



## **INFORME #10**

**November 25, 2003**

### **Counter-Terrorism Activities**

#### **CICTE Hosts Counterterrorism Meeting of International Organizations**

Representatives of major regional and international organizations emphasized the importance of identifying and sharing key information and best practices to effective counter-terrorism strategies. The October 7 meeting, hosted by the OAS, was a follow-up to the March 6 United Nations meeting on counter-terrorism strategy. The event was co-sponsored by CICTE and the UN Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), and the main topic of discussion was the role of regional and international organizations in national counter-terrorism capacity building and policy implementation. Over 200 representatives from various regional, subregional and issue-specific organizations attended the meeting.

With Salvadoran Foreign Minister Maria Eugenia Brizuela, CICTE Chair, and Ambassador Inocencio Arias, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations and Chair of the UNCTC, presiding over the event, panel discussions included presentations from the FATF, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the European Commission, among other contributors. A CD-ROM is being prepared for the meeting's participants, presentation summaries are now available in Groove, and more information on these proceedings can be found at [www.cicte.oas.org](http://www.cicte.oas.org).

#### **FATF Agrees to Intensify Anti-Terrorist Financing Campaign**

At the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary in Stockholm on October 3, the group examined various means of supplying technical assistance to countries requesting help implementing and enforcing new anti-terrorism legislation. The group decided to delineate in greater detail the obligation of states to effectively freeze terrorist-related assets, and develop new best practices guides to help contain the use of formal financial systems for terrorist funding. Also, the FATF assessed the progress made by several jurisdictions on the Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories list. According to the FATF President, Mr. Claes Norgren, "The FATF has placed a high priority on fostering concrete action to dry up the flow of funds to terrorists." Find more information on the results of the Plenary and other FATF activity at [www1.oecd.org/fatf/](http://www1.oecd.org/fatf/).

#### **U.S. National Research Council Addresses "Dual-Use Dilemma" in Biotech Research**

The U.S. National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies of Science has proposed a plan to improve its research proposal screening system, in the hopes of

keeping biotechnology out of the hands of terrorists. The NRC recently issued a report entitled "Biotechnology Research in an Age of Terrorism: Confronting the "Dual Use" Dilemma," which focuses on balancing U.S. biosecurity needs and the scientific community's need for openness to foster research. The report recommended that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services arrange an independent National Science Advisory Board for Biodefense that would screen potential biotech research projects, oversee various aspects of such research to mitigate the risks of bioterrorism, and promote ongoing dialogue between scientists and security advisors. According to Gerald Fink, chair of the NRC committee that wrote the board proposal, "Scientists and policy-makers alike must accept a collective responsibility to address this challenge, which is admittedly difficult. But we can do more than we are now doing, and we should." To learn more about this and other NRC projects, visit <http://www.nationalacademies.org/nrc>.

### **Recent Developments in the News**

The *Boston Business Journal* reported that the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine has received a \$25 million, 7-year contract from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to establish a microbiology unit to study human pathogens that could contaminate the US food and water supply. A major focus of the unit will be creating the country's first center for research and development on the diagnosis and treatment of botulism, a major bioterrorism threat. The University of Massachusetts will collaborate with Tufts on this portion of the contract.

A *Washington Post* article reported that the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States has issued its first subpoena for documents to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The independent panel, assembled to investigate government failures before and after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, served the subpoenas after discovering that the FAA had withheld dozens of boxes of material despite the commission's request for "all documents related to the FAA's tracking of hijacked airliners on 9/11." The commission also announced that it will target other agencies that resist turning over information, and warned that it may seek an extension of its May 2004 deadline, due to persistent delays to the investigation.

Also in the *Washington Post*, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is working to harmonize the security procedures required of U.S. and foreign air cargo carriers, in response to warnings from the FBI and U.S. Department of Homeland Security that specifically name cargo planes as targets for future terrorist hijackings. According to the warnings, terrorists may try to hijack planes in Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean and use them to attack critical infrastructure in the U.S. While foreign companies are exempt from the rules that require U.S. operators to submit security plans to the TSA, the agency will soon require foreign carriers to meet U.S. security-plan standards as a condition for operating in the United States. The new requirements are expected to affect only 10 to 15 foreign-based companies that ship to the U.S., and TSA officials will be conducting random compliance checks, as well as scrutinizing cargo manifests sent prior to landing in the United States.

According to a story from the *Reuters Newswire*, the United States declared that it has frozen the U.S. assets of the Dhamat Houmet Daawa Salafia group due to suspicion that it will commit acts of terrorism against U.S. citizens or national interests. In the Federal Register, government officials said that the U.S. actions were prompted by beliefs that the Algerian group "has committed, or poses a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States." The State Department describes the Dhamat Houmet Daawa Salafia as well-organized and well-armed, and says that it would support the group's inclusion on a United Nations sanctions list that would ban travel by its members and immediately freeze its assets.

*BBC News* reported that NATO's defense ministers have taken part in an unprecedented exercise to test the alliance's responses to terrorism, during a "study seminar" at the Schriever U.S. Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO. The exercise involved a mock crisis originating from a fictional Middle Eastern country, during which a terrorist group threatened Europe with a weapon of mass destruction delivered by missile. Its primary aim was to assess NATO's ability to quickly deploy elite units to locations outside of its European base within five to 30 days.

In another *BBC News* story, scientists in the Philippines are examining a suspicious substance found during a raid on a militant hide-out in Cotabato. The substance was allegedly found with documents related to bioterrorism weapons manuals. Deputy Chief of Staff Rodolfo Garcia said that, along with several canisters of unidentified chemicals and bomb making materials, authorities found residues of what could be a chemical carrying the tetanus bacteria. No arrests were made during the raid, but authorities are searching for members of Jemaah Islamiah, a militant group in South East Asia that is suspected of connections to al-Qaeda.

According to *Scientific American*, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has proposed an upgrade to the Computer-Assisted Passenger Pre-Screening (CAPPS) system that could make it the hub of a new air safety "threat-assessment tool." The planned CAPPS II would require huge amounts of funding to complete the improvements—the TSA has requested \$35 million for the technology upgrade, and necessary changes to the passenger information exchange system, including national information standardization, could cost more than \$1 billion. By building upon the original system, created in 1998 to help identify fliers who may pose a safety risk, officials hope that CAPPS II will become the world's first fully automated passenger screening system.

### **Counter-Terrorism Meetings and Events**

- November 18-19: FATF-XV experts will meet in Oaxaca, México to discuss money laundering and terrorist financing typologies. The meeting will include three workshops ("Wire transfers and their relation to terrorist financing," "Non-Profit Organizations and their relation to terrorist financing," and "Money

- laundering vulnerabilities in the insurance sector”) and two panel discussions on politically exposed persons and gatekeepers.
- November 5-7: The UN Environmental Directorate will hold a working group meeting to address UN recommendations for preventing chemical terrorism. The meeting is entitled “Chemical Accidents.”
  - November 17-21: CICAD Plenary Meeting, Montreal, Canada
  - December 2-6: UN ODC Experts Meeting on Extradition in Terrorism Cases, Siracusa, Italy
  - December 2-5 Association of Caribbean Chiefs of Police (ACCP) Inter-sessional Meeting, Bridgetown, Barbados
  - December 11-12, Second Preparatory Meeting for Fourth Regular Session of CICTE, Washington, DC
  - January 28-30, 2004 Fourth Regular Session of CICTE (Including Meeting of National Points of Contact) Montevideo, Uruguay.

### **New Documents on OLAT**

- “Assessment Criteria for the FATF Eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing.” Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- “Procedures for Assessing Compliance with the Eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing.” FATF
- “Council Framework Decision of June 13, 2002 on Combating Terrorism.” Council of the European Union
- “Freezing of Terrorist Assets: International Best Practices.” FATF
- “Interpretive Note to Special Recommendation III: Freezing and Confiscating Terrorist Assets.” FATF
- “Legislative Guide to the Universal Anti-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols.” UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- “Nuclear Security – Measures to Protect Against Nuclear Terrorism, Report by the Director General.” International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA)
- “OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response.” Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- “Manual para la Redacción de Leyes de Represión del Financiamiento del Terrorismo.” International Monetary Fund (IMF)

### **From the Executive Secretary...**

As the various aspects of terrorism and counter-terrorism efforts become more evident, so grows the volume of literature addressing the topic. Some recent books of interest include:

- Black Ice: The Invisible Threat of Cyber Terrorism, Dan Verton (McGraw-Hill: 2003)

- An investigation into the global and financial implications of cyber-terrorism, how and why it occurs, and how to prepare for and prevent cyber-terrorism attacks. Includes interviews and commentary from leading authorities on U.S. national security.
- Funding Evil: How Terrorism Is Financed—and How to Stop It, Rachel Ehrenfeld (Bonus Books: 2003)  
An exposé on how terrorist organizations are funded, including investigations into the groups' common fundraising activities, the nexus between terrorism and organized crime, and the contributions made by state sponsorship and government corruption.
  - Combating Terrorism: Strategies of Ten Countries, Yonah Alexander (ed.) (University of Michigan Press: 2002)  
A collection of essays that includes overview and evaluation of the counterterrorism policies of the United States, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Spain, the United Kingdom, Israel, Turkey, India and Japan.
  - Origins of Terrorism—Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind, Walter Reich (ed.) (Woodrow Wilson Center Press: 1990)  
A compilation of essays that addresses the pathology of terrorism through examining the nature and sources of terrorists' beliefs, actions and goals.
  - Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill, Jessica Stern (HarperCollins: 2003)  
An interpretation of the fusion between charismatic leaders, religion and politics that can lead to terrorist activity.

Pick up a copy at your local bookstore or visit [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) to order online.