

BUILDING A NUCLEAR FORENSIC ANALYSIS CAPABILITY IN BRAZIL

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Since nuclear energy was first utilized, the risk related with criminal or unauthorized acts involving nuclear or other radioactive (RN) materials have been a serious concern for the entire global nuclear community. During the last decades, the possibility that terrorists or other criminals might obtain RN materials for malicious use has become a real threat to global security especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union, at the end of the 1980's, when several tons of these materials were stolen. Once illicit nuclear or other radioactive material is detected, a response plan have to be auctioned safely and within an acceptable time frame. An important element of the response plan is the nuclear forensics investigation of the intercepted material. Nuclear forensics investigation involves the collection and analysis of classical and nuclear evidences in the crime scene and requires a number of chemical, physical and nuclear analysis to be performed by experienced, and well trained, laboratories and experts. This paper will describe the efforts, actions and results, during the process to establish in Brazil a Nuclear Forensics Laboratory Network.