



# Public Daily Brief



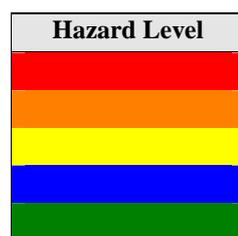
Week: 06 November – 12 November 2006

Focus article coming soon

## World Crises [based on monthly assessments by *International Crisis Group*]

!!!	<b>Alert</b>	<b>Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Somalia</b>
↓	<b>Deteriorated</b>	<b>Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Fiji, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Territories, North Korea, Philippines, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka</b>
↑	<b>Improved</b>	<b>Haiti, Northern Ireland (UK)</b>

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4476&l=1>



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



## Threats

Summary

see daily items on the web at

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

### Poverty

- A story on poor Pakistanis donating [selling] **kidneys** for money foreshadows how market forces may mean the rich will live off the poor in a new way. The UN observes that **global warming** will particularly hurt poor rural economies. **Transparency International's** latest report says (unsurprisingly) there is a "strong correlation" between **corruption** [in relation to **aid** monies, and otherwise] and poverty. In **India**, over 6,000 children below the age of five die every DAY mainly due to the lack of basic micro-nutrients like **vitamin A, iron, iodine, zinc, folic acid**. **US** undersecretary of State **Josette Sheeran** has been chosen executive director of the **World Food Programme** that in 2005 assisted 97 million people with a total expenditure of \$3.1B.

### Infectious Disease

- Debate continues since the *New Scientist* article of 20061030 on the virulence of the new **H5N1** strain originating in **China**; most concerning is the Chinese attempt to conceal the facts.  
A position some regard as the second most-important in the UN system, head of the **World Health Organization** has gone to the former **Hong Kong** director of public health, a Chinese national and "**bird flu**" expert.  
During a week of aid, trade, and diplomacy, **China** has vowed closer cooperation with **Africa** in fighting HIV/ AIDS, and **malaria**.

### Environment

- ↓ The West wants spending from the global [Climate Change] **Adaptation Fund** to be administered by **GEF** (Global Environment Facility); affected developing nations want more control.  
"Tilting at windfarms": a critic of the recent Stern Report says "wrong problem, wrong solution" and offers intelligent counter-arguments.  
Some experts want an urgent comprehensive review of the many real and present dangers from **chemicals** in the environment that are not yet widely known to be short-term and long-term hazards. A report says all children born in industrialized nations from 1960-80 are likely to have IQ impaired by environmental **chemicals**.  
Geochronology suggests the present drought over most of the driest continent, **Australia**, is a "**1,000 year**" **drought** -- whether this is an instance of global warming or not, it's very serious. Models also show that Australia, is set to get drier with **rainfall** possibly dropping 40% by 2070.  
**China** will surpass the **US** in 2009, nearly a decade ahead of previous predictions, as the biggest emitter **CO2**.



## Inter-State Conflict

- Angry with **Israel** and the **US**, the **Arab League** calls for an international conference on the **Palestinian** issue. A Brigadier-General forced to resign is the second **Israeli** officer to be sacrificed over the **Lebanon** affair. **France** has protested 'hostile' action by **Israeli** jets over **Lebanon** -- "*French troops had been within 'two seconds' of shooting down the aircraft.*" The **Arab League** wants peacekeepers in **Palestine** -- "At a time the **US** objects to the dispatch of peacekeeping troops to Palestine, it is demanding the deployment of international forces in Darfur." **Israeli** [accidental] killing of 19 **Palestinians** in **Gaza** prompted **Hamas** to respond to "The cowardly act of Zionists" by calling on "all resistance factions", interpreted by some to signal possible attacks in the **US** and elsewhere. A new extremist **Israeli** cabinet minister looks to the demographic reality of a future **Arab** majority in Israel and calls for an Arab-free Israel.

**Baghdad's** morgues are working over-capacity -- during October [2006] 1,600 bodies were turned in at the Baghdad central morgue -- "Men fearful of an anonymous burial are tattooing their thighs with names and [relative's] phone numbers". The **Iraqi** Health Minister says there have been 150,000 deaths and 450,000 injuries in the post-occupation conflict. **UK** Prime Minister Tony **Blair** will give his views to the **Baker-Hamilton** council of the wise on **Iraq**. In wake of the mid-term election, the **Pentagon** is reevaluating "strategy and goals" in Iraq -- "The collapse of the strategy in Baghdad . . . caused a very deep introspection by the military." According to the **US** chief reconstruction auditor in **Iraq** \$8-10bn will go unspent because of lack of capacity; and some will end up with insurgents. **US** Marines are being trained for *urban warfare* -- "...the training was especially important for the *communication* Marines since they are often individually attached to units already in combat in **Iraq** or **Afghanistan**". In a departure from the **Pentagon's** decision not to deploy reserves for more than a cumulative 24 months in Iraq, **US Guard** units now face second tours in **Iraq**. A law the **Kurdish** regional government proposes on *petroleum* management would put the Kurds in opposition to the central government in Baghdad. A day after being sentenced to death, **Saddam** Hussein has called for reconciliation in Iraq -- "I call on all Iraqis, Arabs and Kurds, to forgive, reconcile and shake hands". Days after the death sentence on **Saddam**, informed Iraqis say fugitive former **Iraqi V-P Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri** has ordered **Sunni** and **Baathist** insurgents to cease fighting. [*Analysis*: This may be the start of a well-planned end-game by Baathists.] The **Iraqi** government announces a strategy not without risk that could see thousands of purged **Baath Party** members reinstated to their jobs.

**Afghan** casualties have quadrupled over last year -- now an average 600 are killed each month. As well, the overall pace of economic development is "much slower" than hoped. **Taliban** support seems on the rise in **Afghanistan**, hearts and minds lost through negligence; a local says "The **Taliban**, they are causing problems for us, but the government is causing problems for us too." A pro-government *tribal* elder was killed in **Waziristan**, perhaps proving Pakistan's contention that tribals and the insurgents are distinct groups.



## Civil War

- In **Congo**, final election results have not yet published but conflicts the *election* should have stopped have broken out in fighting over claims of election *cheating*.  
In **Nepal**, a surprise agreement that may end a 10 year civil war that has killed more than 13,000 people would bring the *Maoist rebels* into shared government.  
In **Sri Lanka** at least 65 civilians are killed and over 300 injured in heavy shelling by government forces in another day of the world's most serious civil war.  
The Somalia Islamic Courts regime has signed an accord with the *Speaker of Parliament* in Mogadishu, but the *Interim government* has played no part. A report for the UN Security Council reveals eleven (11) nations have fed the Somali war build-up, a build-up "aggressive even by Somali standards", making a wide-scale *proxy war* in **Somalia** very likely. In central Somalia, the Islamists are battling *Puntland* troops backed by **Ethiopia**.

## Genocide

- A Catholic nun in **Rwanda** has been sentenced to 30 years gaol for complicity in the genocide -- "She was responsible for selecting *Tutsis* and would throw them out of the hospital and the militia would then kill them."  
The UN says clashes in **Chad** may have killed 200 -- "We are deeply alarmed at the brutality in eastern Chad, which is already struggling to cope with more than 218,000 Sudanese refugees from neighboring *Darfur*."

## Other Atrocities

- !!! The "*explosive remnants of war*" pact, clinched three years ago, has now been *ratified* by more than the 20 states needed to become legally binding."  
The UN has again urged states to ban use of *cluster bombs* 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.*"

## Proliferation

- The **BND** (German secret service) will create a department to dealing with fighting global nuclear arms proliferation.  
**France** has tested a *nuclear-capable ballistic missile*; the 50 tonne *M51* with a range of some 8,000km is to replace France's existing submarine-based missiles by 2010.  
Speaking in **China**, the **Egyptian** Foreign Minister renewed Egypt's call for **Israel** to join the *NPT* and for a *nuclear-free Middle-East*.  
One commentator sees the proliferation threats against the **US** approaching a *perfect storm* -- "... the **Islamists, Russia or China** controls all *oil transit choke points*."

## Terrorism

- The head of **MI5** has warned on active terrorist threats -- "*Today, my officers and the police are working to contend with some 200 groupings or networks, totalling over 1,600 identified individuals.*"  
A *suicide bomber* in **Pakistan** kills 35 soldiers on a training ground -- "The bomber wrapped a chadar (cloak) around his body and came running into the training area."  
A plot to blow up the **NY Stock Exchange** and attack **Britain** with gas-filled limousines and a "*dirty bomb*" was serious enough to earn a UK resident 40 years jail.

## Transnational Crime

- [nothing significant to report]

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

!!! ALERT



# Public Daily Brief



<b>Policy</b>		<i>see daily items on the web at</i>
Summary		<a href="http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?POLICY">http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?POLICY</a>
<b>Agriculture</b>	•	[nothing significant to report]
<b>Debt</b>	•	[nothing significant to report]
<b>Diplomacy</b>	↓	For uncertain reasons, the <b>US</b> continued to put <b>Israeli</b> national interest above all else [including US national interest] by <i>vetoing</i> a UNSC resolution condemning Israeli actions in <b>Gaza</b> .  An analyst said the <b>US</b> policy on <b>Cuba</b> is dysfunctional – “ <i>the US is mumbling to itself</i> ”.
<b>Economy</b>	•	The <b>Trade deficit</b> declined 6.8% to \$64.3 billion in September after it had hit an all-time high of \$69 billion in August.
<b>Education</b>	•	[nothing significant to report]
<b>Energy</b>	•	The <b>International Energy Agency’s</b> (IEA) <i>World Energy Outlook (WEO) 2006</i> has echoed the findings of a recent <b>UK</b> [ <i>Stern</i> ] report – the world risks a ‘dirty’ energy future at its peril.
<b>Family</b>	•	At last <b>Jews</b> and <b>Muslims</b> in <b>Israel</b> firmly agree on something – a <b>gay</b> pride march must not go ahead.
<b>Immigration</b>	•	[nothing significant to report]
<b>Justice</b>	•	[nothing significant to report]
<b>Security</b>	•	<b>CARICOM</b> nations have signed an MoU with the <b>US</b> on providing <b>data</b> on people travelling to the US.  An [unclassified] Army memo says “Over <b>classification</b> is costly, inefficient and can cause slow downs to development/operation”.  Of possible relevance elsewhere ... Russia’s Federal Security Service ( <b>FSB</b> ) says there are “absolutely realistic” threats against <b>dams</b> in southern Russia.
<b>Social Security</b>	•	[nothing significant to report]
<b>Water</b>	↓	<b>UNDP</b> wants another \$4B a year to fight ‘ <b>water apartheid</b> ’, <b>water-borne diseases</b> that kill far more people than <b>HIV/AIDS</b> and <b>malaria</b> combined -- “We sometimes lose sight of the sheer depth of inequality.”.  The <b>UNDP</b> warns <b>Central Asia</b> faces the dual problems of weak regional cooperation on water issues and a collapsing <b>irrigation</b> system.
↓ deteriorated		• steady
		↑ improved
		!!! ALERT



## Challengers

Summary

see daily items on the web at

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

<b>Brazil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brazil</b> and <b>Peru</b> have signed agreements on <i>Amazon Surveillance, strategic intelligence</i> and other matters.</li> </ul>
<b>China</b>	<p>↑ Bilateral arrangements between the <b>ASEAN</b> grouping and <b>China</b> will create the world's biggest consumer market – <i>bilateral trade</i> is forecast to reach \$200B by 2010. China's politically sensitive <i>trade surplus</i> is expected to reach \$150B trade surplus, nearly 50% above the 2005 level.</p> <p>Guided democracy in action -- the <i>Central Committee</i> has issued <i>affirmative action</i> guidelines for election of local delegates to the 5-yearly <i>National Congress</i>, the theoretical supreme body in China. China seems aware of world opinion; the Chief Justice has ordered a more sober use of the <i>death penalty</i> says "every judgement must stand the test of time".</p> <p>Communism without <i>socialized medicine</i> is bizarre - Chinese locals riot and attack a hospital after a young boy died when his grandfather was sent away to raise money for the treatment. Police armed with shields, clubs and attack dogs fired tear gas on <i>thousands of villagers protesting</i> what they called a land grab by officials in southern China.</p> <p><i>Xinjiang</i>, adjoining <i>Central Asia</i> and <i>opium-rich Afghanistan</i>, has many heroin addicts, one-tenth of China's <i>AIDS</i> cases and the highest <i>HIV</i> infection rate in the country.</p> <p>China is expecting a bumpier road in relations with the <b>US</b> after the mid-term elections -- <b>Pelosi</b> [the new US House Speaker] "<i>consistently opposed Beijing's bid for the Olympics</i>". The Democrat-led Congress must now balance trade arrangements with China with the defense of <i>Uighurs, Tibetans, Mongolians</i> and other "oppressed groups".</p> <p>China's EPA says one tenth of China's <i>arable land</i> suffers from <i>pollution</i> and gives a litany of grave environmental problems.</p> <p>China feels it is on a run of diplomatic success, and now addresses one of the hard ones, the <i>Israel-Palestine</i> issue. China, the first nation with any diplomatic weight to take an interest in the decades old <b>Western Sahara</b> impasse says it is ready to take an "active role".</p>
<b>India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite high hope on settling differences, days before talks India says <i>Siachen</i> -- the world's highest battleground, where <b>China</b>, <b>India</b>, <b>Pakistan</b> meet -- is not negotiable.</li> </ul> <p>India puts its <i>airports</i> on high alert after a note was discovered in a bin -- "the note, written in <i>Tamil</i>, warned that <i>al Qaeda</i> militants would attack airports with car bombs or strike at individual passenger planes." [<i>Analysis: A Tamil – al Qaeda link is dubious.</i>] Presumably following different leads, the <b>US</b> embassy has warned <b>US</b> citizens living in India of possible attacks in <i>New Delhi</i> and <i>Mumbai</i> 11-16 November 2006.</p> <p>India will require an estimated \$320B in borrowings for "sprucing up and creating <i>infrastructure</i>" during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007 to 2012). "</p>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<p>↑ A new <b>Indonesia-Australia security pact</b> largely consolidates existing agreements but adds, for Indonesia's benefit, a pledge not to encourage <i>separatist movements</i>.</p> <p>An Indonesian court convicts seven Papuans for killing two <b>US</b> school teachers in remote <b>Papua</b> province four years ago.</p>



# Public Daily Brief



**Iran**

↓ Following both **US** and Iranian exercises in the **Gulf** region, the Commander of Iran's **Revolutionary Guards** offers some proven **missile** technologies to any countries fighting the "Zionist regime".

Iran may reconsider a previous **Russian** proposal to enrich **uranium** on the Russian soil. [Analysis: Russian's full support of Iran has weakened a little as WTO negotiations advance.] Iran's chief **nuclear** negotiator **Larijani** visited **Russia**.

**Russia**

• A vote that the West says is unlawful confirms **South Ossetia**'s wish for secession from **Georgia** to join Russia.

Russia is moving closer to admission to **WTO** membership -- "It took 12 years of negotiations to get to this point, and details are still being nailed down. "

Some analysts said that the failure of a recent Russian **missile test** increases fears of a **nuclear** 'hair-trigger' until Russia can feel 'safe'. [Item includes a good back-grounder on Russian **strategic nuclear status**.]

**UN sanctions** against **DPRK** has interrupted a Russian project that would supply a joint north-south Korean **electricity grid**.

**Venezuela**

• Three weeks away from an **election**, **Hugo Chavez** confides to the world press "I'm not a populist, I'm a revolutionary". President Chavez continues his charm offensive on the **US** Administration, suggesting President Bush should receive the death sentence before Saddam.

[wild-card]

• In **Bangladesh Awami League** protesters attack trains and shut down cities alleging electoral cheating -- "We have instructed our followers to paralyse the country ... including ports, buses, trains and ferries" said Awami general secretary Abdul Jalil.

**Pakistan**'s PM says there is an "historic opportunity" to resolve **Kashmir**, adding Pakistan cannot accept **US** discrimination on access to **civilian nuclear technology**.

The Second **World Islamic Economic Forum** in Islamabad has ended with a joint declaration to form an **Islamic Free Trade Area** in the Muslim world.

The claimed discovery of a "super-giant" **natural-gas field** with reserves of 7 trillion cubic meters in **Turkmenistan** is still to be confirmed.

*International Crisis Group* says "**Kyrgyzstan** is on the verge of political breakdown and possible **civil war**."

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

!!! ALERT

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