

12/19/2002
Colleagues,

This is the second periodic report from the CICTE Secretariat. Preparations continue for the Third Regular Session of CICTE to be held in San Salvador from 22 to 24 January 2003. Agenda items for this meeting include high-level discussions of means to improve hemispheric, regional and sub-regional cooperation in the struggle against terrorism. A second major discussion item will be emerging terrorist threats to the region. Member States are strongly urged to include their National Point of Contact in their delegations and to forward their accreditations to the Secretary-General's office as soon as possible.

The Chairman of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will discuss the recently published report on Terrorism and Human Rights, available at (www.cidh.org). This report is in response to OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 1906 (XXXII-O/02) Human Rights and Terrorism.

A CICTE representative gave a presentation on the Inter-American Counter-terrorism Convention during the "Financial Underpinnings of Terrorism Course" in Asuncion Paraguay sponsored by the US Departments of Justice and State. CICTE will also participate in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Terrorist Financing Working Group Meeting in Washington in January.

Recent additions to the CICTE On line Database (www.cicte.oas.org/olat) include the recently approved CICAD Model Regulations on Money Laundering (with new guidance concerning terrorist financing), information on cyber-terrorism policy, and Brazilian money-laundering legislation. French and Spanish counter-terrorism legislation will be added soon.

A summary of recent press reports on terrorism related issues in the Americas.

Terrorist Financing Elusive, Official Says

[Washington Post: 11/21/02](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

According to the Washington Post, top US Treasury Dept. official claims that although there has been substantial progress in stopping the finance to terrorists there is still increased need for work and training with other countries. The freezing of nearly \$113 million assets of Al Qaida will only lead terrorists to find a less traditional way to move money, including the smuggling of gold, cigarettes, and drugs as well as laundering of money through charities.

Brazil's Police Investigate Activities of Bin Laden's Brother

[Deutsche Presse-Agentur: 12/3/02](#)

[Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#)

According to Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA) the activities of Khalil Mohammed bin Laden, brother of Osama bin Laden and honorary consul for Brazil to the Saudi city of Jeddah, are under investigation by Brazilian police. Reports of him visiting a province near the tri-border region of Brazil-Paraguay-Argentina (an area suspected as a site for Hezbollah terrorist training) last September have led police to put him under increased surveillance. DPA reports that officials are analyzing numerous business connections in

the area as well as letters Khalil sent to a Brazilian psychologist. Khalil claims they were merely for “business purposes.” Since last September Brazil has been investigating movements of Arab-origin citizens of the tri-border region and frozen accounts suspected of terrorist links.

New Hiding Place for Drug Profits: Insurance Policies

Eric Lichtblau, www.nytimes.com <<http://www.washingtonpost.com>> :12/06/02
Washington, DC

The New York Times reports that U.S. Treasury Department Officials are now seeking tougher measures and regulations for the insurance industry claiming that terrorists may now be looking at methods to launder transfer and move money through fraudulent insurance policies. An indictment of five Colombian men in Miami, Florida has raised concerns that drug traffickers are laundering millions in cocaine profits by investing in investment-grade life insurance policies. Drug traffickers purchase these insurance policies, cash them out early pay only a 25% fee, while covering their financial tracks.

Colombian Businessman Allegedly Linked to Terrorists...

www.Moneylaundering.com <<http://www.Moneylaundering.com>> :12/11/02
Miami, Florida-USA

Moneylaundering.com reported Colombian businessman Ernesto-Florez-Gomez was detained by customs officials in the Miami International Airport and charged with operating an unlicensed money transmitting business. He is believed to have ties with the terrorist paramilitary group the United Self-Defense Forces (AUC). With over \$180,000 in Euros seized from him, Gomez had no explanation for why he was moving so much money. It is reported that this case is just one of several that have evolved concerning the ties between arms-trafficking and terrorist organizations.

Colombia Defuses Five Car Bombs, Guards President

www.washingtonpost.com <<http://www.washingtonpost.com>> : 12/11/02
Bogotá, Colombia

According to the Washington Post, Colombian authorities successfully stopped what could have been a devastating terrorist attack by five remote-controlled car bombs in the capital city Bogotá, Colombia. Authorities report it was part of the terrorist group FARC's urban offensive. The group already had been accused of a smaller car bomb that exploded on Monday in a parking lot injuring more than 60 people. In the past year, Colombian authorities caught three members of the Irish Republican Army who were believed to have provided training in explosives to the FARC. For more information on FARC-IRA links see: <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/~delacova/farc/ira-trained.htm> or Spanish : http://spanish.peopledaily.com.cn/200204/26/sp20020426_54191.html

Canada Bans All Activities of Pro-Palestinian Group Hezbollah

www.canoe.ca <<http://www.canoe.ca>> : 12/11/02
Ottawa, Canada

According to the Toronto Sun, Canada's Federal Government has now banned Hezbollah and two other groups from operating in Canada. Although their military arm had already been banned, the charitable arm of the group had been permitted to operate. Critics say

this has allowed the groups to acquire funds as well as supporters. The decision was made after a recent speech in Lebanon, where a Hezbollah leader made a call for “suicide bombings outside of Palestine.”