



# Public Daily Brief



Week: 31 July – 06 August 2006

## Forecast

this week: **Civil War**

And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. (*Genesis 17:8*)

Civil war is defined by what it is not – *not* war between fielded forces of nation states. Because there is often no “army” to be defeated, internecine inconclusive lethality can continue for decades, even centuries. Similarly, **insurgency** is defined as *not* civil war but it is just a matter of degree. Insurgencies can be victorious; the Long March of the Communist forces in China, or the uprising by American merchants against good King George.

The longest running civil war today is said to be the struggle since 1948 by the **Karen** in **Myanmar** (Burma) but the **Philippines** (1960s), **Thailand** (1960s), **Somalia** (1977), **Sri Lanka** (1983) are just some of the other conflicts that extend over decades. But this Guinness book of records approach misses a crucial point. The southern Thailand conflict actually arises in Siamese annexation of an Islamic Sultanate in the 16<sup>th</sup> century; the **Moro** (“Moor”) insurgency in the southern Philippines originates in the Spanish conquest of 1571. The **Troubles** in **Northern Ireland** date to victory by William over James II at the Boyne in 1690. Deep rifts in the **Balkans** date to when and where the Ottomans were halted in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

What may be civil war in all but name may be called an *insurgency* or *terrorism* for rhetorical reasons as with present-day **Iraq**, invented in 1932 when Whitehall sought to unite three Ottoman provinces (*Mosul, Baghdad and Basra*) into a new impossible entity.

Foreign intervention in civil wars is a gamble and the US had a run of bad luck – backing the **Taliban** in **Afghanistan**, the **Shah** in **Iran**, **Iraq** against **Iran** -- a geopolitical three-in-a-row loss. This points to intrinsic dangers of taking sides in “local” conflicts, or systematic short-sightedness in US foreign policy. Intervention such as this often escalates into a **proxy war**.

As the roots of civil wars and insurgencies are often very deep -- like a village feud in Calabria -- the origins are so distant that which party is clearly “right” or “wrong” is meaningless. The cycle of violence can only be solved with adult supervision and the only legitimate “adult supervision” at present – apart from some land-giving God – is the **United Nations** and **International Courts**.



# Public Daily Brief



**World Crises** based on monthly assessments by *International Crisis Group*.

**“In 36 months ... ICG has not recorded such severe deteriorations in so many conflict situations as in the past month, and several have significant regional and global implications.”**

!!!	<b>Alert</b>	Israel/Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Somalia, Sri Lanka
↓	<b>Deteriorated</b>	Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kashmir, Lebanon, North Korea, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan
↑	<b>Improved</b>	Angola, Cyprus, DR Congo, Timor-Leste

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4296>

## LEGEND

Hazard Level	Change Codes
	↓ Deteriorated
	• Steady
	↑ Improved
	!!! Alert
	



## Threats

Summary

See daily items on the web at

<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?THREATS>

<b>Poverty</b>	• An example of the developing world losing to the developed – over 48,000 Filipino nurses lost to the US over ten years.
<b>Infectious Disease</b>	↓ Complacency and ignorance is leading to neglect of <i>vaccination</i> in the West and diseases once eradicated are now returning.
<b>Environment</b>	↓ Just one byproduct of China's shining progress is a half-million tons of <i>sulphur dioxide</i> sent into the atmosphere each <i>week</i> — studies showed newly-perceived dangers of <i>nano-particle</i> pollutants, so small they pass through most filters — states are asking the EPA to disclose those toxic ingredients in <i>pesticides</i> which due to a legal nonsense are not presently listed on products — the <i>oceans</i> have been found to be teeming with orders of magnitude more unknown types of <i>bacteria</i> than once thought — FEMA's post-Katrina trailer-homes seem to be an instance of " <i>sick building syndrome</i> " associated with out-gassing from modern building materials..
<b>Inter-State Conflict</b>	!!! Far from destroying an enemy, <b>Israel's</b> action in <b>Lebanon</b> seems to have prompted a new unity in the <b>Middle East</b> and the <b>Islamic</b> world and the mistake in Qana prompted the charge of "war crime" — senior US and UK insiders were more freely using "civil war" to describe <b>Iraq</b> .
<b>Civil War</b>	↓ NATO officially assumed responsibility from the <b>US</b> in southern <b>Afghanistan</b> — the 20-year civil war in <b>Sri Lanka</b> erupted into fierce fighting in previously unaffected areas — the <b>US</b> was said to be backing <b>Ethiopia</b> to invade <b>Somalia</b> and bring down the new Islamists regime.
<b>Genocide</b>	• The genocidal civil war in <b>Darfur</b> seems destined to roll onwards because the peace deal forced through by the <b>US</b> did not include the right parties — <b>Amnesty</b> warned that two <b>Rwandan</b> genocide suspects are in the <b>UK</b> .
<b>Other Atrocities</b>	• <b>Argentina</b> made the first conviction for atrocities committed during the military dictatorship of 1976-1983 — a <b>Chilean</b> prosecutor has finally questioned Pinochet over a 1974 killing — coalition forces in <b>Iraq</b> razed a district dating back to the First Abbasi Period (762-833 AD) for a soccer field.
<b>Proliferation</b>	↓ <b>US</b> has imposed trade sanctions on Russian firms (and others) for trading weapons components with <b>Iran</b> — <b>Nigeria</b> declared its intention to acquire peaceful <i>nuclear</i> technologies — one suggested approach for non-proliferation is a resolute clampdown on nuclear weapons from <b>Israel</b> to <b>Iran</b> — there was a warning that new recombinant DNA technologies brought unimaginably horrible possibilities for custom-made <i>weaponisable pathogens</i> .
<b>Terrorism</b>	↓ Al-Zawahri has welcomed an <b>Egyptian</b> group with lineage back to the assassination of Anwar Sadat to the <b>al-Qaida</b> franchise — observers said an al-Qaida-related group is consolidating a power-base in <b>Bangladesh</b> — <b>DNI</b> has started a National Intelligence Estimate on the foreign Islamist influence in <b>Iraq</b> , the first Estimate on Iraq since mid-2004.
<b>Transnational Crime</b>	↓ A new specialised <b>UK</b> police unit said transnational crime, fuelled by drug revenue, is 'increasing in both scope and complexity'.

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

!!! ALERT



# Public Daily Brief



## Policy Summary

see daily items on the web at  
<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?POLICY>

<b>Agriculture</b>	• Many informed parties said the failure of the <i>Doha Round</i> was largely due to the US commitment to its Farm policies — but the next meeting of the <b>Cairns Group</b> may be able to make progress on this.
<b>Debt</b>	↓ Some said the federal government's financial health got \$3.5 trillion worse last year — it was revealed that US tax-payers are cheated by as much as \$70 billion a year by <i>tax evaders</i> — auditors said that USAID used an accounting "shell game" to hide cost overruns in <b>Iraq</b> .
<b>Diplomacy</b>	!!! In continuing protests in many parts of the world the US was seen as inseparable from <b>Israel's</b> actions in <b>Lebanon</b> .
<b>Economy</b>	• Further indicators suggested a slight slowing in the US economy — more troubling were fundamental warning signs in several Western economies such as Italy and Portugal.
<b>Education</b>	• [nothing significant to report]
<b>Energy</b>	• The <b>US Energy Agency</b> will invest \$250M for research into cellulosic <i>ethanol</i> and other fuels derived from plant byproducts — the <i>natural gas</i> price rose 35% in July reflecting increased demand — <b>Venezuela</b> will send <i>gasoline</i> to <b>Iran</b> which has much oil but little refining capacity.
<b>Family</b>	↓ The FDA move towards approving "Plan B" morning-after pill promised another religion-based debate — several stories covered an intimate link between the US and Israel through the <b>Christian-Zionist</b> groups.
<b>Immigration</b>	• Only half of the <b>Guard</b> troops planned were on border duty by the Presidential August 1 deadline — 25 new Assistant US Attorneys were appointed in the five federal law enforcement districts on the border to alleviate one of the log-jams in processing illegal immigrants.
<b>Justice</b>	• [nothing significant to report]
<b>Security</b>	↓ A dampener on the zealous introduction of <i>RFID</i> -enabled passports is the risk that miscreants could scan the chip from metres away and target individuals or nationalities in a way not now possible — a security audit confirmed undisclosed flaws in the <i>port workers ID</i> system — two-thirds of the <b>Army</b> and the <b>Army National Guard</b> is "not ready" due to a backlog in replacements and repairs.
<b>Social Security</b>	↓ In a move that may have resonance in the US, the UK Science Select Committee has recommended <i>drug</i> laws "remove the link with penalties and just focus on harm" -- this places alcohol and tobacco higher in the harm list than cannabis — <b>police</b> groups are alarmed at the current rapid rise in serious <i>crime</i> .
<b>Water</b>	• [nothing significant to report]
↓ deteriorated                      • steady                      ↑ improved                      !!! ALERT	



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## Challengers

Summary

see daily items on the web at

<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?CHALLENGERS>

<b>Brazil</b>	•	[nothing significant to report]
<b>China</b>	•	The first batch of crude oil arrived in China through the China- <b>Kazakhstan</b> pipeline — authorities reported, without elaboration, the seizure of significant quantities of <i>arms</i> and <i>explosives</i> — in response to bad press on the <i>sulphur dioxide</i> problem, China announced market-based measures to pressure polluters.
<b>India</b>	•	India and <b>Pakistan</b> ordered tit-for-tat expulsions, the first since 2003, when a Pakistani diplomat was caught "red handed" with sensitive documents.
<b>Indonesia</b>	↓	The <b>Majelis Mujahidin</b> has called for jihadists to deploy to Lebanon — another group said "hundreds" of jihadis are about to be sent against Jewish targets — authorities and some analysts said the claims are likely to be symbolic and extravagant.
<b>Iran</b>	↓	<b>Russia</b> has joined the <b>Security Council</b> consensus on Iran's nuclear program — a UN report of 18 July 2006 was revealed indicating that a huge shipment of <i>Uranium</i> 238 from the <b>Congo</b> bound for Iran was intercepted in <b>Tanzania</b> ..
<b>Russia</b>	•	<b>Georgia</b> and Russia made military postures in the Kodori Gorge of disputed <b>Abkhazia</b> .
<b>Venezuela</b>	↓	Venezuela recalled its ambassador from <b>Israel</b> and announced it will <i>source air-defense</i> system/s from <b>Russia, Belarus, or Iran</b> .
[wild-card]	↓	There was support for a new significant trade entity, a US\$10T <b>pan-Asian free trade area</b> centered on the <b>ASEAN</b> region — one analyst noted that <b>Afghanistan</b> is just one piece of the century old <b>Central Asia</b> "Great Game" — the new <b>Turkish</b> military chief hinted his country may trade Turkish participation in a NATO <b>Lebanon</b> force for action against <b>Kurds</b> in northern <b>Iraq</b> .
↓ deteriorated		• steady
		↑ improved
		!!! ALERT

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