

**GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

*Destabilizing Threats, Stabilizing Policies, and Global Powers at a Glance*

**Threat Summary**

<p><b>Environment.</b> Rate of melting glaciers doubled in ten years. Global warming impact like nuclear war.  <b>Inter-State Conflict.</b> Israel attacks Syria, US Official deceive public on <i>Anatomy of a Tribal Revolt</i>.  <b>Proliferation.</b> Egypt going nuclear while Bangladesh asks Russians for nuclear assistance.</p>
<p><b>Poverty.</b> Millions fewer children dying world-wide, distribution of mosquito nets cited as one reason.  <b>Infectious Disease.</b> Fake drugs flooding black markets; Untreatable Ebola outbreak in DR Congo.  <b>Civil War.</b> Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia Zimbabwe all more complex, worse off, another genocide looms.  <b>Genocide.</b> See Civil War.  <b>Transnational Crime.</b> Mexican police chief killed. Diego Montoya captured, Chiquita fined \$25M.</p>
<p><b>Other Atrocities.</b> DR Congo mass graves, Central African Republic elite unit accused of atrocities.  <b>Terrorism.</b> Recommend a full reading—war on terror is being lost for lack of <a href="#">proper analytic model</a>.</p>

**Policy Summary**

<p><b>Diplomacy.</b> Soft Power gaining against American Militarism. Africa Command not welcome in Africa.  <b>Security.</b> Computer-assisted financial fraud soars; Irregular Warfare doctrine updated by USAF.  <b>Society.</b> Republicans in danger of losing the God vote. RFID implants in animals linked to cancer.</p>
<p><b>Economy.</b> Greenspan praises Clinton, attacks Cheney/Bush as fiscally irresponsible.  <b>Education.</b> <a href="#">Earth Intelligence Network</a> begins campaign to teach 5 billion poor “one call at a time.”  <b>Health.</b> .See Infectious Disease.  <b>Immigration.</b> Dormant in the news.  <b>Water.</b> New technology cleans water without use of chemicals. Could be revolutionary.</p>
<p><b>Agriculture.</b> This could go orange in 2008. Adverse weather, water scarcity slashing harvests.  <b>Energy.</b> Solar-powered UAV, solar houses in Negev, radio frequencies help burn salt water.  <b>Family.</b> Dormant in the news.  <b>Justice.</b> CIA finally comes to its senses and bans water-boarding torture—or at least say they have.</p>

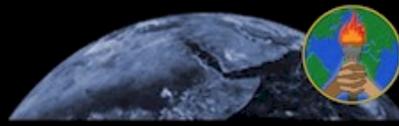
**Major Player Summary**

<p><b>Iran.</b> Romance with Nicaragua continues. US could bomb Iran despite 70% against.</p>
<p><b>Brazil.</b> .Armored train attacked twice by drug gang from northern Rio de Janeiro.  <b>China.</b> World-wide hacking wars feature China both giving and receiving. Sending troops to Darfur.  <b>India.</b> India joins Pakistan, Iran, and Venezuela with submarine investments—US Navy not ready.  <b>Indonesia.</b> Buying Russian helicopters, weapons, developing a spaceport. Murder by poison of activist.  <b>Russia.</b> Super-Bomb tested. 17 1200 MWe reactors planned for 2013-2020. Cabinet dismissed.  <b>Venezuela.</b> Review of domestic and foreign agenda; Chavez likely to win end of term limits.  <b>Wild Cards.</b> Naawaz Sharif deported within hours of arrival, to Saudi Arabia.</p>

**World Crises - from monthly assessments by [International Crisis Group](#) at 01 September 2007**

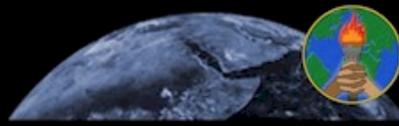
<p><b>Alert:</b> Democratic Republic of Congo</p>
<p><b>Deteriorated:</b> Bangladesh, Burundi, DR Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Philippines, Somalia</p>
<p><b>Improved:</b> Sierra Leone, Turkey</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unchanged:</b> Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), China (internal), Colombia, Comoros Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Northern Ireland, North Korea, Pakistan, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Somaliland (Somalia), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zimbabwe</li> </ul>

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<b>Threats</b>		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at <a href="#">PDB-Threats</a></i>
<b>Poverty</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>	<p>↑ <b>UNICEF</b> reports that <i>child deaths</i> have fallen by <u>millions</u> through <u>simple measures</u> such as distribution of <i>mosquito nets</i>; "<i>Global child deaths fell to 9.7 million in 2005, down from nearly 13 million in 1990</i>" -- <a href="#">UNICEF: Fewer Children Dying Worldwide</a>.</p>	
<b>Infectious Disease</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>	<p>↓ <b>WHO</b> reports an outbreak of deadly [untreatable] <i>Ebola</i> in <b>DR Congo</b>; "<i>We have to get more people on the ground in the area to investigate.</i>" -- <a href="#">Ebola outbreak confirmed in Congo, WHO sending teams</a>.</p> <p><i>Fake AIDS</i> [and other] <i>drugs</i> are flooding <b>Zimbabwe</b> [and other places in Africa]; "<i>State radio said that the illegal medications were either <b>adulterated</b> with other substances or <b>useless fakes</b> .... '<b>prohibitive</b>' cost of antiretroviral drugs had fuelled the illegal market</i>" -- <a href="#">Fake AIDS drugs flood Zim black market</a>.</p>	
<b>Environment</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>	<p>↓ <i>Rate of melting glaciers has <u>doubled in ten years</u></i> -- "<i>Chile currently has 2.7 percent of the world's glaciers. Still, its glacier melt is accounting for 7.7 percent of the rise in the world's ocean levels.</i>"</p> <p>It's bad news ... but may save billions in <i>shipping costs</i>; "<i>the most direct shipping route from Europe to Asia is fully <u>clear of ice for the first time since records began</u></i>" - <a href="#">Warming 'opens Northwest Passage'</a></p> <p><i>Palm oil</i> is taking over in <b>Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand</b> -- <a href="#">Biofuel Demand Turns Southeast Asian Forests Into Palm Oil Plantations</a>.</p> <p><b>China</b> moves to comprehend changes in <i>climate</i>; "<i>the <b>China Meteorological Administration</b> (CMA) yesterday said it has completed a <b>national climate observation network</b> to help <u>mitigate</u> global warming</i>" -- <a href="#">China establishes climate change monitor network</a>.</p> <p><b>London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine</b> "<i>estimated 2.4 billion people worldwide were exposed to <b>pollution</b> from <b>inefficient burning</b> of solid fuels like <b>wood, coal and dried cow dung</b></i>" -- <a href="#">Dirty energy threatens health of 2 billion - study</a>.</p> <p>From <i>chromite</i> mines to <i>Dzerzinsk</i> [Russia], from <i>Tianying</i> [China] to massive <i>pesticide</i> dumps ... "<i>But there are also many sites this survey likely overlooks ...</i>" -- <a href="#">World's Top 10 Most Polluted Places</a>.</p> <p>The <b>International Institute for Strategic Studies</b> [UK] security think-tank says the consequences of <i>global warming</i> are likely to be very serious; "<i>global warming would hit <b>crop yields</b> and <b>water availability</b> everywhere, causing great human suffering and leading to <b>regional strife</b></i>" -- <a href="#">Global warming impact like "nuclear war" - report</a>.</p> <p>see: <b>Agriculture</b></p>	
<b>Inter-State Conflict</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>	<p>↓ "<i>The skirmishing for control of <b>seabed resources</b> in the <b>Arctic</b> is quickly gathering pace</i>"; <b>Russia, Canada, US</b> are the main contenders -- <a href="#">Race is on for Arctic resources</a>.</p> <p>A <i>rocket</i> fired "<i>from the <b>Gaza Strip</b> wounded more than 40 soldiers at an <b>Israeli</b> army base yesterday, the highest casualty toll for a missile fired from the coastal enclave.</i>" -- <a href="#">Rocket carnage at army base</a>. In consequence ... <a href="#">Small Israeli force enters southern Gaza: witnesses</a> -- "<i>An Israeli army spokesman confirmed military activity in the area against what he called 'terror threats'</i>."</p> <p>With all parties tight-lipped, an <b>Israeli air incursion</b> into <b>Syria</b> on 06 Sep 2007 was reported differently in various sources. <a href="#">U.S. officials confirm Israel strike on Syria</a> --</p>	

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"... the significance of the strikes was not whether Israel hit its targets, but rather that it displayed a willingness to take military action." The *Jerusalem Post* said **'Turkey gave Israel intel on Syria'** -- "[Turkey] had a central role in delivering precise information regarding **targets** in Syria that were to be hit by Israeli planes." *Al-Ahram* [Egypt] wrote more on the incursion [assuming Syria had repulsed the Israelis] in the context of Middle East wars -- **Marching to war with cold feet**. A later, more detailed report from *The Times* [UK] assumed the Israeli incursion was successful, and gave details of a dark armaments web stretching to **DPR Korea** -- **Israelis 'blew apart Syrian nuclear cache'**.

**Sheik Abdul Sattar Abu Risha**, whom President **Bush** met in **Iraq** days ago, a model of the **Sunni** Arab allies the **US** needs, has been killed -- **Iraqi insurgents kill key US ally**. US officials are misleading the public, read **Anatomy of a Tribal Report**.

**US** ambitions in **Somalia** and the **Horn of Africa** find **Eritrea** a major strategic "irritant" -- **Eritrea-Ethiopia border dispute accentuates broader Horn of Africa tensions**. Also: **How Eritrea fell out with the west** -- "aggressive US foreign policy is fuelling conflict in the volatile region, pointing to Washington's support for Ethiopia's military intervention to topple Islamist forces in Somalia ...."

see: **Civil War**

**Civil War**  
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ In **Sudan's Darfur**, an **umbrella rebel grouping**, **Justice and Equality Movement**, expects more than 2,000 people representing disparate anti-government stakeholders to attend a meeting in a rebel-held area two days before the **peace talks** start in **Libya** -- **Darfur rebels call assembly ahead of peace talks**.

**Somalia** is getting no simpler; "observers of the situation in Somalia say the conflict in the troubled country of about 10 million people has never before been as complex as it is now"-- **A confusing mix of conflict in Somalia**. Somali **Islamists** and opposition leaders meeting in **Eritrea** have formed the [umbrella] **Alliance for the Liberation of Somalia** aimed at overthrowing the **US-backed** transitional Somali government -- **New Somali alliance threatens war**.

**Ethnic Somali** in eastern **Ethiopia** – an area called **Ogaden** – warn the world they are facing slaughter; "a **UN fact-finding mission** had only visited areas sanctioned by the [Ethiopian] government" -- **Ethiopia's Ogaden rebels warn of "African genocide"**.

The latest in adverse developments in **Zimbabwe** is a **strike** by government **teachers**; "Suspected state **security agents** and education officers were said to be paying visits to schools in **Harare**, **Masvingo** and **Bulawayo** and **threatening** teachers with unspecified action ..." -- **Zimbabwe Teachers Strike Enters Third Day Amid Allegations of Intimidation**.

see: **Inter-State Conflict**

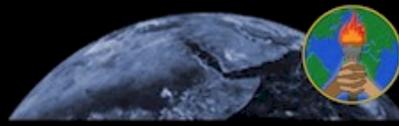
**Genocide**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

**Other Atrocities**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• An "elite" unit of the **Central African Republic army** has been accused of atrocities in the area near **Darfur**; "the worst violence occurs just across the CAR's northeastern border with **Sudan's** strife-wracked **Darfur** region" -- **CAR army commit mass atrocities - report**.

In **Democratic Republic of Congo**, **mass graves** have been found in the area controlled by **rebel** **Laurent Nkunda**; "Nkunda says he is protecting his own minority **Tutsi** population in **Nord-** and **Sud-Kivu** provinces from locally based mainly **Rwandan Hutu FDLR** rebels ..." -- **Mass graves found in eastern DRC**.



**Proliferation**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- *Al-Ahram* discusses **Egypt's nuclear** ambitions; "Egypt's first step on the road to nuclear power was taken in 1953, when a nuclear energy committee was established" -- [Going nuclear](#).
- [Bangladesh seeks N-power technology from Russia](#) -- "all countries do not like to extend nuclear cooperation. Russia has the appropriate technology for it."

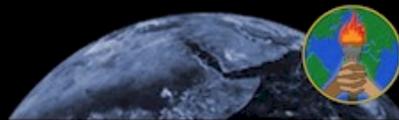
**Terrorism**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- The **suicide bomber** in a recent attack in **Algeria** is found to be 15 years old; "According to the **al-Qaeda** statement, young **Nabil** had changed his name to **Abou Mossaab Zerkaoui**, the former **al-Qaeda** head in Iraq who was killed in a US raid." - [Algerian car bomber was only 15 years old: report](#).
- New techniques will make it possible to analyze **DNA** after a **radiological disaster**; "So it's imperative that the DNA is removed from the radioactive material without damaging the quality of the sample, which can be tricky" -- [Decontaminated DNA may foil terrorists](#).
- Following similar arrests in **Germany**, **Austria** arrested local-born "terrorists"; "All of them are **second-generation** Austrian citizens with **Arab** origins." -- [Austria Arrests Three in Latest Islamist Terror Plot in Europe](#).
- **China** sees "**terrorism**" as the biggest threat to the **Olympics**; "some international terrorist or extremist groups might make use of the event to launch attacks for their own purposes ... " -- [Olympics - Terrorism seen as biggest threat to Beijing Games](#).
- **Germany** is moving towards wider **surveillance** powers for **counter-terrorist** agencies; "It can't be that we create a space in which terrorists are completely safe and the state can't enter it" says German Chancellor **Merkel** -- [Germany backs online monitoring](#).
- In **Pakistan**, **Islamist iconoclasts** attack a seventh-century Buddhist rock carving -- [Pakistani militants try to blow up Buddha carving](#).
- [Turkish police foil bomb attack in capital](#) -- "police had found a **van** packed with **explosives** near a multi-storey carpark in a central district of the city of four million."
- [Dangerous Alliance: Terrorism and Organized Crime](#) -- "The investigators revealed that **al Qaeda** was using the **Naples-based Camorra** mafia, with its extensive network and expertise in **forging documents**, to move its operatives through Europe ... "
- [Drain terror's ideological swamp: report](#) -- a startlingly naïve **Australian** "expert" report fails to see that its own ignorance is symptomatic of the problem, that **Islamic militancy**, "**terrorism**", **history**, and **resentment** are different things.
- [Scientists Use the 'Dark Web' to Snag Extremists and Terrorists Online](#) – a semantic-based approach may pluck fact from noise; "automatically extracts thousands of **multilingual, structural, and semantic features** to determine who is creating '**anonymous**' content online."
- A **Princeton** academic dispels some important common beliefs -- [5 Myths About Terrorism](#).
- [Roots of Islamic Terrorism: How Communists Helped Fundamentalists](#) -- "This article traces the roots of Islamic terrorism, with special focus on **Afghanistan**. ... " [Comment: Heavy going but probably quite useful. Why Osama sometimes sounds like a Communist...]

**Transnational Crime**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- [Gunmen kill central Mexican state police chief](#) -- "More than 1,600 people have been killed in **drug-related killings** in **Mexico** so far this year and some 2,000 died in 2006."

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*Colombia's smaller drug rings harder to catch* – Another difficult **asymmetry**: "... the collapse of major drug gangs like the **Medellin** and **Cali** cartels ... has opened up the market to **smaller groups**."

The *Big Banana* gets skinned for slip-ups in **Colombia** with **paramilitaries** -- . **Chiquita**: \$25M fine for terror payments.

*World's most wanted drug-trafficker captured in Colombia dressed in underwear, T-shirt* -- Diego **Montoya**: "He had ability, he rose through the ranks and became one of the last men standing after the rest fell."

**Policy**

**Agriculture**  
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ Across the world, **famine** no longer seems impossible ...

*Drought slashes Australia's harvests* -- "**Australia** is a big **wheat** exporter and a slim harvest is expected to ramp up **grain prices** worldwide. In the Murray-Darling Basin, the nation's food bowl, there isn't enough **water** to keep crops alive."

*EU takes exceptional measures to halt grain price rises* -- **Adverse weather** conditions have brought **historically high cereal prices** in **Europe**. [Comment: Another poor harvest in 2008 would have significant consequences.]

see: **Environment**

**Diplomacy**  
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ "From Peru, Brazil and Venezuela to Europe and Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey, many other governments and people have converged toward peaceful respect for each other"; the dogs of **compromise** and **multilateralism** have been released throughout the world ... but not by the now friendless **US** -- **Soft Power Gaining Against American Militarism**.

**AFRICOM** will start work on 01 October 2007 but finding a **host country** and convincing the locals that the **US** is there to help still remains to be done; "... to counter critics' charges that its strategy in Africa is driven by **greed, imperialism** or competition with **China** ..." -- **U.S. mounts charm offensive for new Africa Command**.

**Economy**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- Alan **Greenspan**, former long-term chair of the **Federal Reserve Bank**, is publishing a book, 'The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World' which says **Cheney/Bush** are '**libertarian Republicans**' who sacrificed **fiscal discipline** to their own political goals -- **Fed's Ex-Chief Attacks Bush on Fiscal Role**.

**Education**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

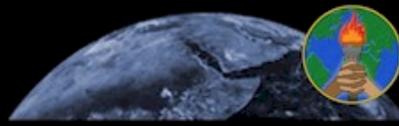
**Energy**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- *Cyprus to give away energy saving bulbs* -- the Cypriot government is intervening in a simple and effective way for **energy conservation**. [Comment: But Cyprus is conspicuous in Europe for its high use of **household irons** -- "Cypriots even iron their underwear" – a more challenging problem for the government.]

*OECD Warns Against Biofuels Subsidies* -- a final coffin nail perhaps in rapid support for **biofuels**: "... the current **rush** to support alternative energy sources will lead to **surging food prices** and the potential **destruction of natural habitats** ..."

*Radio Frequencies Help Burn Salt Water* -- Another **cold fusion** ... or earth-changing discovery? [Comment: Few early details are available. It is theoretically possible that the **right frequency** could weaken **hydrogen-oxygen** bonds but an immediate question is what energy input yields what energy output.]

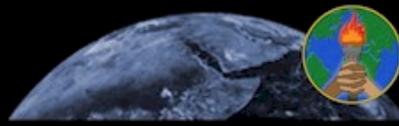
A **UK**-designed **solar-powered UAV** -- *Zephyr* -- has flown continuously for **54 hours**, beating the previous 30-hour record held by a US jet aircraft -- . **Solar-Powered Plane Smashes World Record, Sort Of**. [Comment: **Batteries** charged



	<p>during the day power the aircraft overnight.]</p> <p><i>World Trade Center's chief engineer to build solar houses in the Negev</i> -- "The house, fully equipped with appliances - including dishwasher, washing machine, refrigerator, oven ... costs \$50,000, and can be assembled from start to finish in two weeks."</p>
<b>Family</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</li> </ul>
<b>Immigration</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>	<p>↓ [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</p>
<b>Justice</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although still claiming past actions have been <u>legal</u>, the <b>CIA</b> has now proscribed one of several probably unlawful <i>interrogation techniques</i> -- <i>CIA bans 'water-boarding' interrogation technique: report.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Security</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new head of the <b>CIA clandestine service</b>, Michael J. <b>Sulick</b>, is the <u>second</u> top official who departed in the Porter <b>Goss</b> era now to <u>return</u> -- <i>Ex-Official Returns to Key Post at the C.I.A.</i></li> <li>A leading <b>UK</b> parliamentarian has called for <b>MI5</b> and <b>MI6</b> to merge; "<i>The terrorist threat makes a mockery of any neat division of labour between domestic and foreign operations</i>" -- <i>MI5 and MI6 'should merge'.</i></li> <li>The <i>Computer Security Institute</i> says "<i>For the first time, financial fraud overtook virus attacks as the source of the greatest financial losses ...</i>" -- <i>Annual CSI Study: Cost of Cybercrime Is Skyrocketing.</i></li> <li>Another senior officer joins the recognition that the today's world offers truly new types of challenges; "<i>you can't just attrit away all the insurgents and then declare victory</i>" said commander of the <b>US Air Force Doctrine Development and Education Center</b> -- <i>U.S. Air Force Updates Irregular-Warfare Doctrine.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Society</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Finland's Suicide Rates Has Dropped Dramatically in Last 15 Years</i> – nobody is confident of the reason. [<i>Comment: A key and unexplained point is that it is countries with the highest standard of living -- Iceland, New Zealand, Austria, ... -- that excel in suicide.</i>]</li> <li>Although well-known to be a registered <b>Republican</b>, <b>God</b> -- and some of the 40 million <b>Christian Right</b> -- may this time be <i>undecided</i>, or just stay home on election day – <i>Republicans in danger of losing US 'God vote'.</i></li> <li><i>Five percent of US families don't speak English: report</i> -- "<i>that marked a rise since 2000 of about eight million who don't speak English at home.</i>"</li> <li>Raising a <i>posse</i>: 10,000 unarmed and non-uniformed <b>volunteers</b> will patrol parts of <i>Philadelphia</i> to deter <b>drug dealing</b> and other <b>street crimes</b> -- <i>City calls for 10,000 men to combat violence.</i></li> <li><b>RFID implants</b> for life-saving medical reasons or debatable identification reasons is a <b>public debate</b> waiting in the wings; <i>RFID chip implants linked to cancer in animals</i> -- results so far are inconclusive but the debate has started.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new <b>UK</b> invention offers a technology that may have limitless application throughout the world; "<i>can clean up any water - including faecal matter - using a filter that cuts out anything longer than 15 nanometres, which means that viruses can be filtered out without the use of chemicals</i>" -- <i>Bottle makes dirty water drinkable.</i></li> </ul>

**Challengers**

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**Brazil**  
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ Brazilian *senators* have met *in camera* -- and illegally according to many -- and absolved the **Senate President** of charges laid by the **Senate Ethics Commission** -- *Brazil Senate's Secret Session Called Unconstitutional*.

Indicative of Brazil's precarious *crime* situation ... "An *armoured train* with two Brazilian *ministers* on board was attacked twice by *drug gangs* from the favela (slum) of Jacarezinho, in northern Rio de Janeiro" -- *Train with Brazilian ministers attacked by drug gangs*.

**China**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• *China Prepares to Send Peacekeepers to Darfur* – China is giving press briefings on its peace-keeper contribution.



**France, Australia and New Zealand** have joined a growing list of nations claiming *cyberattacks* by China -- *France blames China for hack attacks*.

Exercising the Politburo's renowned sense of humour, China has accused *foreign intelligence agencies* of causing "massive and shocking" damage to China by *hacking* into computers to ferret out *political, military and scientific secrets* -- *Chinese Official Accuses Nations of Hacking*.

*Thousands of Retired Soldiers Riot in China - Report* -- "about 2,000 former soldiers rioted in three Chinese cities last week over *poor conditions* ... smashing equipment and setting fires ... "

**India**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• *Terrorists changing tactics, but are we?* -- if a "small island of shopkeepers" [the **British**] could rule the world by mastery of systems, why can't India do better against terrorism asks a former **intelligence bureau** head.

*India building nuclear sub, says top scientist* -- "New Delhi is also reported to be negotiating for the *lease* of a second nuclear submarine from **Russia**."

Responding to criticism, a **security** official pleads that India is not doing so badly against a vast range of *insurgent* groups given the circumstances; "*We are not in a very good neighbourhood. It is dangerous, it is a far more complex situation than say what the UK or the US face*" -- *We have thwarted many attacks: National Security Adviser*.

A group of India's cabinet ministers are meeting to discuss *social development* as a response to the **Maoist** ("Naxalite") *insurgencies* in rural [feudal] areas -- *India discusses plans in Maoist-hit areas*.

Just north of India in **Nepal**, UN observers are concerned that **Maoists** who ended their '*people's war*' in November 2006 are agitating with increasing impatience for declaration of a **republic** -- *Maoist show of force draws UN concerns*.

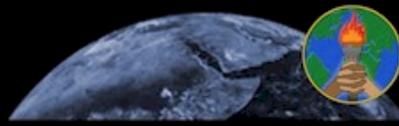
**Indonesia**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• *UN to send special rapporteur on torture to Indonesia* -- "it remained unclear what kind of cases he would observe." [No other details known.]

The Indonesian **Strategic Reserves Command (Kostrad)** is seeking funding for a third infantry division that would be deployed to **Papua** province-- *More troops eyed for Papua by 2014*.

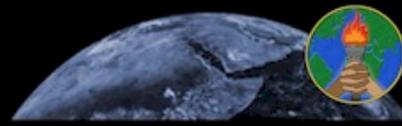
*Indonesia still tarnished by activist murder* – a sketch of the **KGB**-style murder by

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	<p><i>poison of human rights activist <b>Munir Thalib</b>.</i></p> <p><b>Indonesia to buy Russian helicopters, Sukhoi weapons</b> [also <b>Spaceport deal</b>] -- "<b>Putin</b> also signed agreements for Russia to develop a <b>spaceport</b> on the Indonesian island of <b>Biak</b>, off the coast of Irian Jaya."</p>
<p><b>Iran</b> news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<b>Nicaragua</b>, the Central American nation noted for its connection to Iran during a political scandal two decades ago [<b>"Iran-Contra"</b>], is coming under fresh scrutiny for its ties to Tehran." -- <i>Iran's Romance of Nicaragua</i>.</li> <li><i>Tick-Tock, Tick-Tock: Countdown to Midnight in Persia</i> -- two London academics argue it is quite plausible the <b>US</b> administration would <b>bomb</b> Iran into the Stone Age with only <u>30%</u> public support.</li> <li><i>Ahmadinejad interview [Transcript]</i> – interview by Channel 4 [UK]; "Some people in America do exist who would like to use military force when they have lost a logical argument however there are many wise people in the US too."</li> </ul>
<p><b>Russia</b> news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Russia to get a new space port</b> -- more detail on Russian space ambitions, starting with the new space center and city.</li> <li><i>Russia plans deployment of small reactors</i> -- seventeen 1200 MWe reactors will come online 2013-2020 at a wide range of sites, with more yet to be proposed.</li> <li>Devastating but not <b>radioactive</b> -- <i>Russia tests superstrength bomb: military</i>; "Test results of the new airborne weapon have shown that its efficiency and power is commensurate with a nuclear weapon."</li> <li>One of the many challenges Russia faces is the loss of <b>Ukraine</b> as a client state -- "Representatives of Russian <b>special services</b> are also engaged in buying up <b>Crimea</b> from Ukraine ..."; <i>Russian intelligence services trying to ensure Russia's presence in Crimea after Black Sea Fleet leaves</i>.</li> <li>President <b>Putin</b> continue to arrange the chessboard towards the time after his presidency; "chief of Russia's financial intelligence, was not seen as a potential candidate to succeed Putin until the president named him[as <b>Prime Minister</b>] in a move that shocked the nation's political class"; <i>Putin's PM choice considers presidency</i>.</li> <li>President <b>Putin</b> has dismissed the <b>government</b> [the <b>Cabinet</b> of Ministers] <u>three months before parliamentary elections and six months before presidential polls</u>, a move that is legal but calculating -- <i>Putin says Cabinet dismissed due to ineffectiveness of its work</i>.</li> <li><i>RAF jets scrambled to track Russian bombers</i> -- Russia continues to send signals -- "Such flights were standard during the Cold War, but were abandoned in <u>1992</u> following the collapse of the Soviet Union." [Comment: The Russians vectored towards <b>UK/NATO</b> airspace but did not enter it.]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Venezuela</b> news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Colombia</b> has refused permission for President <b>Chavez</b> to meet <b>FARC guerrillas</b> in <b>Colombia</b> to negotiate <b>hostage release</b>; he is welcome to meet them in Venezuela -- <i>Chavez offer on FARC is rejected</i>.</li> <li>President <b>Chavez's</b> proposal for a <b>popular militia</b> [Minute Man style] has several motivations and is attracting criticism from opponents; "militarization of the people as a bureaucratic means to control the country is a dangerous initiative aimed at turning each of us, Venezuelans, into a military target." -- <i>Venezuelan militia to turn citizens into fighters</i>.</li> <li>A far-reaching review of Venezuela's <u>domestic and foreign policy agenda</u> --</li> </ul>

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*Venezuela's Deals Are Too Good to Pass, But Brazil Has Been Resisting.*

In December 2007, Venezuelans are likely to approve President **Chavez's** proposed end to *presidential term limits*; they will vote on a package of reform proposals with a single yes/no -- *Chavez likely to win end to term limits: pollsters.*

**Wild Cards**  
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• In Pakistan ...

One of General **Musharraf's** strengths is that he is not a clichéd product of the dominant *Punjabi officer corps* whose power is now being dispersed more equitably to *Pathans, Sindhis* and other minorities -- *Mush cuts Punjab's Army might.* Former president **Sharif** arrived for his showdown with Pakistani history and, as the most sensible in a range of available responses, the **Musharraf** regime deported him within hours -- *Nawaz Sharif deported to Saudi Arabia: Reports.*

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