



March 2007

CICTE Newsletter 43

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Ministerial Conference held in the Dominican Republic

The Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC and OAS/CICTE co-sponsored a four-day technical and ministerial conference for Caribbean countries on terrorism and transnational organized crime, hosted by the Government of the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo March 19-22, 2007. The purpose of this initiative was to provide participant Member States with a forum for reviewing their progress towards ratification and implementation of the existing universal and regional legal framework against terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as to address the issues related to international cooperation in the subject matter. Experts participated in the conference from international and sub-regional organizations and institutions such as the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the UN Committee established by UN Security Council Resolution 1267 of 1999, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Maritime Organization, INTERPOL, the U.S. Department of Justice, Scotland Yard of the UK, and the Office of the Public Prosecutor of Canada. The Declaration of Santo Domingo, adopted by Conference participants, reaffirms the commitments of participating governments in the area of counter terrorism and organized crime, as well as their request to the international community for technical assistance in order to comply with these commitments.

For more information, contact the CICTE Secretariat: Johanna Salah (jsalah@oas.org) or Ignacio Ibanez (CICTEcons1@oas.org).

CICTE VII

As described in last month's newsletter, CICTE celebrated its Seventh Regular Session in Panama City, Panama, from February 28 to March 2, 2007. The meeting brought together high-level government officials from around the Americas to discuss "Critical Infrastructure: Policies, regulations, and hemispheric cooperation". CICTE delegates assessed progress in combating terrorism in the countries of the region and examined policies, strategies, and measures to strengthen hemispheric and international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

For more information, see the website: www.cicte.oas.org.

Recent TV shows on Terrorism

The CBS television news show in the United States “60 Minutes” has produced interesting segments recently on global Jihad that are worth watching:

March 4, 2007: Brig. Gen. John Custer and Stephen Ulph characterize what terrorists have been able to achieve online: **the global Jihad’s use of the internet as a recruiting and propaganda tool.**

http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=2534933n

March 23, 2007: **60 Minutes correspondent Bob Simon** interviews Hassan Butt, who worked inside what is called “The Network,” a web of radical Islamic organizations loosely affiliated to al Qaeda which has turned Britain into the western world’s richest breeding grounds for terrorists. Butt worked inside the network for ten years, admitted recruiting many young people to the cause, but who now states that killing in the name of Islam is a “cancer.”

http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=2607372n

Recent Training and Conference Events

Sponsored by CICTE

- February 28 – March 2: Seventh Regular Session of CICTE, Panama City, Panama.
- March 19-22: TPB/UNODC – CICTE/OAS joint Ministerial Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- March 26-30: Terrorism Legislation Workshop, St. Lucia

Other Training and Meetings

- March 20-23: Tenth Permanent Consultative Committee meeting of CITEC, Buenos Aires, Argentina (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)

Upcoming Events

- April 17-19: OAS/REMJA Cyber Crime Workshop for Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic; San Jose, Costa Rica.
- April 23-24: 12th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), Strasbourg, France. www.coe.int/gmt (Council of Europe)
- April 25-26: Council of Europe Conference “Why Terrorism? Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of Terrorism”, Strasbourg, France. (Council of Europe)

- April 23-27: CICAD Training seminar on risk assessment and targeting of containers and passengers for officers from the Caribbean in collaboration with France's Centre Interministeriel de Formation Anti-Drogue (CIFAD), Cartagena, Colombia.
- May 7-9: Technical Legislative Assistance mission, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- May 17-18: UN Seminar on Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, Vienna, Austria.
- May 22-25: Ibero-American Seminar on Balancing State Powers and respecting democratic guarantees while fighting terrorist crimes.
- May 1-9: TSA Basic security training course, Georgetown, Guyana.
- May 15-23: TSA Basic security training course, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- May 23-29: Meeting of Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP), Nassau, Bahamas.
- May 30 – June 7: TSA basic security training course, Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis.

NEWS

Three held over London terror attacks

Three men have been arrested in connection with the July 7, 2005, terrorist attacks on the London transport network, British police said in a statement. Two men, aged 23 and 30, were arrested at Manchester airport in northern England shortly before 1 p.m. GMT on Thursday March 22nd as they were due to catch a flight to Pakistan, New Scotland Yard said. A third man, aged 26, was arrested shortly after 4 p.m. at a house in nearby Leeds, the statement said. "The three men were arrested on suspicion of the commission, preparation, or instigation of acts of terrorism under the Terrorism Act 2000," it read. The three were being taken in custody at a central London police station where counter-terrorism officers were waiting to interview them. Fifty-two people -- as well as the four bombers -- died and more than 700 were injured in the 2005 bombings aboard three London Underground trains and a bus during morning rush hour.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/03/22/london.arrests/index.html>

France jails man over Sydney plot

A top Paris court has sentenced a French Muslim convert to nine years in jail for his role in a group suspected of plotting an attack against an Australian nuclear plant. Prosecutors accused Willy Brigitte of planning attacks on the Lucas Heights nuclear research facility outside Sydney and military installations, but defense lawyers said he was the victim of an Islamophobic witch-hunt. Presiding judge Jacqueline Rebeyrotte said Brigitte, 38, was guilty of association with "criminals engaged in a terrorist enterprise" and should serve at least six years of his sentence. The Paris criminal court handed co-defendant Sajid Mir the maximum 10-year sentence, in absentia.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/03/15/france.terror.reut/index.html>

Interpol calls for arrests in Argentine bombing

Interpol plans to issue international requests for the arrest of five prominent Iranians and a Lebanese militant in connection with the 1994 bombing of a Jewish cultural center in Argentina, the international police agency said March 15. Both countries are members of Lyon, France-based Interpol. Interpol said it would issue "red notices" for the Iranians on March 31 unless either Iran or Argentina appeals the decision. In that case, none would be issued, and the matter could go before Interpol's general assembly in November. A "red notice" is an Interpol request that a wanted person be arrested with a view to extradition. While the measure cannot force countries to arrest or extradite suspects, people with red-notice status appear on Interpol's equivalent of a most-wanted list. The six people that Interpol plans to issue red notices for include former Iranian intelligence chief Ali Fallahijan and a Lebanese militant, Imad Mughniyah. Interpol declined to issue red notices for Rafsanjani, former Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and the former ambassador of Iran in Buenos Aires, Hadi Soleimanpour. Eighty-five people were killed and 200 wounded when a van packed with explosives blew up outside the seven-story Jewish community center in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/americas/03/15/interpol.argentina.ap/index.html>

Suicide bomber hurts 3 in Net café

On Monday March 12th, Morocco was investigating whether an overnight blast was a militant suicide attack after a man with explosives under his clothes was blown up and three others were wounded at a Casablanca Internet cafe. The Sunday night blast occurred in the commercial capital's Sidi Moumen slum, home to 13 suicide bombers who killed 32 people in Casablanca in 2003. Sunday was the third anniversary of train bombings in Madrid that killed 191 people. Morocco, on high alert after a string of bomb attacks last month in neighboring Algeria, has said it had information about an al Qaeda plot to mount an attack but that the circumstances of the Internet cafe blast were not clear. Government security officials in the North African country said the man had a dispute with the Internet cafe's owner and that the explosion occurred as the two men were coming to blows. "We do not know whether the explosion was a suicide bombing or the explosive device went off inadvertently during the dispute," said one official, asking not to be identified. On March 16th, Moroccan police detained 18 people in Casablanca slums and are hunting six others they suspect of having links with a suspected suicide bomber who blew himself up at the Internet café, according to official sources.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/03/12/morocco.blast.reut/index.html>

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=85&art_id=nw20070315230016265C220942

Kenyans make arrest in 2002 Israeli plane, hotel attacks

An alleged al-Qaida terrorist accused in the deadly 2002 bombing of a hotel in Kenya has been transferred to U.S. custody and sent to the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Pentagon officials said Monday. Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman identified the suspect as Abdul

Malik. He is the first terror suspect to be transferred to Guantanamo Bay since September 2004. Whitman said Malik would undergo a military hearing to determine whether he is to be classified as an “enemy combatant.” Whitman declined to provide details such as Malik’s nationality or how he came into U.S. custody. He called Malik a “dangerous terrorist suspect.” Whitman said Malik admitted to involvement in the November 2002 attack on the Israeli-owned Paradise Hotel in Kikambala, Kenya, in which 13 people died, and to involvement in the unsuccessful attempted shootdown of an Israeli Boeing 757 civilian jetliner carrying 271 passengers, also in Kenya in 2002.

For more information: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17803679/>

U.S. warns of possible Algeria plane attack plot

Extremists in Algeria may be plotting to attack a commercial airliner carrying Western workers, the U.S. Embassy in the North African country said. The embassy said officials have no specific details about which airline might be targeted or when the suspected plot could be carried out. Algeria is already subject to a State Department travel warning that says the risk of terrorism in parts of the country is significant. The embassy warning was posted on its Web site Monday March 12th. An al Qaeda affiliate has recently carried out a deadly and carefully planned series of bomb attacks in Algeria. Several targeted foreign workers. Islamic extremists killed a Russian engineer and three Algerians in a March 3 bombing of a bus carrying workers for a Russian company. A December attack targeting a bus carrying foreign employees of an affiliate of U.S. energy giant Halliburton near Algiers killed two Algerians and rattled expatriates.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/03/13/algeria.terror.warning.ap/index.html>

Pan-EU police databases backed by Germany

EU Presidency holder Germany is pushing for Union-wide rules entailing national police operating across borders and the sharing of DNA information in an effort to halt serious crime suspects and terrorism. On 15-16 February, Berlin will table a formal proposal to let member states have access to the genetic records, fingerprints and traffic offences held by police in other EU countries. The existing 2005 Prüm Treaty, which provides for greater cross-border police and judicial authority co-operation, was signed by Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxemburg, Austria and Belgium, with Finland, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia waiting to join.

For more information: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/justice/pan-eu-police-databases-backed-germany/article-161246>

Sudan behind USS Cole bombing, U.S. judge rules

On March 14th, a U.S. federal judge said that Sudan is responsible for the bombing of the USS Cole but he needs more time to determine damages for the families of the 17 sailors killed when terrorists bombed the ship in 2000. “There is substantial evidence in this case presented by the

expert testimony that the government of Sudan induced the particular bombing of the Cole by virtue of prior actions of the government of Sudan,” U.S. District Judge Robert G. Doumar said. The civil trial started Tuesday in which the victims' relatives tried to prove the terrorist attack couldn't have happened without Sudan's support. Sudan sought unsuccessfully to dismiss the lawsuit on the grounds that too much time had passed between the bombing and the filing of the lawsuit in 2004. Lawyers representing the Sudanese government declined to comment after Wednesday's ruling.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/LAW/03/14/cole.lawsuit.ap/index.html>

UN Handbook on the fight against terrorism

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook is an initiative that arose from the call of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) for the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to “ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.” Combining information from the 24-member Task Force, the Online Handbook provides Member States, UN country teams, and relevant institutions with information available United Nations counter-terrorism related resources.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/terrorism/cthandbook/>

Caribbean countries earn Interpol's praise for CWC security

Criminals and terrorists, thinking of hiding out in the Caribbean region, should beware. Caribbean security forces are in a heightened state of alert as the region prepares for Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007. Secretary General of Interpol, Ronald Noble, said, while visiting the region last week, that the security mechanisms which CARICOM has put in place now make it difficult for anyone, using a stolen travel document to enter any of the nine CWC host countries. Caribbean security and law enforcement agencies are checking Interpol's lost and stolen travel documents database routinely on a daily basis.

For more information: <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/news-331--39-39--.html>

CARICOM Chairman says aspects of Sunset Legislation may stay

The Approved Passenger Information System (APIS) is one aspect to the Sunset legislation that may remain across the region, CARICOM Chair and Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves said. Gonsalves added that the APIS has managed to trap unscrupulous persons and narrow their sphere of operation and it is a system that should be kept around long after the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

For more information: www.Hardbeatnews.com

Europe gets tough with terrorists

The Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism will come into force on June, 1, 2007, as a result of its ratification by Romania. This Convention provides for an effective, robust and fair response to the threat of terrorism, one which stops more terrorists than it helps to recruit. Romania breakthrough allowing the Convention to enter into force, however the rest of the Council of Europe member states should follow suit. The Convention establishes as criminal offences several acts which lead to acts of terrorism, such as incitement, recruitment and training. It also reinforces international co-operation in the prevention of terrorism by modifying existing arrangements for extradition and mutual assistance. In short, this Convention will help to save human lives everywhere in Europe.

For more information: http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/fight_against_terrorism/A0F54A21.pdf