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CICTE Newsletter 44

Counter-Terrorism Activities

UN Symposium on Global Terrorism Strategy

The Government of Austria, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (and chair of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime are holding a Symposium on "Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" in the Vienna International Centre on May 17-18, 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to generate global action required (a) to raise awareness for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to promote its implementation, and (b) to identify measures for assisting Member States in this endeavor, including by mobilizing enhanced support for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The symposium will produce a set of conclusions, which will be instrumental for advancing the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Progress on Cyber Security CSIRTs

Ten Member States have now established a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), in accordance with the requirements of the Inter-American Cyber Security Strategy approved by the 2004 OAS General Assembly in resolution AG/Res. 2004 (XXXIV-O/04). With funding from the Government of Canada, the CICTE Secretariat is preparing the first technical training for personnel designated by their government to operate the national CSIRT. The first course will be hosted by Brazil from June 25-29, 2007. The CICTE Secretariat would like to encourage the remaining Member States to establish their CSIRT in the near future and to take advantage of the technical training to be provided during 2007.

For more information, please contact Romulo Dantas, rdantas@oas.org; (202) 458-3071.

OAS/REMJA meeting

The Cyber Crime Working Group of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Americas (REMJA) organized a Regional Cyber Crime Workshop, sponsored by REMJA and the US Department of Justice, in San Jose, Costa Rica, April 16 to 20, 2007. Officials from Central

American countries, Mexico and the Dominican Republic attended the workshop which was dedicated to computer forensics and the development a 24/7 network capability. CICTE Secretariat Program Manager for Cyber Security gave a presentation on the OAS Cyber Security Strategy and the CICTE Secretariat training program.

For more information, please contact: Romulo Dantas, rdantas@oas.org; (202) 458- 3071

CICTE's Evaluation Program

The CICTE Secretariat has added an important evaluation component to its programming. Ms. Francine Hanna, a new Associate Staff Member with many years of experience in Program Evaluation, was recently detailed to the Secretariat by the Government of Canada to assist in this process. The main objectives of the new Program of Evaluation are to assess performance of training providers, measure effectiveness, identify results achieved, and determine alternative ways to meet program objectives. In a context of Result-based Management (RBM), the program evaluation offers a learning opportunity to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of various programs so as to achieve the established objectives and expected results. The evaluation activities will demonstrate accountability and transparency to all partners.

For more information, please contact: Francine Hanna, fhanna@oas.org; (202) 458-6222.

U.S. Country Reports on Terrorism Released

U.S. law requires the Secretary of State to provide Congress, by April 30 of each year, a full and complete report on terrorism with regard to those countries and groups meeting criteria set forth in the legislation. The report covers developments in countries in which acts of terrorism occurred, countries that are state sponsors of terrorism, and countries determined by the Secretary to be of particular interest in the global war on terror. As provided in the legislation, the report reviews major developments in bilateral and multilateral counterterrorism cooperation as well. The report also addresses terrorist sanctuaries and terrorist attempts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Additionally, it includes statistical information provided by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) on the number of individuals killed, injured, or kidnapped by terrorist groups. The 2006 Country Reports on Terrorism was released on April 30, 2007.

For more information: <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/>

EUROPOL Report on Terrorist Threat in Europe

The TE-SAT 2007 provides an overview of the phenomenon of terrorism in the EU from the law enforcement perspective. This report for the first time collates all statistical data on the terrorist attacks and plots in the EU as well as provides details on the where, whom and how of terrorist activities. The report establishes the basic facts and figures regarding terrorism in the EU based on the Member States' reporting on criminal investigations into terrorism and the prosecution and convictions for terrorist offences. It indicates that 498 attacks were carried out by Islamist, separatist, left-wing and anarchist terrorist groups in eleven European Union (EU) Member States in 2006. A total of 706 individuals suspected of terrorism offences were arrested in 15 EU

Member States in 2006. The document also shows the increasing level of trust that Member States are demonstrating in the area of mutual counter terrorist cooperation. The report was released on March 2007.

For more information: <http://www.europol.europa.eu/publications/TESAT/TESAT2007.pdf>

Recent Training and Conference Events

- April 17-19: OAS/REMJA Cyber Crime Workshop for Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic; San Jose, Costa Rica.
- April 23-24: 12th Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), Strasbourg, France. www.coe.int/gmt (Council of Europe)
- April 25-26: Council of Europe Conference “Why Terrorism? Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of Terrorism”, Strasbourg, France. (Council of Europe)
- April 23-27: CICAD Training seminar on risk assessment and targeting of containers and passengers for officers from the Caribbean in collaboration with France’s *Centre Interministeriel de Formation Anti-Drogue (CIFAD)*, Cartagena, Colombia.
- April 16-May 11: CICTE Port Security training in several ports of Dominican Republic.

Upcoming Events [these need to be in chronological order]

- May 1-9: Transportation Security Agency (TSA) Basic security training course, Georgetown, Guyana.
- May 2-4: Technical Legislative Assistance mission, Managua, Nicaragua.
- May 7-9: Technical Legislative Assistance mission, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- May 15-23: Transportation Security Agency (TSA) Basic security training course, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- May 17-18: UN Symposium on Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, Vienna, Austria.
- May 22-25: Ibero-American Seminar on “Balancing State Powers and Respecting Democratic Guarantees while Fighting Terrorist Crimes,” seminar organized by the government of Spain, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and OAS/CICTE, Cartagena, Colombia..
- May 23-29: Meeting of Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP), Nassau, Bahamas.
- May 28-June 2: Ibero-American Seminar on “The Evolution of the Terrorist Phenomenon: New Counter Terrorism Strategies,” organized by the Government of Spain, Cartagena, Colombia.
- May 31 – June 1: High-level Conference organized by Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on “Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism,” Vienna, Austria.
- June 19-20: 2007 Working Level Counter Terrorism Practitioners Roundtable from Relevant Regional and Select Sub-Regional Organizations, organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Vilnius, Lithuania.

- June 25-29: Cyber security training for Computer Security Incident Response Teams, Brasilia, Brazil.

NEWS

Kenya arrests 11 suspected of al Qaeda ties

Kenyan police arrested 11 people on Wednesday, April 23rd, including an Islamic preacher and a 15-year-old boy on suspicion of links to al Qaeda. Dozens of officers launched pre-dawn raids on an Islamic school and three other locations in the coastal city of Mombasa. “The raid is intended to arrest suspects in connection with terrorism activities and the al Qaeda network,” said one senior police commander who asked not to be named. The suspects are being held at two Mombasa police stations. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility for the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya and for a hotel bombing four years later. Security experts say the country is at risk from more attacks because of its proximity to neighboring lawless Somalia, and the ease with which its borders can be crossed by extremists taking advantage of their remoteness or easily bribed officials.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/04/25/kenya.arrests.reut/index.html>

Anti-Terror raids net 6 suspects

British anti-terror police backed by local authorities arrested six people Tuesday, April 24, in a series of raids, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. The suspects were arrested “in connection with inciting others to commit acts of terrorism overseas and terrorist fund raising.” “The men were arrested this morning by officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, supported by local officers, at five addresses in London and one in Luton,” the statement said. Luton is located north of London. All six were arrested under Britain's Terrorism Act and are being held at a central London police station, according to Scotland Yard. Police said searches are being carried out at a number of locations.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/04/24/terror.arrests/index.html>

Guyana supports CWC legislative legacy

Following the conclusion of the Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007, governments of the Caribbean Community are looking beyond the tournament with regard to security arrangements for the region. To date Caribbean governments have agreed to retain the Joint Regional Communication Centre (JRCC) and the regional intelligence mechanism. The former is used to screen passengers traveling into and within the Single Domestic Space, which comprises the nine host venues for the Cricket World Cup 2007 and Dominica, while the latter gathers and analyses intelligence which is then shared with national security officials. However, at least one country is going further by announcing its intention to retain several pieces of legislation that were enacted for the security platform for CWC 2007. Guyana's Minister of National Security, Clement Rohee has announced that his country will retain certain pieces of legislation which enabled Guyana and other Caribbean countries to host the Cricket World Cup. He identified these as the Visiting

Forces Act, Status of Visiting Police Officers Act, Security Assistance (CARICOM Member States) Act and Immigration Amendment Act.

For more information: <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/news-1051--39-39--.html>

CARICOM Visa proving successful

More than 37,000 visas have been issued to persons who now enjoy the privilege of relatively hassle free travel throughout the CARICOM Single Domestic Space. Effective April 15, 37,664 persons had received their visas. Recipients of the visa are entitled to move freely through the 10 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries comprising the Single Domestic Space which was established to facilitate visitors for Cricket World Cup 2007. Air and sea passengers traveling between Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago now do so with minimal delays at the immigration counter. The measure remains in place until May 15, 2007. Stringent screening procedures have ensured that only valid, thoroughly-screened applicants receive visas. As a consequence, 732 applications have so far been denied.

For more information: <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/news-976--39-39--.html>

Passport thieves caught

SCORES of passport thieves are getting caught in the web of increased security instituted for Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007. International law enforcement agency Interpol disclosed that following its provision of a near 14 million database of stolen passports and other travel documents to CARICOM countries, more than 40 stolen and lost ones had been identified in Barbados and other ports of entry in the region. It confirmed that on March 16, Barbadian immigration officers at the Grantley Adams International Airport discovered that a Nigerian man who claimed to have been naturalized in Venezuela was traveling on a stolen Venezuelan passport. Interpol said following this hit, the Interpol National Central Bureaus in the countries on his travel itinerary were alerted, and the man was arrested upon landing in Guyana. He was to travel on to Brazil and Venezuela.

For more information: <http://www.barbadosadvocate.com/NewViewNewsleft.cfm?Record=30693>

The threat of Islamist terrorism to Germany

The recent al-Qaeda threat to Germany over its forces in Afghanistan coupled with the arrest of four Arab men accused of supporting al-Tawhid—a terrorist organization believed to have links to al-Qaeda—have convinced German authorities of the rising jihadi threat to Germany. "It is decidedly false to believe that Germany need not fear terrorist attacks because it is not involved with the Iraq war...Germany is the leading nation in the fight against the Taliban, with which al-

Qaeda is tightly allied... We are part of the hated West," Bavarian Interior Minister Beckstein declared [1]. Yet, while Germany is by no means immune to home-grown terrorism, it is still a fact that the ideologies that spawn terrorism or radicalism elsewhere in Europe have not found fertile ground in the country's Turkish immigrants who make up three quarters of the Muslim population.

For more information: <http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2373324>

Ohio man charged with helping al Qaeda

On Wednesday April 11th, a 43-year-old U.S. citizen was charged with providing material support to al Qaeda and plotting to set off bombs in Europe and the United States, according to a federal indictment unsealed in Columbus, Ohio. Christopher Paul did not enter a plea in his first court appearance Wednesday, and his lawyer, Donald Worley, would not comment on the charges when contacted by CNN. A detention hearing and arraignment are scheduled for Friday, according to the clerk of court's office. ([Read the indictment](#)).

According to the indictment, the targets of the bomb plots allegedly included European tourist resorts where Americans stayed and a person in the United States whom prosecutors did not name. The plotting took place between April 1999 and January 2000, according to the three-count indictment.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/LAW/04/12/terrorism.charges/index.html>

Five dead after Casablanca raid

Three suspected members of a terrorist group blew up themselves, and police shot a fourth after a chase in Casablanca's al Fida neighborhood, security services said, according to Morocco's state-run news agency, Maghreb Arabe Presse. As police closed in on the suspects, one of them threatened police officers with a sword, pushing the officers to open fire, eventually killing him, said Casablanca governor Mokhtar Bekkali Kassimi. The others blew themselves up -- one apparently by accident during the escape, another while breaking through a police checkpoint, and the last, as police were pursuing him early Tuesday in al Fida, Kassimi said. The checkpoint explosion killed a policeman and wounded another, the governor added. Security services had tracked the suspects thanks to an ongoing investigation stemming from the March 11 suicide bombing at an Internet cafe in the Sidi Moumen neighborhood, Kassimi said. ([Watch how terrorism is on the rise in northern Africa](#))

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/04/11/morocco.terrorists/index.html>

Al Qaeda claims deadly Algiers bombings

On Wednesday April 11th, bombs killed 30 people in Algeria's capital, attacks claimed by al Qaeda that raised fears the North African oil exporter was slipping back into the intense political violence of the 1990s. One of the blasts, said by witnesses to be a suicide bomb, ripped part of the facade off the prime minister's headquarters in the centre of Algiers. A second bomb hit Bab

Ezzouar on its eastern outskirts, the official APS news agency said. The Al Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb claimed responsibility for the Algiers bombing in an Internet statement and said 45 people had been killed. The claim could not immediately be verified but the group, formerly known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), has taken responsibility for a number of deadly attacks on security forces and foreigners in Algeria since January.

For more information: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSL1140470820070411>

Leader of Sri Lankan terrorist group arrested in New York

The top representative in the U.S. of the Tamil Tigers, a Sri Lankan rebel group designated as a foreign terrorist organization, orchestrated a covert campaign to finance its escalating conflict with military forces in Sri Lanka, federal prosecutors said on Wednesday April 25th. Karunakaran Kandasamy was arrested and awaiting arraignment on charges of providing material support to the Tamil Tigers. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison. In the past several years, the group has “covertly operated within the United States, drawing on America’s financial resources and technological advances to further its war of terror in Sri Lanka and elsewhere,” U.S. Attorney Roslynn Mauskopf said in a statement. The arrest was the latest attempt by American authorities to cut off support for the group, which according to court papers has engaged “in terrorist tactics, including suicide bombings and political assassinations” while fighting for an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils in the island nation’s north and east.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/americas/04/25/us.tamil.tiger.ap/index.html>

Bin Laden “behind Afghan Cheney attack”

A top Taliban commander said al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was behind the February attack outside a US military base in Afghanistan during a visit by US Vice President Dick Cheney, according to an interview shown by Arab broadcaster Al-Jazeera. Bin Laden planned and supervised the attack that killed 23 people outside the Bagram base while Cheney was there, said Mullah Dadullah, the Taliban’s main military commander in southern Afghanistan who has had close associations with al-Qaeda. “You may remember the martyr operation inside the Bagram base, which targeted a senior US official ... that operation was the result of his wise planning. He (bin Laden) planned that operation and guided us through it. The operation was a success,” Dadullah told Al-Jazeera.

For more information: <http://www.thewest.com.au/aapstory.aspx?StoryName=376614>

Five guilty in UK bomb plot

Five Britons have been found guilty of plotting to carry out al Qaeda-inspired bomb attacks across Britain on targets ranging from a nightclub to a shopping mall. The gang planned to use 600 kg (1,300 lb) of ammonium nitrate fertilizer to make explosives to be used in bombings in

revenge for Britain's support for the United States in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks, prosecutors said. Details of the case -- previously kept secret to ensure a fair trial -- reveal previously undisclosed ties between the five men, the suicide bombers who attacked London's transport network in 2005, and other al-Qaeda linked cells.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/04/20/terror.verdict/index.html>

Terror charges in Australia

Two Australian men were arrested Tuesday, May 1st for raising money for Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels, but were not planning an attack in Australia, police said. The two men from the southern city of Melbourne were set to appear in court later Tuesday for fundraising with knowledge that the money would be used to support Tiger operations in Sri Lanka, police said. "There is no evidence that these two men were planning to carry out a terrorist attack in Australia," Frank Prendergast, a senior counter-terrorism officer with the Australian Federal Police, said in a statement. "It will be alleged in court that these men are members of an organization engaging in terrorist activity overseas and they have been providing active, material support to that group," he said. Australia lists the rebels, formally known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, as a terrorist group in accordance with a U.N. charter.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/04/30/australia.terror.charges.ap/index.html>

Report: Global terrorism up more than 25 percent

Iraq's sectarian warfare fueled a sharp increase in global terrorism in 2006, the U.S. State Department reported Monday, April 30th. The total number of terrorist attacks was up more than 25 percent from the previous year, according to the State Department's annual report on global terrorism. Incidents in Iraq accounted for nearly half of the 14,000 attacks and about two-thirds of the more than 20,000 fatalities worldwide. The number of deaths blamed on attacks increased by about 40 percent. The spike comes from the eruption of sectarian killings and bombings that followed the February 2006 bombing of the al-Askariya mosque in the Iraqi city of Samarra, according to Frank Urbancic, the State Department's acting counterterrorism coordinator. That attack, blamed on al Qaeda in Iraq, destroyed a revered Shiite Muslim shrine and led to a wave of reprisals between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite communities. The number of people killed in terrorist attacks in Iraq rose from 8,262 in 2005 to 13,340 last year, said Russell Travers, deputy director of the National Counterterrorism Center.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/04/30/terror.report/index.html>

