



COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM MONTHLY BRIEF

A compilation of news on money laundering, terrorism financing and counter-measures from across the globe

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Date	Summary	Source
<p>26 Sep 2010</p>	<p>Anti –Terrorism Scrutiny on Money Transfers:</p> <p>In an attempt to counter the financing of terrorism and money laundering, the US government has proposed that banks report all electronic money transfers to the Treasury Department. Initially only transactions above US\$ 10,000 needed to be reported.</p> <p>It is alleged the additional information will help in identifying the financial flows in the 11 September 2001 Al Qaeda attacks and also allow anti-terrorist agencies to identify normal and suspicious money-flows. The proposal would also have broader implications that would help in the identification of tax evasion, transnational organized crime, and multinational drug cartels.</p> <p>The proposal, if approved may only take effect in 2012. However privacy concerns revolve around the proposal with regards to the ability of the Treasury Department to effectively utilize the information collected.</p> <p>However, FinCEN (Financial Crimes Enforcement Network) spokesman, Steve Hudak, said that the proposal will enable intelligence bodies to “see the forests” and not just the “trees” as is the case now, when describing that the data can be cross-referenced with suspicious activity reports.</p> <p><i>(http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/26/AR2010092603941.html)</i></p>	<p>Washington Post</p>
<p>28 Sep 2010</p>	<p>Banks and Finance Regulations in the US Fail to Curb Money Laundering</p> <p>A US top fraud investigator and lawyer, Eric Lewis, stated at a congressional hearing that US money laundering policies are inadequate and open to exploitation. He added though that the</p>	<p>BBC</p>

	<p>US is the only nation that has the resources and ability to mitigate fraudulent transactions. Mr. Lewis said that the only way in which money laundering can be countered is through the active participation of the international community as money laundering is a cross-border crime.</p> <p>The current deterrents against violators, such as the fines levied against banks which do not follow the policy guidelines are too small in comparison to the business these banks make. Another expert who testified at the hearing, Mr. Comros, said that although the US had made significant strides in money laundering, the nature of the globalized world will eventually display the vulnerability of the US Banks. Mr. Comras was said that the US needs to broaden its focus and pay attention to the inner workings of foreign banks and institutions.</p> <p><i>(http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-11426166)</i></p>	
<p>28 Sep 2010</p>	<p>Nepali Police Instructed to Fight Financial Crime</p> <p>In order to abide by the international finance system, the Nepali government has instructed its Police to investigate and fight financial crime in the hope to curb money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Nepali government has especially singled out black money and funds raised through illegal means.</p> <p>The Inspector General of Police, Ramesh Chand Thakuri said that a separate unit was launched to investigate and monitor organized crime. He also said that the unit would explore the possibility of working with the Central Investigation Bureau, if the latter was equipped with the resources it required.</p> <p><i>(http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Govt+directs+police+to+help+fight+financial+crime&NewsID=259612)</i></p>	<p>Himalayan Times</p>
<p>28 Sep 2010</p>	<p>Fight against Al-Qaeda Placed on the Back Burner in UK</p> <p>In light of a recent surge of attacks in Ulster, the UK government has raised the threat from Irish extremists from “moderate to substantial”.</p> <p>In line with this increased threat allegedly from the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the UK government has also re-allocated US\$ 30 million to fight Irish extremists in Northern Ireland.</p> <p><i>(http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/09/28/22859207.html)</i></p>	<p>Voice of Russia</p>

<p>28 Sep 2010</p>	<p>US Congress Deliberates Proposed Changes to Finance Laws:</p> <p>The proposed changes will allow bankers limited access to classified records and would also ease reporting requirements for some suspicious activity.</p> <p>Stephen I. Landman, the Director of National Security, Law and Policy for the Investigative Project on Terrorism also asked that Congress “clarify” the material support statute found within the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The material support statute makes it illegal to provide resources to a foreign terrorist organization. Banks routinely claim they are providing financial services as a common defense to this statute.</p> <p>Recommendations were also made for streamlining the process of recording and reporting suspicious activity reports.</p> <p>Some of the other proposals include the registration of hawalas, the designation of Stored Value Cards as “monetary instruments” that would require reporting and record-keeping requirements; and declaring virtual worlds with real-world economies to be “money services businesses” under the Bank Secrecy Act regulations.</p> <p><i>(http://blogs.wsj.com/corruption-currents/2010/09/28/congress-looking-at-proposed-changes-to-terrorism-finance-laws/)</i></p>	<p>Wall Street Journal - Blogs</p>
<p>29 Sep 2010</p>	<p>US Treasury Department Attempts to Catch Terrorists:</p> <p>The Treasury Department is to release a new set of rules on money transfers in and out of the US for a period of year, after which it will be open for public feedback.</p> <p>The new rules would require all banks and money transfer organizations such as Western Union to report all transactions regardless of the amount transferred in and out of the US. At present, banks are only required to report transactions above US\$10,000.</p> <p>Once this information is obtained, the department plans to store it in a database and use it for analysis purposes in an attempt to ferret out terrorism financing patterns.</p> <p>The proposed rules have already met some criticism, primarily coming from those concerned with the infringement of privacy and the data mining tendencies of the rules.</p> <p><i>(http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130197341)</i></p>	<p>PR Newswire</p>

<p>30 Sep 2010</p>	<p>Online Gamblers against Treasury Department Proposal:</p> <p>The new proposal by the Treasury Department requires the reporting of all electronic money transfers in and out of the U.S., along with personal identification such as social security numbers are a source of concern for online gamblers.</p> <p>Many online gamblers are of the opinion that this new rule would cripple the online gambling industry as many use third party banking services to fund online transactions as the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act states that transactions from banks or other financial institutions to online gambling sites are illegal.</p> <p><i>(http://blogs.wsj.com/corruption-currents/2010/09/30/online-gamblers-take-umbrage-at-terrorism-finance-proposal/)</i></p>	<p>Wall Street Journal - Blogs</p>
<p>30 Sep 2010</p>	<p>Vatican Bank Chief Questioned:</p> <p>Italian authorities seized €23 (\$30 million) from a Vatican Bank (the Institute for Religious Works) account in connection to a money laundering probe.</p> <p>Two top bank officials Chairman Ettore Gotti Tedeschi and the director general Paolo Cipriani were questioned in relation to the seized account. The Chairman had stated the seizure was due to a misunderstanding and hoped it would be resolved soon.</p> <p>However, Vatican Bank finances have tended to be secretive and mired in controversies including the famous scandal over the collapse of Banco Ambrosiano and bribes handed out to Italian politicians as mentioned in the book ‘Vatican SpA’.</p> <p><i>(http://www.wtop.com/?nid=111&sid=2066576)</i></p>	<p>WTOP</p>
<p>01 Oct 2010</p>	<p>AUSTRAC announces AML/CFT Strategies:</p> <p>The Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) has outlines its strategies on how to handle its anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing efforts in relation to intelligence, supervision and enforcement.</p> <p>In the area of enforcement, AUSTRAC plans to assess compliance behavior across industries in a bid to identify entities that differ from industry standards. While Supervision would entail a focus on transaction reporting specifically on under-reporting, non-reporting and the overall quality of the reports.</p> <p>The analysis of financial intelligence for Government-supported activities against organized crime, terrorism and national security, is the focus of the intelligence area.</p>	<p>Money Management</p>

	<i>(http://www.moneymanagement.com.au/news/austrac-announces-amlcmf-strategies)</i>	
01 Oct 2010	<p>American in Spain Released:</p> <p>Mohamed Omar Dehbi, 43, a US citizen of Algerian origin was arrested in Barcelona, Spain on allegations that he was involved in funneling funds to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Dehbi was released due to the lack of evidence although the investigation remains open.</p> <p>Dehbi was instructed to surrender his passport and to report to the Police on a daily basis. He was also asked to provide evidence that he was not involved in the funneling of funds by using banks and human couriers to send money for terrorist cells in Algeria.</p> <p>According to the initial investigation conducted by the Spanish police, Dehbi funneled more than €60,000 (about \$81,000) disguised as business transactions to Toufik Mizi who is wanted by the Spanish authorities since 2008 for charges related to terrorism and organized crime.</p> <p><i>(http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704483004575524213559397170.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)</i></p>	Wall Street Journal
01 Oct 2010	<p>Intelligence Role for Anti- Money Laundering Experts:</p> <p>During the inaugural gathering for the Richmond Chapter of the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists, the main message was that anti-money laundering experts should be able to detect threats in addition to detecting and reporting suspicious finance activities.</p> <p><i>(http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/2010/oct/01/b-mony01-ar-535319/)</i></p>	Richmond Times Dispatch
03 Oct 2010	<p>Bangladesh Stability Threatened by Drugs, Terror Financing:</p> <p>Bangladesh is threatened by both home-grown and transnational terrorism. The smaller (local) groups have used Bangladeshi's pioneering micro-finance program to raise funds. The transnational groups are the biggest threat to the country's security as they are also involved in money laundering through drugs and human trafficking. Their fund raising activities have made Dhaka a transit center for these illegal activities.</p> <p>The Jamiat-ul- Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) is the most important terrorist group operating in Bangladesh and it rakes in around US\$ 71,000 monthly, even though its leader Moulana Saidur Rahman and several other senior leaders have</p>	News Blaze

	<p>been arrested. The JMB also receives funds from many sympathizers and supporters overseas. It also receives funds in the form of Zakat and Ushr (a portion of harvested crop given as donation) and also gains revenue from business enterprises such as Taxi cabs, three wheelers, vans and rickshaws.</p> <p>Bangladesh is also an important transit point for fake Indian currency. According to the Bengali police, the Indian currency is brought into Bangladesh by Pakistan Intelligence Agency ISI after it is printed in Pakistan. Another important center for printed fake Indian money is Kathmandu.</p> <p><i>(http://newsblaze.com/story/20101003070421ramr.nb/topstory.html)</i></p>	
04 Oct 2010	<p>Philippines President Wants Tougher Money Laundering Laws:</p> <p>Philippines President Benigno Aquino III said that an amendment to the country's current anti-money laundering laws was needed. This was after the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) admitted to being limited in its ability to go after major operators of the illegal numbers game 'jueteng'.</p> <p><i>(http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=617780&publicationSubCategoryId=63)</i></p>	Phil Star
04 Oct 2010	<p>Money Laundering Law in Ireland Deemed Unconstitutional:</p> <p>A high court in Ireland deemed Section 31.8 unconstitutional as it infringed the property rights of the company Vehicle Tech. The company was suspected of involvement in money laundering by a Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation (GBFI) fraud officer who subsequently directed Allied Irish Bank to freeze two of the company's accounts.</p> <p>The investigation into the company's activities began after a mutual assistance request was received by Belgian authorities in February 2008. The authorities request was in relation with trucks stolen in Belgium and transported to Ireland for sale. It was suspected that the proceeds of sale were laundered through Vehicle Tech.</p> <p><i>(http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/money-laundering-law-declared-unconstitutional-by-court-476386.html)</i></p>	Breaking News - Ireland
04 Oct 2010	<p>Former Soviet Union Officer Awaits Extradition Verdict:</p> <p>Former Soviet military officer Viktor Bout, suspected of</p>	CNN

	<p>supplying weapons to many war zones, including Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa, is waiting for the verdict from a Thai court regarding an extradition request from the United States for money laundering charges. In August 2010, a Thai appeals court ruled Bout could be extradited to the US on terrorism charges.</p> <p>Bout has been in Thai custody since March 2008, when he was arrested in a sting operation led by agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration who posed as members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). He is expected to contest his extradition orders to the US claiming that all charges against him are lies.</p> <p><i>(http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/10/04/thailand.suspected.arms.dealer/)</i></p>	
05 Oct 2010	<p>US Suggests Separate Money Laundering Act for Capital Markets in Bangladesh:</p> <p>A three-member delegation of the US Department of Justice suggested that the Bangladeshi government tighten its existing anti- money laundering laws. The US delegation further suggested that a separate money laundering act be enacted to curtail the influx of laundered money in the capital market.</p> <p>One area that the US delegation highlighted was that the punishment for those found guilty under the existing laws is not stringent enough. Bangladesh would need to tighten its AML/CFT legislation to comply with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)</p> <p><i>(http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news_id=113775&date=2010-10-05)</i></p>	The Financial Express
05 Oct 2010	<p>UAE Freezes Bank Accounts Linked to Iran:</p> <p>In accordance with United Nations (UN) sanctions on Iran, the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) froze over 40 bank accounts belonging to firms and an individual linked to Iran. The firms and individuals are suspected of supporting the Iranian nuclear or missile programs.</p> <p><i>(http://gulfnews.com/business/banking/uae-implements-iran-sanctions-1.691909)</i></p>	Gulf News
05 Oct 2010	<p>Brussels Support Fight Against Terror:</p> <p>The Brussels Declaration was adopted by the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM8) after the two-day summit. ASEM also extended full support to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Financial Action Task Force-Style Regional</p>	The Assam Tribune

	<p>(FATFSR) in their fight against money laundering, terrorist financing and information exchange on jurisdictions. The ASEM also agreed that the financial sector should bear a fair share of the cost incurred by governments in conditions of crisis.</p> <p><i>(http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct0610/at08)</i></p>	
05 Oct 2010	<p>Progress on Money Laundering Recognized:</p> <p>A report outlining Azerbaijan's measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing was reviewed at MONEYVAL's 33rd plenary meeting. After the review, Azerbaijan was removed from a list of countries requiring special monitoring and the country was subsequently appointed as evaluator for Moldova's progress report on combating money-laundering and terrorist financing.</p> <p><i>(http://www.news.az/articles/society/4471)</i></p>	News- Azerbaijan
06 Oct 2010	<p>Azerbaijan Holds Financial Workshops:</p> <p>Workshops on combating money laundering and terrorist financing were jointly held by the Financial Monitoring Service of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan (CBA) and the Azerbaijani national postal operator Azerpocht.</p> <p>The workshops were attended by representatives of banks, non-bank credit institutions, pawnshops and postal companies authorized to provide financial services. The content of the workshop focused on the application of national legislation to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.</p> <p><i>(http://en.trend.az/capital/banks/1762120.html)</i></p>	Trend - Azerbaijan
06 Oct 2010	<p>Bout to be Extradited to US on Money Laundering Charges:</p> <p>A Thai court dismissed charges of wire fraud and money laundering against Viktor Bout, a former Soviet Union military officer. The dismissal of the charges cleared the way for Bout's extradition to the US. The US has indicted Bout for numerous terrorism charges including the supply of weapons to warzones in Africa, the Middle East, South America and South Asia.</p> <p>Bout, a former Soviet air force officer nicknamed "Merchant of Death" is expected to challenge the extradition order.</p> <p><i>(http://www.todayonline.com/World/EDC101006-0000066/Thai-court-clears-way-for-Bout-extradition)</i></p>	Today
12 Oct 2010	Iran Calls for Islamic Fund:	Press TV

	<p>Iran's Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs, Seyyed Shamseddin Hosseini, urged the OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) to promote Islamic banking and economy. The Iranian official also stressed the importance of cooperation among OIC member states to fight money laundering and terrorism financing.</p> <p>The comments were made at the 26th session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) in Istanbul.</p> <p><i>(http://www.presstv.ir/detail/146343.html)</i></p>	
<p>14 Oct 2010</p>	<p>Congress in Philippines Asked to Strengthen AMLC Charter:</p> <p>The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) asked the Philippines congress to amend the charter it was founded on. Amendments to the government's only financial intelligence arm will strengthen it to effectively pursue major players involved with illegal finance activities.</p> <p>The AMLC has stated that its hands are tied by a Supreme Court decision regarding the pursuit of money launderers, particularly gambling lords, and financiers of terror groups. The Supreme Court decision stipulates that the AMLC should inform bank account holders prior to looking into bank accounts of suspected criminal activities.</p> <p><i>(http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/282151/amlc-asks-congress-strengthen-its-charter)</i></p>	<p>MB</p>
<p>17 Oct 2010</p>	<p>Al-Qaeda Operative Sent to Britain to Raise Funds:</p> <p>Ilyas Kashmiri – the one eyed Al-Qaeda mastermind behind the recent terrorism alert over Mumbai-style attacks in Europe, had sent an associate, US citizen David Coleman Headley to Britain with plans for a truck-bomb attack on the Danish newspaper. The newspaper published the Prophet Mohammed cartoons.</p> <p>Kashmiri had told Hedley that the European contacts would provide cash, manpower and weapons so that the attack on the newspaper could be carried out. However, no attack occurred.</p> <p>It is now suspected that Kashmiri's Europe network maybe tasked with carrying out Mumbai-style-attacks in Europe, although the MI5 has not uncovered any attack plans.</p> <p><i>(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/8069381/European-terror-attacks-mastermind-sent-operative-to-Britain-to-raise-arms-and-money.html)</i></p>	<p>Telegraph</p>

<p>17 Oct 2010</p>	<p>Know Your Client:</p> <p>Know Your Client (Client) documentation whether while opening a bank account or investing has become mandatory in India. However, the documentation process involved is cumbersome, time consuming and frustrating for both the client and employee.</p> <p>The KYC scheme was employed to obtain detailed information about clients in a bid to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes.</p> <p>The mandatory documents needed are a customer's proof of residence and identity. The KYC verification operations have been criticized for increasing repetitive work and delaying the process. The centralization of KYC norms in a bid to simplify the process and reduce delays. A specific piece of data that could be utilized is 'Aadhar', a unique identification number to be provided to each citizen by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), a government initiative. However, these initiatives will need time to be implemented.</p> <p><i>(http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/know-your-compliance/411748/)</i></p>	<p>Business Standard</p>
<p>17 Oct 2010</p>	<p>Financial Systems Abetting Dirty Money:</p> <p>Commercial Banks in Kenya have lost approximately US\$ 10 Million (Kenyan Shillings 761 million) through fraud in the first six months of 2010. Much of the fraud is said to be aided by employees of the banks.</p> <p>Money laundering largely depends on the integrity of the individuals aiding it and the legitimacy of the money that circulates through the banking system of a nation. The issue of integrity stems up in the process of disguising the illicit origin and unlawful or immoral nature of the money.</p> <p>Considering that integrity is an issue, financial institutions need to reconsider their approach in countering money laundering. It is important to identify the real threats, and suspicious activities. The FATF continually monitors and identifies jurisdictions, which are less proactive in the fight against money-laundering.</p> <p>It is also important for institutions to be careful when dealing with Politically Exposed Persons; people suspected to be in illegal drugs, piracy, and other illegal businesses.</p> <p>Institutions should also continuously monitor and vet wire transfers and identify new technologies that maybe adopted by criminal organizations.</p>	<p>Nation - Kenya</p>

	(http://www.nation.co.ke/business/news/How%20financial%20systems%20abet%20dirty%20money/-/1006/1034566/-/11tnliiz/-/)	
18 Oct 2010	<p>AML and Fraud Prevention:</p> <p>In an article published in the ABA Banking journal, authors John Byrne, executive vice-president of the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists, and Chris Swecker, a consultant with Swecker Enterprises outlined the differences and challenges financial institutions face in merging AML and fraud prevention protocols.</p> <p>AML and fraud prevention were developed independently of each other. Both are influenced separately by terrorist attacks such as the 9/11 Al Qaeda attack and Enron-style corporate shakedowns. Further, fraud prevention is headed by law enforcement while AML techniques are heralded by those with a background in banking.</p> <p>James Freis Jr., director of the FinCEN has urged for the merger of AML and fraud prevention practices in big banks in a bid to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of these practices.</p> <p><i>(http://blogs.wsj.com/corruption-currents/2010/10/18/so-happy-together-aml-and-fraud-prevention/)</i></p>	Wall Street Journal
20 Oct 2010	<p>PAK-US Discuss Strategies to Combat Terrorism Financing:</p> <p>The US and Pakistan have been discussing strategies to prevent or stop the flow of funds to the Al Qaeda and the Taliban from the Gulf countries. To this effect the regulatory framework in both Afghanistan and Pakistan have come under scrutiny and would require improvement.</p> <p><i>(http://www.brecorder.com/section/1/1/1114754:pak-us-strategic-dialogue-ways-to-combat-terror-financing-from-gulf-to-be-discussed.html)</i></p>	Business Recorder
21 Oct 2010	<p>Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras and Nicaragua Amongst Money Launderers:</p> <p>The Anti-Money Laundering Atlas, a survey produced by Promontory Compliance Solutions, rates countries of the world according to perceived risk of money laundering and terrorist financing. The newest edition of the AML Atlas incorporated Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index and feedback from a network that shared its on-the-ground experience with high-risk countries.</p> <p>Included in the assessment is the recently released Presidential</p>	UPI

	<p>Determination on Major Illicit Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2011, changes to World Bank Governance Indicators, new information from the Financial Action Task Force and updates to several other anti-money laundering related indicators.</p> <p>The AML atlas continues to rate Iran, Myanmar and Cuba as the most risky countries.</p> <p>Money laundering activities in South America have been linked to an extensive narcotic trade involving Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela and as such countries such Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras and Nicaragua have been considered high risk countries.</p> <p><i>(http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2010/10/21/S-American-states-among-money-launderers/UPI-58131287661733/)</i></p>	
<p>21 Oct 2010</p>	<p>AUSTRAC Presents Annual Report:</p> <p>AUSTRAC has released its annual report for 2009-2010 to the Australian parliament. Approximately 21 million reports were received from financial, money remittance, bullion and gambling businesses, including almost 50,000 reports triggered by suspicious matters.</p> <p>AUSTRAC works closely with law enforcement agencies and provides financial intelligence for the detection and prosecution of money laundering, fraud and drug trafficking offences.</p> <p><i>(http://www.securityaccess.com.au/9ADDD02C-DCBA-11DF-8BA8005056B05D57)</i></p>	<p>Security Access - Australia</p>
<p>21 Oct 2010</p>	<p>Poker Machines and Money Laundering:</p> <p>Money Launderers in New South Wales visit poker machines very late at night or early morning to launder their illegal money. Usually the 'professional' money launderer would feed money into the gambling machines and retrieve a cheque that would then be passed off as winnings and thus legal money. There is no necessity to play the machine. Some hoteliers say some pubs in Sydney are well known to criminal gangs and referred to as LLs, slang for "local laundries".</p> <p>This is a win-win situation as the hotel receives higher revenue and the launderer has a risk-free and fast method in which to launder illegal money. The New South Wales government also benefits through the gaming tax.</p> <p>An estimated \$2 million passes through the poker machines in a week at each of the state's top poker pubs, according to</p>	<p>The Sydney Morning Herald</p>

	<p>figures from the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing. This produces a net profit of \$160,000 a week or \$8.3 million a year for the hotelier.</p> <p>The nation's anti-laundering agency is trying to crack down on these transactions through the tougher powers it received in 2006, but the task is difficult considering there are more than 6000 hotels nationwide. Anti-laundering legislation states that hotels are supposed to have a "compliance manager" on staff to report suspicious and large payouts, but in reality those who hand out the fat winnings cheques are often young and inexperienced bar staff.</p> <p>AUSTRAC works with the Australian Crime Commission, but no hotels or clubs have been prosecuted for breaching laundering laws, even though there are harsh penalties including jail and fines of \$11 million for any offence.</p> <p><i>(http://www.smh.com.au/national/dirty-laundry-20101020-16udi.html)</i></p>	
22 Oct 2010	<p>Iran Riskiest Place to do Business:</p> <p>The AML Atlas rated Iran as the country most susceptible to money laundering and terrorist financing, making it the riskiest place to do business. The other countries in the top five include, Burma/Myanmar North Korea, Syria and Sudan.</p> <p>The AML methodology comprises weights for sanctions, large financial customer feedback and regulators statements</p> <p><i>(http://blogs.wsj.com/corruption-currents/2010/10/22/new-analysis-says-iran-is-the-riskiest-place-to-do-business/)</i></p>	Wall Street Journal
25 Oct 2010	<p>Qatar Strengthens Framework:</p> <p>Qatar will no longer be subjected to FATF's monitoring processes as the country has taken measures to improve its compliance in line with FATF recommendations and requirements.</p> <p>A new and comprehensive framework for AML/CFT that includes supervision, monitoring and enforcement, over a diverse range of business sectors has been implemented since April 2010.</p> <p><i>(http://www.zawya.com/story.cfm/sidZAWYA20101025112310/Qatar%20makes%20significant%20progress%20in%20strengt hening%20its%20framework)</i></p>	Zawya
25 Oct 2010	<p>UAE Combats Money Laundering:</p> <p>UAE's Central Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding</p>	Emirates 24/7

	<p>(MoU) with the UAE Custom's department in a bid to enforce anti money laundering law and strengthen the battle against such. The MoU depicts a framework for cooperation between the two entities although, there would now be tougher declaration systems at customs points.</p> <p><i>(http://www.emirates247.com/news/uae-steps-up-war-on-money-laundering-2010-10-25-1.308699)</i></p>	
26 Oct 2010	<p>Anti- Money Laundering Act Challenged:</p> <p>A legal battle in Kuala Lumpur has seen ten plaintiffs – seven individuals and three companies- challenge the constitutionality of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act's (Amla) freeze order.</p> <p>The plaintiffs who are involved in the trading of consumer goods between Malaysia and China challenged Bank Negara's decision to freeze their bank accounts. The plaintiffs state that the freezing orders are unconstitutional because it does not provide prior notice to the persons whose accounts are to be frozen.</p> <p>The plaintiffs are accused of using a money changer to send money abroad for business and for this reason their accounts were frozen.</p> <p><i>(http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/10/26/nation/20101026121342&sec=nation)</i></p>	The Star - Malaysia
26 Oct 2010	<p>Bangladeshi PM Supports Global Effort to Combat Money Laundering:</p> <p>In an address at the Asia/Pacific Group (APG) Typology Workshop 2010 at the winter garden of Hotel Radisson in the city, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called for a united global effort to combat money laundering, terrorism and militancy.</p> <p>According to data provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), an estimated 2-5 percent of global GDP per year is laundered annually. The largest sources of these figures are illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking, arms and human trafficking, corruption, fraud, extortion, kidnapping, theft and environmental crimes.</p> <p>The Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) arranged the workshop in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh as a part of the 13th Typologies Meeting of Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering on October 26-28, 2010.</p>	Daily Star

	http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=26618	
27 Oct 2010	<p>Data Quality Increases Under New SWIFT Standard:</p> <p>The new SWIFT cover payments message MT202 COV, introduced in November 2009 in London, has proved effective in reducing banks' exposure to money laundering and terrorist financing. Half of all banks are reported to have upgraded their IT infrastructure to process MT202 COV messages.</p> <p>The updated format included mandatory fields for originator and beneficiary details. This additional information was included to increase transparency around cover.</p> <p>However, some concerns about duplicate alerts, false positives, data quality and difficulty clearing alerts have increased significantly due to the extra information collected.</p> <p><i>(http://www.marketwatch.com/story/concerns-about-sanctions-data-quality-increase-under-new-swift-cover-payments-standard-2010-10-27?reflink=MW_news_stmp)</i></p>	Market Watch
28 Oct 2010	<p>Zurich Chooses Customer Filtering Software:</p> <p>Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich), one of the world's largest insurance groups, has licensed Sword FircoSoft to filter customer data.</p> <p>In a bid to strengthen its anti money laundering and terrorist financing framework, Zurich has contracted Sword FicroSoft's Filtering Suite. The software will enable the filtering of third-party information and detect any listed party in their customer portfolios. The software will be deployed to filter millions of records against selected sanctions and Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) lists.</p> <p><i>(http://www.finextra.com/News/Announcement.aspx?pressreleaseid=36473)</i></p>	Finextra
29 Oct 2010	<p>India's Financial Ministry to Amend Money Laundering Act :</p> <p>India's finance ministry is working on amending the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to conform to standards laid down by FATF. The existing laws are in some areas non-compliant or only partial compliant with the FATF stipulations.</p> <p>The amendments to the PMLA will seek to bring the law on par with FATF requirements and would thus also include the regulation of non-profit firms.</p> <p><i>(http://www.indianexpress.com/news/FinMin-looks-to-amend-</i></p>	Indian Express

	<i>money-laundering-Act-to-include-non-profit-firms/704196)</i>	
29 Oct 2010	<p>Safeguarding Financial Institutions from Fraud:</p> <p>The Know Your Customer (KYC) protocol is increasingly important in fighting fraud, that involves many methods such as Cyber attacks, skimming, altering payment terminals, installing malware within ATM's and phishing for card and personal details. The KYC protocol helps financial companies identify and ascertain their clients prior to doing business.</p> <p>A key component of KYC protocol is the verification of customers against any list of known fraudsters, terror or money launderers. Beyond name matching, KYC controls monitor transactions of a customer against their recorded profile, history on the customers' account(s) and with peers. A continued focus on KYC will help in preventing fraud and money laundering.</p> <p><i>(http://riskmanagemnet.banking-business-review.com/news/acts_policies_and_tools_to_safeguard_financial_institutions_from_fraud_101029/)</i></p>	Risk Management
30 Oct 2010	<p>Anti- Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Bill Gazetted:</p> <p>Hong Kong has announced a bill to help align Hong Kong's anti-money laundering (AML) regime with prevailing international AML standards. The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) conducted two rounds of public consultation before the Bill was announced.</p> <p>Some of the major proposals of the Bill include the codifying of customer details, akin to Know Your Customer (KYC) protocol and record-keeping requirements in line with standards set forth by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).</p> <p>The Bill is to be introduced into the Legislative Council on November 10, 2010 and subject to its passing by the Legislative Council, the Government's target is to implement the requirements on April 1, 2012.</p> <p><i>(http://7thspace.com/headlines/361905/anti_money_laundering_and_counter_terrorist_financing_financial_institutions_bill_gazetted.html)</i></p>	7th Space