



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)
Organization of American States (OAS)

Seasons Greetings from the CICTE Secretariat Staff!

This combined November/December newsletter is the last in 2008. Our next newsletter will be issued in January 31, 2009. The staff of the CICTE Secretariat would like to wish everyone enjoyable holidays and a happy new year.



Inter-American Committee against
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COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

CICTE Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Cyber-security Awareness: Creation and Management of a National CSIRT



The CICTE Secretariat collaborated with CARICOM's Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to organize a "Sub-regional Workshop on Cyber Security Awareness: Creation and Management of a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)", held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, from December

1 to 5, 2008. The over-arching objective was to assist the Caribbean Member States to strengthen their national and regional cyber security capabilities – including through the formal establishment of and effective management of a national CSIRT – in accordance with the CARICOM regional cyber security strategy.

Approximately forty participants (40) represented thirteen (13) countries in the Caribbean region including: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Most participants are directly engaged in cyber security at the national level in their respective countries, working either in law enforcement, information technology, or both. In addition, there were several participants representing academia and the private sector.

Participants received technical instruction on a range of subjects, including: the need for a national cyber security strategy, the creation and management of a national CSIRT, regional coordination among national CSIRTs, the development of international cyber security standards, the need for cyber security legislation, and collaboration between national CSIRTs and law enforcement officials. Experts participated from the Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center (CERT-CC) of Carnegie Mellon University, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), TB Security of Spain, the OAS Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber Crime of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) and the Inter-American Telecommunications Committee (CITEL).

It is hoped that participants will utilize the knowledge and contacts acquired through this workshop to advance national cyber security capabilities in their respective countries, and increase coordination on cyber security within the Caribbean region.

For more information: Lilia Moraes, lmoraes@oas.org

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Editorial

Victims of Terrorism: A Moral and Political Duty

Unfortunately, Spain has been acquainted for decades with the ugly, cruel, and inhuman face of terrorism. My country has suffered and keeps suffering because of terrorism, but it has fought each day and keeps fighting against this curse. In this battle—which is not a war—the instruments and limits are set by the Rule of Law. Our action and response to terrorism is firmly anchored in the defense and promotion of human rights, of all the rights and “for all.”

These same principles of the defense of human rights are at the core of the commitment that Spain has taken to defend the victims of terrorism, whose individual rights have been diminished by the terrorists. That is how the former Secretary General of the United Nations saw it in his report of April 2006 “United against Terrorism”, when he stated that *“the most fundamental human rights are being denied to the victims of terrorist acts.”*

Within its foreign policy, Spain has promoted in international fora the need to draw attention and raise awareness over the issue of the victims of terrorism. We defend the centrality and priority in the counter terrorism agenda of the respect for human rights. This approach not only considers human rights as an unbreakable redline for public authorities, but it also places them as the basic mandate for the public State powers to act on behalf of citizens.

When it comes to assessing the impact on human rights of terrorist acts, we have to bear in mind moreover that, unlike other offenses committed with a purely criminal aim, terrorist acts have intentions and effects that go far beyond the direct victims. For terrorists use that individualized pain as a tool to attack the fundamental principles of our coexistence, of our societies and of society as a whole.

This projection of the damage caused by terrorism, which goes beyond the damage suffered by individuals from a terrorist act, is what arouses excessive media interest, which gives it in turn political attention, and which causes the approach to this problem from the perspective of human rights to take on its full meaning.

In this context, it is essential to recognize the role that civil society can play in the fight against terrorism. Neither terrorism nor in general any other type of criminal act is an unambiguous phenomenon which can be met by a simple response or whose solution can be entrusted only to the work of the state security forces, no matter how courageous and effective they may be. The magnitude of the threat and also the accumulation of conditions that contribute to the spread of terrorism and which can be manipulated by terrorists in order to recruit followers and sympathizers require the involvement of society.

When we mobilize and condemn any type of terrorism or a determinate attack, we are condemning all terrorists and thereby contributing to breaking the isolation of victims anywhere in the world and tearing down, through focus on the testimony of victims, the strategy of dehumanization that terrorists use to meet their objectives. In this way, solidarity with the victims of terrorism transcends borders. It was already like that with respect to the damage and pain caused by terrorism limited in scope of action; it is even more like that today when we confront a type of terrorism with global objectives and victims in all the continents.

Nevertheless, it is surprising to affirm that this natural solidarity movement with the victims of terrorism that has recurred upon each occasion of a new criminal act, such as September 11, the attacks in Madrid or in Beslan, rests on a fragile political and international consensus and has a limited normative, political, and even academic knowledge. In the essential areas of our response on behalf of the victims of terrorism, that is, human rights, the mobilization of civil society and the articulation of practical mechanisms of solidarity, the international community has taken a long time to take up the cause of the victims of terrorism.

The experience of my own country shows that even societies with a wide background in the fight against terrorism can react slowly when it comes to expressing and showing solidarity with the victims of terrorism, thereby contributing to their suffering and even weakening the capacity of society to resist blackmail by terrorists. It is this experience to which Spanish society and successive Spanish governments and autonomous communities have responded since then with generosity; it is this experience which motivates us to promote international debate on this topic with the goal of establishing practical mechanisms of international solidarity and promoting the exchange of best practices among countries.

Taking it as a moral and political duty, Spain has made attention and respect to the victims a diplomatic priority; particularly, within the framework of its efforts in the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations. Since the September 11 attacks, we have helped to gradually increase international sensitivity on the issue of victims of terrorism, which has been translated into the adoption of political and legal instruments of great significance.

We can cite Decision 618 of the OSCE, a pioneer in establishing a mandate to strengthen solidarity among its Member States with victims of terrorism. The approval in the Council of Europe in 2005 of the European Agreement on Prevention of Terrorism established for the first time legal obligations in favor of the victims of terrorism. In the same year, the basic Principles on protection of victims of terrorist acts offered valuable recommendations on the full range of human rights which should be accorded to victims of terrorism. For its part, the European Union, at the request of the European Parliament, finances training programs, creation of assistance networks and exchange of experiences in the legal, social, and psychological fields with the objective of assisting victims and their families to recover from their experiences and to increase the visibility of solidarity with them.

Within the United Nations framework major milestones in this process of consciousness raising of the international community were UN Security Council Resolution 1566 adopted after the Beslan attack which recommended that the creation of an international fund be considered in favor of the victims of terrorism, and especially the April 2006 Report of the former UN Secretary General—"United against Terrorism: Elements for a global strategy against terrorism." This Report recognized for the first time in a clear way and without beating around the bush that solidarity with the victims of terrorism is part of our response to terrorism from the defense of human rights and called for the active participation and leadership of civil society. It cannot be clearer than the words of Kofi Annan in the report:

"One of the most eloquent ways of expressing that terrorism is unacceptable is to direct our attention towards its victims and make sure that their voices are heard. Our goal must be to reduce the attractiveness of terrorism by restoring the inviolability of civilians and treating its victims with justice, dignity, and compassion."

Many of the ideas expressed for the first time by the former UN Secretary General in that Report and supported by Spain were incorporated in the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. Furthermore, it is important to stress the celebration in New York in September 2008 of a Symposium for the support of the victims of terrorism. The Symposium permitted the strengthening of the strategic commitment of all Member States to promote international solidarity in support of the victims and promote the involvement of civil society in a global campaign against terrorism so that it can be condemned.

Indeed, mobilization in favor of the victims represents a powerful incentive to generate the commitment of society against terrorism and to articulate a civic response, which therefore constitutes one of the strongest ways to delegitimize and isolate terrorism politically and morally. Solidarity and effective protection of the victims deprives terrorists of their principal instrument to reach their goals and arises as a powerful prevention measure.

That is why we need to bring back the voice that terrorists tried to take away from the victims. And it is in fact the silence of the victims which represents one of the easiest victories of terrorists—to turn victims into cold statistics. Forgetting about the victims allies us with the objectives of terrorists because it helps to center attention in their alleged political objectives, that is in the message they want to transmit, deflecting it from what the focus should be—that they are criminals responsible for diminishing rights. Reinstating the voice of victims, we deprive terrorists of their victory and can contribute to delegitimizing the ideology of terrorists, even where their message may have been heard.

For all of these, from Spain, we encourage CICTE to make protection and attention to the victims of terrorism a priority action because it is our moral and political duty to do so.

Javier Sancho
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OAS

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

CICTE Workshop on Hemispheric CSIRT Network

In February 2008 a pilot project was initiated with the participation of five countries – Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Suriname, and Uruguay – with the intention of creating an OAS-hosted Secure Hemispheric Network of National Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs). In accordance with the OAS Comprehensive Inter-American Strategy to Combat Threats to Cyber Security, the intention of the pilot project Network was to provide a forum and a mechanism for communication and the exchange of information between national CSIRTs. The Network was created for the CICTE Secretariat and administered by the OAS Department of Information Technology Services (DOITS), utilizing Groove software to allow for secure communications among geographically-dispersed teams.



From November 21-22, 2008 the CICTE Secretariat hosted at OAS Headquarters in Washington DC a workshop aimed at making permanent the OAS-hosted Secure Hemispheric Network of National CSIRTs, and expanding its membership beyond the original five initial countries. Twenty-four (24) participants – most technical experts working in cyber security at the national level in their respective countries – attended the workshop, representing: Argentina, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Suriname, the United States and Uruguay. In addition, the Government of Spain was represented by an observer.

The workshop included exercises in advanced uses of the Network, a discussion of current challenges facing national CSIRTs in the Americas and efforts to address these, and a roundtable discussion to identify how best to develop the Network going forward. Attendees agreed that the Network constitutes a valuable tool for promoting increased information-sharing and collaboration among national CSIRTs and those working at the national level to respond to cyber security incidents.

Participants agreed to join and promote the Network. In addition, they drafted the “Washington Note,” which highlights the importance of the Network for the exchange of information among national CSIRTs, and commits signatories to utilize this tool to increase communication and collaboration on cyber security in the Americas. The “Washington Note” emphasizes that it falls to each participating national CSIRT or other designee to decide what information will be shared through the Network, considering its own legislative, political, or technical realities or constraints.

The CICTE Secretariat will invite all Member States to designate, through their country’s National Point of Contact to CICTE, up to three users to join the Network.

For more information: Lilia Moraes, lmoraes@oas.org

CICTE Secretariat Presentation to Council of Europe CODEXTER Meeting

A representative of the CICTE Secretariat made a presentation to the 15th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg, France from November 24 to 26, 2008, on its work under the Cybersecurity Program. Following CICTE’s presentation and a discussion on the outcomes of the ASEAN Regional Forum Conference on Terrorism and the Internet, the CODEXTER agreed to maintain cyber security and the use of internet for terrorist purposes as an item on the agenda of its next meeting.

Other issues discussed during the meeting included: current trends and perspectives of recruitment of terrorists in Europe, false identity information as a challenge to immigration authorities, protection and compensation of victims of terrorism, recent developments in the Member States regarding the drafting and adoption of legislation to combat terrorism, and the presentation of new country Profiles on counter-terrorism capacity.

Representatives of international fora were asked to highlight noteworthy developments since the last meeting of CODEXTER. An update was provided by the CICTE Secretariat, as well as the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union.

Training Courses in Baggage and Cargo Control and Scanning by Spanish Instructors in Uruguay

The CICTE Secretariat organized, in conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior of Spain, the Permanent Mission of Spain to the OAS, the OAS Office in Uruguay, and the National Directorate for Civil Aviation and Aeronautical Infrastructure of Uruguay (DINACIA), two courses on Baggage and Cargo Control and Scanning: one for operational personnel from November 24-28, 2008, and the other for supervisors from December 1-5, 2008. Both courses took place in DINACIA headquarters, with the objective of training personnel who will be responsible for these tasks in the new international air terminal of the Carrasco International Airport in Montevideo, Uruguay, which is in the final stages of construction. The training was financed by the generous contribution of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and provided by Spanish experts from the Department of Airport Security of the National Civil Guard (Guardia Civil), in the Spanish Ministry of Interior. The courses included: AVSEC regulations for storage of luggage, cargo, and mail; evolution in the technical means of baggage inspection; explosive substances; automatic luggage handling systems; scanners, technical methods applied to baggage inspection; and interpretation of images.

For more information: Ms. Hayda Wallen-Jaganath HWallen@oas.org

CICTE Aviation Security Crisis Management Training in Belize

During November 17 -21, Crisis Management Training was delivered at the Belize City International Airport to persons responsible for response to an emergency. The Crisis Management Workshop was formally opened by Mr. Michael Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation; Ms. Kim Osborne, OAS Representative in Belize and Ms. Hayda Wallen, Program Manager (Aviation & Tourism Security), Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, OAS. Mr. Gilberto Torres, Operations Officer in the Department of Civil Aviation, coordinated this program on behalf of the government of Belize.



The United States Transportation Services Administration (TSA) provided the training on behalf of OAS/CICTE. Nineteen Belize nationals participated in this week-long training, representing a wide range of government and private organizations, including the Airport Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belize Defense Force, air carriers, police, and hospital service, to name a few.

For more information: Ms. Hayda Wallen-Jaganath HWallen@oas.org

Specialized Training on counter-Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering in Brasilia

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat (CICTE/SMS/OAS), in collaboration with the Secretariat of Justice of the Federal Republic of Brazil, organized a "Specialized Training in the Prevention and Fight Against Money Laundering, Organized Crime and Terrorism Financing", which took place in the city of Brasilia, Brazil on December 8-11, 2008.

The specialized training was focused on the universal legal framework related to the prevention and fight against terrorism and its financing, as well as on the international legal instruments against money laundering and international cooperation issues related to these topics. The participants of the training dealt with the different topics in the agenda under the guidance of experts from Europe—such as the Chief Prosecutor of the National Court of Spain—and Latin America, as well as from the organizing entities. The Secretary of Justice of Brazil and the Chair of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) opened the workshop, and the Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the OAS closed it.

For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

Legislative Technical Assistance Mission to Guatemala



A joint mission of specialized personnel of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat, under the auspices of the Government of Guatemala, visited Guatemala City in order to conduct a training and technical assistance activity in legislative matters. Under the auspices of the Attorney General and head of the Public Ministry of Guatemala, Mr. Jose Amilcar Velázquez Zárate, the two international organizations conducted the training November 24-27, 2008: "Workshop on Counter Terrorism Prevention and its Financing: the Legal Framework and Instruments of International Cooperation." The President of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, and the Minister of Government of Guatemala attended the inaugural ceremony.

The training was provided for a group of 30 people, primarily prosecutors and assistant prosecutors of the Public Ministry. Officials from the General Directorate of Port and Aviation Security of the National Police and the General Directorate of Immigration in Guatemala also participated. The agenda of the workshop included the following items: the international legal framework; human rights; specialized techniques of investigation; international cooperation; case studies and national experiences of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, United States, Guatemala, Italy, México, and Peru. Instructors included: specialists from the CICTE Secretariat and UNODC and international and national experts, including the Attorney General of Costa Rica, Dr. Franciso Dall Anesse and the Anti Mafia Attorney General of Italy, Dr. Pietro Grasso.

With respect to legal technical assistance, the specialists from the CICTE Secretariat and UNODC, who have been supporting the drafting of the proposed specialized legislation against terrorism for the last four years at the request of the Guatemalan authorities, met November 28 with the members of the Inter-institutional Committee of the Government of Guatemala which is coordinated by the Ministry of External Relations to review drafting progress. The members of the Committee advised that they will present the final draft for consideration by the Executive Security Council in order to determine how and when to present it to the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala. The members also invited the CICTE Secretariat and UNODC to participate as technical advisors in a meeting with the members of the Commission on Defense and Security of the Political Party Forum of Guatemala in March 2009.

For more information: Alejandro Díaz de León, adiazdeleon@oas.org

Sub-Regional Workshop on Best Practices on Travel Document Security for the Andean Region

A second sub-regional workshop on Best Practices in Travel Document Security was held in Bogota, Colombia, for the Andean region from November 10-13, 2008. Thirty-one (31) representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela participated. The workshop was organized by the CICTE Secretariat and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in collaboration with the Executive Directorate of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee (UN CTED) and in coordination with the Colombian Ministry of External Relations.



The principal objectives of the three-day session were to: strengthen the capacity of passport-issuing personnel, law enforcement, customs, and immigration agents to improve the security of identity and travel documents and to increase their capacity to prevent and detect their alteration or fraudulent use. Experts from North and South America and Europe, as well as from ICAO, INTERPOL, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Europe addressed four main topics: ICAO's international standards and requirements for travel documents; the integrity of "breeder" documents and civil registries; handling and issuance procedures; and international cooperation and case studies. A key outcome of the workshop was the promotion of greater international contacts and cooperation through the exchange of information and experiences during the workshop.

A third sub-regional workshop will be organized for the Caribbean region in Jamaica, and will take place early next year.

For more information, Francine Hanna (FHanna@oas.org)

CICTE Secretariat Mission to Cancun, Mexico, on a tourism security project



From November 12-16 a mission led by the CICTE Secretariat visited tourist and port facilities in Cancun, Isla Mujeres, Cozumel, Playa del Carmen, y Puerto Juarez, as well as the international airports of Cancun and Cozumel, in the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico, in order to research security conditions and present the Tourism Security Project to noted federal, state, and municipal authorities in this Mexican Caribbean zone. The Project is based on the creation of a public and private sector partnership with the principal objective of giving training to personnel in tourist and recreational facilities to prevent a possible terrorist or criminal attack of great impact.

The Project is being developed in two Mexican cities: Acapulco (in the Pacific, with primarily national tourism) and Cancun (in the Caribbean, with primarily foreign tourism). In both cities, the CICTE Secretariat will conduct in March 2009, in collaboration with representatives of the UN

Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), workshops with the public and private sectors in order to jointly finalize the content of training to be given to security personnel in 2009 and 2010. Cancun's recently created tourism police has requested CICTE training.

According to statistics collected by the CICTE Mission, tourism represents the greatest income-generating source for the economy of the State of Quintana Roo. Receiving 7.5 million tourists a year—an increase of 4.8% from 2007—the Cancun airport has the highest number of international arrivals in Latin America. The Riviera Maya has 35,000 hotel rooms. Cozumel receives up to 12 cruise ships in a single day (approximately 30,000 visitors) and more than 2.5 million tourists a year.

For more information: Alejandro Díaz de León, adiazdeleon@oas.org

United Nations Seminar for MERCOSUR Countries on UN Security Council Resolution 1540(2004)



From November 24-28, 2008, the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) held a seminar on implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution UNSCR 1540(2004) for MERCOSUR countries in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The seminar was hosted by the government of Brazil and jointly sponsored by the European Union and the Governments of Norway and the United States of America. Delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela made

presentations on the various capacity building and other implementation initiatives in compliance with this resolution in the region. Representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition for Chemical Weapons (OPCW) the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) International Police (INTERPOL), the Argentine-Brazil Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) the Taliban Sanctions Committee, UNSCR 1540(2004) Committee of experts and the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Government of the United States, informed the participants of the various forms of assistance available from these international, regional and sub-regional organizations and donor countries in support of implementation of this resolution. The seminar was chaired by Costa Rica, the current Chair of the Committee established pursuant to UNSCR 1540(2004).

Ambassador Alexandre Addor-Neto, Head of the OAS Secretariat of Multidimensional Security (SMS), addressed the participants on the role of SMS. Sheridan Hill, Program Manager in the CICTE Secretariat, made a presentation on the role of the OAS (including the CICTE Secretariat), in supporting Member States in implementing this UN Security Council Resolution. For further information contact Sheridan Hill at shill@oas.org

BASC – Ecuador (Pichincha) “II International Seminar on Security of the Logistical Chain”

On November 13-14, 2008, the Ecuador-Pichincha Chapter of the Business Alliance for Secure Commerce (BASC) organized in Quito, Ecuador, the “II International Seminar on the Security of the Logistical Chain” in order to discuss different experiences about what has not been said concerning the integrity of the supply chain. Topics covered included: the daily challenges that confront the Ecuadorian and global trade; the movement of cargo; the increase of costs and inspections; and the illegal use of cargo by drug traffickers and terrorists. The seminar also provided training for those who are immersed in activities of export/import, transportation, and packing. In conjunction with other international speakers, the CICTE Secretariat was invited to participate in the Seminar to make a presentation on the impact of terrorism on commerce and to explain the CICTE border controls programs.

For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

INTERPOL Awareness Seminar

In 2004 INTERPOL created a liaison office at the United Nations in New York City to promote coordination between the international police organization, which is not a UN agency or organization, and UN counterparts. Harper Boucher, a former senior official of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) became the second Special Representative of INTERPOL to the UN in June 2008. On December 2-3, 2008, his office organized a two-day awareness seminar with UN counterparts aimed at increasing awareness of each other’s goals and programs and streamlining cooperation in the future by engaging in an open-forum dialogue concerning the core functions and activities of INTERPOL and UN partners. The CICTE Secretary participated in representation of OAS/CICTE to brief on CICTE training programs and policies and emphasized the role of regional organizations in providing a policy and training platform for international organizations. INTERPOL representatives participate actively in several of the CICTE Secretariat training programs, especially Document Security and Fraud Prevention and Legislative training and prosecutions.



OSCE Workshop on Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism



On 24 October 2008, OSCE’s Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) organized in Vienna, Austria, a workshop on *Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism*, which was initiated and funded by the United Kingdom. A total of over 120 participants from 42 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, 10 international organizations, and five civil society entities participated in the event. They exchanged ideas and discussed best practices on how to address the aforementioned phenomena in both a national and international context. There was general agreement that violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism pose a serious threat to the

OSCE participating States. Participants established that counter measures had to include bottom-up approaches empowering local communities and voices to challenge violent narratives, and needed to take due care of dissociating terrorism from any particular religion. They concluded that in the long term, approaches cannot be successful without addressing grievances, especially with regard to youths.

Participants identified a number of possible follow-up activities such as the organization of sub-regional and national workshops to raise local awareness of the phenomena, with the aim of identifying priority areas for public-private partnerships. It was further suggested to arrange expert roundtables dealing with specific target groups such as youths, women or prison populations. Moreover, participants also recommended providing radicalization awareness training for counter-terrorism practitioners and government officials as well as relevant civil society stakeholders.

For more information: Sayed.Aly@osce.org or Laszlo.Szucs@osce.org

OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting Discusses Cyber Crime

On 30-31 October 2008, the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) of OSCE organized the *Annual Police Experts Meeting* in Vienna, focusing on fighting the threat of cyber-crime. The 76 participants from 27 countries were informed about several high quality cyber-crime training courses that are available to their law enforcement agencies at no cost. There were also presentations about the latest methods and technology, investigators can use in combating cyber-crime. International experts from Austria, Ireland, Turkey, Russia and the United States of America presented on recent cases they successfully investigated as an example of good investigative practice. A special session was devoted to examining how law enforcement co-operation with the private sector in combating cyber-crime can be improved.

For more information:

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



1. Spanish Chairmanship in the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers

On 27 November 2008, the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was transferred from Sweden to Spain. The fight against terrorism has been declared one of the priorities of the new Chairmanship and during its term, the Spanish Chairmanship intends to organise, in spring, the first meeting of the States Party to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. This meeting is planned to be preceded by a seminar on "Human Rights and Terrorism".

2. Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)

The Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) held its 15th meeting in Strasbourg, from 24 to 26 November 2008. In this meeting the CODEXTER authorised the publication of the country Profiles on counter-terrorism capacity of Italy, Malta, Norway and Canada, as well as the updates submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Romania and Sweden. The reports are available on the Council of Europe's website at <http://www.coe.int/gmt>

The CODEXTER also continued its activities on the following issues: recruitment for terrorism, false identity information as a challenge to immigration authorities, the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, "*apologie du terrorisme*" and "incitement to terrorism", protection and compensation of victims of terrorism.

Following the invitation of Spanish authorities, the CODEXTER agreed to hold its 16th meeting in Spain within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. The meeting will be held from 15-16 April 2008.

3. Other relevant Council of Europe developments

Mass media

On 17-18 November, the Council of Europe, together with the Institute for Information Law of the University of Amsterdam and with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, organized a European conference on "anti-terrorism legislation in Europe since 2001 and its impact on freedom of expression and information". The aim of the conference was to exchange experiences on the impact of anti-terrorism legislation and its implementation on freedom of expression and information in Europe. Specific attention was paid to legislation and practice on glorification of terrorism, surveillance, state secrets/access to information and protection of sources. Further information is available on http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/ConfAntiTerrorism/Default_en.asp



MONEYVAL

The Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) published the mutual evaluation report on "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", as adopted at MONEYVAL's 27th plenary meeting (7-11 July 2008).

MONEYVAL also published a typologies report on money laundering and counterfeiting.

Further information on MONEYVAL's activities and reports is available at MONEYVAL's web-page: <http://www.coe.int/moneyval>

4. Developments concerning Council of Europe Conventions

Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185)

On 17 November 2008 Liechtenstein signed both the Convention on Cybercrime (CETS No. 185) and its Additional Protocol, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems (CETS No. 189). The Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185) has been now signed by 42 member states, as well as Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States of America. 22 member states and the United States of America have ratified the Convention.

The Council of Europe's conventions can be consulted at <http://conventions.coe.int>.

5. Upcoming events

At its 28th Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 8-12 December 2008), MONEYVAL will examine for adoption the draft mutual evaluation reports on Estonia and Azerbaijan and the progress reports submitted by Andorra, Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Malta, Moldova and Slovenia

The Council of Europe will organize jointly with UNODC and OSCE a Workshop for judges and prosecutors on international legal co-operation related to terrorism, including the drafting of requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance (Bosnia and Herzegovina, January 2009)

For further information on the Council of Europe action against terrorism, please visit www.coe.int/gmt



December Revisions to Consolidated List of the United Nations Security Council Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee

An updated December 2008 version of the Consolidated List is accessible in XML, PDF and HTML formats on the Committee's website at the following URL:
<http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/consolist.shtml>

RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

November	10, 2008	First Preparatory Session for IX Annual Meeting of CICTE, organized by CICTE	OAS Headquarters, Washington DC
	10-12, 2008	Sub-regional Workshop for Andean countries on Best Practices on Travel Document Security, organized by CICTE and ICAO, in collaboration with UN CTED	Bogotá, Colombia
	13-14, 2008	BASC workshop on safe commerce, organized by BASC	Quito, Ecuador
	17-21, 2008	Aviation Security Crisis Management Training, organized by CICTE	Belize City, Belize
	19-21, 2008	Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation, organized by Government of Panama	Panama City, Panama
	20-21, 2008	Workshop on Establishment and Utilization of the Secure CSIRT Network of the Americas, organized by CICTE and OAS/DOITS	Washington D.C, U.S.
	24-28, 2008	MERCOSUR Workshop on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs	Sao Paulo, Brazil
	24-26, 2008	XV Meeting of Group of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), Council of Europe	Strasbourg, France
	24-27, 2008	Specialized Training for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, organized by UNODC and CICTE	Guatemala City, Guatemala
December	1-5, 2008	Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Cyber Security Awareness and the Creation and Management of a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), organized by CICTE and IMPACS	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
	8, 2008	Second Preparatory Session for IX Annual Meeting of CICTE, organized by CICTE	OAS Headquarters, Washington DC
	8-12, 2008	Aviation Security Crisis Management Training, organized by CICTE	Roseau, Dominica
	8-12, 2008	Specialized Workshop on Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing for Brazil, organized by UNODC and CICTE	Brasilia, Brazil

UPCOMING EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
January	6-14,2009	Basic Aviation Security Training Course for Trinidad & Tobago, organized by CICTE	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
February	16-20,2009	Sub-regional Course for Central America on Advanced CSIRT Management: Incident Response and Handling	San Jose, Costa Rica
	3-6,2009	Sub-regional Workshop on Terrorism Financing	Costa Rica
	TBD	Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Best Practices in Port Security and Implementation of the ISPS Code	Bahamas

*NOTE: Only events that have formally accepted by host countries appear on this list.

NEWS

For Mumbai's Children, No Illusion of Safety: Psychologists cite trauma, insecurity in wake of attacks

A Washington Post report states that for millions of Indian children, the terrorist attacks on Mumbai November 26 presented scenes of violence they had never encountered before and have left psychological scars. The 60-hour siege, in which at least 171 people were killed by heavily armed assailants, brought bloodshed to areas of Mumbai thought to be somewhat invulnerable—luxury hotels, hospitals, a heavily guarded train station—sending a message to children that nowhere is it safe. Psychologists believe that images of the Mumbai siege will be imprinted on the memory of a generation-- in the same way as the images of the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States—and will shape their attitudes for years. “Terrorism has become a major mental problem, especially for young minds.”



Bin Laden aide convicted at second Gitmo trial

A propagandist for Osama bin Laden vowed to "fight any government" of the United States after he was convicted November 3 at a Guantanamo Bay trial of war crimes that could put him in prison for life. Ali Hamza al-Bahlul was found guilty of 35 counts of conspiracy, solicitation to commit murder and providing material support to terrorism. Al-Bahlul was convicted of 17 counts of conspiracy, eight counts of solicitation to commit murder and 10 counts of providing material support for terrorism. Each count could bring life in prison. The jury dismissed one count of conspiracy and one count of providing material support for terrorism. Al-Bahlul, who was brought to Guantanamo in 2002, is the second prisoner to go through a war crimes trial under the special military commissions system. Former bin Laden driver, Salim Hamdan, was convicted in August and sentenced to 5½ years in prison. Prosecutors say al-Bahlul acknowledged to interrogators that he was al Qaeda's media chief and made propaganda videos for bin Laden, but doesn't consider his actions criminal.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/americas/11/03/gitmo.military.trial.ap/index.html>

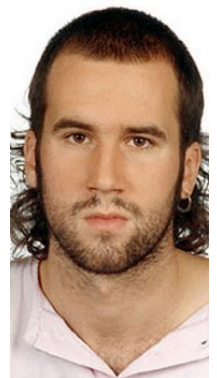


Fiscalia judges proved relation that exists between ETA and

The prosecutor of Spain, Vicente González Mota, believes that the two organizations have had contact since 2003 for which there have been five complaints presented against five suspected activists of the Basque organization for training members of the Colombian guerrillas. The courses consisted in the manipulation of the military explosive c-4 and the use of mobile phones to exploit the charge. They will also be judged for committing to help the FARC assassinate Colombian leaders who were residing in Spain in 2003. For more information: <http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/justicia/juzgar-relacion-entre-eta-y-las-farc-pide-fiscalia-espanola-al-considerarla-totalmente-probada-4666201-1>

“Txeroki” the head of ETA, detained in France

Mikel Garikoitz Aspiazu, alias “Txeroki”, the head of the military apparatus ETA was detained on November 17th by the French Judicial Police in Cauterets, along with a woman. In his residence the French Security Forces found arms, two laptops, USB memories, and manuals on how to steal cars and others on how to prepare explosives. They also found many fake Spanish, French, and English documents, a wig and 3000 Euros in cash, said the Minister of the Interior, Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba. Aitzol Iriondo could be the new person in charge of the military organization ETA. The Minister of the Interior of France, Michèle Alliot-Marie, revealed that after a certain number of operations in France, “Txeroki” will be handed over to Spain Justice. Through complex computer programs, two email addresses used by Txeroki were detected. The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) provided the information about the suspect to the Spanish secret service, the National Center of Intelligence (CNI) which could analyze the information better.



<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2008/11/17/espana/1226904044.html>

<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2008/11/18/espana/1226979759.html>

Grenadians tricked into funding terrorism?

Financial Intelligent Officers in Grenada say they are concerned that citizens may be unknowingly financing terrorism groups and their illegal activities through financial scams. Officer-in-charge of the Financial Intelligent Unit, Police Officer Tafawa Pierre, said his Unit has gathered information to reveal that more and more Grenadians are falling victims to financial internet scams without realizing that the system they are funding might be linked to terrorism. "Terrorists are known for organizing and getting involved in such activities and we are concerned that those persons are innocently funding them," said Pierre, who explained that investigations have revealed that one person has lost EC\$1.2 million (US\$...) over a four-year period. "It's a serious problem affecting the financial sector and we at the Unit have estimated that more than five million dollars have gone out of the country. That's people hard earned cash going and nothing is coming back to the country," he added. Mr. Pierre says that in order to combat the problem and to heighten persons awareness about these scams, the Unit will embark on a series of educational programs, and in the future persons who are involved in facilitating the process will be charged with committing a criminal offense. "Our laws clearly speak and make provision for those kinds of financial criminal offenses, so we are first going to educate the public about the law and then any person who facilitates these fraudsters will be charged for facilitating involvement in fraudulent activities," he said.



For more information: http://www.caribbeanworldnews.com/middle_top_news_detail.php?mid=1738

Transnational Organized Crime, Narcoterrorism, and Public Security



2008 has proven to be one of the most violent years witnessed by Latin America in decades. Nowhere has this painful situation been more obvious than in Mexico where

drug cartels and the forces of the state are at war. The confrontations in 2008 have left 4,300 people dead using methods like torture, execution, beheading, and dismemberment as a response to the police and military presence. Drug cartels have been able to fight the forces of the state by taking advantage of the easy access they have to gun shops in southern U.S. states. The increase in consumption of narcotics in Mexico has worsened the situation, and it is seen as a major cause of violence in the country. Drug trafficking has also been a bridge between rebels and cartels. Sergio Jaramillo, Colombia's defense minister, has claimed that the Sinaloa Cartel has been negotiating with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in order to establish a direct Pacific trade route to transit cocaine shipments without having to turn to intermediaries. He also claimed that right wing paramilitary groups and well-established Colombian traffickers were involved in similar business arrangements with other Mexican cartels. Latin American leaders recognize the need of cooperation to fight the increasing security problems in the region caused by the Colombian and Mexican cartels and the Central American countries that serve as a route for drugs into the United States and the world. On October 7th, 2008, security ministers from all 34 countries in the Organization of American States (OAS) met in Mexico to discuss the security issues that have risen due to the international drug trade, in what was touted as the "First Inter-American Meeting of Public Security. Although Mexico has joined the Merida Initiative, whose aim is to fight drug trafficking and transnational crime in the hemisphere, it is known that a new direction and attitude must be found because the policies during the last thirty years have not worked, as it was expressed by Secretary General of the OAS. For more information:

<http://www.coha.org/2008/11/latin-america%E2%80%99s-response-to-narco-fueled-transnational-crime/>

Five Convicted in Terrorism Financing Trial

Five leaders of a Muslim charity have been convicted on November the 24th for the largest terrorism-financing case in the United States since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The five defendants, all leaders of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, based in Richardson, a Dallas suburb, were convicted on all 108 criminal counts against them, including support of terrorism, money laundering and tax fraud. The group was accused of funneling millions of dollars to the Palestinian militant group Hamas, an Islamist organization the government declared to be a terrorist group in 1995. The defendants could be sentenced to 15 years on each count of supporting a terrorist group, and 20 years on each count of money laundering. Leaders of the foundation might also have to forfeit millions of dollars. Mr. Meek, spokesman for a coalition of Holy Land Foundation supporters, said: "We intend to appeal the verdict, and we remain convinced that we will win."

For more information: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/25/us/25charity.html?_r=1&em

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC05.php?CID=2969>

Britain initiates identity card scheme for foreign nationals



The Associated Press reported on 25 November 2008 that Britain has begun a national identity card plan for some foreign nationals in an attempt to combat terrorism and identity fraud. The cards are expected to store biometric data and information about the cardholder's nationality and work eligibility. The first group to receive the new cards will be foreign students and permanent residents' spouses who apply for visa renewals. Officials expect more than 50,000 cards to be issued in the next four months and that the program will be expanded in coming years.

For more information: <http://home.knology.net/news/read.php?id=16752531&ps=1013&cat=&cps=0&lang=en>

Colombia dismantles the biggest FARC explosive's manufacturer

The Colombian police discovered and destroyed the biggest explosive's manufacturer of the leftist guerrilla in the country that had capacity to produce 20 tons of material to make bombs. During the operation on the 25th of November, 4 tons of explosives, two laptops, and 16 USB memories were confiscated. They seized notebooks and documents which revealed terrorist plans, potential victims of kidnapping and extortion and distribution of financial resources. The rebel group, which has suffered a reduction in its combatants from 17,000 to 9,000 thanks to the military offensive and desertions, maintains its presence in strategic regions for the production and trafficking of cocaine, an activity from which it obtains millions in income to finance its armed fight.

For more information: <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2008/11/25/internacional/1227653074.html>

Biological terror attack likely by 2013

A blue-ribbon Commission presented a report to the U.S. Congress in which it concluded that terrorist are likely to use biological weapons in the next five years, and the results could be devastating. Congress created the commission to investigate and report on WMD and terrorism in line with a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission, which compiled a report on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. Commissioners heard testimony from more than 250 experts from around the world over the course of their six-month investigation. Commission Chair, former Senator Bob Graham, said that the attack could kill 10 or a hundred times the number of people who died on September 11. He also said that leaders might have to give priority to this matter so that the attacks can be avoided. The Commission report recommends a range of measures, including increased security and awareness at biological research labs and strengthening international treaties against the spread of biological and nuclear weapons. Many biological pathogens and nuclear materials around the world are poorly secured and thus vulnerable to theft by those who would put these materials to harmful use, or would sell them on the black market to potential terrorists. It also expressed particular concern about the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea, and about Pakistan, which it described as "the intersection of nuclear weapons and terrorism". For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/12/02/terror.report/index.html>



Behavioral screening -- the future of airport security?

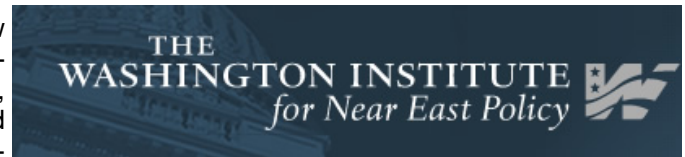


Security experts say focus is shifting from analyzing the content of carry-ons to analyzing the content of passengers' intentions and emotions. Several Israeli-based technology companies are developing detection systems that pick up signs of emotional strain, a psychological red flag that a passenger may intend to commit an act of terror. Speedier and less intrusive than metal detectors, these systems may eventually restore some efficiency to the airplane boarding process. For example, passengers could use an automated check-in system or gaze at a screen with departures information without realizing they've just been exposed to the words "Islamic jihad" written in Arabic. Givon, CEO of WeCU, a technology company, will introduce different ways of identifying terrorist threats such as hidden biometric sensors, "smart carpets", screens and more. Nemesysco, another Israeli-based technology company, believes the key to a person's emotions and intentions lies in their voice, and it is also developing ways of identifying how people say what they want to express.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/12/02/airport.security/?iref=mpstoryview>

Finding, Following, and Freezing Terrorist Finances

In the Washington Institute Policy Focus, senior fellows Matthew Levitt and Michael Jacobson -- both former officials in the Treasury Department's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, now with the Institute's Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence -- explore the critical role that money plays in the success of terrorist organizations, and why countering financial flows must be an integral part of the U.S. government's counterterrorism strategy. Levitt and Jacobson analyze how terrorist financing has matured since 2001, with case studies on al-Qaeda, Hamas, and Hizballah. They also assess the effectiveness of U.S. and international responses to this evolving threat, focusing on the performance of governments throughout the Middle East. The authors, both veteran policy practitioners, offer timely recommendations to the new Obama administration on how to strengthen international efforts in the war on terror.



For more information: <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC05.php?CID=2966>



New Delhi airport gets security scare

After the terrorist attacks of last week in Mumbai, when 179 people were killed, the Indian police has intensified security at the nation's airports on December 4th after receiving intelligence reports that terrorists might be planning an air attack. The Press Trust of India, a nonprofit newspaper cooperative, said that reports had suggested that terrorists could have sneaked into the country to carry out strikes on the anniversary of the Babri mosque demolition. The mosque -- one of the largest in the Uttar Pradesh state -- was

destroyed on December 6, 1992, by Hindu nationalists who believe it was built on the site of an existing temple. The officials also discussed the country's coastal security plans and how to tighten security along the military line of control dividing the disputed region of Kashmir between India and Pakistan to "prevent infiltration of terrorists," the statement said.

For more information: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/12/04/india.threat/index.html>

Marine Piracy and the Potential for Terrorism

The International Maritime Bureau, a specialized department of the International Chamber of Commerce, estimates that 100 pirate attacks have occurred this year alone in the waters off Somalia's coast. Sirius Star, an enormous tanker transporting two million barrels of crude oil to the United States and manned by a crew of 25, was captured by pirates far out to sea off the African coast on November 15. Just two weeks later, on November 30, pirates tried to attack a U.S. cruise ship, the MS Nautica, with over 1,000 people on board, but the Nautica was able to outrun the pirates. Experts are concerned that the spate of piracy attacks off the Somali coast represents a new era in marine terrorism. The ease with which Somali pirates have captured a huge range of vessels illustrates the increased risk of terrorism global shipping is at in



comparison to the airline industry, which has considerably improved security since September 2001. Committed to the fight against terrorism in all of its manifestations, the United Nations adopted resolution 1846 (2008), on December 2. In paragraph 15, the resolution gives the SUA (Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation), which is one of the 16 UN legal instruments against terrorism, the responsibility to fight acts of piracy. Through this resolution, the United Nations encourages the "States party to the SUA Convention to fully implement their obligations under said Convention and cooperate with the Secretary-General and the IMO to build judicial capacity for the successful prosecution of persons suspected of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia".

For more information:

http://gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=256364&version=1&template_id=46&parent_id=26

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE4AO0WW20081125?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/07/AR2008120700852.html?hpid%3Dmoreheadlines&sub=AR>

<http://news.theage.com.au/world/sirius-star-likely-to-pay-pirates-ransom-20081127-6j7s.html>

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,460667,00.html>

Somali piracy raises the specter of maritime terrorism

In an article for Agence France Presse on 23 November 2008, Herve Asquin outlines the concerns of experts that the spate of piracy attacks off the Somali coast, such as the hijacking of the Sirius Star supertanker raises the spectre of maritime terrorism. He quotes Laurent Galy, a professor at the School of Merchant Shipping in Nantes, who said that the Sirius Star incident shows others the relative ease to carry out similar operations. Ships sailing around the world, Mr. Galy stressed, have five gateways they almost certainly have to pass through namely Gibraltar, Suez, Panama, the Malacca Straits and the Strait of Hormuz. Attacking one of these gateways would seriously disturb the maritime industry which is responsible for delivering 80 percent of the world's goods. Mr. Asquin also points to a recent report by the Rand Corporation think tank on "The Maritime Dimension of International Security, Terrorism, Piracy and Challenges for the United States" which warns that there have been persistent reports of political extremists boarding vessels in South-East Asia in an apparent effort to learn how to pilot them for a "rerun of September 11 at sea".

http://gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=256364&version=1&template_id=46&parent_id=26

In a related article, Andrew Marshall writing for Reuters News on 25 November 2008, questions "**Why hijack a plane when you can seize a supertanker?**" He writes that security analysts say that the ease with which Somali pirates have captured a huge range of vessels illustrates how much more at risk global shipping is to terrorist attack than the airline industry, which considerably improved security after September 2001. He quotes Peter Chalk, a terrorism-risk analyst at the Rand Corporation think tank who said that many of the vulnerabilities that have encouraged a higher rate of pirate attacks also apply to terrorism, including inadequate coastal surveillance, lax port security, a profusion of targets, the overwhelming dependence of maritime trade on passage through congested chokepoints and an increased tendency to staff vessels with skeleton crews. Mr. Chalk stressed that these gaps and weaknesses provide extremists with an opportunity to move, hide and strike in a manner that is not possible in a terrestrial theatre. The full article can be accessed on...

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE4A00WW20081125?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

Somali pirates fail to seize ship off Tanzania

Somali pirates armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons attacked a Dutch-operated container ship off the coast of Tanzania but failed to hijack the vessel, a maritime official said December 7. The attack Saturday shows the pirates are becoming bolder and extending their reach further from their base in Somalia, said Noel Choong, who heads the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur.

Some 100 ships have been attacked off the Somali coast this year, of which 40 vessels have been hijacked. Thirteen ships remain in the hands of pirates, including a Saudi supertanker filled with \$100 million of crude and a Ukrainian ship loaded with 33 battle tanks. For more information:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/07/AR2008120700852.html?hpid%3Dmoreheadlines&sub=AR>

Cybercrime is Winning the Battle Over Cyberlaw

In a December 9 article in the Washington Post, Brian Krebs highlights the conclusion of a scathing new report from security vendor McAfee that law enforcement agencies worldwide are losing the battle against cyber crime at a time when criminals are increasingly using the global economic downturn to make headway in recruiting more computers and computer users to further illegal online activities. McAfee's annual "Virtual Criminology Report" (PDF) notes that the number of compromised PCs used for blasting out spam and facilitating a host of online scams has quadrupled in the last quarter of 2008 alone, creating armies of spam "zombies" capable of flooding the Internet with more than 100 billion spam messages daily. At the forefront of this worsening problem are so-called "money mule" scams, in which criminals make use of third parties -- often unsuspecting consumers -- to launder stolen funds. Mule recruitment is an integral part of many cybercrime operations because money transferred directly from a victim to an account controlled by criminals is easily traced by banks and law enforcement. In most cases, money mules are recruited via online job postings touted in spam. McAfee said that some 873 money-mule recruitment Web pages were detected in Britain alone in the first half of 2008, a 33 percent increase over the first half of 2007. That data was gathered by APACS, the United Kingdom's payment-industry trade group. Criminals behind the scams have launched prolonged distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks against websites that call attention to their scams--assaults aimed at swamping a targeted site with so much junk traffic that it can no longer accommodate legitimate visitors. http://voices.washingtonpost.com/securityfix/2008/12/report_cybercrime_is_winning_t.html

Key Report Conclusions:

Cybercrime is not yet enough of a priority for governments to allow the fight against it to make real headway. Added to that, the physical threats of terrorism and economic collapse are diverting political attention elsewhere.

Cross border law enforcement remains a long-standing hurdle to fighting cybercrime. Local issues mean laws are difficult to enforce transnationally. Cybercriminals will therefore always retain an edge unless serious resources are allocated to international efforts.

Law enforcement at every level remains ad hoc and ill-equipped to cope. While there has been progress, there is still a significant lack of training and understanding in digital forensics and evidence collection as well as in the law courts. The cyber-kingpins remain at large while the minor mules are caught and brought to rights. Some governments are guilty of protecting offenders in their own country. The findings suggest there is an ever-greater need to harmonise priorities and coordinate police forces across physical boundaries.

Pamela Warren, McAfee's chief cybercrime strategist, put it succinctly. "Law enforcement really needs to step up to the plate," she said.

Submission of Articles to CICTE Newsletter

The CICTE Secretariat welcomes submission of articles to be included in future issues of the Newsletter. Please contact: Belisario Contreras, bcontreras@oas.org



Carol S. Fuller

Secretary

CFuller@oas.org

Pablo Martínez

Deputy Secretary and Programs Coordinator

PMartinez@oas.org

Sheridon Hill

Program Manager

Immigration and Border Controls

SHill@oas.org

Francine Hanna

Program Manager

Evaluation Program — Document Security and
Fraud Prevention

FHanna@oas.org

Ignacio Ibáñez

Specialist / Program Manager

Legislation - Terrorism Financing

Port Security

Ibanez@oas.org

Lilia Moraes

Program Manager

Cyber Security

LMoraes@oas.org

Gillian Bristol

Program Manager

NPC Liaison - Crisis Management - Secretary
for CICTE Meetings

GBristol@oas.org

Hayda Wallen

Program Manager

Aviation Security - Tourism Security

HWallen@oas.org

Maria Elena de la Flor Musso

Budget and Administrative Officer

Webmaster

MDelaflor@oas.org

Brian Sullivan

Specialist / Program Manager

Port Security -

Document Security and Fraud Prevention

BSullivan@oas.org

Belisario Contreras

Administrative Assistant

Cyber Security

BContreras@oas.org

Alejandro Díaz de León

Program Manager

Tourism Security

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, N.W. (8th floor)
Washington D.C., 20006
U.S.A.

Telephone: +1+202.458.6960
Fax: +1+202.458.3857
E-mail: cicte@oas.org

www.cicte.oas.org