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CrisisWatch:

- summarises briefly developments during the previous month in some 70 situations of current or potential conflict, listed alphabetically by region, providing references and links to more detailed information sources (all references mentioned are hyperlinked in the electronic version of this bulletin);
- assesses whether the overall situation in each case has, during the previous month, significantly deteriorated, significantly improved, or on balance remained more or less unchanged;
- alerts readers to situations where, in the coming month, there is a particular risk of new or significantly escalated conflict, or a particular conflict resolution opportunity (noting that in some instances there may in fact be both); and
- summarises Crisis Group's reports and briefing papers that have been published in the last month.

CrisisWatch is compiled by Crisis Group's Brussels Research Unit, drawing on multiple sources including the resources of our more than 110 staff members across five continents, who already report on some 50 of the situations listed here. Comments and suggestions can be sent to crisiswatch@crisisgroup.org.

May 2005 Trends



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June 2005 Watchlist



Conflict Risk Alert

Somalia



Conflict Resolution Opportunity

None

Crisis Group

Crisis Group is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, with over 110 staff members on five continents, working through field-based analysis and high-level advocacy to prevent and resolve deadly conflict. Crisis Group's approach is grounded in field research. Teams of political analysts are located within or close by countries at risk of outbreak, escalation or recurrence of violent conflict. Based on information and assessments from the field, Crisis Group produces regular analytical reports containing practical recommendations targeted at key international decision-takers, and backed up with high level advocacy. Crisis Group is chaired by former European Commissioner for External Relations Lord Patten of Barnes, and its President and Chief Executive is former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.



Africa

CENTRAL AFRICA

➡ Burundi After several delays, Burundi began series of votes marking end of transitional administration. Former rebel group CNDD-FDD won 57% of vote in communal elections 3 June; parliamentary vote to be held 4 July. Members of President Ndayizeye's FRODEBU party claimed CNDD-FDD intimidation; 2 FRODEBU candidates killed in northern Bujumbura grenade blast 18 June. Violence by last remaining rebel group - Hutu Forces nationales de libération (FNL) - disrupted Bujumbura voting but no major electoral irregularities reported. Government and FNL agreed to resume ceasefire talks following collapse of earlier 15 May ceasefire; 15 FNL fighters and 100 captured at month-end. UN Security Council passed resolution supporting formation of mixed Burundian truth commission with 3 international and 2 Burundian members to investigate crimes 1962-2000; separate court to try crimes committed between 1972 and 1993. UNHCR expressed concerns over forced repatriation of 5,000 Rwandan refugees fleeing "gacaca" courts.

- ["Burundi's peace process comes to the crunch"](#), *The Mail & Guardian*, 24 June 2005.
- ["Burundi, Rwanda violate refugee laws"](#), Afrol, 14 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Briefing N°20, ["Elections in Burundi: The Peace Wager"](#), 9 Dec. 2004.

➡ Central African Republic President Bozizé formally inaugurated 11 June; African Union lifted sanctions imposed since 2003 overthrow by Bozizé of President Patasse. Disarmament of Bozizé supporters began Bangui. UNHCR said 8,500 refugees fled to Chad following fighting between army and unidentified militia in Ouham region.

- ["Disarmament of former combatants begins"](#), IRIN, 21 June 2005.

➡ Chad Referendum on constitutional amendments passed allowing President Déby to stand in 2006 elections; opposition claimed vote rigged and called for protests. Continuing difficulties in eastern Chad; over 200,000 refugees from Darfur.

- ["UNHCR starts projects to help local population in eastern Chad"](#), AlertNet (UNHCR), 28 June 2005.
- ["Chad opposition stay-at-home strike meets limited response"](#), Voice of America, 27 June 2005.

➡ Democratic Republic of Congo With electoral preparations significantly behind schedule, parliament voted to postpone planned 30 June election by 6 months at electoral commission's request. Voter registration began Kinshasa 20 June. Opposition Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UPDS) called for boycott, claimed 24 killed in 30 June protests against postponement in Kinshasa, Tshikapa and Mbuji-Mayi. 4 killed in Mbuji-Mayi (UPDS stronghold) 25 June; further violence in Lubumbashi, Katanga province. Clashes in Ituri persisted: 1 Nepali peacekeeper killed, 2 Médecins sans frontières staff kidnapped; major MONUC cordon-and-search operations around Medu village displaced thousands. MONUC expressed concern over militia remobilisation and reports rebel forces uniting against UN. Fighting continued North Kivu: 3 Congolese soldiers killed, hundreds of civilians displaced in

clashes between army and FDLR, Miriki village, north Goma; Indian peacekeeper killed, 2 others injured by stray gunfire north Goma. EU Special Representative Aldo Ajello announced possible logistical support for action by Congolese army against FDLR; FDLR split with deputy commander Jeribaal Amani claiming he had taken control.

- Comment by Lord Patten (Crisis Group), ["Treating the sickness at the heart of Africa"](#), *International Herald Tribune*, 30 June 2005.
- Comment by Nancy Soderberg (Crisis Group), ["Africa needs aid for security not just poverty"](#), *The Financial Times*, 24 June 2005.
- Comment by Andrew Stroehlein (Crisis Group), ["In Congo, 1,000 die per day: Why isn't it a media story?"](#), *Christian Science Monitor*, 14 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Briefing N°25, ["The Congo: Solving the FDLR Problem Once and for All"](#), 12 May 2005.

➡ Rwanda Officials said Hutu rebels under 14 at time of 1994 genocide exempt from "gacaca" courts; up to 800,000 Hutus expected to face courts. UN and U.S. expressed concern over Burundi's forced repatriation of 5,000 Rwandan refugees; both countries termed asylum seekers "illegal immigrants".

- ["Govt scoffs at UN stand on returnees"](#), *The New Times*, 17 June 2005.
- ["Burundi, Rwanda violate international obligations - UN Refugee Agency"](#), UN News, 14 June 2005.

➡ Uganda Mediation efforts with Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels stalled as sporadic violence and abductions continued in north: 2 killed in LRA attack on Agoro IDP camp, Kitgum district, while army claimed deaths of 6 rebels, including top LRA commander Colonel Opiro Anaka. President Museveni repeated clemency offer to LRA leader Joseph Kony should he surrender. Museveni said would campaign in favour of return to multi-party system in 28 July referendum. Meanwhile, constitutional amendment to allow Museveni to stand for 3rd term in 2006 easily passed first parliamentary stage.

- ["Police disperses anti-third term demo"](#), *The New Vision*, 29 June 2005.
- ["Uganda reveals democracy question"](#), BBC, 9 June 2005.
- For background see Crisis Group Africa Briefing N°23, ["Shock Therapy for Northern Uganda's Peace Process"](#), 11 Apr. 2005.

HORN OF AFRICA

➡ Ethiopia/Eritrea At least 22 killed by police in Addis Ababa riots following May elections; both PM Zenawi and opposition EPRDF claimed victory with final results to be announced 8 July. National Elections Board and international observers began to investigate fraud allegations in 135 contested constituencies. Eritrea urged greater international pressure to resolve dispute over Badme town.

- ["Donors shy away Eritrea despite famine"](#), Afrol, 16 June 2005.
- ["Shops in Ethiopia's capital closed following deadly riots"](#), *International Herald Tribune*, 9 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Report N°68, ["Ethiopia and Eritrea: War or Peace?"](#), 24 Sept. 2003.

➡ Somalia Rift over where to establish base of new government risked derailing fragile peace and return to major factional fighting. President Abdillahi Yusuf failed to take his designated capital, Baydhowa, late May. Yemen talks

between president and parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Sharif Hassan broke down end June; PM Geedi warned force would be used against ministers and MPs who obstructed government plans. Speaker Hassan currently based Mogadishu with over 100 MPs. Yusuf, encouraged to leave Kenya, arrived Jowhar 13 June. Mohamed Dheere, warlord ally of president, accused rivals of preparing to attack Jowhar with Eritrean-backed Oromo militia. Over 20 killed and 7,000 displaced by inter-clan clashes in Bur Hache and surrounding areas, south Somalia. Further clan violence Beletweyne, south-central Somalia; 30 feared dead and hundreds displaced.

- [“Somali talks fail to resolve rift”](#), BBC, 24 June 2005.
- [“7,000 Somalis enter Kenya to escape fighting”](#), *The Nation*, 13 June 2005.
- [“Death toll rises as fighting continues in Beletweyne”](#), IRIN, 9 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Report N°88, [Somalia: Continuation of War by Other Means?](#), 21 Dec. 2004.

◁ Somaliland (Somalia) Ongoing political tension ahead of planned September 2005 parliamentary elections. Opposition threatened impeachment of President Dahir Rayale Kahin if victorious. Somaliland leaders meeting Los Angeles committed themselves to free and fair September elections.

- [“Mismanagement of Somaliland port hinders development”](#), Afrol, 24 June 2005.

◁ Sudan Non-Arab Beja Congress launched offensive around Tokar, 120km south Port Sudan, 19 June, bringing violence to eastern Sudan. Sudanese government said Darfur's Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Eritrea backing rebels. Government allegedly responded with air attacks in east. Beja Congress said would consider talks if government released prisoners and undertook independent investigation into January 2005 Port Sudan deaths. Separately, AU-backed Abuja talks between JEM and SLA rebels and Sudanese government began 10 June; talks deadlocked over basic principles, presence of Chadian mediators and rivalries within SLA and JEM. ICC announced investigations into Darfur crimes, prompting Khartoum response that Sudanese courts would deal with any allegations. Draft interim constitution based on Naivasha north-south peace accord agreed by multi-party constitutional commission 26 June; text remains to be approved by parliament and SPLM. Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of Umma opposition party, said would boycott power-sharing government due to begin July. Hassan al-Turabi, political rival of president, released from prison ahead of power-sharing.

- [“Rebels claim Sudanese government is bombing east”](#), Voice of America, 24 June 2005.
- [“Darfur talks inch forward, Chad dispute remains”](#), *The Sudan Tribune* (Reuters), 25 June 2005.
- Comment by Gareth Evans (Crisis Group), [“Bridging the gap in Darfur”](#), *Wall Street Journal Europe*, 6 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Briefing N°24, [A New Sudan Action Plan](#), 26 April 2005.

Crisis Group Africa Briefing N°26, [Do Americans Care about Darfur? An International Crisis Group/Zogby International Opinion Survey](#), 1 June 2005. Over 80 per cent of Americans support a tougher international response to the current situation in Darfur, a new International Crisis Group/Zogby poll finds. This includes backing for military measures, sanctions and ICC prosecutions against the Sudanese leaders *cont'd...*



...cont'd responsible for the tragedy. Results indicate that short of inserting American combat troops on the ground to protect civilians, there is greater public backing for the U.S. to play a leadership role than has been the conventional wisdom in Washington.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

◁ Angola Debate continued over preparations for September 2006 elections. President Dos Santos asked Supreme Court to rule on constitutionality of electoral law.

- [“Peace breaks out, challenges remain”](#), IRIN, 28 June 2005.

◁ Swaziland Joint sitting of parliament approved first constitution since 1978; criticised by opposition as institutionalising royal rule; political party ban upheld.

- [“Protests against new Swazi constitution”](#), Afrol, 15 June 2005.

◁ Zimbabwe Government “Murambatsvina” (“Drive Out Rubbish”) operation - ostensibly to clear urban slums - expanded; at least 300,000 left homeless, 32,000 arrested (though most subsequently released). U.S., EU condemned mass demolitions; UN appointed Anna Kajumulo Tibajuka Special Envoy for Human Settlement Issues in Zimbabwe, calling situation “new apartheid”; Tibajuka met Mugabe 29 June. AU initially rejected calls to pressure Zimbabwe, but 29 June announced fact-finding mission by Special IDP Rapporteur in African Commission on Human Rights, Brahame Tom Nyanduga. Opposition-planned general strike failed 9 June: poor organisation and feared police response blamed. Parliament to consider nationalisation of most rural land.

- Crisis Group letter to African and international leaders, [“Protect the People of Zimbabwe”](#), 30 June 2005.
- [“Clean-Up’ Operation Splits Zanu PF”](#), *The Zimbabwe Standard*, 20 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Report N°86 [Zimbabwe: Another Election Chance](#), 30 Nov. 2004.

Crisis Group Africa Report N°93, [Post-Election Zimbabwe: What Next?](#), 7 June 2005. Unless the international community starts planning together for a peaceful democratic transition, Zimbabwe faces greater violence and chaos. The situation since rigged 31 March 2005 parliamentary elections may seem like business as usual, but the Mugabe era is ending. Both ZANU-PF and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change face existential challenges. It is time for all concerned to begin planning for his departure at the earliest possible moment. The U.S., the EU and international financial institutions should make clear there will be no end to targeted sanctions, no prospect of substantial aid, and no resumption of normal relations unless there are real changes. South Africa's “quiet diplomacy” has failed - new options, including cooperation with the Commonwealth and the G8 must be explored.



WEST AFRICA

◁ Côte d'Ivoire Disarmament failed to begin by 27 June deadline set by May 2005 Pretoria accords; at further South African-mediated talks sides agreed to disarm by end-August and implement legal reforms; South Africa warned of sanctions should sides fail to comply. UN Security Council voted to expand UN force by 850 soldiers and 375 police 24 June.

Earlier, 100 people killed in interethnic clashes in Duékoué - Forces Nouvelles insurgents and supporters of President Gbagbo blamed each other. Gbagbo undertook private visit to U.S.; attempt to meet U.S. Sec. State Condoleezza Rice rebuffed. 62 military jeeps found Abidjan port in potential violation of embargo in place since November 2004.

- ["Security Council extends mandate of UN mission in Côte d'Ivoire"](#), UN News, 24 June 2005.
- ["Ethnic war threatening to spiral out of control"](#), Inter Press Service, 9 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Report N°90, *Côte d'Ivoire: The Worst May Be Yet to Come*, 24 Mar. 2005.

➤ Guinea Tensions high amidst fears over President Lansana Conté's succession and dire economy. Government approved private access to airwaves - yet to be approved by president.

- ["Youths riot over high food prices in poor Guinea"](#), AlertNet, 29 June 2005.
- Commentary by Mike McGovern (Crisis Group), ["Guinea – West Africa's next failure?"](#), *The European Voice*, 16 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Report N°74, *Guinea: Uncertainties at the End of an Era*, 19 Dec. 2003.

Crisis Group Africa Report N°94, ["Stopping Guinea's Slide"](#), 14 June 2005.



Guinea risks becoming Africa's next failed state, unless its government and the international community move quickly on reform. The political class intrigues over succession to President Lansana Conté, but the steps the country must take in the next months are the same whether he recovers or not. All players must push forward the agreed reforms without reference to personalities, emphasising institutions and checks on power -- including revision of electoral lists, opening of the airwaves, guarantees of free movement and association for the opposition and an independent electoral commission. If reform fails, the succession battle could be bloody. They should be implemented before autumn municipal elections and any presidential election necessitated by vacancy, and the international community should warn the military off any thought of taking power.

➤ Guinea-Bissau First round presidential elections relatively peaceful; run-off poll between leader Malam Bacai Sanha and runner-up Joao Bernardo "Nino" Veira to be held 24 July. Third-placed candidate, former president Kumba Yala, initially rejected result, claiming 39% of vote despite electoral commission figures giving him 25%. On subsequent trip to Senegal, Yala announced would abide by result despite continued insistence he won. 4 pro-Yala demonstrators killed in post-election violence.

- ["Losing candidate in Guinea-Bissau election accepts results"](#), Voice of America, 28 June 2005.
- ["Two killed as police fire on demonstration by Kumba Yala supporters"](#), IRIN, 24 June 2005.

➤ Liberia Continuing unrest amongst ex-combatants, with reintegration programs underfunded by \$10m; LURD ex-combatants occupying country's second largest rubber plantation. Soldiers looted Barclay Training Centre 14 June and blocked defence minister Chea in ministry to protest salary arrears. New Liberian army - to be recruited and trained by U.S. DynCorp - expected to number 2,000 rather than original 4,000. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan recommended broadening of UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). International

criticism over corruption of transitional government: UNSC extended sanctions on diamond and timber exports and donors proposed economic governance action plan. Chairman Gyude Bryant signed Truth and Reconciliation Commission Bill 10 June, to cover events from 1979 to October 2003.

- ["Guthrie rubber plantation: LURD executive gives different version"](#), *The Analyst*, 23 June 2005.
- ["Donors step up anti-graft fight with plan to limit government's powers"](#), IRIN, 16 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Report N°87, *Liberia and Sierra Leone: Rebuilding Failed States*, 8 Dec. 2004.

➤ Nigeria National political reform conference adopted distribution plan giving 17% of oil revenues to producing regions; Delta region representatives demanded at least 25%. Cameroon's President Biya complained of 4 "incidents" in oil-rich Bakassi peninsula including killing of Cameroonian soldier by Nigerian troops; planned conference to discuss implementation of 2002 International Court of Justice border ruling not attended by Nigeria. U.S. (amongst others) shut Lagos mission 17 June - later reopened - citing terrorist threat.

- ["Confab settles for 17 percent"](#), *The Daily Champion*, 29 June 2005.
- ["Obasanjo orders probe over killing of Cameroonian soldier"](#), *The Daily Champion*, 24 June 2005.
- ["Threat closes Nigeria missions"](#), BBC, 17 June 2005.

➤ Sierra Leone No movement in Yenga dispute with Guinea; planned meeting between President Kabbah and Guinean PM Diallo not held. Rising discontent over inability of government to tackle corruption, improve economy and attract investment.

- ["Sierra Leone court says completion of work depends on trying Taylor, Koroma"](#), UN News, 23 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Africa Report N°87, *Liberia and Sierra Leone: Rebuilding Failed States*, 8 Dec. 2004.

➤ Togo President Faure Gnassingbé rejected conditions of 5 opposition parties - not including Gilchrist Olympio's UFC - for participation in coalition; appointed elder brother Kpatcha as defence minister and veteran "moderate" Edem Kodjo as PM.

- ["New Togo cabinet gets lukewarm welcome"](#), Afrol, 21 June 2005.

Asia/Pacific

CENTRAL ASIA

➤ Kazakhstan Debate continued over draft legislation designed to restrict activities of foreign NGOs. New bills, criticised by foreign minister Tokayev and daughter of President Nazarbayev, followed May passage by lower house of parliament of amendments to laws governing political parties, local NGOs and media.

- ["Less civil society in Kazakhstan"](#), IWPR, 10 June 2005.

➤ Kyrgyzstan Situation remained fragile ahead of 10 July presidential elections. Supporters of disqualified candidate Urmatbek Baryktabasov - many reportedly paid for turning out - stormed government building in Bishkek 17 June; ejected by police. In further incidents of violence, parliamentary deputy assassinated in Bishkek 7 June; bodyguards of Acting President Bakiev assaulted by unknown men 11 June; and

clash between rival groups in southern city of Osh 13 June killed 1. Kyrgyz authorities forcibly returned 4 Uzbek asylum-seekers (of some 500 who fled following Andijon massacre), saying they were common criminals. Government stepped back from returning 29 more following international outcry.

- "Officials say Kyrgyz capital 'stabilized'", RFE/RL, 17 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Report N°97, *Kyrgyzstan: After the Revolution*, 4 May 2005.

➤ Tajikistan Bomb exploded outside Emergencies Ministry building and major bank in Dushanbe 13 June, causing minor injuries. Similar explosion took place in January in same location. Motivation behind bombings unknown. Pressure on opposition parties continued, with arrest of 2 members of Islamic Renaissance Party, jailing of 2 members of Social Democratic Party for "hooliganism", and sentencing of senior Taraqqiyot Party official to nearly 6 years in prison for insulting president and inciting conflict. Transfer of Tajik-Afghan border from Russian to Tajik control completed 14 June.

- "Tajik blasts jangle nerves", IWPR, 24 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Briefing N°33, *Tajikistan's Politics: Confrontation or Consolidation?*, 19 May 2004.

➤ Turkmenistan Former Deputy Prime Minister Yolly Gurbanmuradov charged with embezzlement and conspiring with foreign intelligence services to sell oil and gas illegally; arrested and rumoured to have been killed. Speculation continued over worsening health of President Niyazov after he reportedly required assistance to walk on Moscow visit.

- "Turkmenistan: Fate of Kurbanmuradov uncertain", IWPR, 21 June 2005.
- "Public health crisis threatens to overwhelm Turkmenistan", Eurasianet.org, 10 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Report N°85, *Repression and Regression in Turkmenistan: A New International Strategy*, 4 Nov. 2004.

➤ Uzbekistan Government continued to reject international calls for inquiry into Andijon events: meeting in Moscow 28 June, Uzbek President Islam Karimov and Russian President Vladimir Putin declared violence had been planned from abroad. EU threatened sanctions if Tashkent did not reverse position on investigation by end June. U.S. revealed Uzbekistan restricting operations of its Karshi-Khanabad airbase; Tashkent said restrictions unrelated to U.S. criticism over Andijon.


- Comment by Michael Hall (Crisis Group), "Amid Western apathy, Uzbekistan can expect more violence", *The Daily Star*, 30 June 2005.
- "Karimov, Putin say Andijon violence was planned abroad", RFE/RL, 29 June 2005.
- "Uzbekistan: Andijon residents 'tortured'", IWPR, 21 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Briefing N°38, *Uzbekistan: The Andijon Uprising*, 25 May 2005.

SOUTH ASIA

➤ Afghanistan Military operations intensified with major U.S./Afghan offensive in Zabul province. Afghan forces claimed more than 100 Taliban killed. At least 38 suspected militants reported killed in earlier clashes with Afghan forces

and U.S. air strike in southern Zabul and Helmand provinces. Taliban claimed to have downed U.S. military helicopter Kunar Province 28 June; 16 Americans confirmed dead in worst ever single loss for U.S. in Afghanistan. Attacks on Afghan police forces continued. President Hamid Karzai called for Pakistan to act against Taliban sheltering on its soil. As preparations for September parliamentary elections continued, NATO announced plans to deploy 3 additional battalions from Spain, Romania and The Netherlands; Spain already agreed to send 500 additional troops. Plot to assassinate (departing) U.S. ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad allegedly foiled at last minute; 3 Pakistani suspects arrested. Italian aid worker Clementina Cantoni, kidnapped in May, released 9 June.

- "U.S. forces continue campaign against Taliban strongholds in south", RFE/RL, 27 June 2005.
- "The unending war against the Taliban", *The Economist*, 23 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Briefing N°35, *Afghanistan: Getting Disarmament Back on Track*, 23 Feb. 2005.

Crisis Group Asia Briefing N°39, *Political Parties in Afghanistan*, 2 June 2005. 

Amid rising popular discontent, the Afghan government and its international partners must strengthen political parties if the country's transition is to succeed. As parliamentary elections approach in September 2005, President Hamid Karzai's government should bring political parties - regardless of its political leanings - into the legal fold if they demonstrate willingness to work peacefully and democratically. It should revise the Political Parties Law to remove unnecessary curbs on party formation and functioning; simplify registration; provide funding to parties; and shift oversight from the Ministry of Justice to an independent commission. The government should also reconsider urgently its decision to conduct parliamentary elections under the single non-transferable vote system, which is likely to produce unrepresentative results.

➤ Bangladesh Human Rights Watch reported increase in attacks by religious extremists on Ahmadiyya minorities - blamed government for complicity in violence for failing to act against those responsible. 2 Ahmadiya mosques torched and bombed 24 June in southeastern district of Brahmanbaria.

- "Breach of faith: Persecution of the Ahmadiyya community in Bangladesh", Human Rights Watch report, 16 June 2005.
- "State of denial", *The Economist*, 16 June 2005.

➤ India (non-Kashmir) Conflict with Naxalites and northeastern separatists continued unabated. At least 20 killed in Maoist attack on police station and state-run banks in Bihar state 24 June while 10 reportedly killed as villagers and Maoists clashed in eastern Chhattisgarh state. 12 states affected by leftist insurgencies reportedly agreed to form joint task force to facilitate intelligence sharing and planning among state security agencies (according to Home Ministry's latest annual report, 76 districts in 9 states affected by leftist rebels). Strike called 23 June in India's northeastern Manipur state over alleged killing of civilian by paramilitary Assam Rifles. 8 suspected members of banned United National Liberation Front and People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak reportedly killed in encounter with military in Manipur 22 June. India and U.S. signed 10-year agreement to strengthen defence ties 29 June.

- ["India's Naga rebels set conditions to renew truce"](#), AlertNet, 28 June 2005.
- ["Many killed in India rebel attack"](#), BBC, 24 June 2005.
- ["10 die as Raipur villagers turn against Maoists"](#), *Hindustan Times*, 23 June 2005.

➤ Kashmir Moderate faction of Kashmiri separatist Hurriyat Conference alliance (APHC) indicated desire to resume talks with Indian government after 2 week visit to Pakistan and talks with President Pervez Musharraf. But signs of disagreement among APHC leaders and counterparts in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on province's future. Violence continued: 23 killed in separate car bombs 13, 24 June; other incidents included killing of 3 civilians in their home 30 June. Pakistan and India concluded round of talks on dam dispute 29 June - to have high-level contact early July at Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Kazakhstan (as observer nations).

- ["India's 'no' to Pakistan minister"](#), BBC, 24 June 2005.
- ["Pakistan visit evokes mixed reactions"](#), South Asia Monitor, 17 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Report N°79 [India/Pakistan Relations and Kashmir: Steps toward Peace](#), 24 June 2004.

➤ Nepal Maoist attacks continued, killing at least 45 across Nepal. 7-party alliance led by former PM and Nepali Congress party President G. P. Koirala asked Maoists to give up violence and support their agenda for restoration of democracy: Maoist chief Prachanda said would no longer target civilians and political workers, but failed to shun violence. Alliance said would not participate in municipal elections planned for 2006, claiming free and fair elections not possible under king's direct rule. Kathmandu protest rally demanding restoration of media freedom led to arrests of 50 journalists - later released. Federation of Nepal (umbrella organisation of 2,600 NGOs) said would back 7-party alliance. Landmine exploded under bus in southern Nepal 6 June, killing 41 passengers and wounding 69; Maoists promised enquiry and apologised for deaths.

- ["Parties welcome Prachanda's statement 'cautiously'"](#), *Kathmandu Post*, 20 June 2005.
- ["Military assistance contributing to grave human rights violations"](#), Amnesty International report, 15 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Report N°94, [Nepal: Dealing with a Human Rights Crisis](#), 24 Mar. 2005, and Briefing N°36, [Nepal: Responding to the Royal Coup](#), 24 Feb. 2005.

Crisis Group Asia Report N°99, [Towards a Lasting Peace in Nepal: The Constitutional Issues](#), 15 June 2005. Nepal needs constitutional change to address the causes of its conflict and produce real peace. The 1990 constitution ended absolutist rule, enshrining a multiparty system under a constitutional monarchy, but the 9-year-old Maoist insurgency has cruelly exposed the inherent weaknesses of that document, and the royal coup of 1 February 2005 has dealt it a near fatal blow. Constitutional issues are at the crux of Nepal's military, political and social crises, but there is little sign of agreement between king, political parties and Maoists on key points. Reintroducing democratic institutions remains central to forming a government that can negotiate with the Maoists and initiate a consensual process for constitutional change.



➤ Pakistan Sectarian violence continued in Karachi with 23 June killing of 2 Sunni Muslim clerics. Sub-committee of

Parliamentary Committee on Balochistan released long-awaited recommendations, including development package and proposed gas and petroleum royalty be paid to extraction areas; report to go to Senate and National Assembly for approval.

- ["A rape victim defies traditional code"](#), *Christian Science Monitor*, 27 June 2005.
- ["Rs10bn package, jobs proposed for Balochistan: Checkposts in cities to be abolished"](#), *Dawn*, 23 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Report N°95, [The State of Sectarianism in Pakistan](#), 18 April 2005.

➤ Sri Lanka Deal on joint aid distribution mechanism finally signed 6 months after tsunami: post-tsunami operation management structure (P-TOMS) - under which committees comprising rebels and government can recommend, prioritise and monitor projects funded by \$3 billion in pledged foreign aid - signed 23 June. Deal sparked hopes of improved cooperation between Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and government but cemented political split between President Kumaratunga's ruling People's Alliance and coalition partner, leftist People's Liberation Front, leaving Kumaratunga's government with only 81 seats in 225-seat legislature. Chief of LTTE's political wing welcomed deal, saying if implementation successful will "open the way for the peace process". Tensions remained high however as 3 soldiers killed by suspected LTTE in eastern district of Batticaloa 30 June.

- ["S.Lanka rebels warn truce in peril, issue ultimatum"](#), ReliefWeb, 30 June 2005.
- ["Sri Lanka leader gambles on tsunami aid"](#), BBC, 27 June 2005.

NORTH EAST ASIA

➤ China (internal) Popular long-time civil servant Donald Tsang named new leader of Hong Kong.

- ["Fighting the cause of China's Uighurs"](#), BBC, 24 June 2005.
- ["Donald Tsang named new Hong Kong leader"](#), *The Washington Post*, 21 June 2005.

➤ North Korea Month saw series of promising but largely symbolic diplomatic exchanges - as yet no date fixed for resumption of nuclear negotiations. In first meeting with senior South Korean official in more than 3 years, North's Kim Jong-il met Unification Minister Chung Dong-young as part of commemorations of 2000 inter-Korean summit 17 June. Pyongyang secured food aid from U.S. and South Korea, and made positive comments on resumption of 6-party talks but definitive statement on timing yet to emerge. Conflicting messages from White House, Pentagon, and State Dept. reinforced perception in North East Asia that Bush administration yet to agree on strategy. Democrat senators Biden, Levin, Reid, Rockefeller urged special envoy appointment and new diplomatic effort in strong letter to President Bush 23 June. China remained against coercive measures, including referring North Korea to UN Security Council.

- ["Optimism about talks rises in Seoul"](#), *International Herald Tribune*, 30 June 2005.
- ["Democrats call for US envoy to N. Korea"](#), *Korea Times*, 26 June 2005.
- ["Enlarge the North Korean problem"](#), *International Herald Tribune*, 21 June 2005.

- For background, see Crisis Group Report N°96, *North Korea: Can the Iron Fist Accept the Invisible Hand?* 25 Apr. 2005.

Crisis Group Asia Report N°100, *Japan and North Korea: Bones of Contention*.



Since North Korea badly needs help to revive its economy, the prospect of normalised relations with Japan is a leading incentive that could be offered in a deal to end its nuclear programs. Japan cannot move independently of U.S.-North Korea developments, but as prospects improve for resuming nuclear talks, it should both dangle the carrot of normalised relations and be prepared to wield the stick of sanctions. Though the nuclear issue is more significant for Japanese and East Asian security, Japan's public is focused on the abductions issue. Unless the issues can be solved in parallel, Tokyo will not be able to use its leverage. Ultimately, normalisation is in both countries' interests provided it occurs in the context of a solution to the nuclear problem.

- ↳ Taiwan Strait Amid signs of worsening Sino-American relationship, U.S. Sec. Defense Rumsfeld said Chinese military build-up threatening Asian security. Pentagon said would supply Taiwan with sophisticated missile and air defence radar system. Taiwanese National Assembly approved significant constitutional amendments: any move towards independence must now be approved by referendum. New system expected to block any radical pro-independence policy shifts.
 - *"Taiwan to get U.S. early warning radar"*, Reuters, 24 June 2005.
 - *"Constitutional changes approved in Taiwan"*, *International Herald Tribune* (Reuters), 8 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Asia Reports N°s 53-55, *Taiwan Strait I: What's Left of 'One China'?*, *Taiwan Strait II, The Risk of War*, and *Taiwan Strait III, The Chance of Peace*, 6 June 2003; and N°75, *Taiwan Strait IV: How an Ultimate Political Settlement Might Look*, 26 Feb. 2004.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

- ↳ Indonesia Jakarta rejected key Free Aceh Movement (GAM) peace talk demand GAM be allowed to run as local party in elections. Security Minister said Jakarta could not agree since would necessitate changes to law requiring parties be nationally based. Fifth round of talks to start from 12 July in Helsinki. Bloody clashes reported almost daily since peace talks began in January; army said would continue to fight GAM until deal reached. Security forces and GAM blamed each other for non-fatal shooting of Aceh aid worker 23 June. First ever direct elections for local government officials proceeding relatively peacefully, even in former conflict areas. Central Kalimantan candidate for governor who helped foment violence against ethnic Madurese in 2001 received only 4% of vote.
 - *"Bumpy progress"*, *The Economist*, 23 June 2005.
 - *"TNI vows to continue fight in Aceh"*, *The Jakarta Post*, 9 June 2005.
 - Comment by Sidney Jones (Crisis Group), *"The changing face of terrorism in Indonesia"*, *Wall Street Journal*, 8 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Asia Briefing N°37, *Decentralisation and Conflict in Indonesia: The Mamas Case*, 3 May 2005.
- ↳ Myanmar/Burma Several reports published documenting continuing human rights crisis of political prisoners and

ethnic minorities. Report by British academic claimed government troops committing atrocities in Shan, Karen and Karenni states, amounting to "possible genocide".

- *"Myanmar (Burma): displacement continues unabated in one of the world's worst IDP situations"*, ReliefWeb, 27 June 2005.
- *"Report calls for genocide charge against junta"*, Irrawady, 23 June 2005.
- *"Myanmar's political prisoners: A growing legacy of injustice"*, Amnesty International report, 16 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Asia Briefing N°34, *Myanmar: Update on HIV/AIDS Policy*, 16 Dec. 2004.
- ↳ Papua New Guinea Australia remained committed to suspended Enhanced Cooperation Program, but will not drop insistence PNG amend its constitution to allow Australian police immunity from PNG law and prosecution. Presidential election held successfully in autonomous Bougainville region.
 - *"PNG minister reaffirms commitment"*, Seven News, 23 June 2005.
- ↳ Philippines Protests against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo held throughout month amid graft accusations. To stem resignation calls, Arroyo announced departure from country of businessman husband and apologised for having spoken to election official during 2004 election claiming not intended to influence count. Leftist rebels and security forces clashed in north: 14 from Revolutionary Army of the People, breakaway faction of communist New People's Army, killed in army raid in Pampanga province 12 June - apparently sparking 14 June retaliatory ambush which killed 10 soldiers. Army announced arrest of top leftist rebel leader 29 June. Informal meetings between government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front to narrow differences on issue of ancestral land for Muslims in south ended 21 June in Kuala Lumpur; parties agreed to resume talks July. Local clan wars in south increasing strain on peace talks; at least 15, including women and children, killed in Mindanao 28 June.
 - *"'Cheater' Arroyo faces people's wrath"*, Asia Times Online, 29 June 2005.
 - *"Philippine clan wars threaten truce with rebels"*, AlertNet, 15 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Asia Report N°80, *Southern Philippines Backgrounder: Terrorism and the Peace Process*, 13 July 2004.
- ↳ Thailand Violence intensified in south. Killing of government officials and civilians, both Buddhist and Muslim, increased: at least 40, mostly civilians, killed by suspected insurgents over month. Unprecedented number of beheadings in June; 7 in total, 2 in broad daylight before witnesses. Organisation of the Islamic Conference delegation assessed situation in south ahead of annual meeting 28-30 June, but criticism so far muted. FM Kantathi Suphamongkon travelled to Kuala Lumpur to bolster support for ending violence through Joint Development Strategy signed 2004.
 - *"Thailand gets tough, again"*, Asia Times Online, 28 June 2005.
 - *"Thaksin accused of 'dirty war' on media"*, *International Herald Tribune*, 25 June 2005.
 - *"Not yet reconciled"*, *The Economist*, 2 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Asia Report N°98, *Southern Thailand: Insurgency, Not Jihad*, 18 May 2005.



Europe

BALKANS

- Albania Preparations for 3 July parliamentary elections increasingly plagued by accusations of intimidation and corruption. Country remained split between opposition Democratic Party led by former president Sali Berisha, and ruling Socialists led by PM Fatos Nano. OSCE's international monitoring mission highlighted irregularities with voter register.

 - ["Albania election campaign turns nasty"](#), IWPR, 23 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Europe Report N°153, ["Pan-Albanianism: How Big a Threat to Balkan Stability?"](#), 25 Feb. 2004.

- Bosnia & Herzegovina FM Mladen Ivanic sacked by Chair of BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic. High Rep. Paddy Ashdown censured Vuk Draskovic, FM of Serbia and Montenegro, for linking status of Kosovo to that of Republika Srpska (RS). EUFOR removed General Novak Djukic, Chief of Staff of RS's armed forces. RS officials continued to block efforts on police reform. Strong reaction by politicians and public to airing of Srebrenica video tape of executions by Serbian Interior Ministry "Scorpions".

 - ["Ten years after Srebrenica"](#), RFE/RL, 27 June 2005.
 - ["Srebrenica video vindicates long pursuit by Serb activist"](#), *The Washington Post*, 25 June 2005.

- Kosovo UNSG Annan appointed Kai Eide special envoy for evaluating Kosovo's implementation of democratic standards. UNMIK chief Soren Jessen-Petersen convened first long-delayed meeting of Political Forum, aimed at building consensus among Kosovo politicians for final status process. Tensions rose in Mitrovica after UN formally reopened symbolic bridge across river Ibar; Serbs maintained human blockade to deny Albanians entry to Serb-dominated North Mitrovica; clashes between demonstrators and nearby Albanian residents ensued 19 June. Controversial journalist for *Bota Sot* daily, Bardhyl Ajeti, died following shooting near Gnjilane 3 June. Former PM Ramush Haradinaj returned to Kosovo 8 June, granted pre-trial release by Hague tribunal. Efforts by "Serb List for Kosovo and Metohija" to persuade Serbian government to allow them to take up Kosovo Assembly seats agreed to by Serbia-Montenegro FM Vuk Draskovic but rejected by Serbian PM Kostunica's adviser Prorokovic 23 June.

 - ["Draskovic urges Kosovo Serbs to join province's institutions"](#), *Southeast European Times*, 29 June 2005.
 - ["For Serbs, a slow road back to Kosovo"](#), *Christian Science Monitor*, 22 June 2005.
 - ["Violence erupts in north Kosovo town"](#), *International Herald Tribune* (AP/Reuters), 20 June 2005.
 - For background see Crisis Group Europe Report N°163, ["Kosovo after Haradinaj"](#), 26 May 2005.

- Macedonia Parliament began debating law regulating use of symbols (and flags) by ethnic groups, penultimate obligation of 2001 Ohrid Framework Agreement. Archbishop Jovan (Zoran Vraniskovski) sentenced to 18 months for charges of "inciting national, racial and religious hatred".

 - ["Macedonia may rue hastiness"](#), IWPR, 27 June 2005.

- For background, see Crisis Group Europe Briefing N°37 ["Macedonia: Not out of the Woods Yet"](#), 25 Feb. 2005.

- Serbia & Montenegro Serbian politics dominated by war crimes issue. Video shown in Hague Milosevic trial 1 June, rebroadcast throughout Serbia, directly linked Serbian Interior Ministry "Scorpions" unit to 1995 Srebrenica massacre, bringing condemnation from PM Vojislav Kostunica and President Boris Tadic; yet parliament failed to adopt resolution condemning massacre. Government denied media speculation was negotiating with Ratko Mladic. U.S. rewarded cooperation with Hague tribunal by resuming \$10 million aid 9 June. Bosnia's High Rep. Paddy Ashdown censured FM Vuk Draskovic for openly linking future of Bosnia's Republika Srpska to Kosovo independence, implying Serbia should receive Bosnian territory. Kostunica outraged Montenegrins by presenting list of potential Montenegrin voters inside Serbia for referendum on Montenegro's independence to EU.

 - ["Serbs thwart plan to reopen Mitrovica bridge"](#), IWPR, 30 June 2005.
 - ["Belgrade's ambiguous response to Srebrenica"](#), RFE/RL, 27 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Europe Briefing N°39, ["Serbia: Spinning its Wheels"](#), 23 May 2005.

CAUCASUS

- Armenia Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted resolution 23 June expressing concern about course of constitutional reform, noting repeatedly missed deadlines for adoption of amendments designed to curtail presidential powers and demanding Yerevan put to referendum by November 2005.

 - ["Constitutional deal in sight"](#), IWPR, 30 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Europe Report N°158, ["Armenia: Internal Instability Ahead"](#), 18 Oct. 2004.

- Azerbaijan 15,000-18,000 people attended Baku rally organised by leading opposition "Freedom" bloc. Demonstrators, many wearing orange clothes and carrying carnations, demanded free, fair democratic elections, amendments to election code, release of political prisoners, and progress in investigating journalist Elmar Huseynov's murder. Demonstration 3 days after large pro-government rally. Council of Europe and OSCE issued joint statement 14 June expressing regret at government's failure to implement important amendments to election law ahead of November 2005 parliamentary elections.

 - ["Azerbaijan: Opening shots in election battle"](#), IWPR, 16 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Europe Report N°156, ["Azerbaijan: Turning Over a New Leaf?"](#), 13 May 2004.

- Chechnya (Russia) Controversial "sweep" operation in Chechen village by Russian army unit caused 1,000 ethnic Avars to flee to Dagestan border. Presidential envoy Dmitrii Kozak condemned raid, which killed 2 and left 11 men missing presumed dead. String of bombings within Dagestan wounded at least 9, including 7 police. North Ossetian President Aleksandr Dzasokhov stepped down after talks with Kozak; mothers of children killed in Beslan started hunger strike to protest new Kremlin nominee Teymuraz Mamsurov.

 - ["Bombs hit another area of the Russian Caucasus"](#), *International Herald Tribune*, 27 June 2005.

- [“Scandal brews over raid in Chechnya”](#), RFE/RL, 23 June 2005.
- [“Could North Ossetian leader’s departure herald other resignations?”](#), RFE/RL, 2 June 2005.

➤ Georgia Government announced plans for major international conference in Batumi 10 July to advance president’s peace plan for South Ossetia, whose authorities said will not participate, calling it PR event. Situation in conflict zone remained tense as search for 4 kidnapped Georgians continued. To ease tensions, Joint Control Commission (JCC) met Moscow 22 June and agreed to jointly investigate recent incidents in zone.

- [“Georgia/Russia: Withdrawal agreement clears first hurdle”](#), RFE/RL, 22 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Europe Briefing N°38, [Georgia-South Ossetia: Refugee Return the Path to Peace](#), 19 April 2005.

➤ Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan) Parties loyal to Karabakh leader Arkady Ghukasian won landslide victory in parliamentary elections. Though poll condemned by Azerbaijan and internationally unrecognised, observers recorded no serious violations. Preliminary results gave largest opposition faction only 3 of 33 seats in new assembly. Foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan met 17-18 June in Paris under aegis of OSCE Minsk Group to continue discussions on resolving Karabakh conflict. Armenian FM Oskanian said meeting failed to build on progress achieved month earlier in Warsaw by 2 countries’ presidents.

- [“Opposition angry at Karabakh poll”](#), IWPR, 23 June 2005.
- [“Armenia describes Paris Karabakh talks as ‘constructive...’](#), RFE/RL, 21 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Europe Reports N°158, [Armenia: Internal Instability Ahead](#), 18 Oct. 2004, and N°156, [Azerbaijan: Turning Over a New Leaf?](#), 13 May 2004.

EASTERN EUROPE

➤ Belarus Authorities sentenced 2 opposition politicians, Mikalay Statkevich and Pavel Sevryarnets, to 2 years in jail for staging unauthorised demonstrations in 2004 against referendum which allowed President Alexander Lukashenko to remain in office indefinitely. Lower chamber of legislature amended law on political parties 29 June, imposing further restrictions.

- [“Prominent opposition politicians sentenced”](#), RFE/RL, 1 June 2005.

➤ Moldova Chisinau gave qualified backing to peace plan of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, with parliament endorsing but government saying would not support elections in Transdnistria - as called for in plan - until basic rights respected in breakaway region. Earlier, Chisinau asked EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana for European help in monitoring border between Transdnistria and Ukraine. Russian official accused Chisinau of trying to “torpedo” peacekeeping operation after Moldovan officials skipped meeting of oversight body.

- [“Moldova says no vote in Dnestr without basic rights”](#), AlertNet, 22 June 2005.
- [“Moldova asks EU to help solve frozen Dnestr row”](#), AlertNet, 7 June 2005.

- For background, see Crisis Group Europe Report N°157, [Moldova: Regional Tensions over Transdnistria](#), 17 June 2004.

➤ Ukraine NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer visited Ukraine 27 June to discuss reforms necessary for NATO and EU accession. Separately, government said would move ahead with mass privatisation of state-owned companies.

- [“Nato chief in Ukraine bid talks”](#), BBC, 27 June 2005.
- [“Gongadze killers confess, but who ordered murder?”](#), RFE/RL, 14 June 2005.

WESTERN EUROPE/MEDITERRANEAN

➤ Basque Country (Spain) Division within Spain over possible negotiations with ETA terror group; 250,000 demonstrated against possible talks Madrid 3 June. Following week, ETA blamed for bomb attack on Zaragoza airport. ETA announced end to attacks on elected politicians 18 June; limited ceasefire deemed unacceptable by Spanish opposition, but welcomed by some in Basque Country. Nationalist Juan José Ibarretxe re-elected Basque premier with support from Communists; Ibarretxe subsequently expressed hope extremist Batasuna party could be present in local councils by 2007.

- [“ETA offers a qualified cease-fire”](#), *International Herald Tribune*, 21 June 2005.

➤ Cyprus Head of UN political affairs Kieran Prendergast briefed UN Security Council following visit; warned against premature external initiative, following failure of 2004 Annan plan in referendum rejection by Greek Cypriots.

- [“UN political affairs chief says Cypriot parties want settlement, but gap is wide”](#), UN News, 22 June 2005.

➤ Northern Ireland (UK) Anglo-Irish statement expected on IRA following 27 June summit. UK Sec. State for Northern Ireland Peter Hain said U.S. supportive of Anglo-Irish position. Concern ahead of 2005 Orange order marching season.

- [“Summit to pave way for IRA exit”](#), *The Belfast Telegraph*, 27 June 2005.

➤ Turkey Continuing violence focused on Tunceli province killed at least 35 (including 25 Kurdish and leftist insurgents); Kongra-Gel (PKK) rejected plea by Turkish intellectuals to end violence; army undertook series of major security sweeps involving 2,000-3,000 troops. European Commission said 3 October start date for accession talks unchanged despite EU political crisis.

- [“Turkey grows impatient with Europe”](#), *International Herald Tribune* (NYT), 11 June 2005.
- Crisis Group Middle East Report N°35, [Iraq: Allaying Turkey’s Fears Over Kurdish Ambitions](#), 26 Jan. 2005.



Latin America / Caribbean

➤ Bolivia Political upheaval and mass demonstrations continued. President Carlos Mesa’s resignation finally accepted by Congress 9 June. Demonstrations against appointment of constitutional successor, Senate President Hormando Vaca Diez, led to Supreme Court Chief Eduardo

Rodriguez selection as caretaker. Rodriguez now charged with calling new presidential and congressional elections, made difficult as no consensus among social movements and political parties as to establishment of constituent assembly and holding of referendum on regional autonomy.

- "Reading between the pipelines", *The Guardian*, 27 June 2005.
- "Bolivia's challenge: heal divisions", *Christian Science Monitor*, 13 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Latin America Report N°12, *Coca, Drugs and Social Protest in Bolivia and Peru*, 3 Mar. 2005.

Colombia Controversial peace bill to demobilise paramilitary United Self-Defense Forces (AUC) passed by Congress 21 June. Domestic and international critics deem law too lenient. President Uribe's policies for combating armed groups still drew 63% support in 24 June poll. Top AUC leader Diego Murillo, under indictment for killing representative of Cordoba department, disbanded 400 fighters in hope of reduced sentence and avoidance of extradition to U.S. on drug charges. In worst single day death toll of 3-year Uribe administration, 25 soldiers killed in 2 FARC attacks in Putumayo province 25 June. Liberal national convention 10-11 June elected César Gaviria party leader, with limited powers; Gaviria declared opposition to Uribe.

- "Colombia re-evaluating anti-guerrilla tactics", CNN, 27 June 2005.
- "Colombia passes disputed law disarming death squads", *International Herald Tribune*, 23 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Latin America Report N°11, *War and Drugs in Colombia*, 27 Jan. 2005.

Crisis Group Latin America Report N°14, *Colombia: Presidential Politics and Peace Prospects*, 16 June 2005. Colombian President Álvaro Uribe's quest for re-election in 2006 by amending the constitution could weaken democratic institutions and even damage prospects for peace. Re-election would allow Uribe to continue his strategy against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), but that security policy, with its overwhelming reliance on military measures, is unlikely to work. If the government fails to fully dismantle the paramilitaries, that failure will overshadow the campaign and haunt the next administration. Regardless of who wins the presidency, the government must complement its military strategy with policies to address longstanding structural inequities in rural Colombia. If it does not, those inequities will continue to benefit insurgents, paramilitaries and drug traffickers. Serious talks on a prisoners/hostages swap with the FARC may be a first step toward full peace negotiations.



Ecuador Former President Lucio Gutiérrez renounced own asylum status in Brazil (granted on condition he refrain from making political declarations) and traveled to U.S. to denounce 20 April "coup". Government sent delegation to U.S. - resulted in heated exchange at Inter-American dialogue; meanwhile, lawyers filed charge against Gutiérrez at International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity.

- "Ecuador ex-president vows to fight back", AlertNet, 9 June 2005.

Haiti Security remained dire, with large parts of capital, Port-au-Prince, ravaged by armed gangs and dramatic increase in kidnappings. UN Security Council voted to send additional 750 peacekeepers (bringing total to 7,500) and 275 police to

support autumn elections, and extended and strengthened MINUSTAH mandate to February 2006. But observers argued for larger international police presence to help control, reform, and expand Haitian National Police. Police raids in response to deadly attack allegedly by pro-Lavalas gangs on Port-au-Prince market and police station left up to 20 dead in pro-Aristide strongholds. Minister of Justice and Public Security Bernard Gousse resigned amidst criticism of continued detention without due process of former PM Yvon Neptune. Voter registration and electoral preparations behind schedule.

- Comment by Mark Schneider (Crisis Group), "Time running out in Haiti", *Boston Globe*, 23 June 2005.
- "On the brink", *The Economist*, 16 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Latin America Report N°13, *Spoiling Security in Haiti*, 31 May 2005.

Venezuela Strained relations with U.S. persisted: formal request to extradite Cuban terror suspect and Venezuelan citizen Luis Posada Carriles from U.S. made to U.S. government 16 June.

- "Plane bomber extradition sought", BBC, 16 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Latin America Briefing N°5, *Venezuela: Headed Toward Civil War?*, 10 May 2004.

Middle East / North Africa

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Israel/Occupied Territories Palestinian and Israeli leaders' summit ended in disappointment 21 June: sides failed to build on earlier progress over coordination of Israel's planned August "disengagement" from Gaza Strip. Informal ceasefire announced in February continued to unravel: several Palestinian groups resumed armed and rocket attacks against Israeli targets and Israel announced resumption of initiated assassinations. Inter-Israeli tensions also rose: soldiers repeatedly clashed with settlers in Gaza as bulldozers levelled several dilapidated seaside buildings in preparation for demolition of settlements. U.S. Sec. State Condoleezza Rice warned Israel to stop settlement expansion elsewhere, including in Jerusalem - echoing May warning by President Bush - but construction continued unabated. Israeli PM Ariel Sharon pledged to hand over control of 2 West Bank towns to Palestinian Authority if latter takes steps to end violence; to date only 2 of promised 5 handed over. Earlier, Israel released 398 Palestinian prisoners as part of ceasefire deal.

- "Israel evicts 150 anti-pullout activists from derelict hotel", *International Herald Tribune*, 1 July 2005.
- "Rice warns Israel over settlement construction", *The Daily Star*, 27 June 2005.
- "There you don't go again", *The Economist*, 23 June 2005.
- Comment by Hussein Agha and Robert Malley (Crisis Group), "The Lost Palestinians", *New York Review of Books*, 9 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Middle East Briefing N°17, *Mr Abbas Goes to Washington: Can He Still Succeed?*, 24 May 2005.

Lebanon Fear and disenchantment increased as elections plagued by sharp rise in sectarianism and prominent activists assassinated. Anti-Syrian coalition led by Saad Hariri, son of

slain former PM Rafik Hariri, secured majority in parliamentary elections, winning 72 of 128 seats; nominated long-time aide of Rafik Hariri, Fuad Saniora, as PM. Implications for reform unclear, as leading power-brokers remained in positions of influence - though calls on pro-Syrian President Lahoud to resign mounted. Tensions rose as separate car bomb attacks killed anti-Syrian journalist Samir Kassir and former Communist party leader (and prominent Syria critic) George Hawi. UN team investigating murder of Rafik Hariri questioned head of presidential guard. Hizbollah mortar attack killed Israeli soldier 29 June; further clashes reported month-end.

- "Lebanon's parliament names anti-Syrian Siniora PM", Reuters, 30 June 2005.
- "U.N. Security Council condemns 'terrorist attacks' in Lebanon", AlertNet, 22 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Middle East Report N°39, *Syria After Lebanon, Lebanon After Syria*, 12 Apr. 2005.

➤ Syria U.S. Secretary Rice accused Damascus of fomenting instability in Lebanon, where 2 more leaders of anti-Syria opposition killed, and failing to stem flow of insurgents into Iraq. Iraqi Foreign Minister echoed her comments, saying Syrian political will necessary to tighten border controls. U.S. froze assets of Syrian interior minister and intelligence chief. Vice President Halim Khaddam resigned at Baath party congress on reform. Police broke up angry demonstrations by Kurds in northern town of Qameshli after missing Kurdish cleric found dead - Kurds believe killed by Syrian intelligence.

- "Syria helping to destabilise Lebanon - Rice", AlertNet, 22 June 2005.
- "Kurdish unrest erupts in Syria", BBC, 6 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Middle East Reports N°s 23 and 24, *Syria Under Bashar (I): Foreign Policy Challenges; Syria Under Bashar (II): Domestic Policy Challenges*, 11 Feb. 2004.

GULF

➤ Bahrain Police reportedly beat and arrested 50 people demonstrating against unemployment.

- "Bahrain police 'beat' protesters", BBC, 19 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Middle East Report N°40, *Bahrain's Sectarian Challenge*, 6 May 2005.

➤ Iran Fundamentalist conservative Tehran mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declared victorious in presidential elections, defeating pragmatist former president Akhbar Hashemi Rafsanjani by more than 7 million votes in poll's second round. U.S., UK and Germany reacted coolly to results, questioning conduct of voting. In post-election comments, Ahmadinejad said would not change Iran's policy on nuclear program; European diplomats expressed pessimism deal on program could be reached. Series of bombs exploded in Tehran and Ahvaz 12 June, killing 9 and wounding 70: Iraq-based People's Mujahideen blamed for attempting to disrupt elections. Iran admitted to IAEA that it conducted plutonium experiments more recently than previously claimed.

- Comment by Karim Sadjadpour (Crisis Group), "Q&A: Iran's new President", *New York Times*, 27 June 2005.
- "Iran slams door on U.S. dialogue", *The Daily Star*, 27 June 2005.
- "Victory for a religious hardliner in Iran", *The Economist*, 27 June 2005.

- For background, see Crisis Group Middle East Briefing N°15, *Iran: Where Next on the Nuclear Standoff?*, 24 Nov. 2004.

➤ Iraq Slow but steady progress on political front overshadowed by devastating violence across Iraq, with over 1,000 people killed in last 2 months. Iraqi police and soldiers continued to be primary target of attacks. Suicide bombers killed at least 36 in Mosul 26 June, targeting police station and Iraqi army base. Days earlier, string of car bombings killed dozens in Baghdad. Growing concern in U.S. over insurgency led President Bush to address nation 28 June. U.S. Sec. Defense Donald Rumsfeld confirmed U.S. negotiating with insurgent leaders. In positive development, Sunni leaders accepted 15 seats on 71-person constitutional council due to draft permanent constitution by 15 August. But issues such as role of Islam and power of regions, coupled with requirement that constitution be approved by consensus, likely to push deliberations beyond deadline. 1,350 Coalition soldiers, including 1,241 Americans, and thousands of Iraqis killed by hostile fire since declared end of combat operations 1 May 2003.

- "Dozens killed in Mosul as militants target police", *International Herald Tribune* (AP), 27 June 2005.
- "Twelve hours of Mayhem in Iraq kills 35", *The Daily Star*, 24 June 2005.
- "Unusually united as the bombings continue", *The Economist*, 22 June 2005.
- Comment by Gareth Evans and Joost Hiltermann (Crisis Group), "Iraq's constitution must be inclusive, not hasty", *Financial Times*, 13 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Middle East Report N°38, *Iran in Iraq: How Much Influence?*, 21 Mar. 2005.

Crisis Group Middle East Report N°42, *Iraq: Don't Rush the Constitution*, 8 June 2005. To help tackle the raging insurgency, Iraqis should give themselves 6 additional months to draft their new constitution. Iraq faces a dilemma: rush the constitutional process and meet the current deadline of 15 August 2005 to prevent the insurgents from scoring further political points, or encourage a process that is inclusive, transparent and participatory in an effort to increase popular buy-in of the final product. While there are downsides to delay, they are outweighed by the dangers of a rush job. Iraq's drafting process should include extensive public consultation and participation to bring in those absent on election day, especially Sunni Arabs. By involving a wide range of actors, the constitutional drafting process can be a tool for peace-building and reconciliation instead of perpetuating divisions and power struggles.

➤ Saudi Arabia Interior minister dismissed call by Mohammad al-Zulfa, member of Shura Council, for lifting of ban on women drivers. Authorities released new list of most wanted terrorists; 21 of 36 names believed to be "abroad", but no suggestion from government as to where. Al-Qaeda chief in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, reportedly declared key Saudi militant killed in U.S. airstrike there.

- "Top Saudi militant 'dies in Iraq'", BBC, 23 June 2005.
- "Driving ban stays for Saudi women", BBC, 13 June 2005.
- For background, see Crisis Group Middle East Report N°31, *Saudi Arabia Backgrounder: Who are the Islamists?*, 21 Sept. 2004.

- Yemen Minor clashes continued between rebels and government forces, despite May agreement by rebel leader to possible peace deal. Foreign Minister Abubakr Al-Qirbi claimed troops control rebel areas in north and called for surrender. Continued instability hampering humanitarian efforts in Saada province, where most fighting took place. MP from ruling party shot dead in Sanaa; political motivation not ruled out.
 - [“Yemen calls on rebels to surrender”](#), AlertNet, 14 June 2005.

NORTH AFRICA

- Algeria At least 21 killed in series of attacks launched by Salafi Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC): in most violent attack since May, 13 local government guards died in bomb blast in M'Sila region, 200km south Algiers. GSPC further blamed for cross-border attack killing 15 Mauritanian soldiers. GSPC deputy leader Amari Saifi, captured June 2004, jailed for life.
 - [“Justice at risk for abuses past and present”](#), Human Rights Watch press release, 22 June 2005.
 - [“Algeria militants kill 13 guards”](#), BBC, 9 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Middle East/North Africa Report N°29, [Islamism, Violence and Reform in Algeria: Turning the Page](#), 30 July 2004.
- Egypt U.S. Secretary Rice said at American University of Cairo 20 June policy of “stability at the expense of democracy” in Middle East was over but rejected engagement with Muslim Brotherhood. Egyptian judges’ club reiterated threat to boycott September presidential elections if electoral law does not provide for greater judicial independence; claimed non-judicial supervision of vote unconstitutional. Opposition presidential candidate and chairman of Al Ghad party Ayman Nour banned from travelling to European Parliament; trial on forgery charges

- opened 28 June. 2 policemen killed in Sinai security operation to capture suspects in October 2004 Taba resort bombing.
 - [“Challenger to Mubarak denies forgery charge”](#), *International Herald Tribune* (NYT), 29 June 2005.
 - [“Democracy’s advance in Egypt brings dilemma for US”](#), *The Guardian*, 21 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Middle East/North Africa Briefings N°s 12 and 13, [Islamism in North Africa: Legacies of History and Egypt’s Opportunity](#), 20 April 2004.

- Mauritania Algeria-based Salafi Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) killed 15 soldiers in attack on garrison at Lemgheyti, near Algerian and Malian borders, 4 June. GSPC said attack revenge for imprisonment of Islamists in Mauritania. Ruling party organised Nouakchott demonstrations against attack. U.S.-launched Flintlock counter-terror exercises in context of wider Pan-Sahel Initiative.
 - [“Mauritania seizes ‘terrorism’ documents-minister”](#), AlertNet, 25 June 2005.
 - [“Algerian Islamist group claims Mauritania attack”](#), Middle East Online, 8 June 2005.
 - For background, see Crisis Group Middle East/North Africa Report N°41, [Islamism in North Africa IV: The Islamist Challenge in Mauritania: Threat or Scapegoat?](#), 11 May 2005.

- Western Sahara Growing international concern over Sahrawi claims of repression by Moroccan authorities inside Western Sahara. Delegation of Spanish MPs turned back at Laayoune. Spanish Foreign Minister Moratinos said status quo “unacceptable”, offered mediation and urged rapid appointment of UN envoy to replace Alvaro de Soto.
 - [“101 injured in Western Sahara Intifada”](#), Afrol, 13 June 2005.
 - [“Spanish MPs barred from W Sahara”](#), BBC, 9 June 2005.

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