



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

Newsletter No. 80 - July, 2010

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Technical visit of UN CTED to Bolivia

The UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) conducted a technical visit to the Republic of Bolivia on July 7-9, 2010 in order to monitor certain aspects of the country's efforts to combat terrorism in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Additionally, on July 6, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat organized a legislative technical workshop to discuss Bolivia's progress in regard to the drafting of counter-terrorism financing legislation. The workshop was opened by Mr. Sacha Llorenti, Minister of the Interior.



The delegation—headed by UN CTED's Deputy Executive Director—included representatives from UNODC, Interpol and the CICTE Secretariat. Delegates discussed with high-ranking authorities from Bolivia topics such as the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), in particular Bolivia's efforts to prevent terrorism financing, recent progress in border controls, law enforcement matters, and the ratification and implementation of international legal counter-terrorism instruments.

For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

Training Course on Fraudulent Document Detection



The Secretariat of CICTE, in collaboration with the Government of Mexico, held a training course on the detection of fraudulent travel documents and imposters on July 19-23, as part of the CICTE Program on Document Security and Fraud Prevention.

Experts from the Forensic Documents Laboratory (FDL) of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided the technical instruction. The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of the participating officials to prevent and detect the use of altered or fraudulent travel and other identity documents. Hosted in Mexico City, the course was attended by 31 participants. Participants were drawn from migration, law enforcement, customs, and other related authorities responsible for border control and the examination of travel and other identity documents. This was the seventh in a series of training workshops tailored to the recipient countries.

For more information: Paola Fernandez, pfernandez@oas.org

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Editorial

Strengthening our Borders

In recent years the Member States of the OAS have observed the influence of globalization on societies of the Americas. Globalization promotes international free markets, the movement of capital and foreign direct investment, and moreover, it encourages technology development and has cultural impacts. However, this same opening of the countries of the Americas to the outside world and vice versa brings with it the arrival of criminal groups and unscrupulous individuals that see in globalization an opportunity to trade arms, materials, and people illegally and fraudulently, taking advantage of social, cultural, political, economic and gender-related vulnerabilities to commit crimes against the dignity and rights of thousands of people, and against the security of the State.

Under this premise, the Organization of the American States, through the departments that make up the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security – the Department of Public Security (DPS), the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) –, has the mission of fostering cooperation among Member States to strengthen the fight against threats to the security of citizens. In order to face the challenges that the 21st century offers in terms of security, it is necessary to exchange information and cooperate among different governmental entities and sectors within Member States, and amongst them through the international community. As a result, there is a need to confront many of these crimes that attack the security of States from a multidimensional approach.

The Department of Public Security and the Secretariats of CICTE and CICAD have been working towards this goal through their projects to strengthen border controls, and it is because of this that recently they have added a new combined effort to multiply the impact of their work. Specifically, the project “OAS Specialized Training on Border Controls” has as its objective to strengthen the capacity of customs and migrations personnel responsible for detecting and preventing criminal activities occurring on the air, land, and sea border crossings.

As the first phase of the project, a specialized workshop in border controls was successfully carried out between the 12th and the 16th of April, 2010 in the Dominican Republic, which provided the customs and migration officials with specialized knowledge and abilities in the areas of counter-terrorism, drug and arms trafficking, human trafficking, and other forms of illicit trafficking. All of this with the goal of contributing to the efficient performance of the controls carried out by said officials, and to promote a greater and more intimate cooperation and exchange of information between the various responsible security institutions.

It is important to note that this pilot activity of the Organization of American States (OAS) is in accordance with the will of DPS, CICTE, CICAD, and Members States to cooperate institutionally and multiply efforts in combating the various manifestations of crime in the Hemisphere.

With this purpose in mind, the OAS counted on the participation of internationally recognized experts who work in customs and immigration, and who covered topics such as screening passengers and behavioral analysis, security of travel documents and identity, tools for the forensic inspection of travel documents, airport security, the differences and similarities between human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, human rights and the international framework for combating human trafficking, criminal investigative procedures, the identification and protection of the victims of human trafficking, child labor exploitation, the inspection of baggage and cargo, the legal framework for aviation security, as well as the specific challenges faced by the Caribbean region in these areas.



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This project has been made possible by the contribution of the Canadian Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP). We hope to expand the program in 2011 to cover another 3 countries in the region, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The DPS, and the CICTE and CICAD Secretariats hope to continue working together to prevent and combat the different forms of crime at the regional level in a transversal and multidimensional manner, thus ensuring cooperation between the different sectors responsible for keeping the borders of Member States safe, which will undoubtedly boost and strengthen the security of its citizens.

Christopher Hernández-Roy
Director of the Department of Public Security
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security
Organization of American States

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Counter-Terrorism Activities

III Virtual Meeting of the Members of the OAS Secure Hemispheric Network

The CICTE Cyber Security team organized the Third Virtual Meeting of the OAS Secure Hemispheric Network of National CSIRTs and Cyber Security Authorities on July 27th, 2010. The meeting had about 30 participants from both the Spanish and English speaking countries of the Network. The goal of this meeting was to follow up on some of the proposals presented at last month's meeting and continue to gather feedback from the Network's users on the use and development of the Network. Countries such as Costa Rica and Peru expressed their interest in reevaluating their CSIRT programs and initiating the development of a national CSIRT. Mexico is currently working on drafting a "Terms of Use" for all members of the Network to sign in order to formalize and disambiguate expectations for users.

Going forward, the Cyber Security team has asked that members post a profile on the Network in order to increase familiarity and confidence among users. The information posted on these profiles will help individuals identify other Network users with similar interests and areas of expertise. Participants also agreed that monthly thematic discussions on the Network would be a good way to foster dialogue and increase usage of the Network. Topics will focus on technical and practical issues in cyber security, such as incident management and best practices. A tentative date for the next virtual meeting was set for late August, in an effort to continue the dialogue among Network users.

For more information: Brian Sullivan, BSullivan@oas.org

Basic Sub-regional Cyber Security and CSIRT Training Course in Panama



The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) Secretariat held a Basic Sub-regional Cyber Security and CSIRT Training Course in Panama City, Panama, from July 6 to 9, 2010. As part of CICTE's Cyber Security Program and organized in conjunction with the Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences Institute of Panama (IMELCF, by its acronym in Spanish), the event convened governmental representatives from the host Member State, El Salvador, and Bolivia.

The two main objectives of this four-day course were to provide training on the creation and management of a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), and to raise awareness on cyber security issues in general.

The activity also served to pave the way for strengthening the OAS Secure Hemispheric Network of National CSIRTs and Cyber Security Authorities, as these countries work towards becoming members of this group.

A total of 35 representatives took part in the training, which was conducted by seven experts from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The audience included government employees—technicians, analysts, lawyers, and law enforcement officials—involved with the study, design, development, implementation, support and/or management of information systems in their countries. Officials also represented the various governmental entities with the authority to directly address issues relating to the implementation of policies and decision-making on cyber security at the national level.

On the final day, the delegations from Panama, El Salvador, and Bolivia were tasked to draft and present an action plan for the development of a national strategy or cyber security framework, intended to serve as guidance for their future efforts. These documents will eventually be submitted to the governmental authorities in each country for approval and further development.

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National Workshop on Cyber Security and Incident Response in Antigua and Barbuda July 12 to 15, 2010, St. John's, Antigua

The CICTE Secretariat collaborated with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to organize the country's first national workshop focused on the development of a national cyber security strategy and the creation of a governmental Computer Security Incident Response Team, or CSIRT.

Present at the opening ceremony were Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Winston Baldwin Spencer; the ministers of National Security and Labour; of Information, Telecommunications, Broadcasting, Science and Technology; and the Director of the Office of the National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP), who is also the National Point of Contact to CICTE. Workshop attendees included government personnel responsible for cyber and information security, other members of the security forces, and local service providers, among others.

The objectives of the workshop were twofold. The first was to conduct a national cyber security self-assessment in order to determine the existing cyber security capabilities, policies and frameworks within Antigua and Barbuda, as well as the gaps and need areas, with an eye towards identifying the core elements of a national cyber security strategy. The second was to draft a practical action plan for the creation of a national governmental CSIRT.

Both objectives were met, and culminated in the preparation of two working documents outlining next steps, assigning responsibilities for follow-through, and defining timeframes. These documents were presented to senior leadership on the final day of the workshop, and were consequently adopted as official guidance documents for the parallel inter-agency efforts -- to develop a national cyber security strategy and to create a governmental CSIRT -- which will continue going forward.

The CICTE Secretariat and the two outside experts contracted to facilitate the workshop discussions will continue to work with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to encourage follow-through and provide additional assistance as needed.

For more information, please contact Brian Sullivan, Program Manager, BSullivan@oas.org

ICAO/LACAC Regional Seminar on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs), Biometrics and Security Standards for the Americas in Montevideo, Uruguay

Continuing its on-going and fruitful collaborative relationship with the International Civil Aviation Organization's Machine-Readable Travel Documents (MRTD) Program, the CICTE Secretariat was pleased to support the first ICAO/LACAC Regional Seminar on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs), Biometrics and Security Standards for the Americas in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 7 to 8 July 2010.

The event focused on highlighting the relevance of international and regional efforts to comply with provision [2(g)] in Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), which obliges UN Member States to "prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border controls and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures for preventing counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents", and emphasized that complying with ICAO's MRTD standards is tantamount to complying with this provision of the resolution.

The CICTE Secretariat's Program Manager for Document Security and Fraud Prevention participated in the opening ceremony, emphasizing the need for authorities in the Americas to focus on the challenges accompanying the shift from travel document fraud to the fraudulent use of breeder or identity documents, and the need for increased international and regional cooperation and information-sharing.

Participants numbered over 150 and represented OAS Member States from throughout the Americas, including Central and South America and the Caribbean.

For more information, please contact Brian Sullivan, Program Manager, BSullivan@oas.org

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Specialized Course in Tourism Security in Liberia, Guanacaste, Costa Rica, 27-31 of July, 2010



The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in collaboration with the Ministry of the Presidency of the Government of Costa Rica and under the auspices of the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism (ICT, by its initials in Spanish), organized the first specialized course in tourism security for 50 security officials from the public and private tourism sectors in the province of Guanacaste, Costa Rica, one of the most exclusive hotel zones in the country.

This event was organized in Central America for the first time, and in Costa Rica, a country that has become a leader in the tourism industry because of its geographic characteristics and natural beauty.

The objective of the program was to offer specialized capacity training to the relevant security authorities of tourism and recreation facilities, which because of their nature are considered vulnerable targets to international terrorism and crime; while at the same time the workshop sought to promote and strengthen the public-private sector alliance in order to prevent and manage the circumstances and risks that may affect tourism security.

The course includes theoretical presentations and exercises in the following areas: importance of tourism security, communications, security evaluations, risk analysis, and crisis management.

In coordination with the Tourism Department of the OAS, the CICTE Secretariat has established a strategic alliance with the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat (SITCA) within the Central American Integration System (SICA), in order to promote coordinated actions in the region in this field.

Participants included observers, directors and representatives from the Tourism Police from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama.

For more information please contact Alejandro Diaz de Leon, ADiazdeleon@oas.org

GAFISUD XXI Plenary Session – Lima

The Financial Action Task Force for South America (GAFISUD by its initials in Spanish) conducted its XXI Plenary Session in Lima, Peru, on July 20-24, 2010. GAFISUD's current Chair, Mr. Tam Fox, Superintendent of Banks of Peru, opened the event.

During the meetings, Costa Rica and Panama were accepted as new members of GAFISUD, Colombia regained its membership, and Paraguay was elected as new Chair for 2011. Additionally, the GAFISUD Executive Secretariat presented several projects to the delegates, such as the ongoing results of the mutual evaluations, the progress of their projects with the European Union and Germany, and the results of the latest initiatives of GAFISUD's working groups.



The CICTE Secretariat was invited to give a presentation on CICTE's Legislative Assistance and Counter-Terrorism Financing Program. Other international and regional organizations—such as the International Monetary Fund, UN CTED, UNODC, the World Bank, etc—as well as observers—such as the United States and Spain—also participated.

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“Excellence in Screening Techniques”, Panama City, Panama and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic July 26-30th, 2010 and July 26-29th, 2010

The CICTE Secretariat sponsored and organized the “Excellence in Screening Techniques” courses in Panama City, Panama and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in conjunction with the Civil Aviation Authority in Panama (Autoridad Aeronautica Civil) and Cuerpo Especializado en Seguridad (CESA) in the Dominican Republic, respectively. These courses were held at the Tocumen International Airport in Panama City, Panama and the School of Airport Security (ESA) in the International Airport of the Americas, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic during the week of July 26-30th, 2010.

The newly designed course by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) entailed the participation of 17 aviation security screeners and supervisors from Panama and 20 aviation security screeners and supervisors from the Dominican Republic.



Based on ICAO Security manual Volume IV and Annex 17, this interactive course helps aviation security screening officers and supervisors build upon their knowledge and skills of screening techniques for passengers and baggage. The main objective of this course is to provide participants with an opportunity to assess, review and perform improved security procedures. This course trained personnel on how to demonstrate the proper use of screening checkpoint equipment; how to handle dangerous goods and special circumstances presented in the airports; how to conduct manual searches of passengers and physical property; how to detect traces and components used in improvised explosive devices; and the essential supervisory role at a screening check point. Best practices were exchanged between Panama and the United States and the Dominican Republic and the United States on screening procedures specific to their airports but in compliance with international standards.

In Panama, the course was initiated with a brief inaugural ceremony which included remarks by the Director General of International Organizations and Conferences of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Secretary General of the Civil Aviation Authority; the OAS Representative in Panama and CICTE’s Program Manager. In the Dominican Republic, the course was also initiated with a brief inaugural ceremony which included remarks by the Director General of CESA; the Director of the School of Airport Security; CICTE’s National Point of Contact in Dominican Republic; the OAS representative in Dominican Republic, and TSA instructors. More information: Shevaun Culmer, sculmer@oas.org

OSCE-ATU Activities

From 29 June until July 1, 2010, the ATU and the OSCE Office in Tajikistan co-organized a Technical Visit to Tajikistan for enhancing Travel Document Security (TDS). The visit was undertaken in response to an assistance request made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan in February 2010 and was organized in co-operation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The purpose of the mission was to assess Tajikistan's travel document issuance system, as well as its civil registry and national identity management infrastructure. The assessment was based on the ICAO Guide for Assessing Security Standards for Handling and Issuance of Travel Documents.



In Dushanbe the assessment team had in-depth meetings and on-site visits with the MFA’s Consular Department, the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ Migration Services and its Department of Entry, Exit and Citizenship Registration, the Ministry of Justice, and a local civil registry office. A briefing with the Border Troops was also held. The mission findings will include relevant policy recommendations, potential capacity building projects related to the issuance and use of ICAO compliant travel documents and suggestions for enhancing co-ordination and co-operation between relevant national authorities responsible for TDS and identity management. For more information contact Christopher.Hornek@osce.org and Ben.Hiller@osce.org

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS

Council of Europe Instruments:

Bulgaria ratified on the 8 July 2010 the Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows ([ETS No. 181](#)).

The Netherlands accepted on the 22 July 2010 the Additional Protocol to the Convention on cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems ([ETS 189](#)) and the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism ([CETS 196](#)).

San Marino ratified on 27 July 2010 the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism ([CETS No. 198](#)).



Council of Europe events:

1. On 1st July 2010, Mr Andrea Candrian, Chair of the CODEXTER, held an exchange of views with the Rapporteur Group on Legal Cooperation of the Ministers' Deputies (GR-J, outlining recent activities of the CODEXTER and, in particular, those related to the follow-up of the CoE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196). The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the abridged report of the 18th meeting (Strasbourg, 7-8 April 2010) and the follow-up mechanism for the effective use and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196).

For more information refer to www.coe.int/gmt

2. During its 109th meeting, held on the 7 July 2010, the Ministers' Deputies took note of the request of Argentina and Australia to be invited to accede to the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185). The deputies also took note of the request of Brazil to be invited to accede to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (ETS No. 30). Furthermore, the Deputies adopted the Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (ETS No. 24) and its Explanatory Report, drawn up by the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), and agreed to come back to the issue of the date and place of the opening for signature of the Protocol at its forthcoming meeting.

For more information refer to: <http://www.coe.int/t/cm/>

3. On 9 July 2010, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) has published its annual activity report for 2009, which examines the main trends in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance in Europe. In the report, ECRI expresses its concerns about the persistence of the widespread police practice of racial profiling, abuses in the fight against terrorism and police brutality against vulnerable groups.

For more information refer to: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/default_fr.asp

4. In July, the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) published the reports on its ad hoc visits to Czech Republic and Turkey, as well as periodic visit to Belgium. The reports were published together with the respective Governments' responses.

For more information refer to: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/>

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July Revisions to the Consolidated List of the United Nations Security Council Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee

An updated July 2010 version of the Consolidated List is accessible in XML, PDF and HTML formats on the Committee's website at the following URL: <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/consolist.shtml>



Frequently Asked Questions on UNSC Resolution 1540

Resolution 1540 (2004) is a decision of the Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter affirming that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security. A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be found on the 1540 Committee's website at the following URL: <http://www.un.org/sc/1540/faq.shtml>

Recommended Reading

War in the fifth domain

The July 1st cover article of *The Economist* poses the question, "Are the mouse and keyboard the new weapons of conflict?" This article discusses the reality of cyber threats as an issue of national security and the possibility of terrorists using the internet as their new weapon. The nature of cyber-warfare is unlike nuclear warfare or others weapons of the past, opening up an interesting topic of debate among national security teams.

For more information [click here](#).

G-8 Leaders Statement on Countering Terrorism

The G-8 leaders met in Canada at the end of June and issued this statement on countering terrorism. In this statement they reiterate their condemnation of terrorism and reaffirm their commitment to ending this threat.

For more information [click here](#).

Attempt against the World Cup or an expression of a regional threat?

While the Spanish and Dutch national teams played at the World Cup final, more than 70 people were dying in a series of terrorist acts occurring in the capital of Uganda, illustrating the regional threat posed by the jihadist organization Somali al Shabaab.

For more information [click here](#).

The risk of terrorism

"Not only does it fracture social cohesion, it breaks the bonds of confidence between the population and the government." In this opinion piece Mario Luis Fuentes discusses the escalating violence in Mexico as a reality that is beginning to resemble that of terrorism.

For more information [click here](#).

Recent Events

| Month | Days | Event | Venue |
|-------|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| July | 6-9, 2010 | Basic Subregional Cyber Security Course | Panama City, Panama |
| | 6-9, 2010 | UN CTED visit to Bolivia (CICTE, UNODC and GAFISUD will also participate) | La Paz, Bolivia |
| | 19-23, 2010 | Course on Detection of Fraudulent Documents | Mexico D.F, Mexico |
| | 20-23, 2010 | GAFISUD Plenary meeting | Lima, Peru |
| | 26-29, 2010 | Aviation Security "Excellence in Screening Techniques" National Training | Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic |
| | 26-30, 2010 | Aviation Security "Excellence in Screening Techniques" National Training | Panama City, Panama |

Upcoming Events

| Month | Days | Event | Venue |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| August | 16-25, 2010 | Aviation Security "Train the Trainer" and "Excellence in Screening Techniques" National Training | Nassau, Bahamas |
| | 17-20, 2010 | Legislative and Counter-Terrorism Financing Workshop | Panama City, Panama |
| | 23-26, 2010 | Bio-terrorism project, post evaluation | Mexico D.F, Mexico |
| | 23-27, 2010 | Aviation Security Crisis Management National Training | Quito, Ecuador |
| | 24-27, 2010 | Legislative Assistance and Terrorism Financing Specialized Training | Trinidad and Tobago |
| September | 1-2, 2010 | Prep Meeting, Crisis Management Exercises | Rio, Brazil |
| | 7-11, 2010 | ICAO National Inspectors Course | Trinidad and Tobago |
| | TBC | Cyber Security Technical Assistance Mission | Quito, Ecuador |
| | 7-10, 2010 | LATF - Specialized training in Terrorism Financing | Lima, Peru |
| | 7-10, 2010 | Mexico Stakeholder meetings - Tourism Security | Los Cabos, Mexico |
| | 7-15, 2010 | ICAO National Inspectors Course | Trinidad and Tobago |
| | 13-17, 2010 | ICAO Cargo and Mail Training | Quito, Ecuador |
| | 16-18, 2010 | Seminar of European Union Parliamentarians (Ignacio) | Budapest, Hungary |
| | 20-24, 2010 | Cyber Security Technical Training | Washington DC, USA |
| 27 Sept - 1 Oct | Training Course on Tourism Security | Los Cabos, Mexico | |

*NOTE: Only events that have been formally accepted by host countries appear on this list.

News

Venezuela to send terrorism suspect to Cuba

CARACAS - Venezuela will hand over to Cuba a Salvadorian man wanted for allegedly carrying out bombings of Cuban tourist hotels in 1997, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Tuesday, July 6th.

Francisco Chavez Abarca was arrested by Venezuelan authorities last Thursday when he arrived at Caracas' international airport. Chavez Abarca was detained under an Interpol arrest warrant requested by Cuba and was carrying a false Guatemalan passport, President Chavez said. For more information [click here](#).

U.S. to share terror finance info with EU

After six months of trans-Atlantic argument, the European Union and the United States are ready to share again. But no one can know what leads into terror investigations may have been lost or missed in the meantime.

On Thursday, July 8th, the European Parliament finally gave its blessing - by a vote of 484 to 109 - to a new agreement between the EU and the United States on transferring data to assist the U.S. Treasury's Terrorist Finance Tracking Program. It will take effect August 1.

President Barack Obama welcomed the new agreement, releasing a statement saying: "This new, legally binding agreement reflects significant additional data privacy safeguards but still retains the effectiveness and integrity of this indispensable counterterrorism program." For more information [click here](#).

Messages reveal links to the FARC in the region



One message says: "On Wednesday or Thursday there will be an interview with the president of Panama. From there, I go to Cuba where I will speak with the professor."

In another it reads: "Today, Monday, at night to Havana, from there to Panama or Venezuela, later to the Dominican Republic and then return to Havana to fly to Colombia on the 27th."

These, which could be annotations from a packed agenda of a Latin American minister, are some examples of the news that was reported by the commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, by its initials in Spanish), Raul Reyes, during his tour through the region in 2000, reported the journal La Prensa of Panama on June 29. For more information [click here](#).

Three jailed for 20 years in foiled UK airliner bomb plot

Three Britons recruited as suicide bombers in an al Qaeda-inspired plot to blow up transatlantic airliners in mid-air using liquid explosives were jailed for at least 20 years on Monday, July 12.

The plot's ringleaders hoped to evade airport security by smuggling homemade bombs onto U.S.-bound flights using liquid explosives disguised as soft drinks. The case triggered a global clampdown on carrying liquids aboard planes which still affects millions of passengers worldwide.

British police disrupted the plot in 2006 after the country's biggest covert surveillance operation. Prosecutors said police had prevented an attack on the same scale as the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. For more information [click here](#).

Mysterious powder found at Chilean Foreign Ministry

A powder-filled envelope labeled "anthrax" was discovered on July 13th by officials at a Chilean Foreign Ministry building in the nation's capital, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The Chilean Public Health Institute analyzed the contents of the envelope and did not find the presence of any pathogens linked to biological weapons, an unidentified official said July 17th.

Government officials prevented entrance to the Foreign Ministry building for a time following discovery of the parcel containing the suspicious envelope.

For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

Waves could 'see' hidden explosives

Hidden explosives, chemical or biological agents and illegal drugs could be detected from as far as 65 feet away using a new technique, U.S. researchers say.

A team at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., is developing an optical system using terahertz (THz) wave technology that can "see through" clothing and packaging materials and recognize the THz "fingerprints" of hidden substances, an institute release said July 12.

Terrorism threats and the attempted Christmas Eve bombing attempt of a Northwest Airlines flight have increased interest in the technology from Homeland Security and the Defense Department, which have both funded much of the Rensselaer research, the release said.

For more information [click here](#).

Bank hit with sanctions in suit over terrorist aid

A bank based in Jordan that had been accused of providing financial services to terrorists was hit with judicial sanctions on July 13th for repeatedly failing to obey a court order to produce requested documents in the case — a six-year-old lawsuit filed by the victims of terrorist attacks. The lawsuit, which was the first to go after an international bank for its role in financing terrorism when it was filed in 2004, alleges that Arab Bank administered the accounts of the Saudi Committee in Support of the Intifada Al Quds, which provided payments of USD5,316 to the families of Palestinians who were killed in attacks on Israel, including suicide bombers. A trial date has not been set.

For more information [click here](#).

U.S., Canada unveil joint border-security plan

The U. S. and Canada announced on July 13th their first-ever joint plan for preventing terrorist attacks and other threats at the bridges that link the two countries.

Under the plan, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety Canada will do joint threat assessments and improve the information flow between the two agencies to protect the infrastructure that connects the two nations.

The new "Canada - U.S. Action Plan for Critical Infrastructure" stems from a December 2008 agreement by the two countries to work toward a more joint approach to border security.

For more information [click here](#).

Free of terrorists



After July 19th, teachers convicted of terrorism are prohibited from working in educational institutions in Peru. Following the publication of the Supreme Decree 019-2010-ED, which does not allow for the entry of teachers that have been condemned of terrorism into schools, the vice minister of the institutional management of the Ministry of Education, Victor Raul Diaz Chavez, announced that beginning today, no professor condemned of this crime will be able to work in the classroom, nor in the educational institutions of the country.

As can be recalled, the Education sector had established, weeks earlier, the penalties the teachers convicted of terrorism would receive if found in educational centers.

For more information [click here](#).

For the first time, Paraguay obtains the presidency pro tempore of GAFISUD

In the plenary session of the Assembly of GAFISUD, its members unanimously decided to grant Paraguay the presidency of the leading organization in the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing in the region, for the 2011 period, affirmed yesterday the Minister of the Secretariat for the Prevention of Money or Property Laundering (Seprelad, by its initials in Spanish), Oscar Boidanich.

For more information [click here](#).





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