

THREAT: Other Atrocities

Atrocity is an *informal* term for a range of acts proscribed in the *International Covenant On Civil And Political Rights* of 1976 (*torture, slavery, child labor, child soldiers, ...*), for acts against the laws of war (*war crimes*), for acts that are culturally determined to be particularly heinous such as *desecration of a corpse, child sexual exploitation*, and willful acts against cultural property (*iconoclasm*). Any aggravated violent act against person or property might be seen as an atrocity in a loose sense but it is the act itself and the circumstances that will determine if an offence under any applicable law has been committed. For instance to burn Muslim battle-dead is a practical health measure, or an atrocity, depending on cultural perspective. Thus, atrocity in the broadest sense is a value (*subjective*) term.

The purpose of the Covenant (and various conventions relating to War) is to codify acts that the signatories agree are reprehensible and agree to proscribe in local laws. Many states may already have ways of outlawing and punishing the acts but often only in an indirect or rarely used way – deprivation of liberty (for slavery), aggravated assault (for torture), low level immigration offences (for human trafficking). For these nations, it is a consciousness-raising, coordination and standardization exercise. For those nations who routinely practice torture (usually in police custody) or condone slavery as a traditional institution, it is a way for the world community to encourage adherence to a standard of behavior perceived to be morally superior.

Atrocities are a special case of **human rights** abuses but not all human rights abuses are atrocities. Imprisonment without trial is not an atrocity as such, unless the prisoner is subjected also to inhumane and degrading treatment. The Covenant allows the government of a State to temporarily *suspend* some of the rights in cases of civil emergency (if it notifies other signatories), but none of the provisions forbidding atrocity. In other words, under this international instrument there is *never* a lawful excuse for commission of an atrocity.

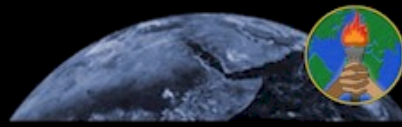
Just as the real value of the Convention on Genocide is proscription of those acts that invariably *precede* genocide, hence providing a form of early warning, the value of the Human Rights Covenant is that it sets a high standard which can not prevent isolated atrocities but can offer pressure against institutionalized and/or State sanctioned atrocities.

Killing is objective; mistreatment is not -- cultural variations and sensitivities abound. There is anecdotal evidence that Filipino and Indonesian maids are, by Western standards, routinely treated “atrociously” in **Saudi Arabia**, as low paid slaves subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment. Whether the treatment of “guest workers” of this type is contrary to the Covenant would be open to investigation. Several Islamic nations, including “moderate” ones such as **Malaysia**, order public whipping as a punishment for some offences. To Western sensitivities, whipping is often thought to be “barbaric” and an “atrocity”. In contrast, other cultures see imprisonment in a small room for many years as cruel, unnatural, and an atrocity.

*some factual material is from <http://www.hrweb.org>

International Covenant On Civil And Political Rights was adopted in December 1966 and entered into force 23 March 1976.

Near-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
The UN Human Rights mechanism has sometimes received bad press in the West because it has brought shortcomings in developed nations such as <i>illegal immigrants</i> , or of <i>indigenous populations</i> to	There are reports of severe Human Rights violations every day – from systematic torture of prisoners in Algeria to organ harvesting in China . Often UNHCHR does not have the resources nor the diplomatic backing to investigate or act on	If political dissidents are summarily executed and their organs harvested for profit, or if prisoners are routinely tortured and mutilated, it ultimately makes little difference in a distant country. Politics is the art of the possible – and the

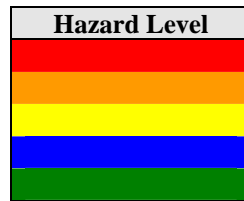


public attention. From its position on the non-barbaric moral high ground, it is difficult for a developed nation to see that an outsider could have any useful criticism or be motivated by any decent purpose. That common reaction is counter-productive to the global purpose of Human Rights protection and undermines the patently good purpose of UNHCHR.

accusations such as this. The work against atrocities needs daily support; not lip service every decade or so.

necessary – and States will avoid diplomatic incidents if they can and if their own self-interest is not affected. This is why the activities of UNHCHR as an honest broker established under international Covenant should be supported in every particular. Only when UNHCHR reports are taken as seriously as a crime wave next door will one of the main goals of the UN be accomplished.

[790 words]



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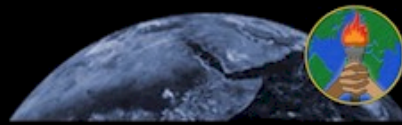
week-ended [See daily list of news items](#)

2007 Jul 01

- Egypt has [again] outlawed all **female circumcision** -- "*Officially the practice, which affects both Muslim and Christian women in Egypt and goes back to the time of the pharaohs, was banned in 1997 ...*" [Comment: Contrary to widely-held belief, female circumcision is not an **Islamic** practice but has existed in several Islamic countries from pre-Muslim times.]
Human Rights Watch joins several similar groups in accusing the **Philippines** military of a '**dirty war**' against **leftists** -- "*a military spokesman ... said the number of alleged victims was exaggerated*". Separately: "[A yet unnamed **Philippines** general] said he was most willing to testify on the role of certain military officers in the **liquidation** of suspected **communist insurgents** ... " And yet another general breaks silence on **extrajudicial killings** -- "*killings of political activists were discussed 'openly' in a top-level military conference*".
*"Moldova is a major source, and to a lesser extent, a transit country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of **commercial sexual exploitation**."* "[US allies] **Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar** --- are among the world's worst offenders in **human slavery and sex trafficking** ..."
Russia's FSB has rescued **Uzbek slave workers** -- "*the Uzbeks had their documents taken from them and were forced to work practically 24 hours a day with no days off.*"
Charles Taylor has again refused to leave his cell to attend his **war crimes trial** in The Hague -- "*Taylor -- the first African head of state ever to stand trial for war crimes -- faces 11 charges of war crimes ... during the 1991-2001 civil war in **Sierra Leone**.*"
*see also: **China***

2007 Jun 24

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** estimates that 218 million children worldwide are engaged in labor, with 126 million engaged in the worst forms of child labor -- [UN puts child labour laws under scanner](#).
*see also: **China***



2007 Jun 17

- In the **Philippines**, *extra-judicial killings* continue to be part of the political norm; "So far this year, 19 have been kidnapped by people suspected of being military agents, 10 of them in May, including Guerrero. Two turned up dead" -- [Rights groups warn of rise in abductions in Philippines](#).

In China, a crackdown on *human trafficking* and *slave labor* "has laid bare a shocking underworld" -- [Outrage as Chinese slave scandal deepens](#). ["Slave labor" here as elsewhere often involves *debt traps* and *indentures*, and the *sale of children*.]

The latest US report on *human trafficking* brought some protests: The US says **Iran**, **Algeria**, **Equatorial Guinea**, **North Korea**, **Sudan**, **Bahrain**, **Oman**, **Syria**, **Burma**, **Kuwait**, **Qatar**, **Uzbekistan**, **Cuba**, **Malaysia**, **Saudi Arabia**, **Venezuela** are the worse offenders -- [Iran ranks among worst human trafficking states – US](#). The US says the **Philippines** remains a "source, transit, and destination" for men, women and children -- [Philippine gov't rejects U.S. report on human trafficking](#). "**Malaysia** has been relegated to a list of countries with the worst records in dealing with human trafficking ..." -- [Malaysia on trafficking blacklist](#). "**India**, which advocacy groups say may have as many as 65 million forced laborers, was spared the worst ranking on the State Department's new list ..." -- [India escapes U.S. list of worst human traffickers](#).

Former head of the **Chile's Directorate of Army Intelligence (DINE)** Orozco **Sepúlveda** has been sentenced to 15-years prison for the 1973 murder of six labor unionists -- [Retired general gets 15 years for homicides](#).

[Paraguayans Urged to Testify on Operation Condor](#) -- "**Operation Condor** plunged South American homes into mourning nearly three decades ago, when regional military governments, aided by the CIA, pursued a State terrorism policy."

2007 Jun 10

- Hearts-and-minds in action: in **Central African Republic** 20,000 were displaced when the *army* torched hundreds of houses as *collective punishment* after *rebels* killed a senior government *official*.

2007 Jun 03

- Why is there no difference between **Pfizer** and Nazi Doktor Josef **Mengele** -- secret *drug trials* on unsuspecting **African** children resulted in *deaths*, *paralysis*, *blindness* and *brain-damage* ... but they were cheap; [Pfizer Faces Criminal Charges in Nigeria](#).

Botswana has hosted a *summit* on *human trafficking* -- "countries in the region are beginning to take the issue seriously." A glimpse at a **Thai** missing persons centre that confronts *human trafficking* as well as those "*disappeared*" by criminals and the state -- [Parents turn to Thailand's kidnap centre](#).

Indonesian police have arrested 15 for *human trafficking* -- "the victims, mostly from West Java, were promised restaurant jobs with large salaries before finding themselves working in cafes, discotheques and brothels." In **India**, **Chandigarh** police busted a "flesh trade racket" [*human trafficking*], arresting eight -- "the entire management of the hotel is allegedly involved in the flesh trade business and one of the girls arrested includes a **Russian** woman." Five were extradited from **Bulgaria** to **France** on *human trafficking* charges -- "part of an organised group which forced Bulgarian women from the northeastern part of the country into prostitution [in France]."

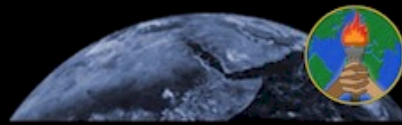
Civil war has left **Mozambique** littered with *unexploded ordnance* and little expertise to tackle the danger -- [Fears Linger in Mozambique Over Unexploded Weapons](#).

2007 May 27

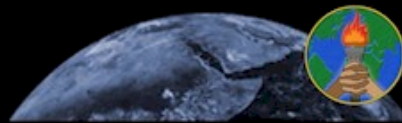
- 68 nation states met in **Lima** to continue work towards a *treaty* on the ban of *cluster munitions* -- the world's leading producers of cluster munitions, the **US**, **Russia** and **China**, did not attend.

Following criticism of his comments while in **Latin America**, the **Pope** attempted to redeem the outrageous comments, but this has not appeased at least one *indigenous group*.

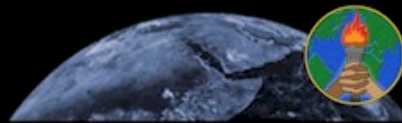
Zimbabwe and **Venezuela** are reported to be not cooperating with the *Kimberley*



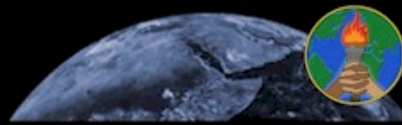
	<p>Process, the international effort to stamp out trade in <i>conflict diamonds</i>. Following the discovery of <i>illegal graves</i> in 2005, Uruguay is planning new excavations searching for remains of "<i>the disappeared</i>".</p>
2007 May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relative peace in Uganda has not brought normalcy as <i>unexploded munitions</i> litter the countryside -- "<i>How can you get over a war with these bombs everywhere?</i>" In fact, "<i>some 400 million people around the world live and work in what are effectively minefields, at daily risk of death or maiming ...</i>" -- <i>400 million people live in "minefields"</i>. Somalia has (in principle) agreed to UN investigation of widespread allegations of <i>war crimes, disappearances, illegal detentions</i> and other abuses. Pope Benedict XVI's claim that <i>indigenous peoples</i> were "silently longing" to become <i>Christians</i> when colonized 500 years ago has infuriated some -- <i>Pope Called Insensitive and Arrogant for Remarks on Brazilian Indians</i>. Police have busted a Brazilian sex slavery gang in the Canarys operated by a man of Brazilian origin who brought women to Spain.
2007 May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• US soldiers have been reminded to fight by the <i>rules of war</i> [and common human decency] -- "<i>Beyond the basic fact that such actions [atrocities] are illegal, history shows that they also are frequently neither useful or necessary</i>" says General Petraeus. <i>Trafficking of African women</i> is reported to be thriving -- "<i>African governments have not yet faced up to the multi-million dollar phenomenon</i>". Chad has signed an agreement to demobilize <i>child soldiers</i>; "there are clearly a considerable number of children under arms in Chad". [Such agreements have been signed, and ignored, before.] Freedom House says North Korea, Sudan and Uzbekistan stand out among the world's most overtly <i>repressive regimes</i>.
2007 May 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The UK has undertaken to assist India in checking <i>human trafficking</i> [from enlightened self-interest] -- "<i>we welcome people in the UK coming through proper process. But those coming illegally are not entitled to be there</i>".
2007 Apr 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrests in a <i>human trafficking</i> ring involving Indian members of parliament continue. 31 US congressmen have urged Guatemala to take action on the killing allegations against José Efraín Ríos Montt, a friend of the Reagan regime. Around one million Israeli bombs and bomblets still litter southern Lebanon. An Argentine court has overturned "<i>dirty war</i>" pardons given by former president Menem -- now Gen. Jorge Videla and Adm. Emilio Massera, both 81, will die in jail, not at home.
2007 Apr 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russian soldiers on bail charged with <i>Chechen murders</i> have fled -- "<i>by running away these men have shown to the whole world that they know they are guilty.</i>" Amnesty observes that Taliban attacks on civilians in Afghanistan can be subject of future <i>war-crimes</i> action -- "<i>the fact that such attacks are widespread and carried out as part of Taliban policy makes them also crimes against humanity.</i>" Thousands more flee fighting in the Central African Republic -- "<i>government soldiers launched raids on villages on the northwest border with Cameroon and Chad ... to try to root out gunmen ...</i>". The UN has urged Uganda to halt 'criminal acts' -- "<i>indiscriminate and excessive use of force of the Ugandan defence forces resulted in the killing of at least 69 civilians, including women and children</i>". Despite UN pressure, DR Congo is still using <i>child soldiers</i> -- "<i>despite the order by chief of staff ... 300 to 500 children, some as young as 13, currently serve in newly formed army brigades</i>". The EU has undertaken to assist with <i>landmine</i> clearance in Africa -- "<i>the United</i>



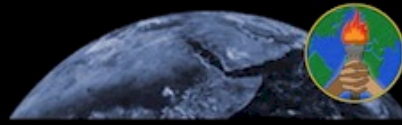
	<p><i>States, China and Russia have refused to sign the convention, and it is estimated that 15 countries are still producing anti-personnel mines." Ethiopia and Eritrea are riddled with land-mines -- the 11 sq km already de-mined in Ethiopia since 2005 yielded over <u>6,700 items</u> of unexploded ordnance.</i></p> <p><i>A radio reporter murdered in the Philippines is the 51st alleged "extrajudicial killing" under the Arroyo regime -- "We have said that 2007, being an election year, could be a violent year for Filipino journalists and it seems that our fears are coming true."</i></p> <p><i>The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre reports on a global and worsening problem -- Global internal displacement crisis worsens, Middle East particularly hard hit, says survey.</i></p>
<p>2007 Apr 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"They knew we were refugees": the deliberate slaughter of civilian refugees by the US in 1950 in Korea confirms no nation has claim to the moral high ground -- 'Forgotten War' Yields Another Secret.</i> <i>Russia claims the arrest of the head of a human trafficking group -- "a criminal group, involved in human trafficking and illegal immigration from South East Asian and CIS countries to Western Europe through Russia."</i> <i>The title of the latest ICRC report on Iraq says it all: "Civilians Without Protection - The Ever-Worsening Humanitarian Crisis in Iraq".</i> <i>Brazilian authorities have again found and released hundreds of slave laborers -- "from the beginning of the year till the end of March, 583 Brazilians who were working as slaves were released by the Brazilian government's Mobile Inspection Group ..."</i> <i>A center to train anti-human trafficking specialists will be opened in Minsk [capital of the CIS] -- "... it would be the only such centre in the world which would operate on a permanent basis."</i> <i>Peru's former army chief says former president Fujimori (1990-2000) knew about political massacres; Peru is trying to extradite Fujimori.</i> <i>Up to 400 are thought to have been killed in Chad by Sudanese militias striking across the border -- "... the new estimate followed a visit by a group of U.N. agencies to the remote area ... where they found a situation which one UNHCR official described as "apocalyptic."</i>
<p>2007 Apr 08</p>	<p>↑ <i>Two former Peruvian military officers and an Argentine ex-major suspected of committing crimes against humanity in their respective countries have been detained during routine ICE raids.</i></p> <p><i>Eritrea has outlawed female circumcision -- if the law is now enforced, this is a significant advance because <u>90%</u> of Eritrean girls are excised.</i></p> <p><i>An abducted Zimbabwean journalist critical of the Stalinist Mugabe regime has been found <i>dead</i>; other journalists have also been abducted by the regime.</i></p>
<p>2007 Apr 01</p>	<p>↓ <i>The Central African president admits that troops were to blame for some past atrocities -- "drastic measures - including demotion and expulsion - have been taken against those guilty of abuse."</i></p> <p><i>An <u>11 (or 12) year old girl</u>, recruited by the Communist rebels, has been killed in a clash in the Philippines.</i></p> <p><i>Someone close to the action says "you take a healthy guy and you turn him into a cripple, at least for a period of time. I don't care what Alberto Gonzales says. That's torture." -- "We were torturing people for no reason".</i></p> <p><i>Guyanese President Bharrat Jagdeo has called for reparations for the slave trade. [Around <u>three million</u> were shipped across the North Atlantic between 1700 and the early 1800s creating wealth that can be still traced today.]</i></p> <p><i>In eastern Chad, refugees are being attacked with impunity by armed raids and air</i></p>



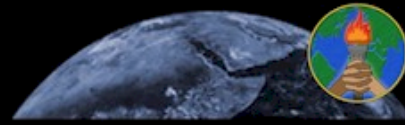
	<p>strikes.</p> <p>At least <u>100</u> are <u>dead or missing</u> off Yemen after <i>people smugglers</i> forced hundreds of would-be immigrants to jump from boats into the high sea.</p> <p>Another Human Rights group said the Philippines government -- and its loyal supporter, the US – is guilty of <i>extrajudicial killings</i> of <i>leftists</i>.</p> <p>The UN says again "<i>some 2.5 million people throughout the world are at any given time the victims of human trafficking.</i>"</p>
2007 Mar 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2000 and 2006, conflict in the southern Philippines has displaced nearly <u>two million</u> people." <p>Some facts 200 years after Britain's moves towards <i>abolition, slavery</i> is still doing well under other names in many places -- <i>Modern slavery - some key facts</i>.</p> <p>Human Rights Watch has detailed 22 unresolved cases of "<i>disappeared</i>" persons in Thailand in which it said the evidence indicated strongly that <i>security forces</i> were responsible."</p> <p>Mugabe's doomed regime in Zimbabwe is using "<i>hit squads</i>" against opponents -- "<i>Chamisa's skull was cracked by a group of eight men with a steel bar as he entered Harare International Airport ...</i>"</p> <p>The UK has decided, with immediate effect, to ban the use of <i>cluster bombs</i> with <i>dumb bomblets</i>.</p>
2007 Mar 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy has convicted five former Argentine military officers <i>in absentia</i> to life imprisonment for <i>human rights abuses</i> during the 1970s "<i>Dirty War</i>". Suriname's former military dictator, Desi Bouterse, has apologized for the 1982 killings of 15 critics of his military regime -- "<i>We must deal with this dark page in a mature way and make sure it does not happen again.</i>" <p>Russia's FSB in cooperation with Interpol, and the <i>secret services</i> of Uzbekistan, Italy and Finland cracked a <i>human trafficking</i> network -- "<i>More than 20 criminals, including the ring leaders, have been arrested in a special operation</i>".</p> <p>In both a positive development and a grotesque parody of justice, the rules have finally now been agreed for trial of those involved in the <i>Khmer Rouge killing fields</i> in the years before 1979.</p> <p>In the first three months of 2007, unrest and emergency measures in Bangladesh have led to 95,825 arrests and at least 50 deaths.</p> <p>On the Tibet/China issue, chair of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee says "<i>it takes two to tango and the Tibetans have been dancing alone</i>".</p>
2007 Mar 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan again fails to own the atrocities of its past [and its present] – the Japanese Prime Minster says the "<i>comfort women</i>" have <u>no evidence</u> to prove their claims. <p>Two were arrested in Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh for holding 12 <i>Nepalese girls</i> with the intention to take them illegally to the <i>Gulf countries</i>."</p> <p>Two days after the US Human Rights report, China issues a scathing and detailed report of US human rights abuses.</p>
2007 Mar 05	<p>↓ Egypt wants an investigation of a claim that an Israeli Special Forces reconnaissance unit killed 250 Egyptian <i>prisoners of war</i> during the <i>Six Day War</i>.</p> <p>The UN says there is significant increase in the use of <i>mercenaries</i> by western firms -- <i>European mercenaries in dangerous areas may receive \$10,000 per month; Peruvians doing the same job are paid \$1,000</i>. The US and Germany lead in the export of electro-shock <i>stun guns</i> to states where they are known to be used for <i>torture</i>.</p> <p>An ICC prosecutor has accused a former Sudanese minister of <i>crimes in Darfur</i> -- "<i>51 cases against former interior minister Ahmad Muhammad Harun and janjaweed militia leader Ali Kushayb ...</i>"</p> <p>The Japanese are again killing thousands of <i>dolphins</i> in an annual hunt. [The</p>



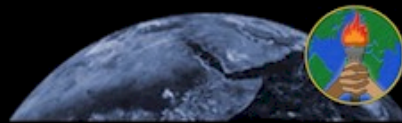
2007 Feb 26	<p>Japanese reveal again the darkness at the heart of their national soul.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The US Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Bill [Feinstein / Leahy] would control the specification and distribution of munitions already in the hands of over 20 countries. 46 of 49 nations met to agree to the ban on cluster bombs -- arms-makers US, Russia, Israel, China refused to attend; Poland, Romania, Japan declined to sign. <p>It is estimated 117,000 Ukrainians have been victims of human trafficking -- "<i>more people from Ukraine have been trafficked abroad for forced labor and prostitution than from any other former Communist country...</i>".</p> <p>The UN says the Army is responsible for many of the "political" killings in the Philippines -- "<i>the impact of even a limited number of killings of the type alleged is corrosive in many ways.</i>"</p> <p>Military tribunals in DR Congo have sentenced 17 soldiers and others for war crimes during the war that killed some 4 million people.</p>
2007 Feb 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Philippines Arroyo administration [again] vows to work with the UN and EU to stop extra-judicial killings, "<i>resolving and stopping the incidents of ideologically-motivated killings.</i>" <p>A Colombian government ministry says that over <u>200,000</u> children are working in mines in Colombia.</p> <p>In Nepal, the Red Cross [ICRC] says it has the names of more than 800 people who remain unaccounted for in the wake of armed conflict.</p> <p>Female excision is practiced in about <u>28</u> African countries as a traditional way of "keeping women chaste and eligible for marriage" but gradual headway in eradicating the practice is being made through education.</p>
2007 Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In a case that is just one of many, 200 bonded workers in India tricked into debt and work at a brick kiln were freed from virtual slavery. <p>A three day conference in <i>Paris</i> examined the issue of an estimated 250,000 child soldiers coerced into fighting throughout the world. Sudan's child soldiers find it hard to give up their guns even after freed of coercion -- "<i>they have social status with a gun and they just can't get back into their communities.</i>"</p> <p>An experts panel says human trafficking is increasing each year "<i>panelists said not even the United States has conquered the problem.</i>" A separate item confirms this: a <i>Jacksonville</i> federal jury convicted the wife of a man already sentenced to 30 years for running a slave-labor farm.</p> <p>The US has not [yet] signed the new UN Convention on political disappearances -- over 51,000 people have been "disappeared" by governments in over 90 countries since 1980; 41,000 remain missing.</p> <p>Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir, speaking at a <i>peace conference</i> he organised in <i>Kuala Lumpur</i>, observed that Bush and Blair have murdered more than Saddam and al-Qaeda -- while stressing that terrorism could not be condoned, Mahathir stressed nor could "<i>cruel retaliation by powerful countries</i>".</p> <p>Ecuador takes harder line against human smugglers and finds an industry -- "<i>a coyote is not just the one person with whom the emigrant makes contact -- it's a network that includes lawyers, congressmen, bankers and police...</i>"</p>
2007 Feb 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An alleged Congolese warlord, Thomas Lubanga, has been ordered to stand trial for grave crimes; he is the first suspect to face judgment before the International Criminal Court rather than an <i>ad hoc</i> War Crimes tribunal. <p>Argentina is seeking extradition from Spain of a 'dirty war' suspect -- documents that may see Ricardo Miguel Cavallo extradited from Spain back to Argentina have arrived.</p> <p>Six more "street kids" have been killed in <i>Rio</i> (Brazil), with police extra-judicial</p>



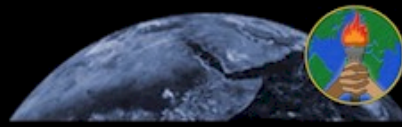
	<p>death squads as the prime suspect. In the Philippines, the military is being pressured to dismantle its '<i>death squads</i>'. Afghanistan's parliament has granted <i>immunity</i> to all Afghans involved in the country's 25 years of conflict. Observer's worry that it is not the Afghan people offering amnesty but members of the Afghanistan's National Assembly many of whom would be suspects. Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir announces he will work to establish a <i>war crimes tribunal</i> "to focus on victims of abuse in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories".</p>
<p>2007 Jan 29</p>	<p>↓ A Philippines Commission finds that the <i>military</i> is involved in some of the many <i>political killings</i> over recent years -- "We have identified that there are killings really perpetuated by the military" said Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos Israel may have violated agreements with Washington when it fired US-supplied cluster munitions into Lebanon. Italy has arrested 2,000 in <i>human trafficking</i>. Brazil Efforts to End Slavery Not Enough, Says the US has a detailed summary of <i>human trafficking</i> situation in <i>Latin American</i> nations. UN has urged Nepal to hold <i>war crimes</i> trials -- "more than 600 people who disappeared during the insurgency are still missing..." H.H. the Dalai Lama accepts Chinese dominion over Tibet -- but China must cease <i>cultural genocide</i>. The Karuna faction of the Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger rebels have again been accused of <i>abducting children for combat</i> -- "with the complicity or willful blindness of the Sri Lankan government ..." Former Panamanian dictator Noriega is to be released from US prison in September [2007] -- will he return to Panama to faces <i>charges</i> of corruption, torture and murder?</p>
<p>2007 Jan 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Colombian president Alvaro Uribe is amazed to hear that his troops pressured <i>voters</i> -- "It's the first time I've received news that the <i>paramilitaries</i> pressured people to vote for me". Former Guatemalan dictator Efraín Ríos Montt is running for election -- if elected, he will have <i>immunity</i> from prosecution for past offences unless suspended from office by a court. A second arrest warrant has been issued in Argentina for arrest in Spain of ex-President Isabel Perón -- "Many human rights activists say the <i>dirty war</i> violence began under Perón." The rate of <i>human trafficking</i> in Indonesia is still high -- "As a result, Indonesia is threatened to be listed in Tier 3 by the US Department of State."
<p>2007 Jan 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Estela Martinez de Peron has been arraigned and released on bail in Spain following issue of an arrest warrant in Argentina for involvement in extra-judicial <i>killings</i>.
<p>2007 Jan 08</p>	<p>↓ In India, the 12,000 member <i>Bharatiya Bar Girls' Union</i> is educating others throughout Maharashtra on how to avoid traps of <i>human trafficking</i>. "Zimbabwe, the land of dying children" said a <i>Times</i> [UK] report -- "After Rwanda, the UN vowed 'never again' but Mugabe ... <u>has already been responsible for far more deaths than Rwanda suffered.</u>" Malaysian police detained Chinese national <i>GROs</i> hiding in secret room. [Note: <i>Guest Relations Officers</i> (GROs) is often a cover or euphemism for "sex slave" <i>human trafficking</i> victims, in this case from PRC.]</p>
<p>2007 Jan 01</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A former leader of the <i>Argentine Anticommunist Alliance</i> (AAA) has been <i>arrested</i> in Spain on an Argentinean warrant.



2006 Dec 25	<p>↑ The UN has criticized Nepal for the negligible punishment of three officers who were convicted of <i>torturing</i> to death a 15-year-old girl suspected of being a <i>Maoist</i> rebel. The EU will grant around \$260M to UNDP to fight <i>human trafficking</i> in Bangladesh. Following Pinochet's death, Chile's government is moving to reverse <i>amnesty</i> granted by a previous government to the perpetrators of atrocities in Pinochet's regime -- "This government ... maintains that the amnesty was an illegitimate decision in its origins and content, form and foundation". Chilean lawmaker supporters of Pinochet seek to build <i>monument</i> to the dead criminal. ↑ A treaty for "The <i>Disappeared</i>" -- the <i>International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</i> -- has been approved by the General Assembly and will be open to signing soon.</p>
2006 Dec 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia has started its version of a <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</i> involving years of atrocities by the now disarmed Colombian <i>militias</i>. The <i>Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative</i> has called on Gambia for information on 44 Ghanans' brutally killed last year in Gambia. Israel has prevented Archbishop Tutu starting a fact-finding mission in Occupied Palestine -- "<i>We saw a situation whereby the human rights mechanism of the U.N. was being cynically exploited to advance an anti-Israel agenda.</i>"
2006 Dec 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Chilean dictator Pinochet died, escaping punishment for the thousands of <i>Disappeared</i> under his brutal <i>Opus Dei</i> regime. Amnesty International USA welcomed the indictment of Charles 'Chuckie' Taylor Jr., head of the Anti Terrorist Unit (ATU) of Liberia, a special forces group created during the presidency of the his father, Charles Taylor.
2006 Dec 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under populist governments in Uruguay and Argentina, investigators are turning over old stones to prosecute crimes dating back to the region's 1970s <i>dictatorships</i>. The Israeli Shin Bet chief and a UN commissioner met secretly to discuss Israeli "<i>assassinations</i>" (extra-judicial killings). Chechen and Russian security forces are accused of acting "with impunity" in Chechnya. Augusto Pinochet has been charged with <i>murder</i> and is expected to be placed under <i>house arrest</i>. [He soon thereafter had a heart attack.]
2006 Nov 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of the Israeli armed forces says he is "disappointed but not surprised" that instructions restricting use of <i>cluster bombs</i> had been ignored, breaching Israel's own rules on their use.
2006 Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As medical workers in Congo now reach areas in the east of the country long cut off by conflict, the scale of atrocity is becoming clear. Confirming the barbaric nature of their national character, Japan begins its annual <i>whale</i> slaughter.
2006 Nov 13	<p>!!! The "<i>explosive remnants of war</i>" pact, clinched three years ago, has now been <i>ratified</i> by more than the 20 states needed to become legally binding." The UN has again urged states to ban use of <i>cluster bombs</i> with particular reference to recent massive Israeli use of the weapons in South Lebanon -- "...the density of cluster munitions in southern Lebanon is higher than in Kosovo and Iraq, and denser in built-up areas. "</p>
2006 Nov 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 30	<p>↓ US Vice-President Cheney has made reference to '<i>a dunk in the water</i>' in relation to <i>interrogation</i> of detainees; during the next White House press briefing, a frustrated reporter asked: "So the detainees go swimming?"</p>
2006 Oct 23	<p>↓ Israel's admission of using <i>phosphorus bombs</i> explains the burns on civilians reported by doctors during the recent Lebanon war. The US military has laid charges against 11 soldiers for actions in Iraq.</p>



2006 Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Narathiwat [Thailand] following an alert by Agir Pour les Femmes en Stuation Precaire, 34 women and children including some foreigners were rescued <i>from sex slavery</i>.
2006 Oct 09	<p>↑ The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) in Sheffield has opened as "Europe's first dedicated centre to tackle gangs who bring unwitting young women from abroad".</p>
2006 Oct 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israeli rights group <i>B'Tselem</i> says Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip's sole power plant was "collective punishment", disproportionate and a <i>war crime</i>.
2006 Sep 25	<p>↓ The UN has urged Guatemala to start the trial process on the more than 200,000 people who died during the war, 80% allegedly killed by <i>state security forces</i>.</p>
2006 Sep 18	<p>↓ With <i>torture</i> in the headlines, the CIA wants the Administration to confirm that its "alternative set of procedures" for interrogation are legal. Interest groups said Britain is no better than Mozambique, Tajikistan, and Chad in meeting its commitment to clear <i>mines</i> from places such as the Falklands — it was claimed that Myanmar's military regime makes more extensive use of <i>mines</i> than any other government in the world. International Crisis Group said the Bush White House has made "10 grievous mistakes" that have only made the risk of <i>genocide</i> worse in Darfur. <i>Amnesty International</i> said Israel's actions do not justify <i>Hezbollah</i>'s equally indiscriminate attack on civilian areas. Even Philippines President Arroyo's allies believe retiring General Palparan should be cleared of charges of <i>extrajudicial killing</i> before appointment to the National Security Council.</p>
2006 Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN Population Fund has said that governments should look among the 95 million women migrating across borders each year for <i>human trafficking</i> (sex slavery) — the International Organization for Migration estimates from 600,000 to several million may be victims of trafficking and the routes used are often the same as those used for <i>opium</i> and <i>heroin</i>. <p>The Pentagon has issued new policy reverting to the <i>Geneva Convention</i> protocols for treatment of <i>prisoners</i>.</p>
2006 Sep 04	<p>↓ Four businessmen have been charged in Japan with bringing young women in illegally from Russia and Ukraine to work as nightclub hostesses—Malaysia is planning to replace a patchwork of legislation with new law dealing with <i>human trafficking</i>. In the wake of scandals relating to the harvesting of <i>body parts</i>, FDA has formed a task force to investigate. The US has asked for an extension until 2012 to destroy its <i>mustard gas</i> and reassures all that "only a very small amount of dioxins emerge from the facility's exhaust stacks." The UN unambiguously condemned Israel's use of <i>cluster bombs</i> in Lebanon and the estimated 100,000 bomblets still unexploded.</p>
2006 Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN said it has <i>prime facie</i> evidence that Israel used <i>cluster bombs</i> in civilian areas of Lebanon, violation of international law and a specific agreement with the US — Israel has fired two missiles at a clearly-marked white jeep operated by <i>Reuters</i>, wounding five, adding to the number of "accidents" in recent weeks.
2006 Aug 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unrelated <i>human trafficking</i> (sex slavery) syndicates were busted in the US east coast and Indonesia — with amnesty laws now overturned, Argentina is looking at <i>atrocities</i> of 30 years ago.
2006 Aug 14	<p>↓ The trial of a contractor for murdering a detainee in Afghanistan may provide a legal precedent for <i>interrogation</i> methods — a White House amendment to the War Crimes Act would <u>remove</u> applicability of the Geneva Convention to "outrages upon personal dignity" and "deliberately humiliating acts" — a US West-coast <i>human trafficking</i> gang importing Asian women in shipping containers was busted — an international tribunal convicted three ethnic Albanians of mistreatment of fellow</p>



2006 Aug 07	<p>Albanians thought to be Serb collaborators during 1998.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina made the first conviction for atrocities committed during the military dictatorship of 1976-1983 — a Chilean prosecutor has finally questioned Pinochet over a 1974 killing — coalition forces in Iraq razed a district dating back to the First Abbasi Period (762-833 AD) for a soccer field.
2006 Jul 31	<p>↓ Israel rejected calls by the ICRC and several nations for a three-day cease-fire to clear wounded and civilians from south Lebanon. On the same day, Israel bombed a civilian refuge.</p>
2006 Jul 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With increased awareness, enforcement agencies are finding <i>human trafficking</i> throughout the world – this week Uzbeks in Kazakhstan, and Polish “slaves” in Italy.
2006 Jul 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China, as a member of Greater Mekong Sub-region, assured its efforts to fight <i>human trafficking</i> in this key area; Amnesty says Algeria is routinely using <i>torture</i> in interrogating Islamist dissident suspects.
2006 Jul 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following years of rumors, well-documented evidence surfaced on human organ harvesting in China; Burma/Myanmar has indirectly threatened to kill Aung San Suu Kyi; Spain laid war crimes charges in connection with Guatemala’s civil war.
2006 Jul 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some police successes and programmes in many countries has rapidly increased awareness of human trafficking / modern slavery issues.
Commencement of Service	

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