

Consolidated weekly report

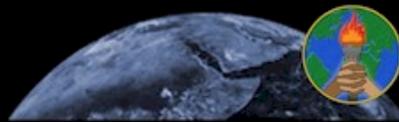
**POLICY: Justice**

Focus article coming soon

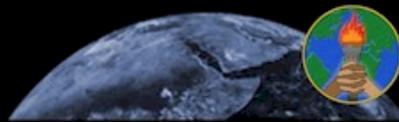
Hazard Level

Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

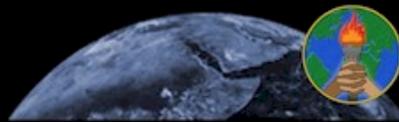
week-ended	See daily <a href="#">list of news items</a>
2007 Jul 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>military judge</b> is unmoved by a request to reconsider -- "<i>the government's renewed legal argument has not resolved a lack of <b>jurisdiction</b></i>" -- <a href="#">Military judge stands by Gitmo dismissal</a>. "The <b>US Supreme Court</b> has since given three rulings contradicting Vice-President <b>Cheney's</b> view of the <i>president's powers</i>, culminating in June [2007] with a demand for the <b>Guantánamo</b> inmates to face trial." -- <a href="#">How Cheney abused his power in war on terror</a>.</li> </ul>
2007 Jun 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</li> </ul>
2007 Jun 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<i>The <b>US war crimes tribunals</b> at <b>Guantanamo</b> have betrayed the principles of fairness that made the Nazi war crimes trials at <b>Nuremberg</b> a judicial landmark.</i>" -- <a href="#">Guantanamo trials unfair, says Nuremberg prosecutor</a>. The <b>US</b> military is investigating a apparent <b>suicide</b> at <b>Guantánamo</b>; "<i>an apparent suicide in one of the most closely monitored detention camps for suspected al Qaeda and Taliban members ...</i>"</li> </ul>
2007 Jun 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scooter takes a bullet for the team -- <a href="#">Cheney aide Libby jailed in CIA leak case</a>. With <b>Guantanamo judges</b> ruling that they do not have <b>jurisdiction</b>, what's next? -- <a href="#">Guantanamo tribunal plan thrown into chaos</a>. Also: In what jurisdiction is the 'enemy combatant' an '<i>unlawful enemy combatant</i>'?-- <a href="#">Two military judges dismiss war crimes charges</a>. <a href="#">Colin Powell says Guantanamo should be closed</a> -- "<b>Guantanamo</b> has become a major, major problem ... in the way the world perceives America and if it were up to me I would close Guantanamo <u>not tomorrow but this afternoon</u> ...".</li> </ul>
2007 Jun 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<i>Vice President <b>Dick Cheney</b>, whose penchant for secrecy is well known, has eliminated any public record of his <b>guests</b> and their visits.</i>" -- <a href="#">Dick Cheney and His Invisible Guests</a>.</li> </ul>
2007 May 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>US</b> authorities are trying to block a <b>website</b> that names <b>informers</b>; "<b>WHOSaRAT.com</b> claim it has identified 4,300 informers and 400 <b>undercover</b> police and <b>FBI</b> agents". [This brings into sharp contrast the fundamentalist <b>US</b> notion of "<b>free speech</b>" and what makes a <i>civilized society</i>.]</li> </ul>
2007 May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A judge in a <b>UK terrorism</b> case displays a troubling lack of familiarity with 20-year-old concepts -- "<a href="#">Web site</a>" <a href="#">baffles Internet terrorism trial judge</a>.</li> </ul>
2007 May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</li> </ul>
2007 May 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paris <b>Hilton</b> has been found guilty of <b>felony-first-degree vapid</b> -- "<i>No one in Los Angeles is above the law,</i>" said Los Angeles city attorney Rocky Delgadillo.</li> </ul>
2007 Apr 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>US Congress</b> has given <b>immunity</b> to an aide of Attorney-general <b>Gonzales</b> -- "<i>part of a rapid-fire schedule Democrats have set to compel Bush Administration officials,</i></li> </ul>



	<i>among them Secretary of State Condoleezza <b>Rice</b>, to testify" about a range of issues.</i>
2007 Apr 22	<p>↓ The <b>Vermont</b> Senate in a 16-9 vote mentions "<i>abuse of public trust</i>" in a motion to <i>impeach</i> President <b>Bush</b> and Vice-president <b>Cheney</b>.          Attorney-general <b>Gonzales</b> has apologized but some <b>US Senators</b> smell blood -- "<i>Each is a fine lawyer and a dedicated professional. I regret how they were treated, and I apologize to them and to their families.</i>"          Release by the <b>US</b> of an alleged <i>bomber</i> of a <b>Cuban aircraft</b> has angered Cuba -- "<i>for that reason, Mr. Bush, you are as much of a terrorist as Posada Carriles and his accomplices.</i>"</p>
2007 Apr 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karl <b>Rove</b> assumed the <i>e-mails</i> wanted by an enquiry into (prejudicial) dismissal of <b>US attorneys</b> were stored, but they seem to have been deleted. [Someone said "Nixon tapes".]</li> </ul>
2007 Apr 08	<p>↓ [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</p>
2007 Apr 01	<p>↓ The first case handled by a <b>Military Commission</b> at <i>Guantanamo</i> [Cuba] ended with a Byzantine plea bargain. The <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i> [US] said "<i>Around the world, many believe that the circumstances of their detention render such confessions useless.</i>" Australia's most respected newspaper, <i>The Age</i>, said "... a trial that was uncomfortably close to <i>Stalinist theatre</i> .... The best thing one can say about the process is that one day there may be a <i>reckoning</i> for this despicable episode ..."</p>
2007 Mar 26	<p>↓ <b>Amnesty</b> again urges the <b>Bush</b> Administration to abandon <i>Military Commissions</i> -- "<i>The military commissions are patently tailored to fit the unlawful practices that have preceded them.</i>" Secretaries <b>Gates</b> and <b>Rice</b> are said to be at odds with Vice president <b>Cheney</b> and others on the issue of <i>Guantanamo's</i> legality.          Following recent bad behavior, the <b>Senate</b> has grounded the <b>Attorney General</b> by removing his authority to hire and fire <i>District Attorneys</i>.</p>
2007 Mar 19	<p>↓ As the scandal grows over the selective dismissal of <i>District Attorneys</i>, there are accusations of "<i>politicising the justice system by firing prosecutors who did not support Republican interests.</i>" Elsewhere: "<i>Gonzales appeared to be battling for survival ... amid a mounting political firestorm over his Justice Department's dismissal of eight U.S. federal prosecutors.</i>"          Admission by <b>Khalid</b> Shaikh Mohammed that he is guilty of most terrorist incidents in living memory leaves prosecutors faced with an interesting legal problem in pursuing cases against other accused.</p>
2007 Mar 12	<p>↓ The Bush administration has pledged swift action in the <b>FBI security letters</b> "<i>scandal</i>" -- the <b>Attorney General</b> said he was upset to learn the FBI did not have sufficient controls and failed to follow its own policies.          An <b>ICJ</b>-appointed panel of jurists – as it has done in <b>India</b> and elsewhere -- criticized <b>Pakistan's counter terrorism laws</b>.  <i>International Crisis Group</i> says the future of the <b>World Court</b> is presently in the balance -- "<i>by backing away from Sudan's defiance and atrocities, the international community could strip the world court of its power.</i>"</p>
2007 Mar 05	<p>↓ Following investigation, the <b>International Commission of Jurists</b> has called on <b>India</b> to withdraw its "<i>draconian anti-insurgency laws</i>". <b>Kenyan</b> religious leaders call for the disbanding of the Kenyan <i>anti-terror unit</i> – they say the unit is "<i>operating illegally with the sole intention of harassing Muslim faithful.</i>" Following <b>Canada's Supreme Court</b> nullifying a <i>counter-terrorism</i> measure, the parliament has now declined to extend other provisions. The <b>EU</b> creates an agency for fundamental rights -- a good start says <i>Amnesty</i>, but despite its name the <b>EU Agency for Fundamental Rights</b> at presents steers clear of issues such as <i>public security</i> suspension of <i>habeas corpus</i>.  <b>Human Rights Watch</b> says there are still some <i>secret CIA prisoners</i> missing -- "<i>The</i></p>



	<i>CIA program – and the civilian leaders who created it – have inflicted tremendous harm on the reputation, moral standing, and integrity of the United States.”</i>
2007 Feb 26	• <b>Canada’s</b> top court ruled unanimously that the government had broken the <i>Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> by issuing <i>security [detention] certificates</i> .
2007 Feb 19	↓ Lord Goldsmith, <b>UK</b> attorney general, spoke to an appreciative <i>American Bar Association</i> in Miami – any improvements in justice at <b>Guantanamo</b> are too little, too late
2007 Feb 12	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 05	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 29	↓ It’s official, in the <b>UK</b> -- the <b>UK Director of Public Prosecutions</b> has said there is no “ <b>War on Terror</b> ” and has made a bitter attack on <b>US</b> practices in a speech to the <i>Criminal Bar Association</i> .
2007 Jan 22	↓ More <b>UK</b> legislators have said <b>Guantanamo</b> fails to meet basic British standards -- “ <i>Washington risked undermining the Geneva Conventions by choosing unilaterally to interpret their terms and provisions ...</i> ” The Pentagon issued rules for <i>trials</i> at Guantanamo -- the rules permit the admission of <i>hearsay</i> evidence, as well as <i>coerced</i> detainee statements that were obtained before Dec. 30, 2005. In the <b>Libby trial</b> the defense is searching for <i>jurors</i> who trust Vice President <b>Cheney</b> .
2007 Jan 15	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 08	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 01	• Iraqis “from all three leading religious communities and all ethnic groups” volunteered in large numbers to <i>execute</i> Saddam. An <b>EU</b> spokesman said <i>hanging Saddam</i> was “barbaric” and suggested <i>pardon</i> and <i>reconciliation</i> was a better course. [It of course is <i>idiocy</i> to suggest that a pardon is a deterrent to those who would perpetrate <i>crimes against humanity</i> .]
2006 Dec 25	↓ <i>Judicial Watch</i> published a mixed-party list of “ <b>Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians</b> ” for 2006 --“This list shows public <i>corruption</i> is endemic to our nation’s capital...”
2006 Dec 18	• <b>Iraq’s legal system</b> is not able to cope with the multitude of offences it needs to process -- killing (alleged) miscreants is easy -- doing justice is almost impossible. A new report reminded the <b>US</b> it needs to do better in monitoring <i>money laundering</i> .
2006 Dec 11	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2006 Dec 04	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 27	• Former U.S. Attorney General <b>Ren</b> and seven other senior Justice Department officials have filed an <i>Amicus Curiae</i> brief questioning <i>indefinite detention</i> policy.
2006 Nov 20	• <b>Amnesty</b> ungenerously describes the plan to build a \$125M “Legal Compound” at <b>Gitmo</b> as “a permanent homage to its failed experiment in second class justice.”
2006 Nov 13	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 06	• Federal prosecutors rejected 87% of the international <i>terrorism</i> referred by the <b>FBI</b> so far during fiscal 2006 -- the <b>Justice Department</b> says that is not unusual.
2006 Oct 30	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 23	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 16	↓ Is there a cleansing of <b>US</b> universities in the face of <i>free speech</i> guarantees -- is the warning by Bush’s press secretary that people should “watch what they say, watch what they do” as sinister as it sounds? At least 2,148 people were <i>executed</i> in 22 countries during 2005 – 94% of all known executions took place in <b>China, Iran, Saudi Arabia</b> and the <b>US</b> .
2006 Oct 09	• [nothing significant to report]



2006 Oct 02	•	[nothing significant to report]
2006 Sep 25	•	A new compromise on <i>treatment of detainees</i> is confusing -- "These complex provisions reflect some of the last-minute changes to broad legislation drafted by the White House and Republican lawmakers." The <b>ICRC</b> is finally to visit the 14 detainees who had been held in <i>secret prisons</i> -- "It has been a priority of ours to gain access to those people."
2006 Sep 18	↓	"The world is beginning to doubt the moral basis of our fight against terrorism." said <i>Colin Powell</i> ; and a majority of the <b>Armed Services Committee</b> agreed — separately, the <b>British Lord Chancellor</b> condemned the <i>Guantanamo</i> process. <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> examined whether there are still undisclosed <i>detainees</i> , and the issues underlying the question of <i>torture</i> — some <b>CIA</b> officers were said to be buying liability insurance in case of future legal difficulties.
2006 Sep 11	↑	A debate continues in the Senate and elsewhere on whether Guantanamo accused should have a right to know the <i>evidence</i> against them — consistent with repeated UN demands, 14 detainees in "secret" custody have now been transferred to military custody at <b>Guantanamo Bay</b> .
2006 Sep 04	•	[nothing significant to report]
2006 Aug 28	•	[nothing significant to report]
2006 Aug 21	•	[nothing significant to report]
2006 Aug 14	•	[nothing significant to report]
2006 Aug 07	•	[nothing significant to report]
2006 Jul 31	↓	A state Supreme Court gave local governments' use of <i>eminent domain</i> its first setback. The UN <b>Human Rights Committee</b> has said the US should cease any "secret" detention and obey international conventions on prisoners.
2006 Jul 24	•	[nothing significant to report]
2006 Jul 17	•	The Administration and the Pentagon acknowledged that the <b>Supreme Court Guantanamo</b> judgement would mean some modification of processes.
2006 Jul 10	•	The <b>Voting Rights Act</b> should not need to be reauthorized; but it probably does.
2006 Jul 03	•	The Supreme Court asserted its role in the Three Estates with the <b>Guantanamo</b> judgement.
Commencement of Service		

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