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CICTE Informe #28

Counter-terrorism activities

- **Brazil Ratifies Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism**

On October 25th, **Brazil ratified the Inter American Convention against Terrorism.** Osmar Chofi, the Brazilian Ambassador to the OAS, stressed that the ratification of the OAS Convention is not an isolated act, but rather part of a process that involved other treaties signed by Brazil, under the United Nations auspices. At the last U.N. General Assembly meeting, Brazil also signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (adopted in 2005) and ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (adopted in 1999).

For more information:

<http://www.emol.com/noticias/internacional/detalle/detallenoticias.asp?idnoticia=199522>

- **U.S. Senate Approves Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism**

In reaffirming its commitment to the Western Hemisphere counter-terrorism measures, the U.S. Senate approved the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, adopted at the OAS General Assembly in 2002. *'The convention would provide an important tool in our war against terrorism and organized crime'* Senator Jeff Sessions remarked.

The Convention is the first international measure against terrorism adopted by the Western Hemisphere after the 9/11 attacks. The States Parties have agreed a set of measures in order to prevent, combat, and eradicate the financing of terrorism as well as to improve border security, law enforcement cooperation and mutual legal assistance. Currently 14 states have ratified the convention.

For more information: <http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-news+article+storyid-13090.html>

- **UK Launches Its New Anti-Terrorist Bill**

A new bill on anti-terrorism was sent to the British Parliament on October 10th. The bill is a response to the terrorist attacks in the London metro and bus system in July 2005. Its

main provision empowers the police to arrest, question, and hold suspects for up to three months without charge. The current detention limit is of 14 days, but Prime Minister Tony Blair has insisted that the new detention period is the necessary time for law enforcement agencies to undertake criminal investigations related to terrorist threats. Blair stressed that the new police power would only be used in exceptional cases and under the scrutiny of senior judges. The bill also declares illegal the distribution and publication of terrorist materiel and the training of terrorists, while the prohibition against glorifying or praising terrorist atrocities was taken out of the draft.

For more information: [Counter-Terrorism News Bulletin](http://newsfromrussia.com/politics/2005/10/10/64868.html), 12 October 2005
<http://newsfromrussia.com/politics/2005/10/10/64868.html>

- **ASEAN Experts Discuss Cyber-Terrorism**

Experts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations met in Cebu, Philippines, to discuss the use of Internet by terrorist groups. The II Seminar on Cyber-Terrorism was also attended by officials from Russia, Canada, the European Union, the United States, and South Korea –the so called ASEAN ‘dialogue partners’. The participants found that one of the main challenges to a cyber-terrorism strategy include “*insufficient legal framework, competing interests among national agencies, limited resources, lack of awareness on the nature of cyberterrorism, lack of expertise and the profusion of vulnerable critical infrastructure that can be attacked by cyberterrorists*”. Thus, the establishment of a legal framework on cyber-terrorism was one of the main recommendations set by the participants as well as the inclusion of cyberterrorism provisions in the discussions of the ASEAN Convention on Terrorism.

For more information: http://news.inq7.net/infotech/index.php?index=1&story_id=53254

- **Colombo, Sri Lanka Becomes The 40th Operational Container Security Initiative (CSI) Port**

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner announced that the port of Colombo, Sri Lanka, has become the 40th operational port to target and prescreen maritime cargo containers destined for the United States. Created in 2002, the Container Security Initiative aims at screening sea containers at foreign ports before they reached U.S. soil. According to the Commissioner, “*approximately 75 percent of cargo containers destined to the U.S. originate in or are transshipped from a CSI port.*”. Under the CSI, Sri Lankan Customs officials and Custom and Border Protection officers will work jointly to screen all containers identified as a potential terrorist risk.

For more information: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press_releases/09292005_2.xml

Recent Events

- 10-12 October, 2005: National Workshop on CT Legislation (Tegucigalpa, Honduras)
- 10-15 October, 2005: Maritime security training -“Train-the-Trainer” Course (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- 11-20 October, 2005: (AVSEC) National Auditors-Inspectors Course (Quito, Ecuador)
- 24-28 October, 2005: IMO Regional Forum on Maritime Security (Veracruz, México)
- 25 October, 2005: Meeting between the Department of Multidimensional Security and Board of RESDAL (Security and Defense Network of Latin America)
- 27 October, 2005: Workshop on US-Latin American Security, Inter-American Dialogue, Washington, DC

Future Events

- 13-14 November, 2005: Day on Security and Terrorism, AMIA (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- 17 November, 2005: UNCTC presentation by CICTE (New York)
- 28-30 November, 2005: ICAO Hold Baggage Screening (HBS) Seminar for the NAM/CAR/SAM Regions (Monterrey, Mexico)
- 29 November-2 December, 2005: “Workshop on Prevention and Fight against Terrorism and Financing of terrorism”. Joint Program CICTE/UNDOC (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Latest news

Australia carried out its largest counter-terrorism exercise, *Mercury 05*, with more than 4,000 participating members of national security agencies and emergency services participating over five days. The exercise was designed to test the security preparedness for the 2006 Commonwealth Games that will take place in March 2006. Australia expects to receive around 4,500 athletes from more than 70 countries.

For more information: [Counter-Terrorism News Bulletin, 19-20 October 2005](#)

Colombian president Alvaro Uribe, expressed his agreement with the **‘condemnation of terrorism’ in the discussions of the Summit of Salamanca (Spain)**. The president stated that his country is making a great effort to guarantee political liberties, democracy, and security, and thus; it deserves that the world acknowledges that terrorist acts damage Colombia. During the Summit, the Chiefs of States and Governments also approved a resolution that calls for the demobilization of illegal armed groups that commit terrorist acts.

For more information: <http://www.rcn.com.co/noticia.php3?nt=11051>

Jeremy Grey, the British Home Office official in charge of counter-terrorist operations, confirmed that in January 2006, **Russian and British security services will carry out joint counter-terrorism exercises** in London. The 'live-exercises' will include the rehearsal of a terrorist attack. This agreement was the result of talks between the U.K Prime Minister Tony Blair and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who decided to advance bilateral cooperation in the war on terror.

For more information: [Counter-Terrorism News Bulletin](#), 17 October 2005

After the recent terrorist attacks in Bali, the Indonesian government faces the hard question of **whether to ban militant Islamic organizations**, such as the *Jemaah Islamiyah*; a terrorist group supposedly linked to Al Qaeda. The group has been accused of organizing the last attacks in Bali that left almost 30 people dead and hundreds of injured; the attacks to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta in 2002 and the bombings of 2002 that killed more than 200 people.

For more information: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/14/international/asia/14bali.html>

During a speech on the war on terrorism held at the National Endowment for Democracy, US President George Bush acknowledged that at least **10 plots by Al Qaeda were thwarted between 2002 and 2003**. According to a report released by the White House, the plots included plane attacks in the West and the East coast, a plane attack to London's Heathrow Airport, attacks in the Persian Gulf, Pakistan, and Britain.

For more information: [Counter-Terrorism News Bulletin](#), 7 October 2005

The U.S Congress approved **\$31 billion bill for funding the Department of Homeland Security** next year. While the bill provides funding for border protection and cargo security, it has been criticized for cutting funds to aviation security and the protection of chemical plants. In that regard, Rep. Edward Markey pointed out '*what we have here is a bill which does not, in fact, deal with all of the threats which are posed by al Qaeda*'.

For more information: <http://www.pahrumpvalleytimes.com/2005/10/12/news/digest.html>