



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

Newsletter No. 76 - March, 2010

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OAS/CICTE/CICAD/UNODC-CTED Joint Legislative Technical Assistance Mission visits Paraguay

March 23-26, 2010. The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Council (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) participated in a joint legislative technical assistance mission together with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of the United Nations Security Council (CTED) at the invitation of the Paraguayan Authorities.

In coordination with, and under the auspices of the Paraguayan Attorney General's Ministry, a Workshop on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism and Terrorism Financing: the International Legal Framework took place in the modern facilities of its Training Center with the participation of 21 public prosecutors, 16 magistrates and 10 National Police officers.

The members of the mission gave presentations on the International Legal Framework against terrorism and terrorism financing, including the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 and the international legal instruments of the United Nations. In attendance were international experts from Argentina, Brasil, Canada, Spain, the United States, Italy, Paraguay and Peru who presented their experiences in the investigation and prosecution of cases of terrorism and terrorism financing. These presentations gave way to a broad dialogue among the participants, who also had the opportunity to resolve a case, putting into practice the knowledge acquired during the workshop.

The members of the joint mission held meetings with Senators and members of several Parliamentary Commissions, with the Attorney General, with the Minister for the Prevention of Money-Laundering (SEPRELAD) and with the Director of the Central Bank of Paraguay. During these meetings, members recognized the efforts of the national institutions of Paraguay to comply with its international obligations in the fight against terrorism and terrorist financing, particularly through the legislative reforms initiative that Paraguay is promoting in its National Congress.

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Editorial

Excerpt from the speech by the Secretary General of the OAS, His Excellency José Miguel Insulza, in the Inaugural Session of the Tenth Regular Session of CICTE (March 17, 2010; Washington, D.C.)



Acts of terrorism are a frontal attack against the essential values that this Organization defends, which I have mentioned. Instead of defending life, terrorism brings death. Instead of peace and democratic tolerance, it offers violence and intolerance. It destroys the underpinnings of our democratic societies in order to obtain financing. It associates with international criminal groups to multiply its resources and effects, and it radicalizes the behavior of some of our youth, thereby depriving them of their future. In short, it seeks to undermine the rule of law, our peaceful and democratic way of life, diversity of opinion, tolerance, and individual freedoms.

Unfortunately we know this phenomenon at first hand, and it is part of our reality. I should like to recall that on a day like today, March 17, 1992, a terrorist attack against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires left a tragic toll of 29 persons killed and 242 wounded. After that dramatic episode, the Hemisphere began to pay much closer attention to these phenomena, which proliferated two years later, in 1994, when the same city was the scene of the attack against the AMIA that killed 85 persons. The inter-American system responded to it in the First Summit of the Americas, in December 1994, and then in the specialized conference on terrorism, held in Lima in 1996, and a second one in Mar del Plata in 1998, which ended with adoption of the “Commitment of Mar del Plata” calling for establishment of an Inter-American Committee against Terrorism in this Organization of American States. The commitment has been reiterated and reaffirmed on many occasions and the work you are doing is based on this whole collection of our system’s resolutions that regrettably date from the decade before the horrendous acts that shook this country in September 2001.

Since the Committee’s establishment, our work in this field has been consonant with our values: full respect for the rule of law, international law, international human rights law, and international refugee law. Compliance with binding resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, such as resolution 1373 of 2001, ratification of the universal and regional legal instruments, and adoption of international standards surrounding this body of law, are transcendental measures that the international community and especially our states have adopted to combat this threat effectively. In 2002, our Inter-American Commission on Human Rights—whose meetings we have inaugurated this week—said that it must be remembered—and we do remember—that respect for law, protection of human rights, and the fight against terrorism are complementary and mutually re-enforcing responsibilities.

This tenth regular session of CICTE reminds us that although we have had major gains in development of cooperation over the past decade, the threat of terrorism is ever with us. Yet it is also a time to reflect and note with satisfaction all that we have done to carry out measures to prevent and combat it, and programs for training and technical skills that this committee has carried out. On this tenth anniversary of CICTE it is indeed heartening that—as evident in the draft declaration for this session and the principles and statute of this committee and its work plan—multilateral and international cooperation at various levels clearly demonstrates our resolute will to persevere joining forces against terrorism.

However, the achievements should not cause us to let down our guard or distract us. On the contrary, they should inspire us to redouble our efforts to prevent terrorist acts. I am pleased that the topic this tenth regular session will consider is public-private cooperation in the fight against terrorism. This underscores the constructive and proactive spirit inherent in the concept of international cooperation.

Actually, although the state is essentially responsible for the war on terrorism, the private sector cooperates effectively with our countries’ institutions in areas such as port and airport security, protection of critical infrastructure—energy, tourism, and informatics, for example—the fight against financing of terrorism, and the prevention and mitigation of the effects of a crisis generated by a terrorist act. In all these areas, public-private cooperation offers opportunities that should be explored.

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This is also a reflection of the multilateral security approach that the OAS has applied and championed pursuant to the resolutions of the Mexico Conference of 2003. We understand very clearly that we must address various criminal activities comprehensively in order to obtain results that ultimately ensure protection of our citizens.

We must recognize that upgrading of our countries' security brings stability, which in turn leads to more investment, more economic prosperity, and a better quality of life for all.

The relationship between security and development is well illustrated in the area of tourism security, one of CICTE's programs. For some countries of our Hemisphere, a terrorist attack on the tourist sector would trigger an economic crisis of unimaginable proportions. This is evident from what actually happened in other regions, such as the attacks in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002, which had tragic consequences for the local economy, and even after the attacks of September 11, 2001 in the United States, in which it was found that the economies hit the hardest after the United States and Afghanistan were those of the Caribbean subregion.

Therefore, if we wish to design effective prevention policies to combat terrorism, we must explore the possibility of incorporating in our strategies all actors that could play a relevant role at both the national and international levels, considering the situation of each of our countries. Possible new international actors could be technical agencies from other countries, and subregional, regional, and international organizations. With respect to the OAS and CICTE, we have been working for many years to include the private sector and civil society in our anti-terrorism activities. We currently have strategic partnerships with more than 40 internationally renowned institutions and organizations, thus reinforcing the message of unity required by this activity and ensuring the highest quality in the imitation of projects and the most efficient use of resources.

For all of these reasons I am confident that the tenth regular session of CICTE will give new and more profound meaning to the concept of international cooperation, and that it will renew and strengthen the member states' commitment to fight any form of terrorism and will enlist new public and private partners for the achievement of our goals.

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Counter-Terrorism Activities

Crisis Management Exercises on Maritime and Port Security in St. Kitts and Nevis and The Bahamas

On March 3-5, and March 29-31, 2010 the Secretariat of CICTE respectively conducted a Crisis Management Exercise (CME) on Maritime and Port Security—the sixth and seventh of its kind—in Bassterre, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Nassau, The Bahamas.

The exercise was conducted under CICTE's Port Security Assistance Partnership (PSAP) program, in conjunction with the Ministries of National Security of St. Kitts and Nevis, and The Bahamas.

The CMEs were implemented as a tabletop exercises, preceded by a one-day training on procedures of the International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code (ISPS) of the International Maritime Organization and the preparation of the tabletop. PSAP partners Transport Canada and the U.S. Coast Guard provided technical expertise on design, development, and implementation of the tabletop exercise. The main objective of the CMEs was to improve the coordination and cooperation between the various players who would be involved in a crisis situation and who share port security responsibilities at the strategic-political and tactical-operative decision levels. Other CME exercises are planned for 2010.

The CME in The Bahamas was opened by H.E. the Honorable Orville Turnquest, Minister of National Security and recently elected Chair of CICTE.

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Exercise Bio-Shield: Crisis Management Simulation Exercise in Response to a Bio-terrorist Attack, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, March 10-12, 2010



The CICTE Secretariat in conjunction with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago hosted a Crisis Management Simulation Exercise in Response to a Bio-terrorist Attack from March 10-12, 2010 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The goal of this exercise was to examine plans, processes and procedures for ensuring public health and safety and preserving national and regional commerce and trade after an intentional biological attack. The first day of the exercise was only open to the participation of high level Trinidad and Tobago officials in the various disciplines including Emergency Management, Public Health, Law Enforcement, and Public Information and local Trinidadian experts. The first day of activities allowed the capture of an honest assessment of the current status of Trinidad and Tobago's preparedness in responding to a biological incident. This was done through academic presentations

by local academic experts from the University of the West Indies followed by the introduction of a scenario and discussions through functional area breakout group sessions. On the second day of the exercise, Trinidad and Tobago nationals were joined by approximately 5 nationals from each of the following Caribbean member states: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Suriname.

The activities commenced with several international expert presentations followed by breakout group sessions in the aforementioned disciplines. In the sessions, participants were able to examine best and worst practices through their interaction with each other and with the experts present in the context of the scenario that was presented on Day 1. International experts and observers present at this exercise included representatives from: U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United Nations 1540 Committee, International Maritime Organization (IMO), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and US Army SOUTHCOM. The third day consisted of a round table discussion with all Caribbean participants in plenary session to further examine regional coordination and communication after an intentional biological attack followed by an expert panel discussion on the same.

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CICTE X



The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism held its Tenth Regular Session from the afternoon of March 17th to March 19th, in Washington D.C. under the central theme of “Public-Private Partnerships in the Fight against Terrorism.”

The CICTE Chair, Mexico, represented by His Excellency, Ambassador Gustavo Albin, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, presided over the Inauguration and declared open the Tenth Regular Session. Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, His Excellency Jose Miguel Insulza.

The Keynote Speech was delivered by the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council, His Excellency Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations.

During the First Plenary Session the Commonwealth of the Bahamas was elected to chairmanship of CICTE for the period 2010 to 2011. The Honorable Tommy Turnquest, Minister of National Security of the Bahamas, addressed the meeting on their assumption of the Chair.

Grenada was elected Vice-Chair of CICTE for the same period, and Ambassador Gillian Bristol, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the OAS made brief remarks accepting the position.

The CICTE Secretary Mr. Gonzalo Gallegos reported on the Secretariat’s activities for 2009-2010, and the Delegation of Mexico, as Chair of the Eighth Meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE delivered their report on that meeting, which was held on the morning of March 17th, immediately prior to the opening of the CICTE Regular Session.

Three topics related to the central theme were discussed at the Second, Third and Fourth Plenary Sessions. These topics were:

1. Public-Private Cooperation in the Protection of Critical Infrastructure
 2. Security for Major Events
- Public-Private Partnerships in Maritime Security.

The discussions were very useful and informative. Several very valuable observations and suggestions were made for advancing cooperation within the CICTE framework on certain aspects of these topics, which the CICTE Chair duly agreed to consider them and, with the support of the CICTE Secretariat, determine how they might be pursued.

The discussions on these topics benefitted greatly from the presentations by the following four guest speakers: Mr. Thomas Di Nanno of the International Assessment and Strategy Center; Mr. Paul Nicolas, Microsoft’s Director for Global Security Strategy and Diplomacy; Mr. Massimiliano Montanari, Head of Public-Private Security Policies and the Major Events Security Initiative at the Security Governance/Counter-Terrorism Laboratory of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); and Captain Howard Hewhoff, Manager of Terminal and Port Security, Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises.

During the Fifth and final Plenary Session the Committee then adopted by consensus the CICTE Work Plan for 2010 and the Declaration “Public-Private Partnerships in the fight against Terrorism.”

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Regional Training Workshop for E-Security Technical Experts

From March 23 to 26, a Regional Training Workshop for E-Security Technical Experts was held, which was organized by LACNIC with the support from Ecuador's Association of Internet Service Providers and Information Technology Companies and the Technical University of Loja. This workshop was targeted for professionals in the area of E-Security interested in training themselves in the creation and management of CSIRTs. During this workshop, representatives from the Cyber Security Program of the CICTE Secretariat made a presentation about the work that the Secretariat and other entities of the OAS do leading the efforts to improve cyber security and to protect critical information infrastructures.



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Ministers of Justice of the Americas Adopt Concrete Measures to Strengthen Legal and Judicial Cooperation in the Region

The highest authorities of the American States with responsibilities in the area of international legal cooperation, in particular criminal matters, have adopted in Brazil a series of concrete measures to strengthen legal and judicial cooperation in the Americas and to deal effectively with the various challenges in this area.

The Eighth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA VIII), which took place in the city of Brasilia from February 24 to 26, 2010, constituted once again as the most important inter-American forum for countries of the hemisphere to discuss and adopt practical measures relating to justice and to legal and judicial cooperation. Specifically, the meeting addressed issues such as mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition, cyber-crime, trafficking in persons and other forms of organized transnational crime, victim and witness protection and assistance, penitentiary and prison policies, forensic research, and family and child law.

CICTE Scholarships for ICAO Workshop: National Training Program in Civil Aviation Security, Quito, Ecuador March 9-17th, 2010

The CICTE Secretariat, through its Aviation Security program, issued 6 scholarships to aviation security officials from Belize (2), Dominican Republic (2), and Paraguay (2) for their participation in the ICAO Workshop about National Training Programs in Civil Aviation Security in Quito, Ecuador from March 9-17th, 2010. The objective of this 7 day workshop was to develop the knowledge and techniques necessary for the development and implementation of a National civil aviation security program within their respective countries.



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

An updated March 2010 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>

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Council of Europe News – March 2010

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTIONS

- On 3 March 2010, Montenegro ratified the Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185) and the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems (ETS No. 189).
- On 15 March, Azerbaijan ratified the Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185).
- On 23 March, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE EVENTS

On 1-3 March 2010, in Tbilisi, Georgia, a "Train the Trainer" course was held – in the frame of the CoE-EU Joint Project on Cybercrime in Georgia – in order to train those delivering cybercrime courses and ensure that training is delivered by local trainers in local languages. In parallel, on 2 March 2010, a Conference on Cybercrime and a Workshop on law enforcement-ISP cooperation was also held in Tbilisi. Further information on the Project is available at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/>

On 1-2 March 2010, the first meeting of the Ad hoc Advisory Group on Cross Border Internet (MC-S-CI) took place in Paris. It discussed the shared responsibilities of states with respect to the preservation and reinforcement of the protection of cross-border flow of Internet traffic and the protection of critical Internet resources.

Further details and the full report can be found at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/>

On 2 March 2010, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) released four new reports examining racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance in Albania, Austria, Estonia and the United Kingdom.

These reports can be found at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/>

On 15-18 March 2010, the 32nd Plenary meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) took place in Strasbourg.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/moneyval/>

On 23-25 March, the Octopus Interface Conference on Cooperation against Cybercrime was held in Strasbourg. Participants discussed ways of strengthening co-operation between the public and private sectors in combating crimes committed via the Internet and making the best possible use of existing tools and instruments. Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, stressed the importance of freedom of expression and privacy in relation to the Internet, and highlighted the threat cybercrime poses to our rights. More information is available at: <http://www.coe.int/cybercrime>

Also, this month, Monaco, Estonia and Microsoft contributed to the Global Project on Cybercrime. Monaco and Estonia have become new partners and joined the global effort against cybercrime by making new voluntary contributions to the Global Project on Cybercrime. Microsoft continues to provide a strong and highly valuable support in the global undertaking against cybercrime through new funding provided to the Project.

More information on this Project can be found at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The 18th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) will take place in Strasbourg on 7-8 April 2010. The Committee is composed of governmental experts in the field of terrorism and is responsible for the coordination and follow up of the activities of the Council of Europe against terrorism.
- On 15-16 April 2010, the 2nd Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime will take place in Strasbourg.
- On 26-30 April 2010, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will convene for its second session of 2010.

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After the revolution: Why are FARC's young soldiers laying down their guns?

A report by Paul Bignell published in the British newspaper 'The Independent' in March 2010 highlights the difficulties faced by ex-guerillas and ex-paramilitaries in Colombia as they try to reintegrate into society.

For more information [click here](#).

Al-Qaeda Central and the Internet

Daniel Kimmage discusses in this Counterterrorism Strategy Initiative Policy Paper published by the New America Foundation the communications challenges currently faced by Al-Qaeda.

For more information [click here](#).



Recent Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
March	8, 2010	Third Preparatory Session for X Annual Meeting of CICTE	Washington DC, USA
	3-5, 2010	Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Basseterre, St. Kitts
	8-9, 2010	Preparatory Meeting - Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Nassau, Bahamas
	9-17, 2010	Aviation Security Scholarships for ICAO National Training Course	Ecuador
	10-12, 2010	Bio Terrorism assessment and Training	Trinidad and Tobago
	17 -19, 2010	Tenth Regular Session of CICTE	Washington DC, USA
	29-31, 2010	Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Nassau, Bahamas

Upcoming Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
April	12-16, 2010	Aviation Security Scholarships for ICAO Cargo and Mail Training	Port of Spain, Trinidad
	14-16, 2010	Cyber Security Technical Assistance Mission	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
	19-23, 2010	Aviation Security Caribbean Sub-regional in Cargo Security Inspections	Trinidad and Tobago
May	3-7, 2010	ICAO Scholarships for Cargo and Mail Training Course	Argentina
	10-12, 2010	Cyber Security Technical Assistance Mission	Lima, Peru
	11-13, 2010	American Regional Workshop on Major Events Security.	Vancouver, Canada
	10-14, 2010	Aviation Security Caribbean Sub-regional in Cargo Security Inspections	St. Vincent and the
	17-21, 2010	Course on Travel Document Security and Fraud Prevention	Brazil (TBC)
	25-28, 2010	Best Practices Workshop on Travel Document Security	Montevideo, Uruguay
27-28, 2010	OSCE Workshop on the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD)	Vienna, Austria	

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

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News

President of Peru confirms reports of contacts between the FARC and Shining Path

Alan Garcia assured that the ties are not “a danger for the country.” The relations between the two guerilla groups were revealed by ‘El Tiempo.’ An alleged email from the second in command of the FARC, ‘Raul Reyes,’ “was directed at a residual group that is not strong and does not represent a threat to the stability of democracy in Peru,” said Garcia. According to the Colombian newspaper ‘El Tiempo,’ which said had reviewed the results of an analysis performed on computers seized from guerilla leaders by the Colombian Intelligence, the FARC would “support Shining Path so that it can be revived.”

For more information [click here](#).

Internet helped Flight 253 suspect radicalize, attack plane 'within weeks'

The Internet allowed extremists to contact, recruit, train and equip the suspect responsible for the attempted Flight 253 bombing on Christmas Day "within weeks," a top Pentagon official told lawmakers March 10. That relatively brief timeframe only speaks to how quickly extremist groups have "optimized" the Web and developed a "highly evolved" process by which to develop terrorist networks, added Garry Reid, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Combating Terrorism. "By contrast, the 9/11 operation took about two and a half years to develop from the time Osama bin Laden approved it in April 1999," he said.

For more information [click here](#).

Jamaica amends Anti Terrorism Act to meet global demands

The House of Representatives amended the Terrorism Prevention Act on March 10th, to allow the Minister to introduce heavier penalties, subject to approval by Parliament. Minister of Education and Leader of the House, Andrew Holness, said that the change would allow the Minister to introduce penalties greater than those provided for in the Interpretation Act of the Terrorism Prevention Act, which was passed by Parliament in June, 2005. He also explained that passage of the amendment was critical to the Government fulfilling its obligations under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

For more information [click here](#).

U.S. citizen accused in Yemen killing had been under FBI watch

Sharif Mobley, a U.S. citizen accused of killing a hospital guard in Yemen, is believed to be a homegrown radical who left this country to make direct contact with al-Qaeda, according to U.S. counterterrorism officials, making him the latest in a string of such suspects. Several U.S. officials, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Mobley had been in custody in Yemen for at least several weeks before the shooting and had been known to U.S. and Yemeni authorities for a considerable period before that.

For more information [click here](#).

Irish citizen sentenced to 6 months in prison for attempting to donate money to the FARC

A court of first instance in Copenhagen pronounced the sentence against Patrick Mac Manus. The accused, spokesman for the organization “Oprør” (Rebellion), has demonstrated his intent to donate money to the Colombian armed Group and to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on several occasions. The sentence takes into account that there is no proof of the transaction of 50,000 Danish Crowns (9,242 dollars) to each armed movement has taken place, however there is proof that there was intent to transfer and collection of the money.

For more information [click here](#).

Dismantling of Saudi-CIA Web site illustrates need for clearer cyberwar policies

By early 2008, top U.S. military officials had become convinced that extremists planning attacks on American forces in Iraq were making use of a Web site set up by the Saudi government and the CIA to uncover terrorist plots in the kingdom. The Saudi-CIA Web site was set up several years ago as a "honey pot," an online forum covertly monitored by intelligence agencies to identify attackers and gain information, according to three of the former officials.

The absence of clear guidelines for cyberwarfare is not new. Lawyers at the US Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel are struggling to define the legal rules of the road for cyberwarriors, according to current and former officials.

For more information [click here](#).

Microsoft® Microsoft asks the users of three versions of Windows not to use the F1 key when a website requests

The warning was made after finding a security failure that allows hackers to execute viruses. The vulnerability is only found in Windows XP, Windows 2000, and Windows Server 2003. The newer operating systems, Windows Vista and Windows 7, do not have this problem. According to Microsoft, while navigating the internet, at any moment a user may receive an alert from a website that requests the user to press the F1 key. If the user follows this recommendation, it is possible to take advantage of the security flaw in the operating system and allow a hacker to install a virus. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

Nuclear Smugglers Still at Work, Expert Says



Iran admits building a secret uranium enrichment facility in the religious hub of Qum. Pakistan's High Court releases nuclear black marketer Abdul Qadeer Khan from house arrest. Spy satellites reveal North Korea boring another tunnel in a remote mountainside. Israeli warplanes bomb a suspicious facility in the Syrian desert. This drumbeat of seemingly unconnected news reports has prompted many experts to warn that the world is fast approaching a nuclear tipping point. The common thread running through those disparate reports is a secret, global smuggling network that traffics in nuclear technologies, materials, and know-how.

For more information [click here](#).

Russia and U.S. Report Breakthrough on Arms

The United States and Russia have broken a logjam in arms control negotiations and expect to sign a treaty next month to slash their nuclear arsenals to the lowest levels in half a century, officials in both nations said March 24. After months of deadlock and delay, the two sides have agreed to lower the limit on deployed strategic warheads by more than one-quarter and launchers by half, the officials said. The treaty will impose a new inspection regime to replace one that lapsed in December, but will not restrict American plans for missile defense based in Europe.



For more information [click here](#).

An American combatant for Al Qaeda is captured in Pakistan

An American, who is on the list of the 10 Most Wanted Terrorists by the FBI, was captured recently in the city of Karachi, Pakistan, by Pakistani forces, CNN reported, citing sources from Pakistani intelligence.

The man was identified as Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn, 32 years of age, who in 2006 was indicted in the Central District of California for treason and material support to Al Qaeda.

For more information [click here](#).

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'The Independent' highlights social rehabilitation processes of ex-guerrillas and ex-paramilitaries in Colombia

The British newspaper published a report by Paul Bignell regarding the challenges that Colombia faces in this process, in which he highlights the value that the Colombian experience can have for other countries with civil conflict.

"In a process known as 'social rehabilitation', the Government is trying to reintegrate into society many of these guerillas toughened up in battle, as well as dropouts from FARC and ELN, in a remarkably ambitious but controversial plan that has both many detractors and supporters. Some 50 thousand ex-guerrillas and ex-paramilitaries are being reeducated in schools and universities, with manual instruction, psychological support and a rehabilitation package of 400 mil pesos per month. The Government believes that this is a model that in the future will be recognized and implemented in other areas of civil conflict."

For more information [click here](#).

Terrorism returns to shock Buenaventura

A reward of \$300 million Colombian pesos is offered by the National Government for information leading to the capture of those responsible for the car bomb attack that broke out in the center of Buenaventura. In the attack, the bloodiest that has been carried out in the last three years, people were killed and 55 people were injured.



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

Britain expels Israeli envoy over passports allegedly used in Hamas killing

The British government, in a rare move on March 23, expelled a senior Israeli diplomat over the alleged use of fake British passports in the assassination of a Hamas operative in Dubai this year. The move to expel the diplomat, who has not been identified, follows an investigation by Britain's Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA) into 12 British passports used in the January killing of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh. Dubai authorities charge that Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, is behind the killing and that the hit squad used European and Australian passports, some of them forged. Agents from SOCA concluded that genuine British passports were copied when handed over to "individuals linked to Israel, either in Israel or in other countries," who were meant to inspect them, Miliband said. French authorities also have opened an investigation into the alleged use of forged documents, the Paris prosecutor's office said on March 23. Suspects in the killing allegedly used four doctored French passports, the prosecutor said in a written statement.

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

Twin suicide bombings kill 39 in Moscow subway



Terror returned to the heart of Russia, with two deadly suicide bombings on the Moscow subway at rush hour, including an attack at the station beneath the headquarters of the secret police.

39 people were killed and more than 60 wounded in the morning's blasts on March 29, the first such attacks in Moscow in six years.

The bombings showed that the rebels are still strong enough to inflict harm on an increasingly assertive Russia, and they followed a warning last month from Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov that "the war is coming to their cities."

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



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