



**United States Department of State  
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors  
Office of Inspector General**

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**Review of the Department of State's  
*Country Reports on Terrorism-2005***

On April 7, 2005, less than one month before it was to issue its 2004 mandated annual report on terrorism, the Department of State (the Department) decided to cease publishing the report, *Patterns of Global Terrorism*. Instead, it released on April 27 the first of its *Country Reports on Terrorism* (CRT), which does not include the statistical data on significant international terrorist incidents found in the *Patterns* report. At the same time, the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) issued a separate report, *A Chronology of Significant International Terrorism 2004*.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) examined the process of producing the Department's 2004 report on terrorism and found that the process was slightly different from that of prior years, but that the report's format did not initially differ from that of the 2003 report. NCTC's report, meanwhile, contained most of the statistical data that previously had been included in the *Patterns* reports but were left out of the CRT. According to the NCTC's 2004 report, the number of reported significant international terrorist incidents increased from 175 in 2003 to 651 in 2004. NCTC said the increase was primarily the result of a modified reporting methodology as well as an increase in staff devoted to identifying terrorist incidents.

The significant increase in incidents reported by NCTC, coupled with the apparent last-minute decision by the Department to change the format of its annual report, led to allegations that political considerations motivated the Department to no longer include statistics in its annual report. Members of the House of Representatives requested that OIG review the preparation of the 2004 report and follow up on recommendations made in OIG's review of the Department's 2003 report.

Even with the content revisions, the Department's CRT report complies with the relevant law. However, the Department's decision to no longer include statistical data was made very late in the process, after it was widely known that the data indicated a significant increase in the number of incidents. Additionally, members of Congress had not been advised of the Department's decision until several days before the report was issued.

November 28, 2005

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**OIG Report ISP-S-06-07, Review of the Department of State's *Country Reports on Terrorism-2005***

The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections between May and June 2005. This is an unclassified summary of a full report, which receives limited official distribution. This report summary, and the inspection report, reflects the conditions found during the period of the fieldwork.

**Office of Inspector General**

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