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CICTE Informe #19

Counterterrorism Activities

Argentina Hosts MERCOSUR Port Security Workshop

The Argentine Naval Prefecture hosted 62 MERCOSUR port security officials at a CICTE sponsored workshop in Buenos Aires from October 4-8, 2004. Workshop participants discussed techniques to reduce the safety vulnerabilities of port infrastructure and installations as well as secure the movement of cargo, multi-modal teams, and passengers throughout the ports of the region. The US National Maritime Administration (MARAD) conducted the program, which saw participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. The workshop was the 3 in a series of 4. The next is scheduled to be held in San Salvador in November.

Costa Rica Hosts Second Regional Workshop on Counter-terrorism Legislation

Five legislative drafting experts from the UNODC, the IMF and the OAS discussed harmonization of national counter-terrorism legislation with 22 officials from the executive and legislative branches of Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Venezuela at the second workshop on this issue, in San Jose, Costa Rica, from October 5 -7. The project aims to strengthen regional cooperation through the exchange of information. This workshop focused on promoting implementation of the international instruments which seek to prevent and eradicate terrorism and its financing.

Experts Discuss Draft Costa Rican Anti-terrorism Legislation

Five experts from CICTE, UNODC, ILANUD, and IMF, joined 37 officials from the Executive and Legislative branches of the Costa Rican Government in discussions of new Costa Rican legislation designed to prevent terrorism and its financing. The meeting, held in San Jose on October 8. Throughout this meeting participants focused upon a draft law to Strengthen Terrorism Legislation in Costa Rica. The draft was based on international instruments designed to eliminate terrorism.

Future Events

- November 1-12: *Air Transport of Dangerous Goods Course* (Kingston, Jamaica): This is a follow-up to the workshop on Dangerous Goods which was held in Miami, Florida in February 2004. It is designed to increase awareness of the vulnerabilities in port security and provide aviation security personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to improve cargo inspection tactics.
- November 8-12: *Crisis Management Course for Air Security Personnel* (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago): This ICAO-conducted course is designed to provide management personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop sound crisis management procedures. The course targets staff in mid and senior- management positions whose jobs require them to respond to acts of unlawful interference occurring within the state.
- February 16-18: *Fifth Period of CICTE Ordinary Meetings* (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago)

Recent Developments in the News

On September 23, *The Washington Post* reported that **government tests showed that screening equipment and personnel were still unable to detect some knives, guns and explosives at US airport checkpoints.** These items were carried through checkpoints in the belief that training, equipment and management are not efficient. The inspectors from the Homeland Security Department said that the security at airports is improving but has a long way to go. Moreover, concerns over explosives have increased since the destruction of the two Russian airliners by Chechen suicide bombers. The final report on the tests recommended new technology and higher caliber training for screeners.

According to a September 24 article in *The New York Times*, the city of New York is developing a new emergency public communications system to **enable the mayor to get emergency information to the public quickly using television and radio stations.** Since 1963, the federal government has had the power to interrupt broadcast with shrill beeps followed by emergency announcements, but it has traditionally been done via local weather channels that has limited its effectiveness.

The governments of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama and Mexico, signed an agreement to begin exploring ways to collaborate in the fight against gangs. The Presidents of Honduras and El Salvador have said that gravity of the threat posed by gangs to national security equals that posed by terrorism in the United States. Gangs in the last decade have kill thousands of people and have replaced guerrillas as Public Enemy No.1 in Central America, Mexico and the United States. On September 26, *The New York Times* reported that **there are 70,000 to 100,000 gang members in these areas.**

The Washington Post reported on September 27 that terrorists and insurgents **are targeting oil and gas in an effort to disrupt energy markets, destabilize governments, and scare off foreign workers.** Their attacks are often on pipelines, tankers and workers in areas with varying levels of security. The persistence of such attacks is another factor that adds upward pressure to oil prices because terrorists can produce negative economic effects in consumer nations while simultaneously destabilizing the country where the attack occurs.

On October 3rd, *Time Magazine* reported that British authorities have dismantled an Islamic terrorist cell that had information about U.S financial sites, including the New York Stock Exchange and the World Bank in Washington. **British intelligence asserts that the group was trying to construct a crude radiological dirty bomb.** The report also revealed that this group harbored intentions to attack specific sites in London including the Heathrow Express and an unspecified synagogue.

According to *IBL News* in an article published on October 4th, tight security was implemented during the meetings that occurred the first weekend of October in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. **During these events, finance specialists and ministers of 180 countries met to discuss measures that should be taken to prevent terrorism financing.** “Terrorism has knocked on our door” James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank said.

On October 4, *BBC News* reported the arrest of 20 members of ETA by French Police. Members caught included Mikel Albizu, one of the most senior leaders within the terrorist group, and Maria Soledad Iparraquirre, a leading female figure. **These important arrests constitute one of the most significant blows against Basque separatist group in years.** Spanish officials said that ETA has been weakened and is currently in very bad shape. However, the weapons seized during the arrest show that the group is still capable of attacking.

On October 4, *El Clarín* newspaper reported that North Korea is preparing for cyber war against South Korea, Japan and the United States. According to the article, the Minister of Defense of South Korea revealed that **North Korea has 600 computer hackers trained to launch a cyber attack.** The report on this matter says that these hackers have been training since 1986 as part of their military careers.

The General Secretary of INTERPOL, Ronald K. Noble, called on the member countries to **grant to police forces access to INTERPOL information.** According to *press release of INTERPOL* of October 5, the General Secretary added that the struggle against international crime and terrorism will reach its maximum effectiveness if information can be shared at all the levels: local, regional and international. Noble spoke at the 73rd meeting of the Interpol General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico.

At least 37 people, most of them Israelis, were killed, and 114 were injured in an attack at the Hilton Hotel, in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. The *Hindustan Times News* reported on October 8 that other two attacks occurred two hours later in nearby resort towns. The attacks were launched in tourist resorts that are spread along the Sinai desert coast and are popular sites for Israelis. In the wake of the explosions, Israeli anti-terrorist units evacuated Israelis from the peninsula.

According to *CBS News* report released on October 18, the **U.N. Security Council voted unanimously for a resolution that calls on all nations to prosecute or extradite anyone supporting, financing, or participating in terrorist acts.** The 15-0 vote culminated weeks of negotiations by Russia, which introduced the resolution after militants, initiated a series of attacks in the country. The resolution creates a Security Council working group to study measures to be taken against terrorists and terrorist groups that are not affiliated with Al Qaeda or Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers. The last changes that were made to the draft make clear that the resolution specifically targeted criminal acts defined in international conventions dealing with terrorism.

Approximately 132,000 weapons have been recovered in a successful anti-small arms campaign in Brazil, as *El Tiempo* newspaper reported on October 18. The Brazilian Ministry of Justice, expected to gather 80,000 arms through the end of this year, but due to the success that the campaign has had, the Ministry decided to raise the goal to 300,000 weapons. The campaign received the Human Rights and Culture of Peace award from the Brazilian representatives of UNESCO. Brazil, with 180 million of habitants, registered 44,000 murders in 2003 ranking as the fourth highest murder rate country worldwide

On October 19 *El Tiempo* newspaper, reported that **Spanish security forces prevented** an attack on the Audiencia Nacional. Eight persons, the majority of whom were Algerians, who maintain ties to the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), were stopped when they were trying to obtain the explosives necessary to undertake the attack. Recordings by the Spanish authorities revealed terrorists planned to attack the building using a 500 kg. truck- bomb.

According to *Caribseek News*, **the Government of Saint Lucia has introduced legislation to increase prison terms and fines for people convicted on gun charges.** The new legislation is in addition to the 2003 firearms act that increased the fines for possession of illegal firearms. The Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Dr. Kenny Anthony said that this new legislation will send a decisive message to those who disregard the law.

New Documents

- *Resolution 1566 (2004) of the Security Council of United Nations*

This resolution, adopted by the Security Council on October 8th 2004 condemns all acts of terrorism and declares that terrorism itself is one of the most serious threats to peace and security. In addition, the resolution calls for the extradition or prosecution of any person who supports, facilitates, or finances terrorism, and requests international cooperation on this issue. Finally, the resolution considers the possibility of establishing an international fund to compensate victims of terrorism attacks and requests the Secretary General to take the appropriate steps to make the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) fully operational.

- *Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Special Recommendations on Terrorism Financing*

The FATF issued the Special Recommendation IX: Cash Couriers, which replaces paragraph 19(a) of Recommendation 19, in order to ensure internal consistency. The new recommendation states that countries should have measures in place to detect the physical cross-border transportation of currency. Additionally it states that countries should ensure that their authorities have the legal power to stop the transportation of currency or negotiable goods that are suspected of being related to terrorist financing, money laundering or are falsely declared. Finally, it recommends that countries should adopt measures, including legislative ones, which would facilitate the confiscation of terrorism related currency.

New Documents in OLAT

- *The War against Fundamentalist Terrorism and the Crisis of the Civil Rights: Another Perspective of the Conflict.* By Dr. Jose Gabriel Paz. (spanish version)
- *The Threat of Bioterrorism.* By the Board of Advisors of the Inter-American Dialogue.
- *Terrorism in Europe: How does the Union of 25 Respond to this Phenomenon?* By Dr. Javier Solana.
- *The Case of the Yachted Terrorist.* By the FBI's Press Room.
- *Protecting Against a Terrorist Attack.* By the FBI's Press Room.
- *The Bio-Terrorism Threat: Enhancing the Law Enforcement Response.* By Interpol.
- *Interpol's International Notices System.* By Interpol.
- *U.S. - Based Branch of Al Haramain Foundation Links to Terror:* Treasury Designates U.S. Branch, Director, Office of the Public Affairs of the U.S. Treasury Department.
- *Treasury Attacks Financial Web of Colombian Drug Lords:* Office of the Public Affairs of the U.S. Treasury Department.

New Books on Terrorism

1. *Defining Terrorism: Is One Man's Terrorist another Man's Freedom Fighter?* By Boaz Ganor.

The task of establishing a definition and conceptualization is usually a purely theoretical issue, a mechanism for scholars to work out the appropriate set of parameters for the research they intend to undertake. However, when dealing with terrorism and guerrilla warfare, implications of defining terms tend to transcend the boundaries of theoretical discussions. In the struggle against terrorism, the problem of the definition is a crucial element in the attempt to coordinate international collaboration, based on the currently accepted rules of traditional warfare.