



CICTE Informe #17

August 2004

Counterterrorism Activities

Workshop on International Cooperation and Legislative Assistance against Terrorism (July 29-30, Quito-Ecuador)

During the workshop, there were three primary issues discussed: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' duty, the role of international organizations such as the UN and the OAS, and the role of the Inter-governmental Committee against Terrorism when combating terrorism. The participants decided on the three primary conclusions. First, there is a need to develop a national strategy which would examine the ratification and implementation of legislation in the national arena. Second, a web page should be created for the exclusive use of the members of the Inter-governmental Committee which will become a tool for the exchange of information among them. Finally, there was a UN and OAS commitment to invite Ecuador to all the training programs they are developing in that field.

Roughly twenty five persons from Ecuador attended the Workshop, representing governmental agencies and the private sector. UNODC and CICTE provided the government of Ecuador with experts to conduct the Workshop.

Interagency Coordination and Counterterrorism Course **(July, 19-30, Washington, D.C.)**

CICTE was a fundamental partner in the design and execution of the course offered by the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, National Defense University (CHDS-NDU), Washington, D.C. NDU is part of the United States' Department of Defense.

It enabled participants to study the coordination process among national and international military and police forces and civilian agencies and institutions addressing defense and security challenges. The course also examined issues regarding counter-terrorism policy, decision-making and implementation, organizational culture and planning, information sharing, and the alignment of resources and operations in the inter-agency environment.

The ICCT brought together forty-three participants from fourteen countries. It featured a lecture delivered by Dr. Elias Bluth, President of the CICTE, and a panel on

international coordination with contribution of Kevin Newmeyer, a member of CICTE's staff in the Washington office. The Committee also sponsored the participation of three Latin American students.

Future Events

- September 21-23: REMJA Group of Government Experts on Cyber-crime Workshop (Santiago, Chile)
- September 21-23: Workshop for the formulation of legislation to implement anti terrorism international instruments and the Inter-American Convention to combat terrorism (San Jose, Costa Rica)
- October 4-8: Inter-American Port Security Program for MERCOSUR countries (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- October Course in Dangerous Goods (Jamaica)
- November 8-12: ICAO Crisis Management (Trinidad y Tobago)

Recent developments in the news

The Central American Commission on Maritime Transportation has certified that the **Panama Canal Authority must comply with all the security measures** required by the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Roughly 42 ships cross daily from the Atlantic to the Pacific and vice versa through the 80 kilometers channel that was inaugurated in 1914. It is estimated that annual revenues reach \$US 500 million in toll fees. This information was published by La Prensa on July, 23rd.

The **Final Report of the United States Commission on the September 11th 2001 attacks** stated that the most important failure leading the attacks was perception; leaders did not understand the gravity of the impending threat. According to a *Washington Post* press release on July, 23rd, this document is one of historic breadth and almost unprecedented detail, offering the sort of examination of a highly classified subject that customarily would not be possible for decades after the fact. It is the culmination of a 20 month investigation into the terrorist plot that killed nearly 3,000 people in US soil. Moreover, the report said that the US response was incompetent because of bureaucratic squabbling, poor communication, and misdirected resources. On July 22nd, the New York Times also published an article related to the issue. This article stated that the September 11 Commission proposes the creation of a new national center which would oversee collection and analysis of intelligence, bringing a unified command to the more than dozen agencies that operate overseas and at home. This center would be chaired by a new Senate-confirmed national intelligence director.

Brazil has passed a **law allowing its military to shoot down aircrafts** it suspects of smuggling drugs in its airspace. According to an *O'Globo* report on July, 20th, the air force will have to follow precautionary nine steps before attacking a suspicious aircraft. Some of measures include efforts to identify suspicious planes, persuading them to land safely, and firing warning shots.

Mexican authorities have said that they will **increase by 100 percent its 2005 budget to combat crime**. This information has been published in an *El Universal* report on July, 15th.

Italian police **tapped the mobile phone conversation of the alleged mastermind** of the Madrid train bombings for three months and caught him boasting about the attacks. According to a *Khaleej Times* report on July, 16th, Rabei Ahmed el-Sayed said that “the Madrid attacks were my project, and those who died as martyrs were my dearest friends.” Sayed was arrested on June 7 along with a roommate during an anti-terrorist raid in Milan, where he is currently being held on charges of international terrorism in connection with the train bombings.

An *Asia Times* report on July 16th stated that while militant and terrorist groups have been using the Internet for almost a decade, its growing popularity as a meeting place for terrorist groups over the past few years has made **cyberspace a key battleground in the war on terror**. There has been a sharp increase in the number of militant groups using the Internet to facilitate their activities. This medium has become the terrorist’s preferred choice of communication because it is quick, inexpensive, and easily accessible. Moreover, terrorists are using cyberspace as a weapon in psychological warfare in order to raise funds, recruit, incite violence, and provide training. They have also been able to use it in order to plan, network, and coordinate attacks. Counter-terrorist experts find themselves in the dire straits in their efforts to battle terrorism in cyberspace. Shutting down websites does not help as they re-emerge quickly on different servers. Analysts are suggesting that instead of engaging in a futile effort of closing down websites, counter-terrorism strategists should simply listen to what is being discussed in cyberspace, especially in the chat rooms and discussion rooms. The discussion rooms can provide intelligence on attacks, but more importantly, on how ideology and opinion is shaping the larger Muslim community.

Terrorist groups and organized criminals can make **larger profits from DVD piracy than from drug trafficking**, according to a *Guardian* report on July 16th. The DVD industry believes that many people are unaware of who ultimately profits from the pirated DVDs they buy. Thus, they are developing a campaign that is going to be used to highlight the presence of terrorist and organized crime groups behind what is often viewed as a harmless activity. Interpol believes that the link between organized crime groups and counterfeit goods is well established.

On July 14th, The *OAS Bulletin* reported that police institutions from **Colombia and Chile** have ratified an agreement that states that they will **work together against terrorism**, organized crime and drugs trafficking.

Brazil will **assign US\$ 3.3 million on its new Brazilian Disarmament Campaign**. According to an *O’Globo* report on July 15th, that money will be used to compensate individuals who voluntarily give their weapons to the government. This will be done in compliance with the new regulation on firearms that the government has recently passed.

The legislation establishes that the only persons allowed to have weapons in the street are police or military officers, members of intelligence bodies, and security officials.

The *OAS Bulletin* on July 14th released information that technicians from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and from the **Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)** will **evaluate all the actions** that have been **taken by the Colombian government** in compliance with the **forty recommendations** to prevent money laundering in addition to the **eight recommendations** addressing the financing of terrorism. This evaluation will take place in September.

The possibility that **Caribbean nationals are being recruited by international terrorist** elements is causing concern for regional security strategist. According to a *Nation Newspaper Barbados* report on July 12th, reviews of all the elements of the Regional Security System have already commenced in Barbados, Dominica, Antigua y Barbuda, and Granada. These reviews are examining traditional and non-traditional threats to security, ranging from terrorism and corruption of public officials to money laundering and truancy in schools.

According to a *BBC world* press report released July 21st, Colombia's biggest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (**FARC**) **has ruled out peace talks** as long as President Alvaro Uribe is in power. Mr. Uribe, whose term ends in 2006, enjoys popular support for his tough stance against rebel groups.

The United States President has signed into law a **\$ 5.6 billion bill aimed at bolstering the nation's defenses against biological, chemical, and nuclear terrorism**. The Project Bioshield Act of 2004 will help America purchase, develop, and deploy cutting-edge defense capabilities against a potentially catastrophic attack. It enables the government to purchase and stockpile vaccines, expedite research on medicines to combat bioterrorism, and in a crisis, distribute new drugs that have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. This information was published on the *Washington Post* on July 20st.

The *BBC world news* on July 28th reported that a **United States-based Muslim charity** organization and seven of its employees have been **charged with conspiring to support** the Palestinian militant group **Hamas**. The indictment against the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development and its employees also indicates that these parties were alleged to have participated in tax fraud and money laundering.

Brazil has established a new police unit which will increase river and air patrols in its border region with Argentina and Paraguay, known as **Tri-Border Area**. This new effort is meant to further combat drugs trafficking, terrorism, counterfeiting and other prevalent crimes. Some of the measures include the creation of a special police unit to patrol the waters of the Parana River and the Itaipu dam. This unit will be equipped with three high-speed patrol boats and an airplane. These measures have been taken by the Brazilian government in response to the world community's demand that the movement of persons and goods throughout the region be monitored more intensely. This information was released in an *O'Globo* Report on August, 9th.

This past March the **United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1535 (2004)** by which it restructured the Counter Terrorism Committee and asked the Secretary General to establish an **Executive Directorate** and appoint an official to head it. The Directorate was created as a special political mission for an initial period ending on December 2007. Mr. Javier Ruperez, a former Ambassador of Spain to the United States, was appointed as Executive Director in June. He plans to visit several regional groups and institutions and has proposed hiring twenty experts from areas such as intelligence, migration controls, small arms, conventional weapons, weapons of mass destruction, financing for terrorism, international criminal law, and human rights.

On August 3rd, the *New York Times* reported that the President of the United States generally **endorsed the two main recommendations of the 9/11 commission**, saying that he would support the creation of a potentially powerful post, national intelligence director, and the establishment of a counterterrorism center which would coordinate intelligence analysis and efforts in order to thwart future attacks.

The *OAS Bulletin* reported on August, 8th, that **Uruguay has been training attorneys and judges to fight money laundering**. The program has been sponsored by the Organization of American States and the Interamerican Development Bank. So far, 90 individuals have been trained in the field.

Terry Nichols, an accomplice in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, has been **sentenced to life in prison** without parole. He was given a life term for each of the 161 murder charges emanating from the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in 1995 which became the worst act of domestic terrorism in the United States history. According to a *BBC* report on August, 11th, Mr. Nichols is already serving a life sentence on federal charges of conspiracy and the involuntary manslaughter of eight federal officers who died in the blast.

A German Court **began the retrial of Mounir el-Motassadeq, the only person to be convicted for involvement in the Sep. 11 terrorist attacks** with the disclosure that the United States would for the first time share evidence about the plot. According to a *New York Times* report released on August, 11th, the U.S. government will provide unclassified summaries of relevant intelligence information.

A report released by *La Prensa* on August, 11th, stated that roughly 3000 marines coming from eight different countries have started a **training program in the area of the Panama Channel** to prepare for an eventual terrorist attack. Participating in the exercise are representatives from Panama, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, Dominican Republic, United States of America, Ecuador, and Mexico.

The corner of Maldonado and Paraguay streets in Montevideo, Uruguay will become the **central point of Intelligence and Counterterrorism efforts** once the Uruguayan National Office of INTERPOL is established beside the National Department of Information and Intelligence. Thousands of detainees arrested during the sixties,

seventies and eighties, who later on became victims of the police and military interrogatories that were held in the corner where the new INTERPOL office will be located in.

On July, 22nd, the United States Congress passed S.CON.RES.126 during the 108th Congress. This bill **condemned the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center** in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994. It expresses the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decade-long delay in the resolution of this case. Furthermore, the resolution welcomes Argentine President Nestor Kirchner's political will in pursuing the investigation of the AMIA bombing. This has been demonstrated by his Executive order opening the archives of Argentina's Secretariat for State Intelligence (referred to in this resolution as 'SIDE'), and his decisions to raise the AMIA cause to national status.

A report released on *Iton Gadol* on August, 19th, stated that **Paraguayan police enforcement authorities will facilitate investigators of the AMIA Jewish Community Center attack information regarding Ahmed Barakat**, a Lebanese detainee recently in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay for charges of falsification of documents. There is a believe within the Argentinian authorities that the plot could have been planned from Ciudad del Este through a cell phone registered under the name of Andres Marques. Some of the phone calls made from that cell phone were directed to Barakat. Barakat has been publicly involved in the Hezbollah Organization. Paraguayan authorities have confirmed that Argentinian authorities did not request extradition; they just wanted to get information about him.

New documents in OLAT

1. FATF approaches the Issue of Cash Couriers
2. Security in Telecommunications and Information Technology
3. Manual of Best Practices of the Network Reliability and Inter-Operability Council (NRIC)
4. Legislative Act 02/2003 by which some articles of the Colombian Constitution has been amended to Combat Terrorism (Spanish only)
5. Ecuador's Code of Criminal Procedures (Spanish Only)
6. Ecuador's Criminal Code (Spanish Only)
7. Ecuador's Psychotropic and Illicit Drugs Substances Law (Spanish Only)
8. USA – Canada Smart Border-30 Point Action Plan Update
9. Security Council Resolution 1526 (2004): "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts"
10. Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004): "Non Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction"
11. Mastering the Man Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) Menace
12. UN Legislative Guide to the Universal Antiterrorism Conventions and Protocols
13. Spain's Law to Combat Financing for Terrorism
14. Monaco's Sovereign Ordinance to Combat Financing for Terrorism (French only)
15. FATF Best Practices: Combating the Abuse of Non-Profit Organizations
16. FATF Best Practices: Combating the Abuse of Alternative Remittance Systems

New Books on Terrorism

1. *Black Ice. The New Invisible Threat of Cyber-Terrorism* by David Verton (2003)
ISBN 0-07-222787-7
2. *Terror in the Name of God. Why Religious Militants Kill* by Jessica Stern (2003)
ISBN 0-06-050532
3. *Political Ethics in an Age of Terror. The Lesser Evil* by Michael Ignatieff (2004)
ISBN 0-691-11751-9
4. *Voices of Terror. Manifestos, Writings and Manuals of Al Qaeda, Hamas, and Other Terrorist from around the world and throughout the Ages* by Walter Laqueur (2004) ISBN 1-594298-035-0
5. *The 9/11 Commission Report. Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorism Attacks upon the United States* (2004) ISBN 0-393-32671-3