



February 2006

CICTE Informe 31

Counter-terrorism activities

British Foreign Minister says Africa is a Fertile Ground for Terrorists

- During a three-day visit to Nigeria in February, British Foreign Minister Jack Straw identified Africa as an appealing ground for terrorist activities due to its porous borders, stretched security forces and its strategic location to the Middle East and Europe. According to Mr. Straw, threats will increase in the next decade. It is important to understand that homegrown African terrorism is not the issue, but outsiders utilizing Africa's weakness to attempt against Western interests is.

Russian President orders creation of National Counter Terrorism Committee

- Russian Federation's President Vladimir Putin has ordered the creation of a national counter-terrorism committee which will be led by Federal Security Service Director Mr. Nikolai Patrushev. Regional counter terrorism commissions will also be created to further coordinate activities with local authorities to prevent terrorist acts. High-ranking regional officials will be in-charge of regional counter terrorism committees.

For more information: <http://www.interfax.com/>

Antigua held a Security and Traffic exercise successfully

- In preparation for the 2007 Cricket World Cup, Antigua recently held a security and traffic exercise during the England "A" and West Indies "A" cricket match. The exercise, an excellent opportunity to assess the level of preparedness in terms of security, was a success, according to Superintendent Davidson Whyte, chairman of the Local Security Committee (LSC) of the Antigua Local Organizing Committee (LOC). LSC is expected to mount a public awareness campaign shortly.

Recent Events

- Jan. 30- February. 3, 2006: TSA Training Program in El Salvador.
- 6-17 February, 2006: TSA Training Program in Nicaragua.
- 13- 24 February, 2006: TSA Training Program in Dominican Republic.
- 27-28 February, 2006: REMJA Meeting of Cyber-security experts.
- 6-17 March, 2006: TSA Training Program in Panama.
- 22-24 March, 2006: CICTE VI, Bogota (Colombia).
- 23-24 March, 2006: Expert workshop on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters, in particular those related to terrorism, Vienna (Austria).

Future Events

- March 26 – April 1, 2006: APEC/CNCERT, Beijing (China).
- March 27- April 7, 2006: HPA Port Security Training, Belize.
- July 13-14, 2006: 2006 Latin American and Caribbean Cargo & Border Security Summit, Florida (USA).

Latest News

- **Seattle (Washington State) Police Department is training Peruvian Law Enforcement Officials.** Due to constant threats of terrorism/security, the US is training Peruvian officials in antiterrorist tactics, kidnapping rescue, radioactive substance detection and infiltration of terrorist groups. Each official will be placed in a different unit, ranging from nuclear plant security and antiterrorist coordination to drug enforcement at borders.

For more information:

<http://www.elcomerciooperu.com.pe/EdicionImpresa/Html/2006-02-18/impMundo0458154.html>

- **OSCE countries join Council of Europe Convention on Prevention of Terrorism.** According to Belgium's and Turkey's points of contact to the OSCE, both Permanent Delegations to the Council of Europe signed the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention of Terrorism on January 19, 2006.
- According to the top anti-terror diplomat **Philippines' airports are susceptible to shoulder-fired missile attacks (MANPADS).** The warning made by the Chairman of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Mr. Benjamin Defensor, came at a crucial time in which the Philippine Congress was urged to pass legislation immediately to crack down on terrorism. MANPADS were originally used in conventional warfare, while nowadays they could be used to endanger airport security. Two southern Philippines

airports have already been victims of such attacks, in which Muslim militants known to have links with Jemaah and Islamiyah were held responsible.

For more information: www.coe.int

- **The 32 member states of the Latin American-East Asian Cooperation Forum (Focalae)** meet in Bogotá, Colombia in February to conceptualize a project on security which will be able to confront terrorism and drug traffic. Member countries are planning to advance forward on projects regarding journalistic and university exchanges. Reaching consensus on these issues will enhance confidence building among member states. Focalae was created in 2001 by foreign ministers of 32 Latin-American and East Asian states.
- A two-year investigation into the **Madrid bombings shows no evidence of links to Al Qaeda**, according to two intelligence officials. The Islamic terrorists that conducted the incident were homegrown radicals acting on their own. Spain remains home to radical Algerian, Moroccan and Syrian groups willing to carry out attacks against western hemisphere.

For more information:

http://www.examiner.com/Search-a42681~Madrid_Bombings_Show_No_al_Qaida_Ties.html

New Books

- Deadly Connections: States that Sponsor Terrorism, by Daniel Byman. This book analyzes the phenomena of States sponsoring terrorism. Focusing primarily on Middle Eastern and South Asian countries, it scrutinizes several reasons as well as types of support. Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Libya are detailed as main examples.
- Suicide Terrorism, by Ami Pedahzur. This book investigates the roots behind suicide terrorism and its rapid proliferation since early 1980's. It explores suicide bombers from Lebanon, Israel, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Chechnya and Iraq.
- An Oral History of al Qaeda's Leader. The Osama bin Laden I know, by Peter L. Bergen. In this book, the author goes overboard with more than 50 interviews with people who have known bin Laden; from his brother-in-law to his high school English teacher to former members of al Qaeda. Berger also adjuncts his personal interviews with bin Laden.
- Knowing the Enemy; Jihadist Ideology and the War on Terror, by Mary Habeck. The new movement by which terrorist ideology is based on Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab, Hasan al-Banna, and Sayyid Qutb thoughts, is called Jihadism. This book suggests that a good way to defeat jihadism is to use their own ideology against them.