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CICTE Informe 33

Counter-terrorism activities

Justice Ministers and Prosecutors call for Cooperation against Terrorism at Panama Conference

- Prosecutors and Justice Ministers from Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama agreed to cooperate in the fight against the financing of terrorism and called for the ratification of the international conventions against Terrorism and the Inter- American Convention against Terrorism at a Ministerial Conference organized by CICTE and UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) in Panama from April 3-7. Participants also discussed national legislation on international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, under the 13 United Nations Conventions and Protocols related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

29 Regional Specialists Attend Workshop on Latest Cyber Threats

- Rapid advances in technology are opening new inroads for cyber-criminals and impacting the way governmental cyber-security officials work. At a workshop conducted by CICTE and the USSS (United States Secret Service) April 25-27 in Miami, 29 representatives of the scientific, academic and law enforcement communities of 14 countries exchanged information on the latest developments in cyber crimes, policies, legislation and best practices.

Tradewinds Exercise Contributes to Cricket World Cup Security Preparations

- Jamaica's National Security Minister, Dr Peter Phillips, called the two-week Tradewinds military exercise the template, which will guide the region's security preparations for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 and beyond. The exercise, which concluded on April 5th, involved some 1,400 personnel from civil agencies, the police, para-military groups and military armed forces from 18 countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom. Dr. Phillips mentioned that the Caribbean could only respond to the increasing globalization of international drug markets and terrorism threats, through an international coalition of likeminded states within and outside of the region.

Tradewinds is an annual exercise for countries within the Caribbean region. The exercise is sponsored by the United States in cooperation with Caribbean nations and is designed to improve the coordination and interoperability of regional partners in responding to possible threats to the Caribbean region.

For more information: <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000012/001228.htm>

Recent Events

- 3-14 April, 2006: TSA Instructor Training in Bahamas.
- 24-28 April, 2006: Seminar on Maritime Security, Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships for the Caribbean sub-region (IMO), Trinidad & Tobago.
- 24-26 April, 2006: Seminar on Early Indicators of Terrorist Activity, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 24-26 April, 2006: REMJA VI, Dominican Republic.

Future Events

- 8-12 May, 2006: Seminar for Prosecutors on Terrorism and Human Rights, CICTE/UNODC/Spain, Cartagena de Indias – Colombia.
- 22-26 May, 2006: TSA Instructor Training in Grenada.
- 25-31 May, 2006: Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) meeting, Aruba.

Latest News

- **The UN Security Council strongly condemned the “terrorist bombings” that ripped through Egypt’s Red Sea tourist resort of Dahab and killed 18 people on April 24th.** In a statement, the 15-member council underscored “the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these intolerable acts to justice and urges all states ... to cooperate with and provide support and assistance, as appropriate, to the government of Egypt.”
- **Scientists are developing new technology** to recover fingerprints from metal surfaces such as bomb fragments and gun cartridges, **which could help track down terrorists.** Fingerprints on metal surfaces need to be made visible with powders and chemicals that do not work well on “sweat” prints, which can also partially disappear in high temperatures such as a bomb blast or a gun firing. The University of Wales (Swansea), in collaboration with the Forensic Science Service and defense technology and security company QinetiQ, is developing a technique to overcome these problems. According to professor McMurray, “Our overall aim is to produce a forensically usable prototype device based on the new technology. The next step in our research is to look at fingerprints on cartridges fired from the type of weapons most often encountered in cases of terrorism and armed crime.”
- **The UK/CARICOM Security Cooperation Agreement was** one of the issues on the roundtable as British Virgin Islands Chief Minister Dr. Orlando Smith and other CARICOM leaders met in Barbados on April 25th at the Fifth United Kingdom-Caribbean Forum. The Security Cooperation Agreement’s plan of action includes border security, maritime cooperation, training of security and law enforcement officials and the establishment of a regional information and intelligence-sharing network. The Forum, held biennially, was co-chaired by the UK’s Foreign Secretary Mr. Jack Straw and Foreign Minister of Grenada Mr. Elvin Nimrod.

For more information: <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000014/001403.htm>

- **Britain’s top police officer Sir Ian Blair has advised the US to plan for an Al-Qaeda inspired terrorism that comes from within,** and to embrace the necessary techniques for integrating its police with ethnic communities. During the third week of April, in New York, London’s Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, warned the Citizens’ Crime Commission that while the threat to the US had proved primarily external, Britain’s was internal, and that both countries’ experience was likely to converge over time. According to the Commissioner, “the answer for countering terrorism is working with communities in the way that policing has always done. There are extras, but the basics remain the same,” and “Terrorism wants us to take those kinds of measures.”
- **Paraguayan and US attorney disagree on Tri-Border terrorism financing.** Paraguayan Foreign Relations Minister, Ms. Leila Rachid, stated on April 5th that “the

Triple Border has its peculiarities; there can be bankruptcies in the commercial ambience, but a terrorist attack was never perpetrated from there.” However, Manhattan’s District Attorney Mr. Robert Morgenthau revealed that his office recently dismantled a financial operation which involved approximately \$3 million dollars proceeding from the Triple Border Area to finance terrorist activities in the Middle East. The Paraguayan chancellor acknowledged the existence of money remittances of citizens from the Tri-Border area to their relatives in the Middle East, but not to finance terrorism. Likewise, Paraguayan Attorney General Mr. Ruben Candia Amarilla, admitted having several cases in Ciudad del Este link to tax evasion and contraband.

For more information: <http://www.lanacion.com.py/noticias/2006/04/06/politica/129782.html>