



**IN THIS ISSUE**

Highlighting the Key Role of Victims of Acts of Terrorism Page 2

UNODC/TPB and CTED Launch Global Project on Central Authorities Page 3

UNODC/TPB and the Republic of Yemen Cooperate to Strengthen the Criminal Justice response to Terrorism in Yemen Page 4

UNODC/TPB and CTED Step up Efforts to Support and Protect Witnesses in Terrorism Cases in South Asia Page 4

Strengthening Regional Counter-Terrorism Cooperation in the Maghreb and Sahel Page 5

UNODC/TPB and Nigeria Review and Formulate Counter-Terrorism Assistance Plan Page 6

Countering the Financing of Terrorism in South East Asia: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward Page 7



The first six months of 2013 saw the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) engaged with the organization of a series of new counter-terrorism capacity building initiatives and the hosting of a literary-photographic exhibition to honour the memory of victims of acts of terrorism from all over the world at the Vienna International Centre, on the margins of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. This initiative has been carried out in the framework of TPB's mandate to support and assist victims of acts of terrorism, in particular concerning the key role that victims can play before, during and after the criminal proceedings as well as taking into account the role that victims can play in countering the appeal of terrorism. Following the request of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 2013 we plan to start the preparation of a set of best practices, in close coordination with Member States, on assistance to and support for victims of terrorism, including the role of victims within the criminal justice framework.

Since January, TPB has organized several national and regional capacity building activities for criminal justice officials in North Africa, the Sahel, Asia and Latin America, addressing issues such as international cooperation in criminal matters, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, victims of acts of terrorism, financing of terrorism and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. We look forward to the next phase of the recently launched project on building effective central authorities for international judicial cooperation, undertaken jointly with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, as well as to continue supporting our Member States with the development of comprehensive regional and national counter-terrorism strategies.

I invite you to read through this new issue of our newsletter for updates on TPB's recent work in preventing and combating terrorism.

With best regards,  
*Marta Requena*  
Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**21-23 May** Regional workshop on the legal aspects related to terrorism prevention, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**27-31 May** Mock trial on the financing of terrorism, Bogotá, Colombia

**5-6 June** Workshop on the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, Dakar, Senegal

**5-7 June** National training workshop on the UN Security Council sanction regimes and the freezing of assets, Rabat, Morocco

## Highlighting the Key Role of Victims of Acts of Terrorism

As part of its ongoing efforts in support of victims of acts of terrorism, the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized two important events in April, namely a literary-photographic exhibition, entitled *100 Reflections Out of Sorrow*, in remembrance and support of victims of acts of terrorism from all over the world and a panel discussion on victims of acts of terrorism.

The exhibition, consisting of some 50 emotionally moving photos and accompanying texts by internationally recognized intellectuals, was opened by Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC. Mr. Luis Aguilera, Vice Minister of Interior of Spain and Ms. Maria del Mar Blanco, President of the Victims of Terrorism Foundation, also delivered opening remarks.

Mr Fedotov expressed the hope that the exhibition and panel discussion would lead to a productive dialogue on further steps the international community and national governments

could take to highlight the role that victims can play in countering terrorism, as well as in ensuring that they receive the support, assistance and respect they deserve. Vice-Minister Aguilera emphasized the



*Maria del Mar Blanco, President of the Victims of Terrorism Foundation delivering remarks at the launch of the exhibition*



*UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov opening the exhibition "100 Reflections out of Sorrow" at the Vienna International Centre*

key role of victims as part of any strategy for fighting terrorism and recalled the measures taken by Spain to recognize the rights of victims of acts of terrorism.

Ms. Blanco highlighted that the exhibition seeks to draw the attention of States and international organizations to the urgency of

achieving consensus to enable progress in recognizing and advancing the rights of victims of acts of terrorism.

The exhibition was followed by a panel discussion on victims of acts of terrorism organized by the TPB in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations in Vienna. The panel was chaired by Ms. Marta Requena, Chief of the TPB, with the participation of Mr. Ben Emmerson, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of

Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, Ms Edith Schlaffer, Founder and Director, Women Without Borders, Mr. Aguilera and Ms. Blanco.

All speakers recognized the role that victims can play in countering the appeal of terrorism. Mr. Emmerson recalled his 2012 report entitled *Framework principles for securing the human rights of victims of terrorism*, in which he calls for the adoption of a single international legal framework setting out the rights of victims of acts of terrorism and the corresponding obligations of States.

Ms. Requena explained that TPB will shortly start working on the preparation of best practices in close coordination with Member States, on assistance to, and support for, victims of terrorism, including the role of victims within a criminal justice



*From left to right: Ben Emmerson, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, Marta Requena, TPB Chief, Luis Aguilera, Vice Minister of Interior of Spain and Edith Schlaffer, Founder and Director, Women Without Borders, at the panel discussion on victims of acts of terrorism*

framework. Ensuring that victims of acts of terrorism are not forgotten is a priority for the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC. In 2013, the

Branch will build upon its work in support of victims of acts of terrorism, by focusing on the key role victims can play before, during and after the

criminal proceedings, as well as in countering the appeal of terrorism.

## UNODC/TPB and CTED Launch Global Project on Central Authorities

The transnational nature of terrorism calls for a well coordinated, transnational response. Successful investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related crimes cannot be achieved in isolation, and requires States to assist each other and jointly take on the challenge of global terrorism. That said, challenges to international cooperation are numerous. Poorly developed cooperation mechanisms, coordination problems between States, as well as the diversity of procedures and legal traditions, represent real obstacles to successful international cooperation against terrorism.

### The Project

Recognizing these difficulties, the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), drawing on their complementary mandates and roles, have embarked on a joint global project promoting the establishment of effective central authorities for international judicial cooperation in terrorism cases. The three-year project, officially launched at the *Initial Global Meeting on Effective International Cooperation by Central Authorities*, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 19-21 February 2013, will assist Member States to build national central authorities to facilitate extradition and mutual legal assistance procedures, promote cooperation between them at both regional and international levels

and establish a world-wide network of central authorities dealing with terrorism cases. The meeting in Cartagena provided a unique forum

central authorities, could include checklists for the submission of extradition and mutual legal assistance requests, model requests



*Participants at the Initial Global Meeting on Effective International Cooperation by Central Authorities, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 19-21 February 2013*

for representatives of international and regional organizations, experts and practitioners from all over the world to discuss challenges, but also to exchange good practices vis-à-vis the establishment and efficient operation of central authorities. Participants highlighted the strong value of this initiative and, underscored the key role that central authorities can play as national focal points for the submission and processing of requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition, as well as for consultation on the legal and procedural requirements.

Discussions during the meeting indicated the need to create a resource website devoted to central authorities dealing with terrorist cases, which, apart from a directory of national

and relevant forms, as well as country-specific formalities and legal resources. The importance of developing networks of central authorities was also highlighted.

### The Road Ahead

Following this initial meeting, TPB and CTED will pursue a regionally tailored approach and endeavor to organize two follow up meetings in South East Asia and the Middle East and Northern Africa to identify technical assistance needs for the designation of central authorities and agree on a course of action. In addition, TPB and CTED will continue to implement regional workshops bringing together potential donors and international and regional partners.

## UNODC/TPB and the Republic of Yemen Cooperate to Strengthen the Criminal Justice Response to Terrorism in Yemen

Why are electronic surveillance techniques, such as wiretapping or analysing mobile phone call record data, so important to today's counter-terrorism investigations? What are the risks these techniques pose to the right to privacy to a fair trial and to other human rights? What safeguards and due process guarantees under Yemeni law ensure protection of these rights? What are the specific challenges of mutual legal assistance among States in this area?

These are some of the questions 35 Yemeni judges and prosecutors and experts from Morocco, the United States of America and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB) addressed at a *Training Workshop on Electronic Surveillance in the Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorism-Related Offences* held at the High Judicial Institute of Yemen from 23 to 26 March 2013.

"I have attended many workshops in the past couple of years, this one stands out for its practical approach and for dealing with issues we face every day in our work", commented one participant, a judge in Yemen's capital Sana'a.

The workshop was organized by the TPB and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Yemen. It was one of the technical assistance delivery activities carried out as part of TPB's project on strengthening criminal justice responses to terrorism in Yemen.

TPB has provided technical assistance



*Yemeni officials discuss at the workshop on electronic surveillance in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related offences organized by UNODC/TPB in Sana'a*

to Yemen since 2005, working closely with the national inter-ministerial committee set up to carry out Yemen's obligations under international law regarding the global counter-terrorism effort. The adoption by Yemen's Parliament of Law no. 1 of 2010 on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism was a notable product of that cooperation. After the recent political instability, TPB has fully reengaged in Yemen. In February

2013, TPB organized two workshops in Sana'a which brought together officials from the Ministries of Justice, Legal Affairs, Interior and Foreign Affairs, as well as members of Parliament and their staff, and UNODC experts. Based on a study prepared by UNODC, Yemeni officials analyzed their domestic counter-terrorism legislation and legal framework for extradition and mutual legal assistance, and adopted recommendations to fill gaps in the legal framework.

TPB's technical assistance to Yemen also includes regional workshops in which Yemeni officials meet and exchange information and experiences with their counterparts from Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya. Another key aspect of TPB's efforts is the translation into Arabic of

UNODC's specialized publications and their dissemination to Yemeni counter-terrorism practitioners. In the coming months, TPB and the Government of Yemen will implement additional technical assistance activities, including a judicial training workshop and activities focused on human rights in counter-terrorism.

## UNODC/TPB and CTED Step up Efforts to Support and Protect Witnesses in Terrorism Cases in South Asia

While witness testimony is key to the effective investigation and prosecution of criminal cases, including those involving terrorism, obtaining witness cooperation poses a major challenge to criminal justice

systems. The climate of fear created by the intimidation of witnesses, coupled with the inadequate implementation or lack of national procedures for the protection and support of witnesses and, can severely

hamper efforts to bring perpetrators of terrorism to justice. As part of the Terrorism Prevention Branch's broader efforts to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice practitioners in South Asia to deal

with these issues, the Terrorism Prevention Branch, with the support of the Organized Crime Branch (OCB) of UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), facilitated a regional working group on issues related to witness protection in terrorism cases for police officers from South Asia from 18-20 March in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Working Group, held as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> *Regional Workshop for Police, Prosecutors and Judges in South Asia on Effectively Countering Terrorism*, and co-organized by the Centre on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation and CTED, provided a forum for participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and experts from Europol and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to exchange national and collective experiences and good practices for the protection of witnesses in criminal proceedings involving terrorism.

Participants in the working group observed that although many South Asian countries had, in recent years, experienced some instances of threats and intimidation faced by witnesses, as well as threats to victims, police officers, prosecutors and judges in criminal cases, none has specific witness protection legislation in place. While some procedural measures, such as safe houses or the use of videoconferencing as a means of giving testimony, are in place to support any such individuals who are subject to intimidation, their scope and extent vary significantly from one country to another.

Participants recognized that inadequate training, competing priorities and corruption, among others, are factors preventing States in the region from taking a proactive approach with respect to witness support, and highlighted the need to strengthen the expertise and capacity of responsible criminal justice officers to deal with such issues, as well as to improve regional cooperation and inter-agency coordination in this

regard. Finally, participants observed the integral role that the rule of law and human rights play in the protection and support of witnesses, victims and criminal justice officers while ensuring the right to fair trial by all accused persons in criminal proceedings.

The meeting of the working group coincides with the first phase of a two year technical assistance project being undertaken by TPB and CTED aimed at strengthening legal frameworks in South Asian countries related to witnesses, victims and criminal justice officers involved in terrorism cases. The working group provided the project team with timely, valuable information on which areas to prioritize to ensure future activities meet the specific needs and priorities of South Asian countries. Activities planned for 2013 include further national-level and regional workshops aimed at strengthening the policies, legislative frameworks and practices of South Asian countries, as well as building regional cooperation in this important field.

## Strengthening Regional Counter-Terrorism Cooperation in the Maghreb and Sahel

The transnational dimension of terrorist crimes requires an effective international response. As terrorist networks span the globe, strong regional and international cooperation mechanisms are key to ensuring that perpetrators are denied safe havens and are brought to justice without delay.

To address this important aspect, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB), together with the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Global Counterterrorism Forum

(GCTF), organized a conference on regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism in the Maghreb and Sahel, in Casablanca, Morocco, from 16 to 18 April 2013.

During the three-day event, practitioners from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia, experts from GCTF countries in particular, Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey and the United States, and representatives of international and regional organizations, including Eurojust, League of Arab States, Interpol, European Judicial Network, the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and GCTF, presented existing tools and mechanisms for international cooperation in



*Participants at the Conference on Regional Cooperation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism in the Maghreb and Sahel Countries*

criminal matters, analyzed the challenges of regional cooperation, shared best practices and experiences and explored the possibility of establishing new mechanisms for effective counter-terrorism cooperation in the region.

The conference draws on the excellent ongoing cooperation between TPB and the countries of the Maghreb and Sahel, where the Branch has previously implemented numerous technical assistance activities touching upon several areas, including international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism. TPB particularly assisted in the establishment of the Platform for Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters for Sahel Countries.

The Casablanca conference benefited from the participation of H.E. Mr. Mustapha Ramid, Minister of Justice and Freedoms of the Kingdom of Morocco as well as from the active participation of the delegates. The presentation of actual cases showed the advantages of cooperation as well as the difficulties and challenges that

States and practitioners regularly face. The conference ended with a set of recommendations echoed by all participants and summarized by Ms. Marta Requena, Chief of the TPB, in her concluding remarks. In particular, participants identified the need for the following:

- assessing and strengthening national legal frameworks pertaining to international cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition and mutual legal assistance;
- raising awareness and enhancing knowledge of the universal counter-terrorism instruments and the cooperation mechanisms afforded by these instruments;
- enhancing direct interaction and communication, including through the designation of national central authorities to facilitate regional and international judicial cooperation, and the development of networks of central authorities;

- promoting the establishment of links among the existing networks as well as employing liaison magistrates and joint investigation teams to work on common cases;
- fostering mutual trust and enabling understanding of the differences between legal systems and country requirements regarding extradition and mutual legal assistance procedures;
- utilizing modern technologies (e-mails, video conferences, secure communication systems) to facilitate speedy and effective communication, as well as utilizing existing guidelines and model requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance.

In the coming months, TPB will continue its successful partnership with countries in the Maghreb and the Sahel, and stands ready to support States in the region to overcome challenges to successful judicial cooperation.

## UNODC/TPB and Nigeria Review and Formulate Counter-Terrorism Assistance Plan

On 25 February, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB) and the Federal Ministry of Justice of Nigeria held a roundtable in Abuja, Nigeria bringing together representatives of key national counter-terrorism institutions and international partners. The roundtable enabled participants to discuss on the counter-terrorism assistance delivered by the TPB to Nigeria in 2012, with the financial support of the United Kingdom, and to agree on key areas for further assistance in 2013 and 2014.

During the roundtable, Nigerian authorities expressed appreciation to the TPB for the technical assistance

provided towards developing good practices for an effective rule of law-based criminal justice sector response to terrorism in Nigeria. These efforts were generally commended as being timely, especially in view of the on-going challenges facing Nigeria including the continued wave of terrorist attacks in the northern parts of the country. Assistance provided to Nigeria in 2012 included a series of training workshops with the participation of 62 prosecutors, investigators and legal advisers of the national security service and 80



*Nigerian officials gather in Abuja to evaluate TPB assistance to the country and define the way forward*

members of the judiciary, including judges of the Federal High Court and the Court of Appeal. In addition to that, activities were also aimed at supporting the work of Nigerian

authorities in reviewing relevant national counter-terrorism legislation.

### The way forward

TPB will continue its partnership with the Nigerian authorities. A range of

new technical assistance activities aimed at strengthening the country's investigative, prosecutorial and adjudicating capacities are in the pipeline for the next two years. Among others, future activities are expected to focus on inter-agency collaboration in counter-terrorism,

supporting the development of a legal training curriculum to be included in the syllabus of national training institutions, and supporting the ratification of the international legal instruments against terrorism and the analysis and implementation of national counter-terrorism legislation.

## Countering the Financing of Terrorism in South East Asia: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward

Terrorists require financing to recruit and support members, maintain logistics hubs, and conduct operations. In order to successfully tackle the threat of terrorism, States need to be equipped with the legal tools and specialized expertise required to limit terrorists' access to financial resources and deny them the means to carry out attacks. For many years, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB), in its capacity as a provider of specialized technical assistance, has been supporting Member States to strengthen their legal and operational frameworks and build the expertise necessary to detect, investigate and prosecute cases involving terrorist financing.

TPB's efforts to curb terrorist financing span various regions and countries around the globe, and South East Asia is no exception. TPB has been providing counter-terrorism technical assistance to countries in the region since 2003, and considerable efforts have been devoted to enhancing the capacity of criminal justice systems to undertake preventive and punitive measures against the financing of terrorism, as well as to strengthen regional judicial cooperation towards this end.

Supporting the drafting and advancing of countering financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering laws have been an important part of TPB's assistance in the region. The adoption by the Government of the Philippines of the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act in June last year,



*Participants at the Regional workshop on "Global Best Practices for the Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorist Financing Cases"*

as well as the recent passage of the Counter-Terrorist Financing Act by the Government of Thailand, represent important steps forward in the long-term funding.

Technical assistance activities related to countering the financing of terrorism are delivered under UNODC's South East Asia sub-programme on criminal justice responses to terrorism, launched in April 2011 and managed by UNODC's Bangkok-based Regional Office for South East Asia and the Pacific, together with TPB. Recently,

UNODC co-organized a regional workshop on global best practices for the investigation and prosecution of cases of terrorist financing with the South East Asia Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the Indonesian Counterterrorism Agency, the Indonesian Financial Intelligence Unit, the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Department and the United States Department of Justice. The conference was held in Medan, Indonesia from 28 January to 1 February and allowed TPB to highlight its current work against the financing of terrorism and to discuss previous and planned technical assistance for South East Asian countries. The workshop also provided TPB with an opportunity to identify challenges and discuss further technical assistance needs of the countries in the region.

In 2013, UNODC will continue to support South East Asian countries to strengthen their legal arsenal with laws targeted at countering the financing of terrorism, as well as by continuing to deliver tailored training programmes for Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

### Terrorism Prevention Branch

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Tel: +43 1 26060 4992 | Fax: +43 1 26060 5968 | email: [unodc.tpb@unodc.org](mailto:unodc.tpb@unodc.org)

[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/)