



# Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Organization of American States (OAS)

## COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

### CICTE's Aviation Security Activities

The CICTE Secretariat is in the process of conducting a series of Capacity Building exercises in the Aviation Security Sector of the Caribbean region. This project provides a series of four training programs to nine selected countries in the Caribbean. It addresses different levels of airport security staff from screeners and baggage handlers to security managers and operations staff. The Secretariat has contracted the US Transport Security Administration (TSA) to conduct the training and the overall objective is to help countries strengthen security operations at major tourist destinations to comply with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), thus resulting



in increased visitor confidence in the safety and security of these destinations. The latest programs to be held in this series are the Advanced Aviation Security Training in Trinidad and Tobago July 4-14, 2007 and

Basic Security Aviation Security Training in St Kitts and Nevis July 23-31, 2007. This project will be completed by October 2007.

For more information, please contact Ms. Hayda Wallen [HWallen@oas.org](mailto:HWallen@oas.org)

### OAS and UN Provide Assistance to the Assembly of Panama on Terrorism Prevention and the Fight against Drugs

A delegation of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (OAS/CICTE) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) visited the National Assembly of Panama on July 25 to support several legislative initiatives.

Mauro Miedico, expert and coordinator of the Latin America and Caribbean team

of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, stated that the visit was intended to express UN and OAS' support to the president of the Assembly, Elias Castillo, on the initiatives undertaken by the Assembly's Drug Commission.

Mr. Miedico took the opportunity to invite a number of counselors and deputies of the Assembly to a four-day seminar. The seminar, where

Mr. Alejandro Díaz de León attended as the expert consultant of OAS/CICTE, was directed to prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials and other security bodies, and dealt with technical aspects of criminal offenses related to terrorism and drugs.

For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).



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## OAS Secretary General Condemns Assassinations of Colombian Lawmakers

On June 28, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, expressed his strongest rejection and condemnation of the assassination of eleven hostage Colombian legislators, Insulza also called on the illegal armed group of the FARC to provide their version of the events to a special international committee in order to determine the truth of the crimes committed. Secretary General Insulza said that the first available information of the tragic events that took place in Valle del Cauca showed that there had been a cold blooded murder against people held hostage, denying the basic values of respect of human life.



## OAS Reiterates on July 10, 2007 Offer To Recover Bodies Of Deceased Colombian Lawmakers

The Organization of American States (OAS) has renewed its willingness to set up an international commission in Colombia to cooperate for the prompt return of the eleven bodies of the Colombian legislators to their relatives.

According to the OAS, if good intentions to carry out this humanitarian action exist, there should not be any major problems left to overcome. The logistical aspects and the physical hand over would not be insurmountable obstacles. Along with other international organizations, the OAS stands ready to receive the bodies at an agreed location.

## CICTE Organizes Training Course on Document Security and Fraud Prevention

Fourteen (14) participants from the Republic of Paraguay and thirteen (13) participants from the Republic of Argentina participated in the "Document Security and Fraud Prevention" training course organized by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and the Government of the Republic of Paraguay in Asuncion, Paraguay, from July 30 to August 3. The course objective was to help strengthen the capacity of border control officials (police, customs and immigration) with respect to control of travel documents and identity cards and to expand their aptitude to detect false documents in order to prevent fraudulent use. Instruction was provided by experts from the Forensic Documents Laboratory of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States. Following inauguration of the course on July 30, Dr. Fuller, Secretary of CICTE, held consultations with officials of the Government of Paraguay on the Government's counter terrorism efforts and needs for technical assistance, as well as on the counter terrorism chapter of the pending legislation to reform the Penal Code

For more information, please contact Mr. Otger Tartera, [otartera@oas.org](mailto:otartera@oas.org)

## OSCE and ICAO Organize a Conference on Border Security

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) organized a two-day Conference on Border Security in Vienna, Austria where the OSCE headquarters is located, from July 19-20. This conference was aimed at improving the security of passports and other travel documents for all 56 OSCE member states present throughout the conference.

In addition to more than 200 document experts from OSCE member states, OAS/CICTE and other international organizations as well as the private sector were also present at the conference which was financed by Spain, as this country is currently holding the OSCE chairmanship.

For more information, please contact Mr. Otger Tartera, [otartera@oas.org](mailto:otartera@oas.org)

## Antiterrorism Radars Installed on Oil Rigs



Admiral Francisco Saynez Mendoza. Pict.: René Soto

The Marine Secretariat of Mexico has installed in Sonda de Campeche a last generation five-radar network to monitor oil rigs and counter terrorist attacks or attacks by radical groups such as the Revolutionary Popular Army (*Ejército Popular Revolucionario*).

The head of the body, Francisco Saynez Mendoza, explained that this equipment was purchased during the previous administration and that will help detect airplanes or vessels passing by the area, therefore anticipating any suspicious behavior that could put at stake the strategic facilities. Furthermore, airplanes and vessels transporting illegal freight will be more easily detectable.

For more information [click here](#).

## U.N. nuclear terrorism pact to come into force



U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at United Nations European headquarters in Geneva July 5, 2007. A U.N. nuclear terrorism treaty that would oblige governments to punish those who illegally possess atomic devices or radioactive materials comes into force on Saturday. (REUTERS/Denis Balibouse).

A U.N. nuclear terrorism treaty that would oblige governments to punish those who illegally possess atomic devices or radioactive materials comes into force on Saturday, July 7, 2007. The accord, approved by the U.N. General Assembly in 2005, seven years after Russia first proposed it, is the first anti-terrorism convention completed since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. Bangladesh completed the treaty's requirement that 22 countries approve the pact before it could become law when the South Asian nation deposited its ratification papers with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last month. The pact, called the "International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism," is meant to stop clandestine networks from using or possessing nuclear weapons. It obligates governments to prosecute or extradite individuals who possess radioactive materials or nuclear devices or those who threaten others while possessing such materials.

For more information [click here](#).

## GAO report on port security in the Caribbean

While intelligence sources report that no specific, credible terrorist threats to maritime security exist in the Caribbean Basin, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report, June 29, 2007—"Information on Port Security in the Caribbean Basin", —stating that there are a number of security concerns that could affect port security in the region. Caribbean ports contain a variety of facilities such as cargo facilities, cruise ship terminals, and facilities that handle petroleum products and liquefied natural gas. Additionally, several Caribbean ports are among the top cruise ship destinations in the world.

Foreign governments and local stakeholders in the Caribbean Basin have taken a number of steps to implement the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, although challenges for further progress remain.

The US Department of State stated in its comments that the threat by an explosive-laden vehicle to a cruise ship port facility or directly to a cruise ship should be a matter of great concern to U.S. government authorities. In addition, the State Department stated that compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code does not necessarily mean that a port is secure from a terrorist attack. The State Department noted that it witnessed open gates, poor screening of vehicles, and inadequate physical protections at ports with cruise line activity. The State Department stated that these deficiencies, coupled with poorly trained security personnel, can make cruise line terminals and cruise ships vulnerable to attack.

For more information [click here](#).

## **Security Council Committee approves amendments to identifying information of 60 individuals on consolidated list**

The Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee approved on 18 July 2007 amendments to identifying information with regard to 55 individuals on its Consolidated List. Additionally, on 27 July 2007 the Committee approved amendments to identifying information with regard to 5 individuals on its Consolidated List.

For more information [click here](#).



## **RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS**

- July 9-13: TSA Aviation Security Crisis Management Training, Antigua and Barbuda, sponsored by CICTE.
- July 9-13: APEC Maritime Security Experts Group, Taipei, Taiwan (participation of CICTE)
- July 16-17: CICTE/UNODC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission, Mexico City, Mexico, co-organized by CICTE and UNODC.
- July 16-26: TSA Aviation Security Training in Trinidad and Tobago, sponsored by CICTE Secretariat.
- July 19-20: OSCE and OIAC. Conference on Border Security (participation of CICTE)
- July 23-26: CICTE/UNODC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission and Specialized Training for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials, Panama City, Panama.
- July 23-31: TSA Basic Aviation Security Training, St Kitts and Nevis, sponsored by CICTE Secretariat.
- July 30-August 3: Document Security and Fraud Prevention Training, sponsored by the CICTE Secretariat with support of the Government of Paraguay, and implemented by the U.S. Forensics Document Laboratory, Asuncion, Paraguay.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- August 6-9: CICTE/CICAD: Second Terrorism Financing Workshop, Lima, Perú.
- August 7-17: TSA Aviation Security Training, Georgetown, Guyana.
- August 13-17: TSA Aviation Security Crisis Management Training, Colombia.
- August 13-17: CICTE/UNODC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission. Paramaribo, Suriname.
- August 20-30: TSA Aviation Security Crisis Management Training, St Kitts and Nevis.
- September 9-11, 2007: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), South American Executive Policing Conference. Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
- September 10-14 2007: US Department of Justice and OAS/REMJA Regional Cyber Crime Workshop – Bridgetown, Barbados.
- September 12-14: Port Security Crisis Management Exercise, sponsored by CICTE in partnership with CICAD, CIP, Transport Canada, US Coast Guard, US State Department, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- September 20-25: CICTE/UNODC Specialized Training for judges, prosecutors and police on international cooperation and counter terrorism: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- September 24–28 2007: CITEL XI Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications – Mendoza, Argentina.
- October 2007: CICTE/UNODC Regional Seminar on Extradition and Terrorism: Lima, Peru, co-organized by CICTE and UNODC.
- November 5–9 2007: II Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop – Miami, USA, organized by CICTE.

## **NEWS**

### **Latin-America and the Caribbean, the Most Dangerous Region on Earth**

Latin-America and the Caribbean is the most violent region on earth, according to Ambassador Alexandre Addor Neto, Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the OAS. This conclusion is based, among other reasons, on the murder rate in the region—more than 150,000 violent deaths a year—which is three times higher than the world average.

According to Efe, the Spanish news agency, Ambassador Addor Neto stated during the First Meeting of the Organized Crime Technical Group of the OAS in Mexico City, Mexico, July xx-xx that most of the violent deaths in Latin America result from organized crime. For more information [click here](#).

### **Spain swoops on 2 terror suspects**

The man seriously injured in the terrorist incident at Glasgow International Airport on June 30 has died, Strathclyde police said. Although other sources identified him as Kefeel Ahmed, police would not provide the man's name, saying he had never been positively identified but said his death occurred Thursday evening at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Ahmed and another man drove a vehicle packed with propane tanks into the airport's terminal entrance in an attempted suicide attack, one day after two explosives and nails-laden cars were discovered separately in London.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Spain and Mexico Reach a Deal to Strengthen Counterterrorism Cooperation**

Mexican President Felipe Calderón underlined that nowadays “Spain can count on Mexico in the fight against terrorism” and reaffirmed his “honest disposition and political will to ensure that [those] criminals do not escape from the Rule of Law”, in reference to the members of ETA living in Mexico. Mr. Calderón made this statement during the joint press conference held with Spain's Prime Minister, José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero, at the National Palace of the Mexican capital on July 16, 2007 where both undertook consultations and signed a declaration meant to deepen bilateral relations. For more information [click here](#).



Ap / Alexandre Meneghini)

### **UK Airport Terrorism Suspect Dies**

Spanish police have arrested two Syrian-born men in Madrid for collaboration with an Islamic terrorist group, including one who was acquitted two years ago at a major trial of al Qaeda suspects in Spain, the country's Interior Ministry said on July 24, 2007.

The man who is now in custody a second time was identified as Bassam Dalati Satut, 48. Satut was acquitted in 2005 of belonging to a terrorist group at a trial in which 18 of the 24 defendants were convicted of Islamic terrorist activities, court records show. For more information [click here](#).

## Terrorist Links in Latin-America

Experts of the UN raised awareness on the risks of terrorist groups creating links with drug trafficking organizations and gangs that operate in Latin-America at a joint UNODC/CICTE technical assistance mission in Panama City (23-26 July, 2007).

"We should not underestimate the fact that there are networks of criminal organizations in Latin America...[and they are] specially violent and well established", stated to AP Mr. Mauro Miedico, Coordinator of the Latin America and Caribbean team of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC. The region confronts these risks because "terrorist groups from other parts of the world can join or partner with these [criminally organized] groups due to the help that they can get from them", Mr. Miedico said. For more information [click here](#).

## Interpol Chief Calls U.K. Lax In Terror Fight

The head of the international police cooperation agency Interpol said on Monday, July 9, 2007, that British anti-terrorist efforts are "in the wrong century" and faulted officials here for failing to share information on terrorism suspects.

In an interview with the BBC, Interpol Secretary General Ronald K. Noble also said the United States, along with most countries, failed to use Interpol's database of 7 million stolen passports, even though there is a "clear link between stolen passports and al-Qaeda-linked terrorist activity."

Noble, who was traveling to Africa and could not be reached, said Britain is readying a system to access Interpol's stolen-passport database, the world's largest, "within months." Still, he faulted Britain for failure to share information and consult global databases useful in fighting terrorism. For more information [click here](#).

## Head of OAS Visits "Casa Rosada"

José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), agreed with the Minister of Home Affairs of Argentina, Aníbal Fernández, on the need to intensify international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism.

The meeting was held at the "Casa de Gobierno" on July 16. During the meeting, both Insulza and Fernández agreed that the OAS is the right organization to coordinate the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism.

For more information [click here](#).

## Boost for Port Security

Security at the Port of Bridgetown, Barbados, got a boost with the signing of a \$16,000 grant on July 18, 2007. The United States has donated anti-vehicular barriers that will prevent bombs from passing through. They will also act as a deterrent at the perimeter areas of the island's sea port.

United States Ambassador Mary Ourisman, Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Noel Lynch, and General Manager of the Barbados Port Inc., Everton Walters, signed on the dotted line during a brief ceremony at the Embassy's Wildey, St Michael offices. For more information [click here](#).

## New York, Washington Say Anti-terrorism Funding is Insufficient

New York, Washington and a handful of other urban areas are getting more than half of the Homeland Security Department's anti-terrorism grant money, but leaders say that's not enough. Under the formula used to distribute the grants, the six urban areas considered most at risk for attacks compete for 55 percent of the \$747 million in grant money. About 39 "second-tier" cities get the rest of it.

New York's \$134 million allocation is "wholly inconsistent with the threats," Sen. Hillary Clinton wrote in a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. Rep. Peter King, the ranking Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee, called the amount "indefensible."

For more information [click here](#).



## Alleged Terrorism Plots Increase Port Security in the Caribbean

An alleged terrorism plot with Caribbean roots raised concerns in the United States about the vulnerability of ports in the region, which are used to transport oil, natural gas and millions of US passengers on cruise ships each year.

A new report drafted by the investigative body of the US Congress describes the "increasing influence" of Islamist extremist groups, as well as the threat to the Caribbean maritime security. These concerns are added to the usual preoccupations on organized crime, illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

"The terrorism threat is low compared to what goes on daily" in the rest of the world, said Steven Caldwell on Thursday, July 12. Mr. Caldwell—who is the leading author of the GAO report—added that "however, the Islamist radical threat needs to draw a bit more of attention" in this area.

For more information [click here](#).



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