminar was attended by 70 local and international experts, including experts and representatives of state agencies and civil society. Sessions focused on countering terrorist use of the Internet, terrorist threats against critical infrastructure and using public-private partnerships to effectively prevent and combat terrorism.

The seminar facilitated a discussion among the participants on promoting a comprehensive understanding of the threat posed by the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, recognizing its interlinked security and human rights dimensions. Spain's Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Manuel Larrotcha Parada, stressed that the Internet had developed into one of the most advantageous means for nourishing fundamental values, such as democracy and freedom of expression. These values had to be respected while protecting the public from acts of terrorism.

The seminar also discussed effective policies and measures to counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and the way forward for Kazakhstan as regards possible use of international best practices on the national level.

The Head of the Anti-terrorism Centre of Kazakhstan, Colonel Kendebay Adambekov stressed that a key ingredient to successfully counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes was to actively unify and harmonize national legislations in this area, and thus provide for a more effective correlation of anti-terrorism measures taken on the national, regional and international arenas.

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## OSCE

## Joint TNTD-ODIHR Guidebook 'Preventing Terrorism and Countering VERLT: A Community-Policing Approach'



Alexey Lyzhenkov, Director, TNT Department

On 17 March 2014, TNTD and ODIHR officially launched the above guidebook, with an event attended by several delegations of participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

The guidebook provides practical guidance for policy makers and senior police professionals on the key issues that can impact the success or failure of community-policing approaches in fighting terrorism. It can also serve as a useful resource for members of civil society with an interest in these issues, in particular community leaders.

The guidebook covers key concepts and provides guidance on specific issues, such as transparency and accountability of police operations; tasking and training for community police officers; communicating to and exchanging information with the public; engaging with communities; inter-agency coordination; and evaluation.

The publication is already available in English and Russian at <http://www.osce.org/atu/111438> , to be followed by Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian and Serbian versions.

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## ODIHR Assessment of the Human Rights Situation of Guantanamo detainees

A delegation of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) visited the United States from 24 February to 4 March 2014 to gather information on the human rights situation of Guantanamo detainees through a series of meetings with representatives from civil society organizations, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as well as military and civil lawyers representing Guantanamo detainees.

This visit took place as part of the assessment currently conducted by ODIHR on the potential human rights concerns arising in the context of Guantanamo. This assessment was initiated after an ODIHR visit to the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility and meetings with U.S. officials which took place in August 2013, upon invitation from the U.S. (see CTN No. 94).

The human rights assessment will result in the publication of a report presenting a comprehensive analysis of the human rights issues surrounding the situation at Guantanamo since its opening in 2002. The report will be available on the ODIHR website in the course of 2014.

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## OSCE Swiss Chairmanship to hold Conference on Role of OSCE in Addressing Current Terrorist Challenges

On 28 and 29 April 2014, an international counter-terrorism conference will be held in Interlaken at the initiative of the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE. The Conference will bring together close to 200 representatives from OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, civil society and the academic world, including the national counterterrorism coordinators of the participating States.

Three main topics will be in focus at the two-day Conference: addressing kidnapping for ransom, ensuring legality, transparency and accountability in the fight against terrorism, and responding to the phenomenon of individuals taking part in violent hostilities within or outside the OSCE area ("Foreign Fighters").

Delegations which have not yet registered are encouraged to register relevant participants on the POLIS website (<http://polis.osce.org/registration>) as soon as possible but no later than 23 April 2014. The conference will be organized by the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship with the support of the Action against Terrorism Unit of the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD), in close cooperation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

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## OSCE facilitates Training on Combating Terrorism in Tajikistan

From 17 to 28 February 2014, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan organized a training course on combating terrorism for law enforcement agencies.

A total of 22 officers took part including officers from the Border Troops, the State Committee for National Security (SCNS), the Ministry of Interior, and the Customs Service.

The training provided law enforcement officers with the knowledge and skills to combat terrorism, to identify terrorist networks, to use pro-active and intelligence based border protection systems, and to enhance processes for information sharing among law enforcement agencies.

Experts from Turkey's Combating Terrorism Academy conducted parts of the course.

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**Noteworthy**

## New Consolidated Reference for OSCE Anti-terrorism Efforts

The new Consolidated Reference for OSCE Anti-terrorism Efforts was published in March 2014. It aims to inform all personnel of the OSCE, as well as offices, institutions, field missions/presences, and relevant interested organizations, about international and OSCE commitments, projects and programmes related to the prevention and combating of terrorism. The Reference can also be used as an aid in conceptualizing, planning and implementing activities within the general scope of OSCE anti-terrorism goals. The Reference can be accessed [here](#)

**Noteworthy**

## **UNODC Conference on Sharing Practices in Preventing Terrorism**

2-3 April 2014, TNTD/ATU and ODIHR participated and presented during the above conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, organized by UNODC within its framework project 'Strengthening Criminal Justice Capacities of Central Asian Countries to Counter Terrorism in compliance with principles of the Rule of Law'.

The conference was attended by representatives of Ministries of Internal Affairs, National Security Services and non-governmental organizations from Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as experts from the CIS, SCO, the Organization of Islamic Co-operation, and the Council of Europe.

TNTD/ATU presented on the role of civil society and community engagement in preventing terrorism, including the recent TNTD-ODIHR guidebook on community policing in preventing terrorism. ODIHR presented on the human rights considerations in combating recruitment and incitement to terrorism and related offences. The Centre in Bishkek presented on their activities to assist the State Service for the Execution of Punishments under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to prevent the spread of VERLT in the penitentiary system.

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## **Fifth Meeting of the GCTF Coordinating Committee**

2-3 April 2014, TNTD/ATU participated as an observer at the fifth meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Coordinating Committee which the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Rabat.

The event was being held at the level of national counterterrorism coordinators, focal points from foreign ministries, and other appropriate senior counterterrorism policymakers. The participants fostered wide-ranging and strategic discussions on the Forum's work, including the Forum's impact and priorities, as well as new areas where the GCTF could add value.

TNTD/ATU took the opportunity to discuss with the GCTF its ongoing co-operation including joint projects such as the joint OSCE-GCTF initiative on women and CVE/countering VERLT as well as its contribution and participation in the relevant Working Groups.

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## **OSCE-UNODC Staff Meeting on Joint Action Plan stresses Importance of Co-operative Approach to fight against Transnational Threats**

Senior staff from The OSCE and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) met on 10 February 2014, in Vienna, to discuss achievements to date under the 2013-2014 Joint Action Plan and future opportunities for co-operation between the two organizations.

In his opening remarks, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier underlined that transnational threats are a growing challenge in the OSCE region and they have become increasingly prominent on the OSCE agenda. He praised the Joint Action Plan for enabling the OSCE and UNODC to co-ordinate their efforts to counter transnational threats more effectively and to work together more closely.

Speaking at the meeting, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov commended the exemplary co-operation between the two organizations and said that the OSCE, with its focus on the promotion of comprehensive security and its network of field operations, was an important regional partner in these endeavours.

Staff from both organizations made presentations on joint efforts to fight illicit drugs, prevent terrorism, counter transnational organized crime, combat corruption and prevent human trafficking, among other issues. They also discussed potential new areas for co-operation in several sectors.

### Upcoming/Recent Events

- ⇒ **Training Course on Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism and Border Security:** The course, jointly organized by the ODIHR Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Programme and the OSCE Border Management Staff College on 7-11 April 2014 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, will focus on the human rights issues that may arise when countering terrorism at the borders. It will gather border and custom officers from the OSCE region and Partners for Co-operation. For more information, please contact [Lucile.Sengler@odhr.pl](mailto:Lucile.Sengler@odhr.pl)
- ⇒ **Advanced Trainings on Detecting Forged Travel Documents:** On 5-17 May 2014, TNTD/ATU jointly with United States European Command (EUCOM) will organize two back-to-back Advanced Training Courses on detecting forged travel documents in Istanbul, Turkey. The goal of the trainings is to further enhance the skills of 40 Turkish border control officers to detect the latest trends in counterfeiting methods with sessions focusing on issues such as manufacturing processes of travel documents, document security features as well as profiling. The training will be conducted by two trainers from the Austrian Ministry of Interior. For more information contact [Ben.Hiller@osce.org](mailto:Ben.Hiller@osce.org)
- ⇒ **OSCE-GCTF initiative on Women and Countering VERLT:** 13-14 May 2014, TNTD will convene an international workshop in Istanbul, in partnership with the GCTF, on "Supporting Civil Society Initiatives to Empower Women's Roles in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism". This is the first of two workshops under the above joint OSCE-GCTF initiative in 2014 to promote gender-sensitive strategies, policies and measures to counter VERLT, with an emphasis on empowering women to contribute to these efforts in different roles and capacities. For more information contact [Mehdi.Knani@osce.org](mailto:Mehdi.Knani@osce.org)

## UN News

### Security Council renews CTED Mandate

The UN Security Council extended in December 2013 the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) through 2017.

Welcoming the mandate renewal, CTED Executive Director Jean-Paul Laborde noted that the threat of terrorism was increasing and spreading geographically. Mr. Laborde also noted that there was a clear connection between terrorist groups in Africa and organized crime e.g. in kidnapping for ransom, a lucrative terrorist funding method. Another growing concern was the radicalization of young people through the Internet and the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes.

The resolution 2129 calls on the Committee and CTED to be more active against violent extremism and focus on prevention in response to the global terrorist threat. Communities, civil society, and other partners should be involved in finding solutions. The resolution also highlights the positive role victims of terrorism and women can play in the process.

CTED is also expected to intensify its work to follow-up on its country visits on behalf of the Committee. The visits are critical in assessing and strengthening the capacities of Member States to combat terrorism. For more information click [here](#)

## UN 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](#)

## Council of Europe News

- ⇒ On 7 February 2014, Cyprus ratified the Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (CETS [No. 209](#)).
- ⇒ On 24 February 2014, Latvia ratified the Fourth Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (CETS [No. 212](#)).
- ⇒ On 5 March 2014, Panama acceded to the Convention on Cybercrime ([ETS No. 185](#)).

## Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

On 25 March 2014, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in the case of *M.G. v. Bulgaria*, which concerned the request for extradition of a Russian national of Chechen origin, suspected of terrorist offences in Russian Federation.

On 18 March 2014, in the case of *Öcalan v. Turkey*, the European Court of Human Rights found a violation of Article 3 of the Convention on account of the conditions of the applicant's detention up to 17 November 2009.

From January to March 2014, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a number of judgments relevant to counter-terrorism issues:

- ⇒ on 13 March 2014 in four cases against Ukraine concerning conditions of detention and rights to defence of the communist activists arrested in December 2002 on suspicion of, among other things, terrorism: *Aleksandr Vladimirovich Smirnov v. Ukraine*, *Andrey Yakovenko v. Ukraine*, *Danilov v. Ukraine* and *Zinchenko v. Ukraine* ([press release](#));
- ⇒ on 24 February 2014 in a case against Turkey, which concerned the death of applicants' relatives in the context of an anti-terrorist operation: *Makbule Kaymaz and Others v. Turkey*;

⇒ on 16 January 2014 in cases against Russia concerning refusal to return bodies of presumed terrorists to their families: *Abdulayeva v. Russia*, *Kushtova and Others v. Russia*, *Arkhestov and Others v. Russia* and *Zalov and Khakulova v. Russia* (press release).

## Forthcoming events

The 7th meeting of the Group of Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism will take place on 5 May 2014 in Strasbourg.

The 26th plenary meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) will be held on 6 – 7 May 2014 in Strasbourg.

For more information on the Council of Europe activities against terrorism, please consult [www.coe.int/terrorism](http://www.coe.int/terrorism)