



CSU Fresno
Dept. of Criminology
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TERRORISM UPDATE



LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL ELAM
(LTTE)

After a 25 year battle with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam, Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa declared victory in his country's battle against the LTTE, which was declared a terrorist organization by 32 countries.



Heavily armed police in Colombo, Sri Lanka
Photo taken by Dr. Schweizer

The bullet riddled body of Velupillai Prabhakaran, its founder and leader, was reported to have been found in a bunker after a long and bloody battle with government troops. The LTTE were the first terrorist group to utilize females as suicide bombers and the explosive belt used by such bombers was first invented by him. Spokespersons for the LTTE are denying the demise of their leader and insist he is alive and well.

The LTTE had been fighting for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and more than 90,000 people have been killed in the process.

The European based website of the LTTE is still in operation and can be viewed at: <http://www.tamilnet.com/>

It is interesting to note that the website can be viewed in German, French and English.

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Four founding members of the German terrorist cell „Islamischen Dschihad Union (IJU) –Union of Islamic Jihad, are currently on trial for planning a terror attack using three car bombs that would have rivaled 9/11, with an aim to kill as many Americans in Germany. They also found the death of Germans in the process acceptable. Two of the suspects are German “converts” to Islam and two others are Turks, with one holding German citizenship. All four had visited terrorist training camps in Pakistan.

In a related story, a recent German intelligence summary highlighted the threats posed by some Muslim immigrants who became naturalized German citizens. What was not noted is the fact that a few years ago the German government expanded its efforts to counteract the existing and/or increasing societal alienation of young first and second generation Muslim immigrants by making it easier for them to acquire German citizen-

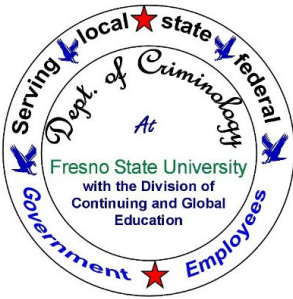
ship. The thought was that all of them were then “Germans” and therefore no longer different or subject to discrimination.

The German Bundestag (Congress) just approved legislation that would criminalize training in weapons and explosives in foreign terrorist training camps. This law would apply to German citizens and foreigners residing in Germany. An interesting component to this law, however, is that it also requires that the individuals involved to be „planning a terrorist attack in Germany“ in addition to having received the mentioned training. It is puzzling that it does not also include the planning of terrorist attacks outside of Germany.

The opposition political party is expected to challenge the legislation and it is unclear whether it will eventually become law. The complaint is that this law would “criminalize” thought. There is a clear problem, however, with more and more young “Islamists” from Germany being trained in Pakistani terrorist training camps.*

Additional legislation would also make it a criminal act to spread terrorist propaganda or to post/make available information on constructing bombs and similar devices.

***Author’s note:** *This disturbing trend could well impact the US practice of easing tourist visit requirements from the so called visa exempt countries in Western Europe. An imposition of stricter requirements would be discriminatory if only applied to “Muslims” from European countries, therefore it can be expected that the entry requirements for all European nationals will be made more rigorous in the near future.*



**OFF CAMPUS
CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM RECEPTION
2 May 2009**

The reception on 2 May was a resounding success. Past and current downtown program students, Ms. Daunette Dryden of the Division of Continuing and Global Education, Sandy McCloughlin of West Hills College, along with various family members of attendees, enjoyed a two hour get-together with faculty in the Criminology Department Suite.

Before the reception, faculty introduced themselves to downtown students and Sandy McCloughlin provided them with valuable advice and information on West Hills General Education Course offerings and the coursework needed for admission to CSU Fresno as a transfer student.



Sandy McCloughlin of West Hills College



Dr. Sam Omolayo and Dr. Ruth Masters



The highlight of the morning was the earlier downtown comparative Criminal Justice class meeting in ST 107. A live video/audio link via Skype was arranged with Fin Johnson, a US State



Mr. Fin Johnson, AIDE to Afghan CID

State Department contract employee, who is an aide to the Criminal Investigation Division Commander of the Afghan National Police. Mr. Johnson described the challenges faced by the National Police, and students from various local criminal justice agencies were able to ask questions that related to their own work assignments. The nature of policing in present day

LIVE FROM AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

Afghanistan can be like policing in the early 1800's all the way to the 21st Century. Literacy among lowest ranking police is not a given and criminal investigations are not as sophisticated as they are in the United States.



Mr. Fin Johnson appears battle ready!

Since the live interview, Mr. Johnson was travelling within Afghanistan on a CID matter when he was the target of a grenade attack. Following are photos showing the resulting damage to his "armor plated" vehicle.



Mr. Johnson's Skype interview was followed by a second live interview with Specialist Chris Abshire, a US soldier (military police) working in Iraq, who inspects Iraqi police stations.



Both F. Johnson and C. Abshire provided unique insights into conditions and challenges "on the ground" that are rarely described in the print and electronic media, if at all.

The downtown comparative criminal justice class ends this month, and a new set of two classes in the B.S. degree program will begin the first week of August, 2009 with the following two courses:

Crim 112 Professionalism in Criminal Justice
Crim 170 Research Methods.

**CHANGES AFFECTING CLASSES IN THE
DOWNTOWN CRIMINOLOGY
B.S. DEGREE PROGRAM**

Course registration and payment can now be completed on line at:

<http://www.csufresno.edu/cge/registration/index.shtml>

The above webpage provides options depending on whether a student is new to the program or a returning student. Since the downtown criminology program is restricted to government employees only, those registering on line will have to contact the instructor for the course/s to obtain a permission number prior to registration.

UPCOMING INCREASE IN COURSE COSTS

Due to the fluctuating course enrollment in the downtown criminology B.S. program and increasing administrative expenditures, the cost per unit is being increased from \$190 to \$225 with a three unit course costing \$675. The cost changes are necessary due to program deficits and are based on having a minimum of 16 students enrolled in each downtown undergraduate class.

**CONGRATULATIONS DOWNTOWN B.S. DEGREE
PROGRAM GRADUATES (May 2009)**

Tomas CANTU, Heather OWEN, John D. HERRING, Renee LONG, Maria REBA, Andrew GARNER.

SAFETY NOTICE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

Beware, your UL approved commercial 4-cup coffee maker with automatic shut-off function is considered a fire hazard by the "state" fire marshal when used in your individual offices instead of a "common area." The fire hazard appears to be neutralized by common areas. According to an official notification, however, it is acceptable to use hotplates in private offices. While Dell laptop batteries and wall adaptors have been known to overheat and are turned on/used for long periods of time in individual offices, those are "commonly" used by most faculty, but are not prohibited items.



Perhaps it is possible to heat coffee on a hot plate.



CRIMINOLOGY DEPT. NEWS

Cynthia BENZLER and Kori RYAN, two graduating criminology students, were recently honored at a special function to highlight their exceptional achievement. C. BENZLER, the outstanding B.S. student, received her degree in criminology, and Kori RYAN graduated with her M.S. degree and was also selected as the Dean of the College of Social Sciences Graduate Medalist.



Cynthia BENZLER

CRIMINOLOGY HONORS PROGRAM

Another cohort of honors students graduated this May and many attended a special ceremony to honor their accomplishments. The students are a special group who must not only maintain a high GPA every semester, but also participate in various academic and service activities that enrich the criminology department, the college, and the university, along with providing a valuable contribution to the community.



The core of criminal investigation is finding people and information. While there are various restricted databases that may only be accessed by those working for government, the WWW provides a wealth of “open source” information that can be of equal, if not greater, benefit. There is also no bureaucracy involved in obtaining permission to access these databases.

NEW YORK STATE DATABASES

The names/locations of businesses and/or professional licensees are two types of information that could well be of benefit in a criminal investigation. While such information can be accessed on a “national basis” by paying for such information through various on line information services, one can also search publicly available databases provided by various, but not all, states for free. In New York, the **NY Office of the Professions** provides license information for persons in all occupations required to maintain state licenses. A search can be launched at:

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/opsearches.htm>

Corporate and Business Entity information can be accessed at:

http://appsext8.dos.state.ny.us/corp_public/