



**TERRORISM PREVENTION BRANCH BRIEFING ISSUE 10, AUGUST 2015**

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I am pleased to present to you the new issue of the *UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNDOC/TPB) Briefing* that highlights our work from January to June 2015.

The evolving nature of terrorism requires ongoing responses by the national criminal justice systems through adaptation of counter-terrorism legislation and enhancement of skills and knowledge of criminal justice officials. Through its capacity building programmes, during the first six months of 2015, UNODC/TPB broadened expertise of more than 1,700 criminal justice officials and carried out almost 60 national and regional workshops, including in Afghanistan, Yemen, Middle East, North, West and East Africa, South and South-East Asia, and Central America. These activities focused on effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism and its financing, legal issues related to the emerging terrorist threats, including foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), special investigation techniques, supporting victims of acts of terrorism and human rights while countering terrorism and international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

Key achievements of the first half of 2015 include, among others, the successful completion of Phase II of our technical assistance programme for Nigeria, the first specialized training for Somalian judges and prosecutors, and finalization of the second cycle of the mock criminal investigation programme in Colombia. UNODC also enhanced engagement with parliamentarians concerning policies and legislation required for the rule-of-law compliant investigations and prosecutions, as well as strengthening regional cooperation among South Asian States and the launch of the train-the-trainers initiative in Pakistan.

Since the end of 2014, in line with Member States’ requests and relevant United Nations resolutions, UNODC/TPB has been proactively mobilizing its resources and developing expertise, including in cooperation with other entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to support the efforts of the Member States to respond to the new security challenges. Already last March we launched a new initiative on criminal justice responses to the FTF threat for the Middle Eastern, North African and Balkan countries. The capacity building assistance related to FTFs has also been initiated for South-East Asia and the Sahel, and we are now looking into ways to expand this programme to other affected nations and regions, including in Central Asia.

UNODC/TPB also attaches great importance to developing technical assistance tools and their full incorporation into the training programmes. A compilation of good practices on assistance to, and support for, victims of terrorism has been finalized and a launch of this new publication is foreseen in the coming months.

In addition to our traditional areas of expertise, we are now developing projects to support Member States on priority issues such as preventing violent extremism or links between terrorism and transnational organized crime. We will keep you informed of these developments in our future issues of the newsletter.

The UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch primarily relies on generous voluntary contributions by Member States. I wish to take this opportunity to express appreciation to our donors for the important financial support that enables us to contribute to the international efforts to prevent and combat terrorism.

*With best regards,*  
*Trevor Michael Rajah*  
*Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch*  
*United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

**UNODC/TPB Launches New Global Initiative to Boost Criminal Justice Responses to Foreign Terrorist Fighters**

The growing involvement of individuals as foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) in various conflicts and terrorist activities has resulted in an increasingly dangerous threat to international peace and security. In response, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) has launched a new initiative aimed at bolstering countries' criminal justice responses to this phenomenon. The initiative, which runs to 2019, will assist Member States in criminalizing the FTF phenomenon in such areas, as terrorist recruitment, incitement to terrorism, terrorism financing, and terrorist training, among others.

While not a new phenomenon, the extent of the involvement of FTFs in conflicts and acts of terrorism today is unparalleled. With terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida, the Al-Nusra Front, and Islamic State all recruiting foreign nationals, the threat posed by terrorism now encapsulates not just end-target countries, but also countries of origin and transit. In this, the threat of individuals travelling to conflict zones, becoming further radicalized, receiving combat training, and then returning to their home countries with the aim of carrying out terrorist acts is more serious than ever.

In light of this issue, UNODC/TPB organized a three-day conference in collaboration with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the International



**Participants at the launch of the UNODC/TPB global initiative on criminal justice responses to foreign terrorist fighters threat, 23-25 March 2015, Valletta, Malta**

Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta (IJJ) in Valletta from 23 to 25 March 2015. Representatives from the Mediterranean basin - including Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen - and the Balkan countries - among them Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - were present to discuss and evaluate the threat that FTFs pose to their countries and regions. Additionally, Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States were represented, together with five United Nations agencies and six international and regional organizations.

Building capacity within criminal justice systems is an important step towards filling a gap in dealing with the terrorist threat. In this respect, UNODC aims to assist Member States in strengthening the criminal justice response to FTFs in a bid to counter this threat in a specific manner, as well as

complement the approach taken by other counterparts.

The UNODC global initiative, mainly funded by the European Union, Canada, Japan and the United States, covers both foreign cooperation and domestic assistance. The former is critical given the transnational dimension of FTFs which makes a purely national approach insufficient. The latter meanwhile is central to efforts needed to strengthen national legislation against this pressing terrorist threat and to enhance domestic capacities of criminal justice and law enforcement officials in key areas such as mechanisms to strengthen the national legal frameworks, the protection and use of intelligence information in criminal cases, the use of efficient special investigation techniques to counter terrorist activities on the Internet, as well as the prevention and disruption of the financing of terrorism in the context of FTFs.

The next seminars under this initiative will be organized in September and October 2015.

**UNODC/TPB Holds a Regional Seminar on Parliamentary Oversight of Law Enforcement and Security Services, in the Context of the European Union-Funded Action to Strengthen Counter-Terrorism Efforts in the Maghreb Region**

The second regional seminar of the four-year joint initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee

Executive Directorate (CTED), funded by the European Union (EU), was held within the Italian Senate, in Rome, Italy, from 26 to 27 February 2015. The joint EU-UNODC-CTED seminar was

organized in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJJ) based in Malta.

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Within the context of this important initiative, launched in June 2014 at a regional conference in Tunis and aimed at strengthening the capacity of countries of the Maghreb region, especially Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, in investigating and prosecuting counter-terrorism cases while respecting human rights and the rule of law, this seminar was the first of its kind.

Twenty senior members of parliaments of the beneficiary countries and several other parliamentarians from EU countries attended the seminar, which was inaugurated by H.E. Senator Pietro Grasso, President of the Italian Senate. Participating parliamentarians debated on the role they play and could play in overseeing the security services and law enforcement agencies' use of powers to prevent and investigate terrorist acts, underlining the importance of this oversight to the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

Discussions focused on both the importance of empowering those agencies to effectively conduct investigations into terrorist cases, as well as the need for those agencies to be adequately controlled in order to avoid the development of a "State within the State" mentality. Parliaments, considering the power vested in them, are granted with the mandate to promote a democratic culture and attitude within the security forces, and within the societies in general, and to promote the end of impunity in the security field. Moreover, parliaments while entrusted with providing effective legal, administrative and financial frameworks to such agencies, shall



**Participants at the UNODC/TPB seminar on parliamentary oversight of law enforcement and security services, 26-27 February 2015, Rome, Italy**

also provide these agencies with the ultimate legitimacy and authority.

The countries' delegations, as well as keynote speakers, offered a comparative approach on how parliamentary accountability could be designed to provide these agencies with the powers they need to conduct effective intelligence work or investigations, while ensuring the appropriate use of these powers and avoiding their abuse.

During this two-day seminar and due to UNODC, CTED and PAM facilitation, the delegations also exercised their "parliamentary diplomacy" among themselves. The direct and personal contacts between members of parliament of the different States enhanced mutual understanding and were conducive to the establishment of alternative channels of

communications for bilateral relations between the countries. Indeed, while in Rome, the members of the democratically elected, as well as internationally recognized government of Tobruk, Libya, had the chance to engage in a number of bilateral meetings with senior members of the Italian Parliament, as well as with the President of the Italian Foreign Affairs Committee, currently involved in the talks aimed at seeking a resolution for the Libyan crisis.

The talks that took place between Members of the Parliaments of Libya and Morocco, at the margins of the seminar, were also instrumental in the Libyan delegation resuming the peace talks aimed at resolving the crisis in Libya, with the mediation of the Government of Morocco, the week after the seminar.

### **UNODC, Niger's National Police School and Danish Institute for Human Rights Partner in the Context of the Denmark-Funded Project on Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism**

Boko Haram has evolved from a threat which almost exclusively affected Nigeria to a transnational terrorist challenge threatening the security of civilian populations in

neighbouring countries as well. Niger is among the most seriously affected. From February to June 2015, its law enforcement and security forces apprehended

approximately 1,000 men, women and minors suspected of being affiliated with Boko Haram. In Niger's western and northern regions, the authorities are

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engaged in preventing and investigating activities of several other terrorist groups, including Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Al Qaeda-linked Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO).

This situation results in grave legal and practical challenges for Niger. The Niger's law enforcement and criminal justice authorities are committed to dealing with these challenges in accordance with the rule of law, including national and international human rights law.

From 9 to 11 June 2015, 25 frontline criminal investigators and prosecutors from Niger's regions most seriously affected by terrorism gathered at the National Police School in Niamey to exchange information and receive training on domestic and international law regarding the detention of terrorism suspects and the investigation of terrorism cases. The Chief of Niger's

Counter-Terrorism Police Unit and the country's Chief Counter-Terrorism Prosecutor attended the workshop to discuss with the participants ways to improve the cooperation between the central counter-terrorism actors and criminal justice officials in far flung regions. The exchanges also concerned novel and difficult legal and practical questions with considerable human rights implications, such as the procedures to be followed in the case of minors suspected of being affiliated with Boko Haram.

In their written evaluation of the workshop, the participants summarized the reasons for and the spirit of the training. "This training was particularly relevant to me as I work in a border region which is a hotbed of terrorism", one participant wrote. Another added: "We've come to realize that only respect for human rights is an effective weapon against terrorism".

The training workshop, funded by the Government of Denmark, was a joint initiative of UNODC, the National Police School of Niger and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR). It opened a third dimension to two well-established partnerships. On the one hand, Niger and UNODC (through its Terrorism Prevention Branch and the Regional Office for West and Central Africa) have been cooperating on counter-terrorism in the contexts of the UNODC West Africa and Sahel programmes for many years. On the other hand, DIHR has a long standing partnership with Niger's National Police School. These two partnerships are further reinforced through a recently established Strategic Partnership between the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and DIHR, which brings to the table specialized expertise and operational synergy from both entities on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism.

## South Asia: Working towards International Cooperation in Terrorism Prevention

Since 2011, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) has been engaging with governments in South Asia to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts at both the national and regional levels. In a series of regional workshops, UNODC/TPB brought together policy-makers and criminal justice officers from the region and experts from around the world to share experiences and practices on a variety of aspects critical to an effective response to terrorism. The workshops focused on the international legal framework against terrorism, the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, the design and implementation of witness protection policies and mechanisms, as well as the need for victim assistance programmes.

One of the activities, a regional workshop for South Asian countries on strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters with a focus on



**Participants in the UNODC/TPB workshop for South Asian countries on strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters, 25-27 March 2015, Kathmandu, Nepal**

terrorism cases, was held by UNODC/TPB together with the Counter-Terrorism Committee

Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Government of Nepal in Kathmandu from 25 to 27 March

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2015. The workshop brought together high-level experts and officials from all eight South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, who contributed and shared their experiences of their daily work in the area of international and regional cooperation in criminal matters.

Experts from INTERPOL and the Commonwealth Secretariat presented their respective cooperation mechanisms, such as the Commonwealth London and Harare Schemes, and included case

work and live examples. Each country delegation provided the workshop participants with information on their existing national legislative frameworks and mechanisms for international cooperation, with a particular focus on mutual legal assistance and extradition. While acknowledging the need for such formal mechanisms, workshop participants also underlined the importance of establishing and using ways of informal cooperation.

The workshop was appreciated by the participants as an opportunity to interact with their counterparts from many countries and

institutions, to establish a channel of communication with the aim of facilitating future mutual cooperation. It also served as a platform for reflection as to the identification of possible gaps and required amendments to existing frameworks.

The workshop was conducted within the framework of the UNODC Global Project entitled "Strengthening the Legal Regime Against Terrorism", with financial support from the United States of America.

## Southeast Asia Regional Workshop to Strengthen Protection of Civil and Maritime Transportation Against Terrorism

More than fifty senior officials from eight Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries attended a regional workshop on the promotion and implementation of the transport-related counter-terrorism international legal instruments, held in Jakarta on 11-12 March 2015. The workshop was co-organized by the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) with the Indonesian National Counter-Terrorism Agency and the Indonesia Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with financial support from the European Union.

The event provided a forum for countries in the region to discuss effective measures to protect civil and maritime transportation from terrorist threats, in line with the relevant international conventions and protocols. The universal legal instruments reviewed during the workshop covered good practices to criminalize terrorist offences against civil aviation and maritime transportation under domestic



**Participants in the workshop on the promotion and implementation of the transport-related counter-terrorism international legal instruments, 11-12 March 2015, Jakarta, Indonesia**

laws, exercise jurisdiction over offenders, establish conditions to prosecute or extradite, and set up mechanisms for enhancing cooperation in criminal matters. The participation of officials from Australia, Japan and the Netherlands, as well as the

ASEAN Secretariat, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism allowed for increased regional cooperation and strengthened existing normative frameworks.

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### Supporting Egyptian and Iraqi Officials in Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes

As part of ongoing projects to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism in Egypt and Iraq, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) organized a national joint workshop on the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and on countering incitement to terrorism, held from 23 to 26 February 2015 in Cairo.

The workshop was attended by 66 participants, including 60 Egyptian and Iraqi law enforcement and criminal justice officers and six international experts from the Italian Arma dei Carabinieri and the Spanish Guardia Civil.

After a situational analysis of the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and the need to establish technical and legal tools to conduct investigations, the four-day workshop continued with a series of technical presentations by senior international experts with a strong focus on special techniques to investigate Internet-based terrorist offences. The participants also discussed technical aspects related to criminal investigation through wireless VoIP and Skype, preservation and protection of digital evidence and the use of social networks.

Through concrete cases and simulation exercises, experts and national participants explored good practices and brainstormed on common challenges. Each presentation was supplemented by a simulation exercise in order to immediately apply methods presented by the experts. The opportunity to use laptops and a

to conduct a successful investigation over the Internet.

The workshop was part of the current plan of action between the governments of Egypt and Iraq and UNODC/TPB, the activities of which are generously funded by the Government of Japan. Both the donor and the beneficiary counterparts expressed their full



**Participants in the UNODC/TPB workshop on the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, 23-26 February 2015, Cairo, Egypt**

high-speed Internet connection during the simulation exercises demonstrated to experts the necessity of software programmes

support to UNODC/TPB's technical assistance provided to the two countries and reiterated their commitment to further facilitate cooperation with UNODC/TPB.

### UNODC/TPB Completes Phase I of its Project for Iraq with a Regional Workshop on Cross-Border Cooperation

As part of the ongoing project to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism in Iraq and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) organized a regional workshop on cross-border cooperation to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts. The workshop was held from 27 to 29 May 2015 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

The workshop was the last activity organized under phase I of the project for Iraq, generously funded by the Government of Japan.

It was attended by high-level policymakers and criminal-justice experts and officials from Algeria,



**Participants in the UNODC/TPB workshop on cross-border cooperation, 27-29 May 2015, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt**

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Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia. Officials from Italy, Spain and the United States, as well as experts from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Egmont Group, INTERPOL, MENA Financial Action Task Force, United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), joined the MENA officers bringing the total number of participants to 42.

The opening ceremony of this high-level event included speeches by the representative of the Japanese Embassy in Cairo, Egypt and Iraq, as well as UNODC/TPB.

Presentations and in-depth discussions took place on the legal and operational challenges to prevent and suppress the financing of ISIL, ANF and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida in view of the requirements of the international legal instruments against terrorism, the United Nations sanctions regime

and Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

INTERPOL's and UNESCO's approaches on the topic of the illicit trafficking and sale of antiquities and cultural artefacts as a source of terrorism financing were presented by their experts. UNODC/TPB addressed this issue in the context of Security Council resolution 2199 (2015) and the possible mechanisms of international cooperation. All of this was discussed thoroughly with the audience, opening the door for more cooperation with UNODC/TPB on this thematic area.

Technical discussions took place among participants regarding the key role of financial intelligence units (FIUs), the collaboration between FIUs, investigators and prosecutors, the key role of the banking sector and money transfer institutions in preventing terrorism financing, and the monitoring, detection and analysis of

intelligence related to terrorism financing.

MENA delegations presented their experiences and challenges in freezing assets and in the prosecution and investigation of terrorist financing cases. The international judicial cooperation, the investigation of cross-border terrorism financing cases and joint investigation teams were also among the topics discussed. The workshop concluded with a round-table during which the participants formulated urgent actions that Iraq and MENA could take regarding the topics discussed throughout the activity.

Participants expressed their full support for UNODC/TPB's technical assistance provided to Iraq and other MENA countries, as well as their commitment to facilitate cooperation with UNODC/TPB.

## UNODC/TPB Reinforces its Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Assistance to Tunisia

The first half of 2015 saw the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) intensify and consolidate its fruitful counter-terrorism capacity building work in the Tunisia, whose continued commitment to preventing and countering terrorism was made top priority by its new Government. Since last year, Tunisia has already benefited from eight regional and national activities, and more than 12 further activities are planned within the framework of the three UNODC counter-terrorism technical assistance projects.

Following the launch event in Tunis in June 2014, Tunisia benefited from two national capacity building seminars under the UNODC-CTED project on supporting the rule-of-law compliant investigations and prosecutions in the Maghreb Region funded by the European Union. The national seminar on the use of special investigation



**Participants at the national seminar on strengthening legal and institutional measures to support victims of terrorism, 12-14 May 2015, Tunis, Tunisia**

techniques to combat terrorism within the framework of the rule of law and with respect for human rights was held in January 2015,

and another national seminar on strengthening legal and institutional measures to support victims of terrorism was held in

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May 2015. Both events focused on capacity building needs of Tunisian judicial and law enforcement officials in view of the forthcoming new counter-terrorism law being proposed by the Tunisian legislator. The draft bill, on which UNODC and CTED have also been consulted, foresees a range of specialized measures to prevent and combat terrorism more effectively, including the creation of specialized judicial units and governmental committees, such as the one to deal with victims of terrorism.

In continuing the legislative dimension of its assistance to

Tunisia, UNODC/TPB participated in a follow-up visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to Tunisia in March 2015, which analyzed the draft legislation in great detail. Following this visit, Tunisia requested assistance from UNODC/TPB and CTED in developing its national counter-terrorism strategy. This work began with a series of meetings in June 2015 and will continue in the second half of 2015.

The first half of the year also saw UNODC/TPB foster a partnership with the Tunisian Higher Institute of the Judiciary to provide technical expertise in developing a

train-the-trainer module on terrorism, terrorism financing and money laundering. Once developed, the module is planned to be introduced into the curriculum of the Institute for the long-term.

Over the next five years, Tunisia will also benefit from specialized activities under the recently launched UNODC/TPB Initiative on Criminal Justice Response to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) Threat in the Middle Eastern, North African and Balkan countries.

### Senior-Level Tunisian Delegation Visits Madrid, Paris and UNODC Headquarters in Vienna

The visit of a Tunisian delegation to three European capitals and key strategic partners for Tunisia - Madrid, Paris and Vienna - marked a midway point in the two-year bilateral cooperation between the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) and the Government of Tunisia. The delegation composed of 11 senior-level officials who specialize in counter-terrorism matters and represent the Tunisian Ministries of Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs.

The visit organized by UNODC/TPB from 1 to 10 June 2015 focused on international, regional and national practices to counter terrorism in view of possible refinements of Tunisian policies and legislation, and aimed at enhancing capacities for international cooperation.

This activity allowed Tunisian delegates to meet and engage in direct contact with their counterparts from relevant Austrian, French and Spanish government agencies, judicial and law enforcement institutions. In-depth discussions were held on a wide array of counter-terrorism matters ranging from national coordination, legislative reform and international judicial cooperation to operational aspects of border



**Meeting of the Tunisian delegation with their French counterparts in Paris, France, June 2015**

control, forensics and detection and neutralization of the improvised explosive devices.

In Madrid, the Tunisian delegation was welcomed by the Spanish Ministries of Interior and Justice, and was also received by the Chief Counter-Terrorism Prosecutor at the Spanish Supreme Court. In-depth discussions were complemented by operational visits to the Forensic Laboratory of the General Commissariat of Scientific Police and the Operational Centre

of the Guardia Civil, including the National Centre of Coordination for Maritime Surveillance.

The visit to the UNODC headquarters in Vienna was dedicated to stock-taking and future planning of activities under the current counter-terrorism projects run by UNODC/TPB, of which Tunisia is a beneficiary country. The delegation met and discussed the ongoing and planned cooperation with representatives of the UNODC Branches. The visit to

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Vienna also presented the opportunity for meetings with the Austrian Ministries of Interior and Justice.

In Paris, the delegation was received at the Ministry of the Justice and at the First Instance Court of Paris by the Chief Prosecutor of Paris and his team, as well as by the investigating judges

of the National Counter-Terrorism Unit. The specialized intelligence and law enforcement agencies of the French Ministry of Interior also offered the delegation a wealth of information on their actual work and methods to detect and disrupt terrorist operations.

This senior-level visit provided Tunisian participants with direct

exposure to good practices and ideas for further cooperation. The outcomes of this visit will enable UNODC/TPB to better target its future capacity building activities for Tunisia based on its current needs and priorities, as well as to facilitate partnerships in counter-terrorism area.

### Workshop for Algerian officials on Criminal Justice Response to the Appeal of Terrorism

As part of its ongoing projects to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism in Algeria, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) organized, within the framework of the UNODC-CTED-EU Initiative for the Maghreb Region, a national workshop on the development of an effective national criminal justice preventive strategy to counter the appeal of terrorism in Algiers on 16-18 February 2015.

The workshop was attended by thirty-two national senior officers representing criminal justice authorities and law enforcement bodies and six international experts from Algeria, Denmark, Iraq, Spain, Tunisia and the United States, bringing the total number of participants to thirty-eight.

This was the first training workshop implemented in Algeria under the UNODC-CTED-EU Initiative for the Maghreb Region. Development of a criminal justice response to counter the appeal of terrorism was identified as a major priority for the Government of Algeria. The objective of the workshop was to discuss current legislative, investigative and prosecutorial challenges with regards to countering the appeal of



**Participants in the UNODC/TPB workshop on criminal justice response to the appeal of terrorism, 16-18 February 2015, Algiers, Algeria**

terrorism, through the study of concrete cases.

Aiming to enhance the exchange of experiences and expertise, national and international experts discussed such important topics as the use of the Internet for incitement and recruitment purposes, the use of other criminal offences, the prevention of terrorism through countering

radicalization and the role of victims in countering terrorist narratives.

Experts and participants expressed their full appreciation of the activity, in particular the quality of discussions between national participants and their counterparts, as well as the variety of national experiences to which Algerian participants were exposed.

### Contributing to Colombia's Efforts to Effectively Investigate the Financing of Terrorism Cases

From 11 to 15 May 2015, the 15th Mock Criminal Investigation on Financing of Terrorism (MCIFT) took place in Medellin, Colombia. This workshop completes the second cycle of a series of the MCIFT activities in Colombia,

which included a total of 15 activities in 13 different cities nationwide. The holistic approach to the entire territory of Colombia has been key to reach out to criminal justice officials who deal with the investigation and

adjudication of acts of terrorism, as well as the financing of terrorism.

Through the second cycle of the MCIFT, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) further strengthened the capacities

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of Colombia to mitigate the terrorism threat in the country and region. An additional group of almost 400 national criminal justice officials participated in the MCIFT exercises, which also covered the most recent changes in the Colombian Procedural Criminal Law and internal acts of the Attorney General's Office. The second MCIFT cycle in Colombia was implemented with the financial support of the Government of the United States of America, in particular through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), and in close cooperation with the INL office at the United States Embassy in Colombia.

The MCIFT consists of five intensive working days, during which participants are provided with in-depth knowledge on practical aspects of countering terrorism and its financing. The most recent innovative tools developed by UNODC/TPB for Colombia (i.e. the Case Management Tool to Conduct Comprehensive Financing of Terrorism Investigations, Guide for Colombia on the Legal Regime against Terrorism and Its Financing, as well as the Observatory of Jurisprudence) are fully integrated in the MCIFT



**Participants in the Mock Criminal Investigation on Financing of Terrorism, 11-15 May 2015, Medellin, Colombia**

delivery. At the first training session, participants, including judges, prosecutors, investigators and financial analysts, are assigned to teams, which are tasked with building an integral and multi-dimensional solution to three interrelated complex cases that were specifically designed by UNODC/TPB experts for the MCIFT activity. In addition to substantive presentations and practical exercises, three preliminary hearings of charges are conducted simultaneously with the above mentioned cases. The

hearings and daily closing sessions are led by national high-level experts.

The UNODC/TPB team in Colombia continues the work started seven years ago, by implementing an in-depth programme on countering terrorism and its financing. Advanced technical tools, simulation exercises and good practices, among others, have been designed and provided, aiming at enhancing the national response to prevent and confront these serious crimes.

## UNODC/TPB Completes Phase II of Assistance to Nigeria, Commences Phase III



**Opening remarks at the National Stakeholders Roundtable in Abuja, on 23 June 2015**

In May-June 2015, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) completed Phase II of its counter-terrorism assistance programme for Nigeria (November 2013 – June 2015) and commenced initial activities for follow-up Phase III (2015-2018) of the programme.

Phase II of the programme was fully funded by the European Union and implemented by UNODC/TPB and the Country Office in Nigeria, in partnership with the Counter-Terrorism

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Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

During Phase II, the programme reached out to some 1000 national officials from 33 Nigerian entities with the aim of enhancing knowledge and skills development with a special focus on criminal justice aspects of counter-terrorism. In particular, select groups of 64 investigators, 23 legal advisors and 21 prosecutors were provided with specialized training aimed at strengthening their capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases in conformity with the rule of law and human rights. These training activities are expected to facilitate a transition from a confession-based to evidence-based prosecution of terrorism cases. In collaboration with CTED, UNODC/TPB also worked with officials from 19 Nigerian national entities to enhance inter-agency cooperation in counter-terrorism matters, with a focus on the collaborative investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases. Furthermore, in partnership with the Nigerian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, UNODC/TPB developed a series of training modules on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism, tailor-made



**Participants at the National Stakeholders Roundtable in Abuja, Nigeria, on 23 June 2015**

for Nigeria, which will contribute to establish sustainable national capacity for human rights-specific training.

While Phase II has been completed, more work remains to be done. For this reason, UNODC/TPB has worked closely with the Nigerian national entities and CTED colleagues and developed a Phase III programme proposal for 2015-2018, building on the achievements and lessons learnt from Phase II. As part of these efforts, UNODC/TPB held a national stakeholders roundtable in Abuja in June 2015, to obtain further feedback on the assistance delivered and the proposed follow-

up programme, as well as to reaffirm continued ownership and commitment of the national authorities.

Continuing the close partnership with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Federal Ministry of Justice, UNODC/TPB has already commenced some initial activities under Phase III, consisting of training for a new group of prosecutors, which will build on the curriculum developed and utilized during Phase II. These activities are funded by the Government of Japan.

### UNODC Assists Djibouti on Counter-Terrorism Legislation

Although small in size and population, Djibouti has a key geostrategic location in global efforts against terrorism and transnational organized crime: it sits north of Somalia, borders Ethiopia and Eritrea and lies only 20 miles from Yemen and the Arab Peninsula across the Bab al-Mandab, the strait linking the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea through which millions of barrels of oil pass each day.

To effectively deal with the challenges posed by this location, since 2002 Djibouti has enacted several important pieces of legislation against terrorism, terrorism financing and organized crime. Having become a Party to

16 out of the 19 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, Djibouti is exemplary in terms of ratification of counter-terrorism treaties.

Recently, the Government of Djibouti sought the assistance of the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) to review its legislation, ensure that it fully complies with the country's international obligations, and to bring together all the provisions now spread over several pieces of legislation in a coherent and easily accessible way in its Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code. Drawing on funding provided by Turkey and the United

States of America, UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch and the Regional Office for East Africa formed a team to advise Djibouti, adding two experienced judges from France and Morocco to UNODC's in-house expertise.

From 1 to 3 June 2015, the UNODC/TPB team was in Djibouti presenting the results of its analysis and recommendations to Djibouti's inter-ministerial technical counter-terrorism committee, selected parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors. The workshop was opened by the Minister of Justice, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Djibouti.

# La Nation

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Législation anti-terroriste et coopération internationale en matière pénale

## Améliorer l'arsenal répressif face à la menace terroriste

L'institut des études diplomatiques a abrité hier matin un atelier de formation sur la législation antiterroriste et sur le cadre législatif pour la coopération internationale en matière pénale. L'atelier était organisé par le ministère de la justice en collaboration avec le système des

**Djibouti's main daily *La Nation* dedicated its title page headline to the Djibouti-UNODC cooperation on counter-terrorism legislation**

Following up on the work carried out at this workshop, over the summer UNODC/TPB's team and Djibouti's inter-ministerial technical counter-terrorism committee will continue to develop and refine concrete legislative drafting proposals. These will be presented to a broader audience at a second workshop planned for mid-November 2015.

### UNODC Holds a Training Workshop for Somali Prosecutors and Judges

Responding to requests conveyed by the Chief Justice and Attorney General of Somalia, to assist in strengthening the capacity of judges and prosecutors to effectively deal with terrorism and serious crimes cases, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and the Regional Office for Eastern Africa carried out a training workshop on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism offences. The event was hosted by the Justice Academy of Turkey in Ankara from 4 to 8 May 2015.

This training activity, the first in a proposed series of workshops for a selected group of Somali officials, was developed jointly with the officials of the United Kingdom, building on and complementing a UK training programme.

The workshop was attended by 18 judges and prosecutors from South-Central Somalia, including the President of the Court of Appeal of Somalia. The workshop aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills to undertake prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related



**Participants in the UNODC/TPB workshop on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism offences, 4-8 May 2015, Ankara, Turkey**

cases in accordance with the rule of law, including especially human rights. It served to identify specific areas requiring further knowledge and skills enhancement, thus providing a solid foundation for the development of further training to the same group of participants.

Participants appreciated the valuable training opportunity and reiterated the need for more capacity building, noting that

sustained training would also be an important contribution for restoring and maintaining peace in the nation.

The workshop was financed through voluntary contributions from the governments of Turkey and the United States of America.”

### Pakistan: Train-the-Trainers Initiative Launched to Promote Effective Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism

In order to effectively counter threats and challenges posed by terrorists, it has become crucial to enhance the capacity of

criminal justice officials responsible for the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases related to

terrorism to undertake these functions in accordance with the rule of law.

## THE TERRORISM PREVENTION BRANCH BRIEFING

Under its national train-the-trainers initiative, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB), in collaboration with the UNODC Country Office in Pakistan and the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA) of Pakistan, organized two workshops for senior prosecutors

In the first of these workshops, 22 prosecutors and judges from across Pakistan, responsible for criminal investigations and prosecutions related to terrorism were in attendance. The workshops provided participants with an overview of relevant international conventions and

utilize when acting as trainers for other Pakistani trainees at follow-up training workshops under the train-the-trainers initiative.

In the second workshop, a group of trainees from the January workshop, supported by the UNODC experts, provided training to national participants on the international legal framework and related criminal justice responses, as well as the specialized subject areas of counter financing of terrorism, criminology and trends in terrorism.

In addition to presentations and case studies on implementing key aspects of criminal justice responses to terrorism, the workshops provided opportunities for national criminal justice practitioners to share experiences and broaden their knowledge in implementing the universal legal instruments against terrorism. The FJA representatives underlined the equal importance of training criminal justice practitioners on both the national counter-terrorism context, as well as on the international legal framework, an area where UNODC/TPB can provide expertise.

The workshops are an example of the close working relationship between UNODC and the Government of Pakistan.



**Participants in the train-the-trainer workshop for Pakistan's senior prosecutors and judges held by UNODC/TPB in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 26-30 May 2015**

and judges on the global legal framework against terrorism and relevant criminal justice measures in Islamabad on 19-24 January and 26-30 May 2015, respectively. The workshops aimed to enhance the core expertise and knowledge of these key criminal justice actors to apply the universal legal framework in full accordance with the rule of law, and provided participants a forum to share their expertise and knowledge at a national level with other practitioners in their respective disciplines.

United Nations Security Council resolutions against terrorism. It also highlighted Pakistan's national legal and procedural measures relating to the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of crimes related to terrorism, the requirements of fair trial, as well as related mechanisms for international cooperation in criminal matters. In addition to the substantive knowledge of legal concepts relating to the international counter-terrorism framework, the participants received training on knowledge-transfer skills, which selected participants would

## Strengthening Criminal Justice Mechanisms to Counter Improvised Explosive Devices in Afghanistan

The UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB), in collaboration with the UNODC country office in Afghanistan, organized a national training workshop on strengthening criminal justice mechanisms to counter improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The workshop was held in Kabul on 8 and 9 June 2015.

Fifty senior officials from Afghanistan's various agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Justice, Anti-Terrorism Prosecution Directorate, Attorney General's Office, Counter-Terrorism Department of the Ministry of Interior, Counter-Terrorism Division of the Supreme Court, Legislative Committee of the Parliament (Upper House), National

Directorate of Security, Afghan Atomic Energy High Commission, Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan's Independent Bar Association, Central Department of Customs, border police, as well as representatives from delegations of the international community based in Kabul, were in attendance.

## THE TERRORISM PREVENTION BRANCH BRIEFING

The workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of participants to effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorist offences involving IEDs within the applicable international legal framework, including relevant international conventions and United Nations Security Council resolutions. It also increased the capacity of national authorities to engage in both regional and international cooperation in this regard.

In addition to presentations on countering the financing of terrorism and IEDs, the treatment of victims of IEDs and good practices for countering IEDs, the workshop promoted inter-agency collaboration initiatives to reduce the risks of diversion of explosives and their precursors for terrorist purposes. It also supported the revision of Afghanistan's legislation related to control mechanisms on explosives as well as relevant criminal and procedural legislation in line with international standards and in accordance with the rule of law.



**Participants in the workshop on strengthening criminal justice mechanisms to counter improvised explosive devices, 8-9 June 2015, Kabul, Afghanistan**

At the closing ceremony, the Chief of Staff of the Office of the First Lady Ms. Ghani emphasized the importance of continuing bilateral cooperation on countering terrorism in Afghanistan and the region. The Director-General of the Anti-Terrorism Prosecution Directorate of the Attorney General's Office, representatives of the MoFA and members of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

expressed their appreciation for the UNODC assistance.

The workshop was implemented within the framework of the 2014-2016 Joint Plan of Action for the implementation of technical assistance activities between the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and the Government of Afghanistan to support their efforts in the area of preventing and combatting terrorism.

### Addressing the Challenges of Foreign Terrorist Fighters at the 2015 Crime Commission

The international flow of foreign terrorist fighters, as recently recognized in General Assembly Resolution 68/276 and Security Council Resolutions 2170 and 2178, poses an increasingly dangerous threat to international peace and security. While not a new occurrence, the extent of the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters in conflicts and acts of terrorism today is unparalleled. With terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida, ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front all recruiting foreign nationals, the threat posed by terrorism now encapsulates not just end-target countries, but also countries of origin and transit.

The threat of individuals travelling to conflict zones, becoming further radicalized,

receiving combat training, becoming involved in terrorist acts and then returning to their home countries with the aim of carrying out terrorist acts, is more serious than ever. It is essential, therefore, that the international community works together to ensure that all States have the legal and operational tools to effectively combat the threat posed by the foreign fighters.

Concerns about these trends were also raised by Member States which, in the Doha Declaration adopted at the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, strove to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, "including through capacity-

building activities, such as those provided by the [UNODC], to share and adopt best practices [...] to prevent the financing, mobilization, recruitment and organization of foreign terrorist fighters, to counter violent extremism and radicalization to violence, which can be conducive to terrorism, [...] and to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in the supporting of terrorist acts is brought to justice, in compliance with obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic law" (A/CONF.222/L.6, paragraph 8 (d)).

As part of these efforts, UNODC has recently launched a global initiative to support Member States in addressing the unprecedented scope and intensity of this phenomenon.

The five-year initiative will help to strengthen national legislation and build the capacities of criminal justice practitioners to address the threat posed by the increasing flow of foreign terrorist fighters to and from the Maghreb, the Middle East, the European Union and the Balkan countries.

Technical assistance will focus in particular on key areas such as the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases; the use of intelligence as admissible evidence; the protection of witnesses; as well as countering terrorism financing; in the context of foreign terrorist fighters.

The initiative will also analyse the complex and interrelated challenges posed to the criminal justice systems of Member States by the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, including to spread violent extremism ideologies, recruit and train foreign terrorist fighters or stand-alone terrorists. In this regard, the use of efficient special investigation techniques to counter terrorist activities on the Internet will be specifically addressed.



**Keynote speakers at the High-Level Special Event on Strengthening Criminal Justice Responses to the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, 18 May 2015, Vienna, Austria**

At the event on the margins of the 24th session of the 2015 Crime Commission in Vienna, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov noted that “by strengthening national criminal justice capacities as well as international cooperation to address the transnational dimension of this phenomenon, UNODC aims to help countries confront challenges including incitement to terrorism, as well as terrorist recruitment, financing and training. In this way we can seek to disrupt terrorist plans and operations before they happen”.

The High Level Special Event on Strengthening Criminal Justice Responses to the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters was organised by the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch in Vienna on 18 May 2015. The

event was attended by the representatives from Member States and international and regional organizations, as well as the high-level keynote speakers, including the Vice-Minister of Interior of Iraq, the Ambassador of Morocco to the United Nations Organization in Vienna, the European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, the Vice-President of EUROJUST and the Chair of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism of the Council of Europe.

Participants and panellists discussed the various issues and challenges in this area, as well as good practices and legal developments that some countries have adopted or undertaken to address this threat.

### **Terrorists, Criminals Strengthening Their Links Says UNODC Executive Director at 13th Crime Congress Special Event**

During the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, hosted by the Government of Qatar in Doha, from 12 to 19 April 2015, UNODC organized a High-Level Special Event on “Strengthening national and international cooperation in preventing and countering terrorist financing”, on 14 April 2015. The event

aimed to discuss how combatting the financing of terrorism can contribute to prevent and disrupt terrorist activities, as well as to review ongoing counter terrorism financing work carried out by Member States and key organizations, highlighting areas where gaps still exist and exploring potential for capacity building programmes.

The high-level special event, which was moderated by the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, Mr. Trevor Rajah, included the interventions of the UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov, the Minister of Justice of Lebanon, H.E. Mr. Ashraf Rifi, the Acting Minister of Justice of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Said Yusuf

## THE TERRORISM PREVENTION BRANCH BRIEFING

Halem, the Deputy Minister of Interior of Iraq, Mr. Aqeel Kareem Khazel, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde.

two resolutions highlighted the importance of redoubling efforts to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime. Going after the terrorist 'business model' and disrupting financial flows remains a major challenge, one

Intervention by other speakers focused on experiences from Member States in particular in the MENA region and Afghanistan in developing and implementing strategies on countering new forms of terrorism financing, pointing out at the increasing links between terrorist groups and organized crime, as well as at the use of criminal activities as a source of terrorist financing, including trafficking in drugs, arms, cultural property, oil and kidnapping for ransom or for the purpose of extortion. International cooperation was also deemed as essential in these areas as was ratifying and fully implementing the relevant United Nations instruments against terrorism and its financing.



**Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, addressing the High-Level Special Event on Strengthening National and International Cooperation in Preventing and Countering Terrorist Financing, in Doha on 14 April 2015**

In addressing the Special Event, the UNODC Executive Director mentioned that we have witnessed the strengthening and increased sophistication of links between transnational organized criminal networks and terrorists in many regions of the world. He noted that the gravity of this worrying nexus had been recognized by the United Nations Security Council, in its recent resolutions 2195 and 2199. The

that requires a comprehensive, integrated approach that reaches out to all sectors and actors involved, private and public, and leaves no gaps for the terrorists and criminals to exploit. He also referred to the working group chaired by UNODC on countering the financing of terrorism, as part of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

A discussion followed with interventions from the floor by a number of delegations. The side-event raised awareness among a significant number of delegations attending the Congress on the need to strengthen a preventative criminal justice approach to counter terrorism, that includes focusing on disrupting financial flows related to terrorism. It also reinforced the attention devoted by the Congress to counter-terrorism issues, complementing the detailed and effective language on counter-terrorism that had been included in the Doha Declaration, which had been adopted unanimously on 12 April 2015.

The **Terrorism Prevention Branch** of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime delivers counter-terrorism legislative and capacity-building assistance to Member States, upon request, aimed at strengthening national capacity to implement the universal legal regime against terrorism.

### LEGAL AND CAPACITY-BUILDING AREAS

- Universal Legal Framework against Terrorism;
- Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication of Terrorism-related Cases;
- Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes;
- Victims of Acts of Terrorism;
- Preventing and Suppressing Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism;
- Transport-related (Civil Aviation and Maritime) Terrorism Offences;
- Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism;
- Countering the Financing of Terrorism;
- International Cooperation in Criminal Matters related to Terrorism.

### DELIVERY METHODS

#### WORKSHOPS

at the national, sub-regional and regional level, through which criminal justice officials receive specialized knowledge enhancement and training on preventing and countering terrorism;

#### ONLINE COUNTER-TERRORISM LEARNING PLATFORM

an interactive tool for training criminal justice officials on countering terrorism that offers:

- 1) tailor-made online training;
- 2) a worldwide community of practitioners, enabling networking and the sharing of good practices;

#### MOCK TRIALS AND INVESTIGATIONS

of terrorism cases, terrorist financing and linkages to serious related crimes, providing practitioners with an opportunity to simulate trials and criminal investigations based on real-life scenarios

#### LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

to support Member States with the incorporation of the provisions of the international legal instruments against terrorism into national legislation through legislative analysis, drafting and national workshops;

#### STUDY TOURS

for criminal justice officials to get acquainted with counter-terrorism good practices.

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