



CICTE Informe #16

July 2004

Counterterrorism Activities

XXXIV Regular Session of the Organization of American States General Assembly (June 6-8, Quito-Ecuador)

The following resolutions related to terrorism were adopted:

- **AG/RES 2004 (XXXIV -0/04) Adoption of a Comprehensive Inter – American Strategy to Combat Threats to Cybersecurity: A Multidimensional and Multidisciplinary Approach to Creating a Culture of Cybersecurity**

This resolution recognized the urgency of increasing the security of information networks and systems commonly referred to as the Internet in order to address vulnerabilities and protect users, national security and critical infrastructures from the serious and damaging threats posed by those who could carry out attacks in cyberspace for malicious or criminal purposes. It also urges Member States to establish or identify national “alert, watch and warning” groups, also known as “Computer Security Incident Response Teams”. CICTE will work with Member States to develop the CSIRTs over the next year.

- **AG/RES 2010 (XXXIV-0/04) Amendments to the Statute of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism**

One of the most important incorporations is that in article 2 it is specified that the functions of CICTE are civilian in nature. Also, article 1 states the respect for the sovereignty of states, the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law while preventing, combating and eliminating terrorism.

The functions of CICTE and the duties of the Secretariat have been extended and aligned them with UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) and other international conventions.

- **AG/RES 2026 (XXXIV-0/04) Fighting transnational organized crime in the Hemisphere**

Article 1 notes that international organized crime shall continue to be considered by the various entities of the OAS, including the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

- **AG/RES 2035 (XXXIV-0/04) Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism**

Article 6 requests the Inter- American Commission on Human Rights to draw up, with the support of CICTE, recommendations for the protection of human rights by its member states on its fight against terrorism, and to present them to the Permanent Council before the thirty –fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS. To do so, the Permanente Council has to convene a meeting with the government experts of the member states so that they may provide their points of view to the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights and CICTE on the content of the recommendations mentioned above.

- **AG/RES 2051 (XXXIV-0/04) Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism**

The resolution expresses its satisfaction with the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, in particular, its efforts to strengthen port, maritime, aviation, and cybersecurity. It also urge CICTE to facilitate ongoing dialogue among member states with a view to undertaking preventive measures that anticipate and address emerging terrorist threats, whatever their origin, such as cybersecurity, bioterrorism, threats to critical infrastructure, and potential access to, and possession and use of weapons of mass destruction and related materials and their means of delivery.

Inter-American Port Security Training Program (May, 17-21, Jamaica)

This program for English speaking countries included 46 participants representing twelve countries. The course provided information and techniques to reduce the security vulnerabilities of port facilities, infrastructure, and the movement of cargo, intermodal equipment, and passengers through the region’s ports, in accordance with the ISPS Code requirements.

3+1 Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) Conference (May 18-19, Buenos Aires – Argentina)

The conference was hosted by Argentina’s FIU, included discussions of confidentiality and security of financial information, an update on Argentina’s money laundering regime, use of NGO’s and charities in terrorist financing, available FIU training and technical assistance, and the activity of money changing houses in the tri – border city of Ciudad del Este. Participants represented Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and the US, as well as the International Monetary Fund, Organization of American States, World Bank and GAFISUD.

Crisis Management Course for Air Security Personnel (May 31-June 2, Quito-Ecuador)

This ICAO-conducted course provided management personnel with the knowledge and skills needed to develop sound crisis management procedures, and targeted staff at mid and senior- management levels whose jobs requires them to respond to acts of unlawful interference occurring within the state. CICTE sponsored 14 officials from Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Regional Course on Port Security for Central American Countries (June 14-18, Dominican Republic)

This program for Spanish speaking countries included 53 participants representing nine countries. The course explained recommended practices, information, and techniques to reduce security vulnerabilities of port facilities and infrastructure in the movement of cargo, intermodal equipment, and passengers through the region's ports. The course was meant to highlight the IMO/ISPS Code and the security assessment process. Participants reported that a primary benefit of the course was the increase of personal knowledge and the development of better cooperation and communication relations amongst port security officials from the different countries of the region.

Integrity Awareness and Anti-Corruption Training Program (June 22-25, Asuncion – Paraguay)

The course provided participants with the basic framework of integrity awareness, a foundation for creating an anti-corruption plan, experience gained through analyzing and reporting on a fictional country case study, and the examination internal controls. The 34 participants represented the offices of Immigration, Police, and Customs.

Third Meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism - CODEXTER (July 6-8, Strasburg, France)

In conformity with its new terms of reference, CODEXTER undertook the elaboration of a specific – scope instrument or instruments aiming at the prevention of terrorism and covering inter alia “apologie du terrorisme”, incitement to terrorism, public provocation to commit acts of terrorism, recruitment of terrorists and the responsibility of legal persons. The CODEXTER will consider a preliminary – draft at its next meeting, 18-20 October 2004.

The CODEXTER further agreed to draw country profiles on counter – terrorism legal and institutional capacity. The first two profiles (Germany and Romania) will be posted shortly at www.coe.int/gmt/profiles. The profiles of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom will follow. The European Union agreed to participate in this activity. The Council of Europe will be cooperating with OSCE – ODIHR legislative database “legislationline”.

The Council of Europe had just published the books “apologie du terrorisme” and “incitement to terrorism”, an analysis of the situation in member and observer States bearing in mind the relevant case – law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Counter Terrorism Simulation Exercise - CTSIMEX 1 (July 16-17, Barbados)

This policy-development exercise explored the issues surrounding a terrorist attack on a cruise ship in the Caribbean to generate internal discussion and to alert national authorities to the issues involved in a major terrorist incident. Through a number of interjections, presentations, and discussions CITSIMEX 1 examined the diplomatic, political, legal, law enforcement, military, public information, and public health aspects of a terrorist attack and subsequent management crisis that would likely follow. Following this analysis there were efforts dedicated to delineating possible courses of action as well as examining issues involved when requesting outside assistance.

Roughly 75 individuals participated in the event, including observers from the CARICOM States and British territories.

Future Events

- 19-30 July Course on Inter-agency Coordination and Counterterrorism, (Washington, D.C., USA), CHDS.
- August 30 – September 2 OAS Symposium on Border Control: Dialogue on Trans-border Cooperation and Border Integration (Vancouver, Canada)

Recent developments in the news

New **maritime security rules** imposed by the International Maritime Organization have come into effect as of July 1st to prevent a maritime version of 9/11 attacks. According to a BBC world news report on July 2nd, all large ships must now have security officers, alarm systems, automatic identification system and methods of checking ID's of people boarding. Certificates of compliance must be signed by the nations under whose flags the ships are sailing. The new International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code was signed by 147 governments and applies to port facilities, owners of ships larger than 500 metric tons, and the companies that unload them.

Guatemala has been **removed from the List** of countries and territories that do not cooperate on the fight against Money Laundering. According to its press release, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to do so because the government has adopted new legislation against money laundering that establishes controls over operations.

The Jamaican parliament has introduced **new security procedures** that include barring visitors from the lobby of the House of Representatives, according to a report released on June 16th, by the Jamaican Observer.

Barbados is set to benefit from almost \$ 40,000 worth of technology and equipment to aid law enforcement in its fight against international crime, according to a report made by the newspaper Nation on June, 15th. This is through **INTERPOL 24/7**, an initiative designated to ensure its 181 member countries all have **up to date equipment and information in their crime fighting efforts**. The equipment includes computer work stations, scanners, printers, software, and the encryption devices necessary to connect Barbados to the INTERPOL system.

On June 16th, El Universal reported that Mexican police have **seized ammunition** that was destined for the FARC. More than six thousand rounds of ammunition were seized.

The BBC world news on June 17th, reported that the **FARC**, has **admitted that it carried out the killings** of 34 coca farmers. A FARC statement said the farmers supported right – wing paramilitaries and accused the government of using the deaths to illicit sympathy. The United Nations has condemned the massacre as a war crime. Landless peasants often pick coca leaves and sell them to both left – wing guerillas and their right – wing opponents, which can leave the farmers as targets of reprisals.

New York Times has reported on May, 5th, that Panama has agreed to permit the United States to board and search its flagships on the open seas if they are suspected of transporting nuclear, chemical or biological arms or equipment. This addition of **Panama**, the world's leading shipping registry, to the **Proliferation Security Initiative**, would subject nearly 15 percent of the world's roughly 50,000 cargo ships to being boarded and inspected on short notice.

The United States has ordered US banks to **freeze any assets** found in the United States belonging to **Assad Ahmad Barakat** and his two companies that the government believes helped financed the Islamic militant group Hezbollah. He is currently in a Paraguayan prison for tax evasion and has served as a treasurer of Hezbollah, which the United States has branded a terrorist organization. He has also reportedly worked closely with numerous Islamic extremists and suspected Hezbollah associates in the South America tri- border area made up of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. This information has been published in a Washington Post report on June, 16th.

A report released by BBC world news on July, 1st claimed that members of Colombia's paramilitary group (**AUC**) have gathered in a designated safe zone in the north of the country to **begin talks with the government**. Their aim is eventual demobilization of up to 20.000 fighters belonging to the AUC by 2006.

El Universal of Mexico City reported on June 17th that Andres Valencia, former Ambassador of Mexico to Colombia, has being designated by the Mexican government to act as **Mediator between the ELN** (second largest guerrilla group) **and** the Government of **Colombia**.

According to a June, 18th report from El Tiempo, a Colombian court has sentenced the leaders of the ELN to **40 years of imprisonment** for their participation in the preparation of attacks in Machuca that have caused the deaths of 85 people.

The Washington Post on June, 12th reported that Federal agents in the USA have **raided 17 money – transmitting businesses** in the Washington DC area that allegedly sent millions of dollars abroad without obtaining licenses, part of a nationwide crackdown aimed at curbing the ability of terrorist to move cash. They suspected that three of the firms have sent money to countries accused by U.S authorities of supporting terrorism. Under the Patriot Act, money transmitters must register with the Treasury Department and obtain state money – transfer licenses.

BBC news has reported on June, 25th that Canada's Supreme Court has ruled **that people can be forced to testify** in cases related to national security. It is the first test of the country's new antiterrorism law, passed in the wake of the attacks of 9/11.

Authorities in Honduras belonging to the National Commission of Banks and Securities have stated that they are applying a tough policy to counter money laundering by **investigating all accounts above US\$ 10,000**, according to a report in the June, 29th El Tiempo.

According to the July 1st OAS Bulletin, Panama and Costa Rica are strengthening their borders after a notice that **Adnan El Shukri Gulshair might be planning to enter one of those countries**. El Shukri is believed to be involved in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This was done after a confirmation coming from the Honduras government that El Shukri was recently seen in Tegucigalpa, the nation's capital.

The US Department of Defense announced a major expansion of its vaccination program requiring that **anthrax and smallpox vaccine be administered** to all soldiers and civilians in the Middle East, and for the first time, South Korea. Officials said the decision resulted from an increased supply of vaccine, and not from indications of an increased threat of biological or chemical attacks. This information was reported in the July, 1st New York Times.

Members of the House of Representatives in El Salvador have begun the **study of antiterrorist legislation**, according to a report published on June, 30th, by El Mundo. It is expected that the Interinstitutional Commission formed to facilitate the study could assist not only in defining the content of the new legislation but also in clarifying some aspects related to international instruments that have being signed by the government.