

CrisisWatch

A monthly bulletin by the ICG on current and potential conflicts around the world



1 September 2003, N°1

Introducing CrisisWatch

This new ICG publication is designed to provide a regular update on the state of play in all the most significant situations of conflict or potential conflict around the world. Each month *CrisisWatch* will:

- briefly summarise developments during the previous month in some 60 situations of current or potential conflict, listed alphabetically by region, providing references and links to more detailed information sources;
- assess whether the overall situation in each case has, during the previous month, significantly deteriorated, significantly improved, or on balance remained more or less unchanged;
- alert 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
- summarise ICG reports and briefing papers that have been published in the last month.

CrisisWatch is compiled by ICG's Brussels Research Unit, drawing on multiple sources including the resources of our more than 90 staff members across five continents, who already report on some 40 of the situations listed here. Comment and suggestions as to how the bulletin might be improved (addressed to crisiswatch@crisisweb.org) would be much appreciated.

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August Trends



Deteriorated Situations

Cote D'Ivoire
India (non-Kashmir)
Indonesia
Iraq
Israel/Occupied
Territories
Kosovo

Lebanon
Macedonia
Nepal
Nigeria
Serbia
Somalia
Zimbabwe



Improved Situations

Burundi
DR Congo
Liberia
Moldova
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands



Unchanged Situations

Current Conflicts: Afghanistan, Colombia, Kashmir, Sudan, Russia (Chechnya), Uganda

Potential Conflicts: Algeria, Angola, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Jordan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar (Burma), Nagorno-Karabakh, North Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia

September Watchlist



Conflict Risk Alert

Cote D'Ivoire
Ethiopia/Eritrea
Israel/Occupied
Territories

Iraq
Nepal
North Korea
Sudan



Conflict Resolution Opportunity

Burundi
Ethiopia/Eritrea
Iraq
North Korea
Sudan

The International Crisis Group

is an independent, non-profit, multinational organisation, with over 90 staff members on five continents, working through field-based analysis and high-level advocacy to prevent and resolve deadly conflict. ICG'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, ICG produces regular analytical reports containing practical recommendations targeted at key international decision-takers, and backed up with high level advocacy. ICG is chaired by former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, and its President and Chief Executive is former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.



Africa

CENTRAL AFRICA



Burundi President Ndayizeye held his second face-to-face talks with leader of the country's biggest rebel group, CNDD-FDD, in South Africa. Talks discussed proposals to share government, military and parliamentary posts and comply with last year's largely ignored ceasefire agreement. The second largest rebel group, FNL, still refuses to join talks with Government. Fighting between army and FNL in north-western Burundi caused more than 21,000 people to flee.

- "Three years since Arusha, peace remains elusive", IRIN News.org, 31 August 2003.¹
- "Burundi govt, rebels end power-sharing talks", Reuters AlertNet, 22 August 2003.²
- For background to the ceasefire, see ICG Africa Briefing, *The Burundi Rebellion and the Ceasefire Negotiations*, 6 August 2002.³



Central African Republic Democratically elected president of CAR overthrown in coup on 15 March 2003 by General Francois Bozize, who has promised to hold presidential elections by end of 2004. CAR closed its border with DR Congo on 21 August. CAR issued international warrant for arrest of former president, Ange-Felix Patasse, on charges of murder and theft of more than \$100 million.

- "CAR's ex-leader 'wanted for murder'", BBC News, 26 August 2003.⁴
- For background, see "Country Profile - Central African Republic", BBC News, 27 May 2003.⁵



Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila and former rebel leaders agreed on senior officers for new army, removing another stumbling block to peace. This completes installation of new transition government. Transition parliament had opening session on 22 August. Militias in war-devastated province of Ituri agreed to work with new government to restore security to the province. French-led peace-keeping force in Ituri handed over posts to beefed-up UN mission (MONUC) on 31 August, which formally takes over on 1 September.

- "UN takes over DR Congo flashpoint", BBC News, 31 August 2003.⁶
- "Ituri militias agree to work with transitional government", IRIN News.org, 25 August 2003.⁷
- "New military command for DR Congo", BBC News, 20 August 2003.⁸
- For background to the conflict in Ituri, see ICG Africa report N°64, *Congo Crisis: Military Intervention in Ituri*, 13 June 2003.⁹

¹ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36256&SelectRegion=Great_Lakes&SelectCountry=BURUNDI

² <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/106155613921.htm>

³ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=731>

⁴ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3182397.stm>

⁵ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1067518.stm

⁶ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3195341.stm>

⁷ <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36173>

⁸ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3168927.stm>

⁹ http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/africa/democraticrepublicofcongo/reports/A401005_13062003.pdf



Rwanda Held first presidential election since the 1994 genocide on 25 August 2003. Incumbent President Paul Kagame, a Tutsi, received 95% of the vote, with about 80% turnout. Opposition says will challenge result in court. Election monitors criticised government for not allowing opposition parties to compete on equal footing. UN Security Council voted to replace Carla Del Ponte as Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda with UN Secretary-General nominating Gambian judge, Hassan Jallow.

- "Rwanda's leader defends poll", BBC News, 27 August 2003.¹⁰
- Declan Walsh, "Kagame rival calls elections Stalinist", *The Independent*, 27 August, 2003.¹¹
- "New Rwanda Prosecutor named", BBC News, 29 August 2003.¹²
- For background to the elections, see ICG Africa Report N°53, *Rwanda at the End of the Transition: A Necessary Political Liberalisation*, 13 November 2002.¹³



Uganda Fighting continues between Ugandan armed forces and Lord's Resistance Army rebels in the north.

- Liu Institute for Global Issues, UBC, and Human Rights Watch report, *Abducted and Abused: Renewed War in Northern Uganda*, 15 July 2003.¹⁴

HORN OF AFRICA



Ethiopia/Eritrea Outstanding border issues causing increased anxiety. UN mission (UNMEE) accused Ethiopian soldiers of making incursions into border security zone. International Boundary Commission will soon attempt to demarcate the border, although elements in Ethiopian Government have signalled reluctance to cooperate.

- John Murphy, "Yet again, Ethiopia sits at the 'verge of disaster'", *Baltimore Sun*, 31 August 2003.¹⁵
- "Ethiopia says UN mission 'increasing border tension'", IRIN News.org, 18 August 2003.¹⁶
- For background, see "UN official warns Eritrea and Ethiopia", *The New York Times*, 31 July 2003.¹⁷



Somalia President Hassan said Transitional National Government will remain in power until a new government is formed, despite expiry of its mandate on 13 August. TNG controls small area of Mogadishu. Peace talks continue in Kenya, though some key parties, including TNG and Somaliland, refusing to attend. UN Security Council expressed concern over "persistent flow of weapons and ammunitions" to Somalia.

- "UN concerned over 'persistent' weapons flow", IRIN News.org, 21 August 2003.¹⁸
- "Refugees demand Somali govt", BBC News, 18 August 2003.¹⁹
- For background, see ICG Africa Report N° 59, *Negotiating a Blueprint for Peace in Somalia*, 6 March 2003²⁰ and ICG

¹⁰ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3183051.stm>

¹¹ <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/africa/story.jsp?story=437479>

¹² <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3190833.stm>

¹³ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=817>

¹⁴ <http://www.hrw.org/press/2003/07/uganda071503.htm>

¹⁵ <http://www.sunspot.net/news/nationworld/bal-te.ethiopia31aug31,0,3045987.story?coll=bal-news-nation>

¹⁶ <http://allafrica.com/stories/200308180688.html>

¹⁷ <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/01/international/africa/01ETHI.html?ex=1062129600&en=f269ca5d5ce55a69&ei=5070>

¹⁸ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36107&SelectRegion=Horn_of_Africa&SelectCountry=SOMALIA

¹⁹ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3161831.stm>

Africa Report N°66, *Somaliland: Democratisation and Its Discontents*, 28 July 2003.²¹

- ➡   Sudan Peace talks in Kenya between Sudanese Government and rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army at critical stage. Postponed to 10 September, as Government initially refused to negotiate on basis of draft framework agreement prepared by mediators, while SPLA demanded that framework document be sole basis for discussion. Deal making behind scenes may produce agreement. Uganda claims Sudan is arming Lord's Resistance Army rebels in Uganda.
 - "Sudan 're-arming Uganda rebels'", BBC News, 26 August 2003.²²
 - Comment by John Prendergast and David Mozersky (ICG), "Going to Hell?", *The Observer*, 24 August 2003.²³
 - For background, see ICG Africa Report N°65, *Sudan Endgame*, 7 July 2003.²⁴

SOUTHERN AFRICA

- ➡ Angola Following death of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi in February 2002, UNITA has demobilised but most of its ex-combatants yet to be reintegrated into civilian life. National elections planned for 2004 or 2005. Millions displaced during war still not resettled.
 - *Struggling Through Peace: Return and Resettlement in Angola*, Human Rights Watch report, 15 August 2003.²⁵
 - For background, see ICG Africa Report N°61, *Angola's Choice: Reform or Regress*, 7 April 2003.²⁶
- ➡ Zambia President Levy Mwanawasa defeated parliamentary move to impeach him. 120,000 civil servants went on strike over unpaid allowances. Former President Chiluba charged with theft of U.S.\$49 million.
 - "Zambian parliament votes overwhelmingly against impeachment", CNN.com, 13 August 2003.²⁷
 - "Corruption in Zambia", *The Economist*, 14 August 2003.²⁸
- ➡ Zimbabwe Economy continues to deteriorate. Inflation hit 399% in July. Severe currency shortage. On 16 August law passed prohibiting hoarding of cash. Government has also moved to take control of food aid distribution, directing UN and international charities to hand food over to local officials for distribution. 3.5m currently receiving food aid, expected to increase to 5.5m by December. Opposition accused Government of rigging 30 August council elections.
 - Andrew Meldrum, "Mugabe to run food aid distribution", *The Guardian*, 20 August 2003.²⁹
 - John Prendergast (ICG), "Leaders of Africa must act now to save Zimbabwe", *Business Day*, 6 August 2003.³⁰
 - *Zimbabwe and the Prospects for Non-violent Political Change*, USIP report, August 2003.³¹
 - For background see ICG Africa Briefing, *Decision Time in Zimbabwe*, 8 July 2003.³²

²⁰ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=911>

²¹ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1067>

²² <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3182133.stm>

²³ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1100>

²⁴ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1038>

²⁵ <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/angola0803/>

²⁶ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=935>

²⁷ <http://edition.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/africa/08/13/zambia.impeachment.ap/index.html>


²⁸ http://www.economist.com/World/africa/displayStory.cfm?story_id=1995040

²⁹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/zimbabwe/article/0,2763,1021936,00.html>

³⁰ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1083>

³¹ <http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr109.html>

WEST AFRICA

- ➡  Côte d'Ivoire Power-sharing government under threat after 11 men arrested in France on 23 August, accused of plot to assassinate President Gbagbo. Government and former rebels deadlocked over who should control defence and security ministries. 2 French soldiers killed in clashes with rebels on 25 August. Security Council voted on 4 August to extend mandate of French and ECOWAS peacekeeping forces to 4 February 2004. Parliament granted amnesty on 6 August to former rebels holding north of country.
 - "Wave of Ivory Coast arrests", BBC News, 29 Aug. 2003.³³
 - "Ivory Coast assembly approves amnesty for rebels", Reuters, 6 August 2003.³⁴
 - *Trapped between Two Wars: Violence Against Civilians in Western Côte d'Ivoire*, Human Rights Watch report, 5 August 2003.³⁵
- ➡ Guinea In July U.S. warned Guinea against providing supplies to LURD rebels in Liberia. Liberia in past has led incursions in Guinea with support of Guinean dissidents based in Liberia - Guinea now returning favour in Liberia. Guinea's presidential elections scheduled for December 2003. Lansana Conté, Guinea's 69 year old president, has declared candidacy, but believed to be critically ill. EU expressed concern over democracy in Guinea.
 - "EU to press Guinea for free and fair elections", Reuters AlertNet, 27 August 2003.³⁶
 - For background on region, see ICG report on Liberia below.
- ➡ Liberia President Charles Taylor resigned on 11 August and took up offer of asylum in Nigeria. Almost 2,000 Nigerian peacekeepers deployed in Monrovia, with 2,300 U.S. marines positioned on ships offshore. Government signed peace agreement with LURD and MODEL rebels in Accra on 18 August, with interim government to take power on 14 October until elections in 2005. Businessman Gyude Bryant chosen to head interim government. Fighting continues in countryside. Humanitarian corridors still do not exist. Relief aid limited to Monrovia and Buchanan corridor.
 - "Giving peace a chance", *The Economist*, 19 Aug. 2003.³⁷
 - "Goodbye to all that?", *The Economist*, 14 Aug. 2003.³⁸
 - For background, see ICG Africa Report N°62, *Tackling Liberia: The Eye of the Regional Storm*, 30 April 2003.³⁹
- ➡ Nigeria Ethnic conflict between Ijaw and Itsekiri groups and within Ijaw groups in Niger delta claimed almost 100 lives and left more than 1,000 injured. Ceasefire declared on 20 August after 5 days fighting, though there has been sporadic fighting since. Nigeria's President Obasanjo provided asylum to Liberia's ousted President Taylor.
 - "Fighting between rival villages claims more lives in Delta", IRIN News.org, 26 August 2003.⁴⁰
 - For background, see "Nigerian leader promises healing", BBC News, 29 May 2003.⁴¹

³² <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1041>

³³ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3191523.stm>

³⁴ <http://asia.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=3233515>

³⁵ <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/cotedivoire0803/>

³⁶ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L27597200.htm>

³⁷ http://www.economist.com/agenda/displayStory.cfm?story_id=2001935

³⁸ http://www.economist.com/agenda/displayStory.cfm?Story_id=1994166

³⁹ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=960>

⁴⁰ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36198&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=NIGERIA

⁴¹ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/2945788.stm>



⇒ Sao Tome and Principe Government overthrown in military coup on 16 July 2003 while President out of country. Coup short-lived. Following strong international condemnation led by ECOWAS, and Nigeria's President Obasanjo in particular, President returned on 23 July after signing accord with coup leaders. No further upheavals in August.

- "Lessons of Sao Tome coup according to Obasanjo", All Africa.com, 6 August 2003.⁴²

⇨ Sierra Leone International confidence growing that Sierra Leone may have finally emerged from decade-long civil war, though concerns UN may be moving to withdraw mission (UNAMSIL) too rapidly. Special Court has called for international community to ensure Charles Taylor arrested and handed to Court.

- "Questions raised over Taylor's exile in Nigeria", IRIN News.org, 22 August 2003.⁴³
- For background, see ICG Africa Briefing, *Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission: A Fresh Start?*, 20 December 2002.⁴⁴



ICG Africa Briefing, *The Special Court for Sierra Leone: Promises and Pitfalls of a "New Model"*, 4 August 2003. The Special Court has moved with relative rapidity to bring to justice those who bear the greatest

responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the country's eleven-year civil war. There are a number of concerns however, about its fragile finances and its need for greater legitimacy. Senior Court officials have acknowledged that they underestimated the difficulty of achieving recognition and international cooperation. ICG urges the UN Security Council to enhance the court's power and prestige by granting it a mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which would require all member states to comply with its orders, including its indictments and arrest orders. The Court, whose principal donor is the U.S., also needs to be careful not to appear to be subject to outside influence if it wants to fulfil its mandate with impartiality and provide a "new model" for international justice.

Asia / Pacific

CENTRAL ASIA

⇨ Kazakhstan Region's wealthiest and most stable country continues to attract attention for poor treatment of journalists and opposition figures. Kazakh authorities reportedly refusing request for pardon from Ghalymzhan Zhaiqyanov, jailed co-founder of Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan, until he promises to stay out of politics.

- "Kazakh opposition leader's pardon request refused", Eurasianet.org, 26 August 2003.⁴⁵
- For background, see "Kazakhstan: Interview with leading rights activist, Evgeny Zhovtis", IRIN News.org, 21 Jul. 2003.⁴⁶

⁴² <http://allafrica.com/stories/200308060923.html>

⁴³ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36121&SelectRegion=West_Africa

⁴⁴ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=858>

⁴⁵ <http://www.eurasianet.org/resource/kazakhstan/hypermail/news/0026.shtml>

⁴⁶ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=35520&SelectRegion=Central_Asia&SelectCountry=KAZAKHSTAN

⇨ Kyrgyzstan Dissatisfaction with Government remains high, particularly in south. President Akayev consolidated power by pushing through widely-criticised constitutional referendum, but promises not to run in next election, due in 2005. Conviction of popular opposition leader Feliks Kulov upheld by Supreme Court.

- "Strong reaction to Supreme Court ruling on opposition leader", IRIN News.org, 21 August 2003.⁴⁷
- For background, see ICG Asia Report N°37, *Kyrgyzstan's Political Crisis: An Exit Strategy*, 20 August 2002.⁴⁸

⇨ Tajikistan Following Kyrgyz president's example, President Rakhmonov held referendum on package of constitutional changes, one of which could allow him to remain in power until 2020. Government said amendments approved by over 93% of voters.

- "Interview with prominent opposition leader", IRIN News.org, 23 July 2003.⁴⁹
- For background, see ICG Asia Report N°51, *Tajikistan: A Roadmap for Development*, 24 April 2003.⁵⁰

⇨ Turkmenistan Central Asia's most repressive and isolated country showing no signs of progress. President Niyazov maintains strict control over general population, limiting access to information, restricting travel abroad, and using systematic human rights abuses to stifle dissent. Parliament, until recently rubber-stamping body, now stripped even of that function.

- "People's Council assumes duties of Parliament", RFE/RL, 20 August 2003.⁵¹
- For background, see ICG Asia Report N°44, *Cracks in the Marble: Turkmenistan's Failing Dictatorship*, 17 January 2003;⁵² and Amnesty International Annual Report 2003.⁵³

⇨ Uzbekistan Government continued campaign against suspected Islamic extremists, especially alleged members of banned Hizb ut-Tahrir. Heavy-handedness on part of security services, including widespread use of torture, risks further radicalising segments of the Muslim population. Little danger of conflict in short term, but continuing repressive policies here, as elsewhere in region, risk future unrest.

- Human Rights Watch press release, "Rights defender faces discriminatory charges", 12 August 2003.⁵⁴
- For background, see ICG Asia Report N°58, *Radical Islam in Central Asia: Responding to Hizb ut-Tahrir*, 30 June 2003;⁵⁵ and ICG Asia Report N°59, *Central Asia: Islam and the State*, 10 July 2003.⁵⁶

SOUTH & WEST ASIA

⇨ Afghanistan Armed attacks by extremist groups against U.S. forces, government troops and aid workers continued in southeast border regions. More than 60 people killed on 13 August (including two Red Crescent workers, 15 Afghan civilians and six government soldiers), bloodiest day in over a year. Battles between local commanders in the north continue to

⁴⁷ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36088&SelectRegion=Central_Asia&SelectCountry=KYRGYZSTAN

⁴⁸ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36088&SelectRegion=Central_Asia&SelectCountry=KYRGYZSTAN

⁴⁹ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=35569&SelectRegion=Central_Asia&SelectCountry=TAJIKISTAN

⁵⁰ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=955>

⁵¹ <http://www.rferl.org/nca/features/2003/08/20082003151820.asp>

⁵² <http://www.intl-crisis-group.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=871>

⁵³ <http://web.amnesty.org/report2003/tkm-summary-eng>

⁵⁴ <http://staging.hrw.org/press/2003/08/uzbek081203.htm>

⁵⁵ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1032>

⁵⁶ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1046>

cause displacement and civilian casualties. NATO took command of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on 11 August. Continuing need to expand international security umbrella outside Kabul. Subject to parliamentary approval, 250 German troops will be deployed to northern city of Kunduz. UN approval sought to send troops under ISAF umbrella; otherwise troops will operate under "Enduring Freedom" U.S. command. U.S. and Afghan soldiers began week-long campaign of bombing and intense ground battles on 25 August, hitting Taliban camps and killing dozens; 2 U.S. soldiers killed.

- "Afghanistan - Dangerous deployment for several years", *Deutsche Welle*, 30 August 2003.⁵⁷
- "Hundreds flee factional fighting in north Afghanistan", ABC online, 30 August 2003.⁵⁸
- "Special on insecurity in the south", IRIN News.org, 14 August 2003.⁵⁹



ICG Asia Report No. 62, *Afghanistan: The Problem of Pashtun Alienation*, 5 August 2003, www.crisisweb.org. A key obstacle to enduring peace in Afghanistan is the perception among ethnic Pashtuns that they are not meaningfully represented in the central government, particularly in its security institutions. Ethnically targeted violence and displacement, heavy handed search operations and collaboration with abusive commanders by the U.S.-led Coalition are also contributing to a sense of alienation. Unless measures are taken to address Pashtun grievances and ensure that a more representative government emerges from the 2004 election, the political process could end in failure.

- India (non-Kashmir) Over 50 people killed in two bomb blasts in Mumbai on 25 August. Government blames Pakistan-based Kashmiri militants, Lashkar-e-Taiba and affiliated Indian Islamic students' association. Police seized 21kg of explosives and other weapons; killed 2 members of Kashmiri militant group, Jaish-e-Mohammed in gun battle. 34 civilians and 6 tribal separatists killed in attacks in Tripura and Manipur on 14 August as rebels sought to enforce boycott of independence day celebrations. Government and Naga separatists agreed on 5 August to extend ceasefire for another year.
 - "India says kills two Muslim rebels in capital", Reuters AlertNet, 31 August 2003.⁶⁰
 - "The Usual Suspects", *The Economist*, 28 August 2003.⁶¹
 - "A Democracy that has room even for violence", *The New York Times*, 31 August 2003.⁶²
 - "Forty dead in India violence", BBC News, 15 August 2003.⁶³

- Kashmir Despite continued violence, including bomb explosion in Srinagar shortly before Indian PM Vajpayee arrived on 27 August, Indo-Pakistani relations have improved in recent months. Initial responses to Mumbai bombings on both sides confirmed improvement. Echoing Vajpayee's April offer, Pakistani President Musharraf called on 11 August for talks about ceasefire along Line of Control. However, both sides continue to attach unrealistic preconditions to talks.

Ghazi Baba, Commander in Chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed and alleged architect of December 2001 attack on Indian parliament, killed in gun battle in Srinagar on 30 August.

- "India: Militant mastermind killed", CNN.com, 31 Aug 2003.⁶⁴
- "The right track?", *The Economist*, 14 August 2003.⁶⁵
- "Fears of another false dawn in Indo-Pak peace drive", Reuters AlertNet, 13 August 2003.⁶⁶
- For background, see ICG Asia Report N°41, *Kashmir: The view from Srinagar*, 21 November 2002.⁶⁷



Nepal Talks that resumed in mid-August between Government and Maoist rebels ended in stalemate.

- Rebels insist on new constitution redefining role of King; government only prepared to amend current constitution. Maoist leader Prachanda called off ceasefire on 27 August. Assassination attempts against several serving and former politicians blamed on Maoists. Battles on 30-31 August killed 9 rebels, 2 soldiers and 2 police; Maoists back on Government terrorist list; curfews imposed in much of country.
 - "Fourteen killed as violence surges in Nepal", Reuters AlertNet, 31 August 2003.⁶⁸
 - "Nepal extends curfew amid new violence", Agence France-Presse, 31 August 2003.⁶⁹
 - For background, see ICG Asia Report N°57, *Nepal: Obstacles to Peace*, 17 June 2003.⁷⁰



Pakistan On August 21, opposition members walked out of parliament's first sitting since November 2002 in protest over constitutional changes enabling President to sack PM and dissolve parliament. Sectarian violence continues in Quetta: 2 Shia men killed in separate attacks on 16 August. Angry mobs torched cars and destroyed property after one victim's funeral. Skirmishes continued between Pakistani and Afghan troops across disputed border. Afghan leaders accused Islamabad of doing too little to prevent al-Qaida and Taliban forces regrouping in Pakistan. Pakistan proposed greater intelligence sharing. Three-way commission (Afghanistan, Pakistan and U.S.) investigating border disputes agreed on 14 August to establish hotline between senior military commands.

- "Pakistan urges closer Afghan ties", BBC News, 22 Aug 2003.⁷¹
- "More chaos in Pakistan assembly", BBC News, 21 August 2003.⁷²
- "Pakistan Shi'ite torch cars in protest over killings", Reuters AlertNet, 16 August 2003.⁷³
- For background, see ICG Asia Report N°49, *Pakistan: The Mullahs and the Military*, 20 March 2003.⁷⁴



Sri Lanka Security situation relatively stable since signing of February 2002 ceasefire, but political killings increasing in north and east. Government has said it will send troops to area. LTTE (Tamil Tigers) suspended direct peace talks in April, claiming not enough being done to rehabilitate war-torn Tamil areas. Government has proposed limited

⁶⁴ <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/asiapcf/south/08/30/india.explosives>

⁶⁵ http://www.economist.com/World/asia/displayStory.cfm?story_id=1994142

⁶⁶ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ISL97459.htm>

⁶⁷ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=831>

⁶⁸ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/B257121.htm>

⁶⁹ <http://sify.com/news/international/fullstory.php?id=13238780>

⁷⁰ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1009>

⁷¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3172911.stm

⁷² http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3166109.stm

⁷³ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ISL142584.htm>

⁷⁴ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=925>

⁵⁷ http://www.dw-world.de/english/0,3367,1432_A_959214_1_A,00.html

⁵⁸ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/s935354.htm>

⁵⁹ <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/0/fdbf04cf986cd18085256d82006c48b9?OpenDocument>

⁶⁰ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/DEL200675.htm>

⁶¹ http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=2019024

⁶² <http://www.nytimes.com> (subscription only)

⁶³ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3153303.stm

autonomy for majority Tamil areas; rebels are working on counter-proposal.

- "Sri Lanka President warns of threats to peace process", Reuters AlertNet, 20 August 2003.⁷⁵
- Human Rights Watch briefing, "Sri Lanka: Political killings during the ceasefire", 7 August 2003.⁷⁶

NORTH EAST ASIA

➡ ↘ ✎ North Korea After intense activity in August, underlying situation neither better nor worse: next period has both high risk and high peace opportunity. Tensions escalating since October 2002 when North Korea admitted to secret nuclear arms program. Six-way multilateral talks between U.S., North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China, Russia in Beijing on 27-28 August. North Korea announced intention to become nuclear power; plan to test atomic bomb in near future. Having agreed on 28 August on new round within two months, Pyongyang announced on 30 August it saw no value in further talks. U.S. and others declined to take at face value. Japan announced plans for new missile defence system.

- Michael O'Hanlon, "Toward a grand bargain with North Korea", *The Washington Quarterly*, Autumn 2003.⁷⁷
- "N. Korea retreats from further talks on weapons", *The Washington Post*, 31 August 2003.⁷⁸
- For background, see "Jaw beats nuclear war", *The Economist*, 28 August 2003.⁷⁹



ICG Asia Report N°61, *North Korea: A Phased Negotiation Strategy*, 1 August 2003 at www.crisisweb.org. A plea for urgent diplomatic action – backed by threat of sanctions and, ultimately, military force if

negotiations fail. Any military conflict would be a catastrophe, but to be successful any diplomatic approach will have to be married with a credible threat of force. The report argues for a four-phased strategy: an initial 'no attack' assurance by the U.S. for a six-month negotiating period, conditional upon a verifiable halt to all North Korean nuclear activity; serious time-limited negotiations, with the U.S. offering multiple security, political and economic incentives in return for the complete, irreversible and verifiable elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program; graduated sanctions to be implemented if negotiations fail; and ultimate application of military force as necessary and appropriate – if other measures fail and there is credible evidence of North Korea preparing to use nuclear weapons or transfer them to any third state or non-state entity. There is a critical need for key neighbouring countries to support, or at least acquiesce in, the proposed U.S.-led strategy; only if all diplomatic means are exhausted is there any chance of them supporting a more forceful approach.

➡ Taiwan Strait Taiwanese authorities bolstered security measures after uncovering Chinese spy ring. China strongly condemned Taiwan's eleventh bid for UN representation on 8 August. President Chen announced on 13 August commercial aviation and shipping links may be restored by end of 2004.

- "Taiwan steps up anti-spy measures", Agence France-Presse, 8 August 2003.⁸⁰

⁷⁵ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/106137256915.htm>

⁷⁶ <http://hrw.org/backgrounder/asia/srilanka080603.htm>

⁷⁷ <http://www.brook.edu/views/articles/ohanlon/20030902.htm>

⁷⁸ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A4561-2003Aug30.html>

⁷⁹ http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=2019467

- "Taiwan report opens way for transport talks" *Financial Times*, 24 August 2003.⁸¹
- For background, see ICG Asia Report N°53, *Taiwan Strait I: What's Left of 'One China'?*, 6 June 2003;⁸² ICG Asia Report N°54, *Taiwan Strait II: The Risk of War*, 6 June 2003;⁸³ ICG Asia Report N°55, *Taiwan Strait III: The Chance of Peace*, 6 June 2003.⁸⁴

SOUTH EAST ASIA

↘ Indonesia Car bomb exploded outside Jakarta's Marriott hotel on 5 August, killing 12 and injuring over 150. Indonesian police named 5 suspects - all members of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) - on 19 August. JI operational chief Hambali, alleged mastermind of the October 2002 Bali bombing, captured in joint operation between Thai authorities and CIA on 12 August. Government suspended plan to divide province of Papua after violence broke out killing 4 between 23 - 28 August. Christian-Muslim tensions simmer in Poso after series of violent incidents in June and July. Military operation against separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) - launched mid-May after peace negotiations broke down - looks likely to continue. Current military methods appear likely to generate more support for GAM.

- Sidney Jones (ICG), "Indonesia faces more terror", 29 August 2003.⁸⁵
- "Papua violence continues", BBC News, 28 Aug. 2003.⁸⁶
- "Jakarta bombing suspects named", BBC News, 19 August 2003.⁸⁷
- "U.S. captures Bali bomb suspect", *The Guardian*, 15 August 2003.⁸⁸
- "Blast kills suspected bomb-maker", *Jakarta Post*, 8 August 2003.⁸⁹



ICG Asia Report No 63, *Jemaah Islamiyah in South East Asia: Damaged but Still Dangerous*, 26 August 2003 at www.crisisweb.org. Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), South East Asian terrorist organisation

based in Indonesia, remains active and dangerous despite 12 August 2003 arrest of Hambali, one of its top operatives. It is a bigger organisation than previously thought, with a depth of leadership that enables it to regenerate. This report identifies senior JI leaders still at large, and traces their links to camps in Afghanistan, where all senior members of JI's central command trained. JI's Afghan veterans have also trained recruits of like-minded jihadist organisations from other parts of Indonesia. Schools and marriages provide further important connections on which JI depends.

➡ Myanmar (Burma) International pressure mounting on Myanmar's military leadership over detention (since late May) of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. U.S. and EU bolstered sanctions but none of neighbours - with whom it

⁸⁰ <http://taiwansecurity.org/AFP/2003/AFP-080803.htm>

⁸¹ <http://taiwansecurity.org/News/2003/FT-081603.htm>

⁸² <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=992>

⁸³ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=991>

⁸⁴ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=990>

⁸⁵ [http://www.iht.com/ihsearch.php?id=108056&owner=\(IHT\)&date=20030828180249](http://www.iht.com/ihsearch.php?id=108056&owner=(IHT)&date=20030828180249)

⁸⁶ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3187683.stm>

⁸⁷ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3162457.stm>

⁸⁸ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/indonesia/Story/0,2763,1019312,00.html>

⁸⁹ <http://www.thejakartapost.com/yesterdaydetail.asp?fileid=20030808.D01>

does most of its trade - has imposed sanctions; and China has strongly criticised them. August saw cabinet reshuffle among ruling generals. On August 30, Gen. Khin Nyunt, newly-appointed PM, laid out roadmap to elections next May - no mention of NLD role or Suu Kyi release. U.S. authorities believe Suu Kyi is on hunger strike.

- "New Burmese chief lays out road to elections", *The New York Times*, 31 August 2003.⁹⁰
- For background, see "Special Report Burma", *The Guardian*.⁹¹

Philippines Government lifted "state of rebellion" on 11 August. Soldiers who staged attempted coup in July put on trial. Defence Secretary resigned on 29 August - President Arroyo assumed post. 2 members of terrorist group Abu Sayyaf arrested - under interrogation claimed Abu Sayyaf was planning bombings in Mindanao in October. July ceasefire between government and MILF holding - peace talks due in Malaysia on 4 September.

- "Defence Secretary steps down", Philippine Headline News, 30 August 2003.⁹²
- Karl Kaufman, "AFP sees renewed Abu threat", *The Manila Times*, 26 August 2003.⁹³
- Jeffrey Maitem, "Govt-MILF ceasefire holding", *The Manila Times*, 23 August 2003.⁹⁴

PACIFIC

Solomon Islands Australian-led multinational intervention force arrested Harold Keke, leader of Guadalcanal Liberation Front. Amnesty for return of illegal weapons ended. Some 2,700 weapons turned in. Intervention force will now begin searching for illegal weapons. Australian Prime Minister John Howard visited for talks.

- "Island children greet 'Uncle Howard'", *The Age*, 25 August 2003.⁹⁵
- "Solomon Islands gun amnesty hailed a success", ABC Radio Australia news, 22 August 2003.⁹⁶
- Craig Skehan, "Around-the-clock guard on Solomon Islands warlord", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 Aug. 2003.⁹⁷

Europe

BALKANS

Bosnia & Herzegovina SFOR made unsuccessful efforts to capture indicted war criminals, mounting raid on home of Gen. Ratko Mladic's late mother on 13 August and surrounding sites associated with Radovan Karadzic in Pale on 26 August. Mitar Rasevic, chief warder at Serb prison in Foca, surrendered to Hague Tribunal. The 3 ruling nationalist parties continue to bicker - both with coalition partners and within their ranks over jobs, education and tax reform, and proposed unification of Mostar.

- "Bosnia: Mostar Future in Ashdown's Hands", IWPR Balkan Crisis Report N°455, 21 August.⁹⁸
- For background, see ICG Balkans Report N°146, *Bosnia's Nationalist Governments: Paddy Ashdown and the Paradoxes of State Building*, 22 July 2003.⁹⁹

Kosovo Serbian parliament adopted declaration on 26 August reaffirming claim to Kosovo. 2 Serb teenagers killed and 6 injured in attack by unknown assailants on 13 August. UN police officer killed in ambush on 2 August. Kosovo Serb arrested. Unknown how much of violence was response to Belgrade's declaration on Kosovo, coming as it did during transition to new UNMIK Chief, Harri Holkeri.

- "Serbian declaration on Kosovo", UNMIK Online, 20 August 2003.¹⁰⁰
- "Kosovo Violence Escalates", IWPR Balkans Crisis Report N°454, 19 August 2003.¹⁰¹

Macedonia Increase in violent incidents as ethnic tensions persist. Albanian National Army fired 2 rocket-propelled grenades on 25 August at guard tower on Kosovo-Macedonia border; grenade attacks by unknown assailants on Skopje government buildings and bomb explosion on railway tracks north of Skopje on 28 August. No one injured. 2 police officers briefly kidnapped by ethnic Albanian gunmen on 27 August. Mandate of EU peacekeeping mission extended until 15 December 2003; EU police mission to strengthen rule of law under consideration.

- "Macedonian government buildings hit by grenades", Reuters, 29 August 2003.¹⁰²
- "Macedonia: Ohrid two years on", IWPR Balkans Crisis Report N°454, 19 August 2003.¹⁰³
- For background, see ICG Balkans Report N°135, *Moving Macedonia Toward Self-Sufficiency: A New Security Approach for NATO and the EU*, 15 November 2002.¹⁰⁴

Montenegro Montenegrin politics continue to be overshadowed by allegations of smuggling and human trafficking.

- Tim Judah, "Montenegro fights criminal reputation", BBC News, 24 July 2003.¹⁰⁵
- For background, see ICG Balkans Report N°142, *A Marriage of Inconvenience: Montenegro 2003*, 7 May 2003.¹⁰⁶

Serbia At least 8 attacks in predominantly ethnic-Albanian Presevo Valley, including mortar attacks on Serbian army base on 12 August, police checkpoint on 15 August, and in Presevo centre on 23 and 27 August. Albanian National Army (ANA) thought to be behind at least some attacks. May be reaction to declaration on Kosovo adopted by Serbian parliament as draft on 11 August and in full on 26 August. Belgrade increased Kosovo rhetoric, perhaps to turn public attention away from corruption scandals. Commission investigating assassination of Serbian premier Djindjic named 44 suspects; allegations of links to government figures.

- "Djindjic's assassins 'had inside help'", *Financial Times*, 21 August 2003.¹⁰⁷

⁹⁰ <http://www.nytimes.com> (subscription only)

⁹¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/burma/0,13373,970917,00.html>

⁹² <http://www.newsflash.org/2003/05/hl/hl018688.htm>

⁹³ http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2003/aug/26/top_stories/20030826top10.html

⁹⁴ http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2003/aug/23/top_stories/20030823top9.html

⁹⁵ <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/08/25/1061663718397.html>

⁹⁶ http://www.abc.net.au/ra/newstories/RANewsStories_929633.htm

⁹⁷ <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/08/14/1060588531029.html>

⁹⁸ http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/bcr3/bcr3_200308_455_2_eng.txt

⁹⁹ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1057>

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.unmikonline.org/radio/scripts/English/august03/200803.htm>

¹⁰¹ http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/bcr3/bcr3_200308_454_1_eng.txt

¹⁰² <http://famulus.msnbc.com/FamulusIntl/reuters08-29-025932.asp?reg=EUROPE>

¹⁰³ http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/bcr3/bcr3_200308_454_2_eng.txt

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=823>

¹⁰⁵ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3093573.stm>

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=945>

- "Albanian group claims Serbian bombing", *The Guardian*, 17 August 2003.¹⁰⁸
- For background, see ICG Balkans Report N°145, *Serbian Reform Stalls Again*, 17 July 2003.¹⁰⁹

CAUCASUS

- Georgia Parliament finally approved composition of new electoral commission, but compromise went against recommendations of U.S. envoy James Baker aimed at preventing electoral fraud in Nov. 2003 elections. Little progress made in negotiations over future status of Abkhazia.
 - Eric A. Miller, "Georgia looks west for help in resolving Abkhazia issue", *Eurasianet.org*, 21 August 2003.¹¹⁰
- Nagorno-Karabakh Talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh remain stalled, and progress in dispute unlikely until after Azerbaijan's October presidential election. Both sides accuse each other of using dispute to distract public attention from own domestic crises – in Armenia, controversial re-election of President Robert Kocharian, and in Azerbaijan, ill-health of President Heydar Aliyev.
 - "Armenia denies opening fire on line of contact", *RFE/RL*, 22 August 2003.¹¹¹
 - Thomas de Waal, "Karabakh ceasefire under strain", *IWPR*, 7 August 2003.¹¹²

EASTERN EUROPE

- Moldova Moldovan and Transdniestrian forces took first demilitarisation step in years, withdrawing 37 armoured vehicles from Security Zone separating sides. EU and NATO discussing OSCE proposal to send peacekeepers to Moldova to help settle dispute and bring order to region.
 - "Peacekeepers begin withdrawal of armoured vehicles in Moldova", *OSCE Press Release*, 14 August 2003.¹¹³



ICG Europe Report N°147, *Moldova: No Quick Fix*, 12 August 2003, at www.crisisweb.org. A sustainable agreement to resolve the more than decade-long division between Moldova and the

Transdniestrian region requires a comprehensive approach that cannot be implemented in just one or two years. Russian troops still in Transdniestria should be replaced by a joint EU/Russian peacekeeping force under an OSCE mandate. An asymmetric federal solution that would give Transdniestria control over its property and resources without cementing the authoritarian Smirnov regime in place in Tiraspol is the most promising option.

- Russia (Chechnya) Upsurge in violence of recent months continues. Between 20-22 August, 28 Russian soldiers and at least 12 Chechen rebels killed in fighting. Spate of suicide attacks continued: on 1 August suicide bomber killed 35 at military hospital in southern Russia.

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.ft.com> (Subscription only)

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/latest/story/0,1280,-3038256,00.html>

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1049>

¹¹⁰ <http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insight/articles/eav082103.shtml>

¹¹¹ <http://www.rferl.org/newsline/2003/08/220803.asp>

¹¹² http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/cau/cau_200308_190_1_eng.txt

¹¹³ http://www.osce.org/news/generate.php3?news_id=3473

Russian Government pushing ahead with plans to hold controversial October election for Chechen presidency.

- "Chechen campaign poses tests for Putin", *The Washington Post*, 25 August 2003.¹¹⁴
- "Suicide truck bomb kills 35 at Russian military hospital", *The Guardian*, 2 August 2003.¹¹⁵



LATIN AMERICA

- Colombia FARC and ELN rebels announced decision for joint military operations against Government and ruled out peace talks. This followed President Uribe's public request to Venezuelan President Chavez to convey Colombia's willingness to negotiate with FARC if they agreed to ceasefire, implicitly suggesting Chavez Government links to FARC. Colombian Air Force to resume forcing down planes suspected of carrying drugs or weapons. U.S. to renew assistance to CAF for that purpose after new procedures put in place. Demobilisation talks with some paramilitaries move forward. Government introduced legislation to grant amnesty to illegal fighters whose groups agree to ceasefire or peace talks. UN criticised proposed amnesty. Dozens of civilians killed in rebel bomb attacks across country following first anniversary of Uribe's election.
 - "Colombia rebels reject peace-talks", *BBC News*, 25 August 2003.¹¹⁶
 - "United Nations slams Colombian government amnesty bill", *Reuters AlertNet*, 21 August 2003.¹¹⁷
 - For background, see ICG Latin America Report N°4, *Colombia's Humanitarian Crisis*, 9 July 2003.¹¹⁸
- Ecuador Alliance between President Gutiérrez and powerful indigenous parties collapsed on 6 August. Indigenous and trade union groups later led protests in capital against proposed austerity measures.
 - "Indians march in Ecuador against president's economic policy", *San Francisco Chronicle*, 21 August 2003.¹¹⁹
- Guatemala Former general and coup leader, Efraín Ríos Montt, registered as presidential candidate for 9 November elections. Constitutional Court approved his candidacy, despite constitutional provision barring anyone who previously took power in a coup from serving as president.
 - Sharon Behn, "Old foe supports general for office", *The Washington Times*, 25 August 2003.¹²⁰
 - For background, see "Guatemala's election row", *The Economist*, 31 July 2003.¹²¹
- Peru Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued report on 28 August stating more than 69,000 people killed between 1980 and 2000. Maoist rebels, chiefly Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso), responsible for more than half these deaths. Shining Path guerrilla group appears to be operating again, after having

¹¹⁴ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40049-2003Aug24.htm>

¹¹⁵ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,1011096,00.html>

¹¹⁶ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3180649.stm>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N28283355.htm>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1043>

¹¹⁹ <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2003/08/21/international2240EDT0793.DTL>

¹²⁰ <http://washingtontimes.com/world/20030824-110946-8301r.htm>

¹²¹ http://www.economist.com/World/la/displayStory.cfm?story_id=1958220

been thought largely wiped out in 1990s. Japan rejected request to extradite former President Fujimori. Although criminal indictments against him remain in place, Fujimori considering return to Peruvian politics for 2006 elections.

- "Peru's powerful military upset with study on political violence", *San Francisco Chronicle*, 28 August 2003.¹
- Natalie Obiko Pearson, "Fujimori angling to return to Peru", *The Washington Times*, 5 August 2003.²
- For background, see "Terrorism in Peru", *The Economist*, 17 July 2003.³

◀ Venezuela Political situation remains highly unstable. President Hugo Chavez challenged validity of opposition signatures submitted to new National Electoral Council (CNE) to force referendum on his mandate. Chavez reaction raised tensions after Supreme Court naming of CNE had appeared to defuse potential for violence. Push by opposition groups for referendum on Chavez's mandate continues. CNE meeting non-stop to consider petitions.

- "CNE en session permanente", *El Universal*, 29 Aug 2003.⁴
- "Recalling the revolution" *The Economist*, 21 Aug 2003.⁵
- Mayra Pertossi, "Venezuela's Chavez questions recall demand", *The Guardian*, 20 August 2003.⁶

Middle East /North Africa

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

◀ ▶ Israel/Occupied Territories Ceasefire called off by Hamas and Islamic Jihad after Israel killed senior Hamas leader in retaliation for suicide bombing in Jerusalem that killed 20 and injured 100. Israel has killed 10 Hamas members since bombing, and has vowed to continue targeting group's leaders. Arafat appointed new national security adviser in apparent bid to reassert control over Palestinian security forces and undermine Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and his security chief Mohammed Dahlan. U.S. announced freeze on assets of 6 Hamas leaders as well as several charities alleged to have supported Hamas.

- "Two Hamas militants killed in Israeli strike", *Sunday Mail*, 31 August 2003.⁷
- "Arafat names new Palestinian national security advisor", Agence France-Presse, 25 August 2003.⁸
- "Abbas cuts ties with militants", *International Herald Tribune*, 20 August 2003.⁹
- For background, see ICG Middle East Report N°16, *The Israeli-Palestinian Roadmap: What a Settlement Freeze Means and Why it Matters*, 25 July 2003;¹⁰ and ICG Middle East Report N°14, *A Middle East Roadmap to Where?*, 2 May 2003.¹¹

¹ <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2003/08/28/international1704EDT0667.DTL>

² <http://washingtontimes.com/world/20030804-094202-8445r.htm>

³ http://www.economist.com/World/la/displayStory.cfm?story_id=1929215

⁴ <http://www.eluniversal.com/2003/08/29/29102A.shtml>

⁵ http://www.economist.com/world/la/displayStory.cfm?story_id=2012178

⁶ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/latest/story/0,1280,-3050795,00.html>

⁷ <http://www.iht.com/ihtsearch.php?id=107065&owner=&date=20030821134305>

⁸ http://www.prolog.net/webnews/wed/dh/Qmid-east-palestinian.RHxh_DaP.html

⁹ <http://www.iht.com/ihtsearch.php?id=107065&owner=&date=20030821134305>

¹⁰ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1063>

¹¹ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=962>

◀ Jordan Islamic Action Front, political arm of Muslim Brotherhood movement, returned to Jordanian parliament after six-year absence, winning 17 of 110 seats in June legislative elections. In municipal elections, however, Front boycotted all municipalities but Amman, and accused government of cheating.

- Russell E. Lucas, "Jordan's Parliamentary Elections Didn't Pack Much Heat," *The Daily Star*, 21 August 2003; (originally published in the Carnegie Endowment's Arab Reform Bulletin, July 2003.)¹²

◀ Lebanon Hizbollah fired shells into Israel on 10 August killing one person and wounding 5 others; attack came in wake of killing of Hizbollah leader in Beirut and days after group exchanged artillery fire with Israel for first time in 8 months. Violence erupted despite signs that Hizbollah being forced to rein in military activities because of intense U.S. pressure on Syria and Iran, group's main backers. More anti-aircraft rounds fired on 31 August when Israeli planes entered Lebanese airspace.

- "Hizbollah fires at Israeli jets over Lebanon", Reuters, 31 August 2003.¹³
- "One dead, five injured in Hezbollah shelling in Israel; Israel responds by attacking targets in Lebanon", Associated Press, 10 August 2003.¹⁴
- For background, see ICG Middle East Briefing, *Hizbollah: Rebel Without a Cause?*, 30 July 2003.¹⁵

◀ Syria Tension between Washington and Damascus remains high. Syria facing strong pressure from U.S. to expel members of radical Palestinian groups and restrain militant Hizbollah organisation. Syria also accused by U.S. of allowing anti-Coalition fighters to cross into Iraq.

- David Teather and Suzanne Goldenberg, "Foreign terrorists infiltrating Iraq, U.S. warns", *The Guardian*, 23 August 2003.¹⁶
- "U.S. warning over Hezbollah attack", BBC News, 8 August 2003.¹⁷
- For background, see ICG Middle East Briefing, *Hizbollah: Rebel Without a Cause?*, 30 July 2003.¹⁸

GULF

◀ Iran International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found traces of highly enriched uranium at Iranian nuclear plant, but cautioned there are number of ways uranium could have got there. Iran's nuclear energy program drawing increasing concern from international observers. U.S. also concerned about perceived Iranian interference in Iraq. Reformist coalition led by President Mohammed Khatami struggling to hold together until next spring's parliamentary elections.

- "Iran nukes still a concern - IAEA", CNN, 26 Aug. 2003.¹⁹
- "Hard-liners strike down bill to loosen election restrictions", RFE/RL, 15 August 2003.²⁰
- Anthony Cordesman, *Iran's Search for Weapons of Mass Destruction*, CSIS, 7 August 2003.²¹

¹² http://www.dailystar.com.lb/opinion/21_08_03_b.asp

¹³ <http://famulus.msnbc.com/FamulusIntl/reuters08-31-044228.asp?reg=MIDEAST>

¹⁴ <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2003/08/10/international1345EDT0475.DTL>

¹⁵ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1070>

¹⁶ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,1028176,00.html>

¹⁷ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/3135439.stm

¹⁸ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=1070>

¹⁹ <http://edition.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/meast/08/26/iran.iaea/>

²⁰ <http://www.rferl.org/hca/features/2003/08/15082003155107.asp>

²¹ http://www.csis.org/press/pr03_48.htm



Iraq Car bombing outside Shia mosque in Najaf on 29 August killed over 100 Iraqis, including leading Shia cleric. Truck bomb exploded in front of UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August, killing 23, including UN special representative Sergio Vieira de Mello. U.S. casualties on or since 1 May – declared end of combat operations – now 144, exceeding 138 sustained in war. Concern rising that unless U.S. changes unilateral approach, Iraq may become increasingly ungovernable. Risk that militant groups will unite and gain support of Iraqi majority. Opportunity for UN to play broader role and for Iraqi Interim Governing Council to take on greater responsibility; Security Council negotiations ongoing.

- Justin Huggler “Nineteen arrested’ after massacre at mosque”, *The Independent*, 31 August 2003.¹⁴³
- “Iraq’s security void”, *The Economist*, 27 August 2003.¹⁴⁴
- Pamela Constable, “Anger and fear mix in capital”, *The Washington Post*, 21 August 2003.¹⁴⁵



ICG Middle East Report N°17, *Governing Iraq*, 25 August 2003, at www.crisisweb.org. The horrific bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad has focused renewed attention on the question of who, if

anyone, is capable of governing Iraq in the current volatile environment. The Coalition’s unilateral approach to transitional government is no longer sustainable. Until national elections can be held and full Iraqi sovereignty restored – which will take time – there needs to be a new distribution of authority between the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), the Iraqi Interim Governing Council, and the United Nations. A new Security Council resolution should give the UN responsibility for the political transition - overseeing the constitution-making process and ultimately national elections. The CPA should retain overall responsibility for security, as well as the restoration of basic infrastructure. And a broader-based, properly empowered and effectively resourced Interim Governing Council should be responsible for all other matters of day to day governance. In addition the Coalition military forces should be replaced by a Multinational Force, still led by the U.S. but endorsed by the Security Council, and a new international police force should be established. Unless Washington and London give both Iraqis and the wider international community some greater sense of partnership in the transition process, difficulties and dangers are going to multiply.



Saudi Arabia Relations with U.S. tense over claims of complicity of some Saudis in 11 September attacks (allegation censored in Congressional report on 9/11 released in July). Saudi Government complained 28 classified pages being used to smear regime, and demanded they be declassified so it could defend itself: U.S. refused. Saudi authorities, meanwhile, have launched crackdown on militant Islamist groups.

- Jon Kyl and Charles Schumer, “Saudi Arabia’s teachers of terror”, *The Washington Post*, 18 August 2003.¹⁴⁶
- Timothy O’Brien, “Saudis squirm as U.S. friends voice suspicion”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 August 2003.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴³ http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/story.jsp?story=438730

¹⁴⁴ http://www.economist.com/agenda/displayStory.cfm?story_id=2018876

¹⁴⁵ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22951-2003Aug20.html>

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7405-2003Aug17.html>

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/08/01/1059480556300.html>



Yemen Government, fresh from gains in spring parliamentary elections, continues to walk fine line between supporting U.S. in war on terror and appeasing largely anti-American populace. Incidences of low-level violence - mainly clashes between Islamist militants and Yemeni security forces - remain frequent.

- “Yemeni gets death sentence for mosque murders”, Reuters AlertNet, 25 August 2003.¹⁴⁸
- For background, see ICG Middle East Report N°8, *Yemen: Coping with Terrorism and Violence in a Fragile State*, 8 January 2003.¹⁴⁹

NORTH AFRICA



Algeria 14 European tourists kidnapped in February by Islamist militants released. Unconfirmed media reports suggested ransom paid. Algerian government suspended 6 independent daily newspapers, threatening press freedom in advance of next year’s elections.

- “Algerian Islamic group says abducted tourists”, Reuters AlertNet, 22 August 2003.¹⁵⁰
- “Six independent dailies suspended”, Intl Freedom of Expression Exchange Clearing House, 18 August 2003.¹⁵¹
- For background, see ICG Middle East/North Africa Report N°15, *Algeria: Unrest and Impasse in Kabylia*, 10 June 2003.¹⁵²



Egypt Authorities continue suppressing dissent, most notably by Muslim Brotherhood. 35 men arrested for allegedly forming new extremist group.

- “Egypt: Government contempt for basic political rights”, Human Rights Watch press release, 28 August 2003.¹⁵³
- “Egypt accuses 35 men of forming new militant group”, Reuters AlertNet.org, 25 August 2003.¹⁵⁴



Mauritania President Taya released 90 of 150 Islamist radicals arrested in July for questioning in connection with failed June coup. 3 former army officers suspected of leading uprising went into hiding. Former President Haidallah to stand against Taya, who deposed him in coup 19 years ago, in elections on 7 November.

- “90 detained soldiers released after coup attempt”, IRIN News.org, 6 August 2003.¹⁵⁵
- For background, see “On a bumpy road towards democracy”, IRIN News.org, 4 July 2003.¹⁵⁶



Morocco Government rejected latest UN plan to find political solution to 27-year-old conflict in Western Sahara. This provided for referendum within 5 years, offering inhabitants of disputed area choice between independence, autonomy within Morocco or complete integration. Elsewhere, Moroccan court sentenced to death 4 men from Salafia Jihadia group in connection with May Casablanca bombings.

- “Morocco’s Salafist Jihad Movement”, Reuters AlertNet, 19 August 2003.¹⁵⁷
- John Cherian, “Promise of Peace”, *Frontline*, 30 Aug 2003.¹⁵⁸

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2532026.htm>

¹⁴⁹ <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=863>

¹⁵⁰ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22631124.htm>

¹⁵¹ <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/53077>

¹⁵² <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/showreport.cfm?reportid=996>

¹⁵³ <http://hrw.org/press/2003/08/egypt082803.htm>

¹⁵⁴ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L25677381.htm>

¹⁵⁵ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=35812&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=MAURITANIA

¹⁵⁶ http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=35174&SelectRegion=West_Africa

¹⁵⁷ <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L19190565.htm>

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.frontlineonline.com/fl2018/stories/20030912000306000.htm>

Useful links on current and potential conflicts and conflict issues:

- Amnesty International – www.amnesty.org
- Brookings Institution – www.brookings.edu
- Canadian Consortium on Human Security - www.humansecurity.info
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – www.ceip.org
- Centre for Human Security, University of British Columbia - www.ligi.ubc.ca/chs.htm
- Centre for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland - www.cidcm.umd.edu
- Centre for Strategic and International Studies – www.csis.org
- Centre of International Relations and International Cooperation, Barcelona - <http://www.cidob.es/index3din.html>
- Council on Foreign Relations – www.cfr.org
- Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford – www.bradford.ac.uk/acad/peace
- Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER) – www.fewer.org
- Freedom House – www.freedomhouse.org
- Genocide Watch - www.genocidewatch.org
- Global Witness - www.globalwitness.org
- Human Rights Watch - www.hrw.org
- International Alert - www.international-alert.org
- Institute for War and Peace Reporting – http://www.iwpr.net/home_index_new.html
- International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) – www.ictj.org
- International Institute for Strategic Studies – www.iiss.org
- International Peace Academy - www.ipacademy.org
- International Policy Institute, Kings College, London – <http://ipi.sssp.kcl.ac.uk/>
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – www.msf.org
- Parliamentarians for Global Action – <http://www.pgaction.org>
- Peace Negotiations Watch - www.publicinternationallaw.org/peace/
- Purdue University Political Terror Scale - www.ippu.purdue.edu/global_studies/gghr/research_arch_pts.cfm
- Saferworld - www.saferworld.co.uk
- Search for Common Ground – <http://www.sfcg.org>
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute - www.sipri.se
- Transparency International – www.transparency.org
- United States Institute of Peace - www.usip.org

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Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General, 5 October 2002



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