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CICTE Informe 30

Counter-terrorism activities

Guatemala and Argentina Ratify Inter-American Convention against Terrorism

- Guatemala and Argentina ratified the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism on November 14th and December 16th, respectively. To date, 17 Member States have ratified the Convention. At the ceremony marking Argentina's deposition of the ratified Convention at OAS headquarters, Argentine Ambassador to the OAS, Rodolfo Gil recognized the enormous responsibility that Argentina has in ratifying such agreement. Likewise, OAS Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza acknowledged the importance and the impact that such multilateral agreement will have upon Member States, since it comprises a range of issues that were not included in previous treaties.

For more information: <http://www.lineacapital.com.ar/?noticia=4175>

Nineteen Detained Over Document Fraud Network

- **Colombian authorities arrested nineteen people accused of belonging to** a fraudulent passport network allegedly connected to Al-Qaeda. The arrests were made in five Colombian cities in 32 separate raids. The network was charged with falsifying documents for terrorism purposes. Fraudulent Colombian passports were allegedly provided to Iraqi, Pakistani, Jordanian and Egyptian citizens, who later attempted to travel into Europe and the US posing as Colombian citizens. Three members of the Colombian presidential security department (DAS) were also allegedly involved in the scandal.

Mexico Signs International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

- Mexico's signing of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism makes them a signatory to 12 conventions geared towards combating terrorism. The Mexican chancery acknowledged that this particular Convention strengthens the international legal framework and encourages international cooperation. This document was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly, which intensifies the role of the UN in fighting terrorism at the international level.

For more information: <http://www.milenio.com/nota.asp?id=255836>

Interpol Publishes First Notices For Suspected Terrorists On UN Sanctions List New Notice Supports Work Of Key United Nations Security Council Committee

- Interpol has published the first Interpol/UN Security Council Special Notices that apply to individuals who are targets of UN sanctions against Al Qaeda and the Taliban. The information will be disseminated to all 184 member countries through its global police communications system, also referred as I-24/7. This system connects all law enforcement officials in the Member States and allows them to share prime information on criminals and their activities. The UN Security Council Resolution 1617 adopted on July 25, 2005, called for UN Secretary General to work together with Interpol. Likewise, during Interpol's General Assembly in Berlin in September 2005, a team from Interpol was assigned to the UN to cooperate on technical issues and implementation.

For more information: <http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/PressReleases/PR2005/PR200549.asp>

Rules for Distributing Terror Aid In US Overhauled

- The US Department of Homeland Security will evaluate a \$765 million program to improve assistance given to urban areas that could face terrorist attacks. The initiative is being considered as a result of the 2006 Homeland Security budget cut. Approximately 35 urban areas in 23 states, as well as the District of Columbia, will be eligible for such grants. That would include 95 cities with populations of 100,000 or more. In 1993, when such grants were first made, only seven cities were considered: New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, San Francisco, and Houston. For further information on which 35 urban areas are being considered, please see the below link.

For more information:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/03/politics/03cnd-grants.html?ex=1138856400&en=62fcbb619a3eed10&ei=5070>

Czech Republic Ratifies International Convention on Financing Terrorism

- The Czech Foreign Ministry, announced that its government has ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism this past January. The Czech Republic is the last of the 25 European Union Member States to ratify.

Latest News

- **Police will be soon able to access travel plans of 40 million passengers in Britain** who use domestic flights and ferries. This would be the first time that pertinent authorities can obtain this information to track down terrorists and criminals under the Police and Justice Bill. What was a pilot project that started several years ago, monitoring around 10 million individuals on international flights, might become a standard routine for 40 million passengers. Such travel information is only allowed for counterterrorism purposes, according to the 2000 Terrorism Act.
- According to US State Department counterterrorism coordinator, Henry Crumpton, **a biological attack on the West is simply a question of time.** Using biological agents instead of nuclear power as a form of strike could definitely be tougher to assess and avoid. Rogue States, like Syria or Iran, are thought to be working on WDM's. Crumpton, who spoke to Britain's Daily Telegraph, also acknowledged that in the aftermath of the Afghan war against the Taliban in 2001, allied forces found out that Al Qaeda had been developing anthrax programs against the West.

New Books

Messages to the World. The Statements of Osama bin Laden, edited by Bruce Lawrence. This book reprints the full texts of Osama bin Laden public statements over the past ten years.

Al Qaeda in Europe. The new battleground of international Jihad, by Lorenzo Vidino. Europe has had several terrorist attacks since the aftermath of 9/11 in the US, and every attack on US soil had some ties back to Europe. This book provides historical developments while analyzing the roots of such incidents.