

## OSCE

### OSCE Promotes Modernization of Customs Services



From 3 to 6 July 2012, the Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit (TNTD/ATU) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) with the support of the Customs Control Organization of Azerbaijan organized a Sub-Regional Workshop on Capacity Building and Customs Modernization, in the premises of the WCO Regional Office, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Twenty-one experts from 13 countries – including most countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Georgia, Lithuania and Poland, as well as representatives of the Eurasian Economic Commission and the WCO's Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) participated in the workshop. (continued on p.2)

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## Contact

**Ben Hiller**  
CTN Co-ordinator  
[Ben.Hiller@osce.org](mailto:Ben.Hiller@osce.org)

### ☐ **Submissions**

Suggestions of articles and submissions to be included in future issues of the Newsletter are most welcomed and encouraged. For further information on any CTN related issues please contact the above-mentioned contact point.

## Events

☐ **National Legislative Workshop on the Ratification and Implementation of the Global Legal Framework against Terrorism and its Financing**, San Marino, 20 September 2012

☐ **Third Online Forum on Right Wing Violent Extremism/Terrorist Use of the Internet: Emerging Patterns and Differences**, POLIS, 17-21 September 2012



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Sessions focused on issues related to the modernization of national customs services, and pertinent principles of the WCO- its tools, instruments and programmes. Moreover, participants presented on progress made by WCO members related to national customs modernization processes.

The OSCE representatives gave an overview on the work of the organization, on the comprehensive concept of security and how the activities of customs services fit in with national and international efforts to combating terrorism. In addition, they introduced the recently published *OSCE- UN Economic Commission for Europe Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective*.

A follow-up workshop on training WCO accredited national experts is planned for later this year. For more information contact [Lazslo.Szucs@osce.org](mailto:Lazslo.Szucs@osce.org)

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## Experts Discuss Terrorist Use of Social Networking Tools

On 2-6 July, the TNTD/ATU in co-operation with TNTD/Co-ordination Cell conducted the second Online Expert Forum on Terrorist Use of the Internet focusing on terrorist use of social networking tools on the OSCE Policing Online Information Service (POLIS) platform.

The forum focused on three themes -- namely how to enhance law enforcement capabilities in line with OSCE commitments; how to empower Internet users and civil society in responding to terrorist use of social networking tools; and pertinent private sector contributions including through public private partnerships (PPPs).

Over 30 experts participated in this forum highlighting pertinent trends and potential responses. The Forum was the second of the Online Expert Forum Series on the Terrorist Use of the Internet organized by TNT Department in 2012 with additional forums planned in September and October. One goal of the forums will be to identify potential future and additional activities by the OSCE in this field.

For more information contact [Ben.Hiller@osce.org](mailto:Ben.Hiller@osce.org)

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## OSCE Supports Travel Document Security in Moldova

In the first week of July 2012, the OSCE TNTD/ATU and the OSCE Mission to Moldova co-organized a number of Travel Document Security activities in Moldova. Activities related closely to a 2008-2010 OSCE/TNTD/ATU border control enhancement project in which 16 border crossing points and 11 regional police stations were connected with real-time access to INTERPOL databases, as well as a 2010 training course to increase the operational awareness of border control authorities to detect forged documents. Specifically,

- From 4-5 July, the OSCE Mission hosted a national workshop organized by TNTD/ATU that promoted Moldova's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Public Key Directory (PKD) – a multilateral tool that provides border control authorities with an assurance that

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electronic passports are genuine and unaltered. The workshop gathered 15 Moldovan representatives from passport, border, intelligence and information technology agencies to learn how the ICAO PKD functions as a multilateral technical platform to validate the authenticity of electronic passports. An emphasis was placed on how the Republic of Moldova's participation in ICAO PKD could enhance securer and faster identity verification at Moldova's borders. The seminar took into account OSCE Ministerial Council Decision [MC.DEC/11/09](#) and was designed to provide Moldovan officials with all the necessary information to support their participation in the ICAO PKD.

- From 4-6 July 2012, TNTD/ATU and the Mission to Moldova conducted bilateral meetings with Moldovan counterparts from the Interpol National Central Bureau, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Consular Department, the Border Police, the Customs Service and the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication, which is the Travel Document Issuing Authority. To share information and co-ordinate potential future projects, additional meetings were held with the Norwegian Rule of Law Mission (NORLAM), the European Union (EU), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Topics discussed included strengthening the analytical capacity relating to the use of INTERPOL databases, reinforcing identity management for passport and visa issuance, conformance with the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, further integrating motor vehicle inspection into border control and improving inter-agency data sharing modalities.

For more information contact [Christopher.Hornek@osce.org](mailto:Christopher.Hornek@osce.org) and [Paul.Picard@osce.org](mailto:Paul.Picard@osce.org)

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## OSCE Promotes Information Exchange in the Fight against Organized Crime and Terrorism

On 6-7 June 2012, the OSCEs' Transnational Threats Department (TNT/D) and Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and the Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Center (CARICC) organized a workshop on international co-operation in combating organized crime and terrorism as well as pertinent criminal justice issues in Central Asia, in Astana, Kazakhstan.

More than 40 experts from security, judiciary and financial intelligence departments from eight countries in the region discussed how to improve information exchange tools and mechanisms in organized crime and terrorism investigations.

Natalia Zarudna, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, stressed that the OSCE contributed to building trust among people through regional co-operation and dialogue, and trust was a critical requirement for sharing information among law enforcement, particularly on sensitive issues like terrorism.

The workshop formed part of a series of three workshops co-organized by the OSCE and the UNODC that aim to enhance understanding on regional legislation, regulations, systems and structures.

For more information contact [Manuel.Marion@osce.org](mailto:Manuel.Marion@osce.org)



## OSCE Facilitates Expert Meeting of Anti-terrorist Centers (ATCs)

On 26-27 July 2012, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (CiB) and the Anti-Terrorist Center of Kyrgyzstan's State Committee of National Security (SCNS), with the support of the TNTD/ATU, organized an expert meeting to enhance the exchange of expertise, co-operation and co-ordination on anti-terrorism issues between national anti-terrorist centers.

The event brought together some 30 experts, representatives of the SCNS, the Anti-Terrorist Center of the CIS, the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) and relevant state agencies of other OSCE participating States, including France, Georgia, Poland, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine.

Discussions focused on organizational schemes of national anti-terrorist centers and their role in leading and/or co-ordinating national anti-terrorism efforts, including legal initiatives, training and exercises. Bilateral and international co-operation was also presented as one important role of anti-terrorist centers.

Participants acknowledged that each state sets up its own anti-terrorism structures according to their local needs, but they also agreed that meetings like this one offered a useful platform for learning from the others' anti-terrorism experiences, and provided networking opportunities for practitioners from other distant areas of the OSCE region.

For more information contact [Manuel.Marion@osce.org](mailto:Manuel.Marion@osce.org)

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## ODIHR Trains Border Officials on the Protection of Human Rights

On 21 June 2012, the ODIHR Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Programme trained 24 border officials from 11 OSCE participating States (Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine) on the protection of human rights when countering terrorist threats at the borders. The training built on ODIHR's *Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights* Manual and was carried out in the framework of the 5<sup>th</sup> Staff Course held by the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC).

On 22 June 2012, the ODIHR Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Programme delivered, in co-operation with the BMSC, a train-the-trainers course to Tajik human rights experts. The course familiarized national experts with the international standards related to the protection of human rights and border security, relevant BMSC and ODIHR training activities and interactive training methodologies. The national experts will be expected to conduct the human rights sessions of the BMSC periodic staff courses in the future.

For more information, please contact [Lucile.Sengler@odihhr.pl](mailto:Lucile.Sengler@odihhr.pl)

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## ODIHR Delivers Background Paper on the Human Dimension of Security

On the occasion of the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference (26-28 June 2012), ODIHR prepared a background paper on *Addressing Transnational Threats and Challenges in the OSCE Region: The Human Dimension*. The purpose of the paper was to highlight the importance of the human dimension in addressing transnational threats and challenges as part of the OSCE comprehensive approach to security. It also underlined the main commitments undertaken by the OSCE participating States to respect human rights while countering security threats as well as pertinent mandates and activities of ODIHR in this area.

For more information, please contact [Lucile.Sengler@odihr.pl](mailto:Lucile.Sengler@odihr.pl)

## ODIHR Contributes to UN CTITF Symposium on “Fair Trial and Due Process in the Counter-Terrorism Context”

The regional expert symposium was organized by the Working Group “Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism” of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), on 5-6 July 2012, in Brussels.

National experts from Europe exchanged practical knowledge and identified best practices in securing fair trial standards for persons accused of terrorist offences. ODIHR delivered a presentation focusing on OSCE commitments related to fair trial principles and the protection of human rights in the anti-terrorism context with a particular focus on those applied during the preparation and conduct of trials of persons accused of terrorism.

This symposium was part of a series of regional meetings organized by the UN CTITF on the respect of fair trial principles in the fight against terrorism.

For more information, please contact [Lucile.Sengler@odihr.pl](mailto:Lucile.Sengler@odihr.pl)

## OSCE Assists with Finalizing the Kosovo Draft Strategy and Action Plan against Terrorism 2012-2017



In close co-operation with Kosovo Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), the OSCE Mission in Kosovo's (OMiK) hosted a workshop on 13-16 June in Durrës, Albania in support of efforts by the Kosovo government and police to finalize the Kosovo Draft Strategy and Action Plan against Terrorism 2012-2017.

The terrorist threat in Kosovo is generally considered to be low; nevertheless, the strategy envisions creating a safe environment in which the citizens of Kosovo will be protected from the threat of domestic and international terrorism.

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All of the strategy's action plans and activities will sit under one of the following four strategic pillars:

- Prevention
- Pursuit
- Protection
- Reaction

The workshop was opened by the Prime Minister's Advisor on Security Issues, Ms. Dhurata Hoxha who expressed her gratitude to the OSCE for its continuing support in the drafting process to finalize the strategy and action plan 2012-2017; and for the valuable contributions made by representatives of the OMiK Department for Security and Public Safety (DSPS). Ms. Hoxha also thanked the OSCE for its support and contributions during the drafting and implementation process of the previous strategy and action plan 2009-2012.

OMiK will remain a supporting partner in the monitoring and evaluation process of the new strategy and action plan, and will continue offering support and capacity building at a more strategic level.

For more information contact [Ibrahim.Gultekin@osce.org](mailto:Ibrahim.Gultekin@osce.org)

## Events

- National Legislative Workshop on the Ratification and Implementation of the Global Legal Framework against Terrorism and its Financing, San Marino, 20 September 2012.** The OSCE and UNODC are joining forces to organize, in co-operation with the San Marino Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a national workshop that will review the state of play, challenges and gaps in the ratification and implementation of its international counter terrorism commitments. The workshop will be preceded by meetings with relevant ministries and institutions.
- Third Online Forum on Right Wing Violent Extremism/Terrorist Use of the Internet: Emerging Patterns and Differences, POLIS, 17-21 September 2012.** TNTD/ATU in co-operation with TNTD/Co-ordination Cell will conduct the third Online Expert forum on Terrorist Use of the Internet focusing on Right Wing Violent Extremism/Terrorist Use of the Internet: Emerging Patterns and Differences. Questions the forum will seek to address include how right wing violent extremists/terrorists use the Internet, how such usage differs from other terrorist use of the Internet, and what good responses are to this threat including taking into account good practices in countering other forms of violent extremism online.

## UN News

### Consultation Meeting with Regional Organizations on the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia

From 21-22 June 2012, TNTD/ATU participated in consultations with regional organizations on the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, organized by the UN CTITF and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA), in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

## UN News

Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, China, the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as of CARICC, CICA, CIS, CSTO, EU, INTERPOL, NATO, OIC, OSCE, SCO, RATS/SCO participated and discussed the way ahead in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action which was signed at a high level meeting of the representatives of the Central Asian States in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 30 November 2011. As a follow-up to the consultations, UNRCCA will compile and circulate among the participants a matrix with the requests for assistance by CA countries as well as planned or proposed supportive action by international and regional organizations.

### Third Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy



From 28-29 June 2012, The United Nations General Assembly conducted its third review of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy. Adopted by the Assembly in September 2006, the Strategy is based on four “pillars”: tackling the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; preventing and combating terrorism; building States’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the UN system in that regard; ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. On the occasion of the review meeting, the TNT Department’s Head on Anti-Terrorism Issues addressed the United Nations General Assembly’s plenary meeting and highlighted the OSCE’s collaboration with the United Nations in supporting the

implementation of the UN Strategy. The delivered speech is available on the OSCE webpage (<http://www.osce.org/atu/91411>).

- The Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) regularly conveys changes to the Committee’s list of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 1988 (2011) adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. An updated version of the 1988 Sanctions List is accessible in XML, PDF and HTML formats on the [Committee’s website](#)
- The Secretariat of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) regularly conveys updates to the Committee’s list of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 1989 (2011) adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. An updated version of the Al-Qaida Sanctions List is accessible in XML, PDF and HTML formats on the [Committee’s website](#)

## CoE News

### Council of Europe Conventions

- On 11 July 2012, Finland accepted the *Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, related to supervisory authorities and transborder data flows* ([ETS No. 181](#)).
- On 6 July 2012, the Netherlands accepted the *Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition* ([CETS No. 209](#)).
- On 3 July 2012, Japan accepted the *Convention on Cybercrime* ([ETS No. 185](#)).
- On 13 June 2012, Austria ratified the *Convention on Cybercrime* ([ETS No. 185](#)).
- On 6 June 2012, Georgia approved the *Convention on Cybercrime* ([ETS No. 185](#)).

### Council of Europe events

- The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) held its 56th Plenary Meeting on 20 - 22 June 2012 in Strasbourg.
- The European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) held its 62<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session in Strasbourg on 29 May - 1 June 2012.
- Action against Economic Crime: The Octopus Conference on Cooperation against Cybercrime was held on 6 - 8 June 2012, in Strasbourg, France. It focused on transborder access to data and jurisdiction in the context of cloud computing as well as public-private information sharing. Discussions focused on the latest cybercrime threats and trends, the implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, as well as on policies and initiatives on cybercrime by international and private sector organizations.
- Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights: In June-July 2012, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a judgment relevant to counter-terrorism issues, in the case of Rustamov v. Russia (no. 11209/10).
- Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL). MONEYVAL held its 39th Plenary meeting on 2-6 July 2012 in Strasbourg. The first mutual evaluation report on the Holy See (including the Vatican City State) was adopted during this meeting and is now available for consultation on the MONEYVAL website. The Fourth Evaluation Round on-site visit to Poland took place on 18 June 2012.

### Forthcoming Events

- The Group of Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism [CETS No. 196] will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on 14 November 2012.



- The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) will take place on 15-16 November 2012.
- The Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) will hold its 40<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting on 3 - 7 December 2012.
- The European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) will hold its 63<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Session in Strasbourg on 4-7 December 2012.

For more information on the Council of Europe activities against terrorism, please consult [www.coe.int/terrorism](http://www.coe.int/terrorism).

## News

### Suicide Attack in Bulgaria kills Seven

Seven people (including the suicide bomber) were killed and at least thirty-two injured in a suicide attack on 17 July 2012, on an Israeli-operated tour bus at the Burgas Airport in the Black Sea city of Burgas, Bulgaria. Two days after the attack, Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov said that the bomb was carried in the backpack of a man who was filmed on security cameras at the airport. Tsvetanov added that the bomb was detonated in the luggage compartment of the bus, and that the blast was caused by 3 kilograms of TNT powder. On July 24, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov said that a sophisticated group of conspirators who spent at least a month in Bulgaria before the bombing were responsible for the terrorist attack, confirming suspicion that the perpetrator was not alone. [Read more](#)

### EU to help Sahel Nations Combat Crime, Terrorism

The European Union is establishing a new mission in August 2012 to help train security forces in Niger and the Sahel region to combat terrorist and criminal networks with a view to contribute to enhancing political stability, security, governance and social cohesion in the region. The mission's activities will initially be focused on Niger, however, the situation in the Sahel region as a whole will be closely monitored with further action possible. The new mission, which will consist of 50 international and 30 local staffers, is part of the comprehensive Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel adopted by the European Council in March 2011. [Read more](#)

### Dissident Groups Merge to form New IRA

The Guardian reported on 26 July 2012 that three of the four main dissident republican terror groups in Northern Ireland were to merge and reclaim the banner of the IRA, in an escalation of attempts to destabilize power sharing. The Real IRA had been joined by Republican Action Against Drugs group, which had been running a violent vigilante campaign in Derry, and a coalition of independent armed republican groups – leaving only the Continuity IRA outside the new group. In a statement released to The Guardian, the new organization claimed it had formed a "unified structure, under a single leadership". It said the organization would be "subservient to the constitution of the Irish Republican Army". [Read more](#)

## News

### GCTF Ministers Take Steps to Reduce the Terrorist Threat by Strengthening Institutions and Countering Violent Extremism

The Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) Ministerial Plenary on 7 June 2012, in Istanbul, Turkey adopted two sets of good practices -- one set focuses on the criminal justice sector (the Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector) and the other on prisons (the Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders). These documents reflect the contributions from a wide-range of GCTF members and are designed to serve as practical guides for implementing counterterrorism-related capacity-building activities in the criminal justice sphere. In addition, they offer practical advice to all interested states as they seek to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UN Strategy), which underscores the critical role that an effective and accountable national criminal justice system plays in ensuring that terrorists and their supporters are brought to justice. [Read more](#)

## Terrorist Groups

### Al-Qaeda Tries to Carve Out War in Syria

The Telegraph reported on 12 July 2012 that al Qaeda had infiltrated into Syria and was working to establish footholds in the Northern provinces. Whilst the organization's influence remained small, home-grown violent extremists groups that were linked with, or sympathetic to the ideals of the movement were growing. The Daily Telegraph had seen al Qaeda's flag flying openly in some areas of Idlib and Aleppo provinces that straddle the borders with Turkey and Iraq, and fighters in the rebel Free Syrian Army have told how representatives of al Qaeda had tried in past months to win control of towns and villages with mixed results. [Read more](#)

### Local Wars Blur Al Qaeda's Threat to "West"

Reuters highlighted on 5 July 2012 that spinoff groups from al Qaeda had become increasingly engrossed in insurgencies in Africa and the Middle East, inflicting death and mayhem on local communities. However, this emphasis on the pursuit of goals nearby had cast doubt on their commitment, in practice, to bin Laden's war on the "far enemy" - the "West". According to Richard Barrett, Co-ordinator of the Al-Qaeda-Taliban Monitoring Team at the United Nations, al Qaeda had become a useful label for any group that essentially pursued local aims but wished to exaggerate its reach and sophistication. Turmoil in Syria, Somalia and parts of Libya, Mali, Iraq and Nigeria had allowed local terrorist groups to recruit, train, arm and organize, yet their targets had been very close to home, rather than in Europe or the United States. [Read more](#)

### The Death of Abu Yahya Al-Libi and its Impact on Al Qaeda's Strategy, Priorities and Goals

On 15 June 2012, The Jamestown Foundation published an analysis on the consequences of the death of the alleged number two of al Qaeda, Abu Yahya al-Libi, on 5 June 2012. A charismatic leader and Ayman al-Zawahiri's number two, al-Libi was seen as the successor to al-Zawahiri being part of the core group of intellectuals, who surrounded al-Zawahiri. With the loss of bin Laden and now al-Libi, al-

## Terrorist Groups

Zawahiri remained the most prominent and experienced leader left in the fold. If al-Zawahiri passed without an equally capable successor, the network that al Qaeda had established over the last decade might be at risk of faltering. Yet while the group as such might falter, its ideology would likely live on. Hence unless counter terrorism tools were developed that tackled such ideologies effectively, there might be another future al-Qaeda central, perhaps under a new name, pursuing an improved strategy with the same violent goals that have become familiar. [Read more](#)

## Cyber Threats

### Google Removes 640 Videos from Youtube Promoting Terrorism

The Telegraph reported on 18 June 2012 that Google had removed 640 videos from YouTube in the second half of last year amid fears they promoted terrorism. Details of the new removals were released in Google's latest Transparency Report which reveals requests by international authorities to remove material. [Read more](#)

## Transportation News

### Significant Fall in Global Piracy Attacks

Worldwide pirate attacks have dropped significantly when compared with the same period last year, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB). The number of piracy cases dropped from 266 incidents reported between January and June 2011 to just 177 in the same six-month period this year. The improvement was attributed to a large drop in piracy by Somalia-based pirates, which fell from 163 to 69 in 2012. The IMB's *Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships* report said the sharp decline in Somali attacks was a result of anti-piracy measures including patrols by international navies, use of best-management practices and an increase in the use of privately contracted armed security personnel. [Read more](#)

## Recommended Reading

- The Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) High-Level Conference on Victims of Terrorism, held in Madrid on 9-10 July 2012 under the auspices of the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group, adopted the Madrid Declaration on Victims of Terrorism and discussed a draft Victims of Terrorism Action Plan that will be considered at the next GCTF Coordinating Committee meeting. The Declaration can be accessed at [here](#)
- The Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation released a report on potentially reshaping United Nations Counter terrorism efforts. The report can be accessed [here](#)