

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

	<p>Environment. 28% shortfall in renewal of consumed resources. US HAARP project dangerous to all.</p> <p>Inter-State Conflict. UK writes off military solution for Afghanistan. More on CURVEBALL.</p> <p>Proliferation. France seals nuclear deal with Morocco. USN Sub falsifies nuclear checks not done.</p>
	<p>Poverty. 2 billion lack access to electricity. Africa being robbed of skills West fails to produce.</p> <p>Infectious Disease. Malaria kills 41-year old Filipino peacekeeper, a lieutenant colonel, in Sudan.</p> <p>Civil War. Overseas Kurds mobilizing. Sudan, Lebanon, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Eritrea into Ethiopia....</p> <p>Genocide. China continues to exterminate Tibetan monks and society. Watch <i>Cry of The Snow Lion</i>.</p> <p>Transnational Crime. Southern Africa destabilizing. Mafia thrives in Italy. Tajikistan 70% of drugs.</p>
	<p>Other Atrocities. Under-age Nigerian girls, big time. East Congo atrocities continue.</p> <p>Terrorism. Fallacy of “block thinking.” US vulnerable, terror watch list a monstrous travesty.</p>

Policy Summary

	<p>Diplomacy. 40% want less US. Africa Command flails toward Maritime, cannot get base on land.</p> <p>Security. UK creating Security Council. Fire fighters out of money. US short on radiation lab tests.</p> <p>Society. See links.</p>
	<p>Economy. Afghanistan and Iraq breaking the US bank By 2010 China will own \$17 trillion of USA.</p> <p>Education. See links. Also <i>Edutopia</i>, book and CD set.</p> <p>Energy. Uzbekistan invites Japan to develop uranium assets.</p> <p>Health. 30% of troops at risk of disabling neurological disorders. Out of 1.4M, 700K eligible for care.</p> <p>Immigration. EU “blue card” competes with US “green card” as attractor for skilled and migrant labor.</p> <p>Water. 36 US states face water crises within five years. Urban sprawl, waster, overuse, all explosive.</p>
	<p>Agriculture. Two homicides at Syngenta AG research farm for genetically modified seeds.</p> <p>Family. See links.</p> <p>Justice. FBI (which still has not hired most authorized analysts) assigns 300 to Guantanamo cases.</p>

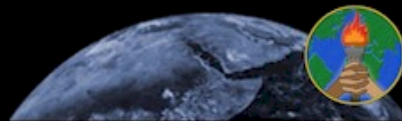
Major Player Summary

	<p>Iran. 60 Iranians study nuclear in UK Special Forces inside Iran. US loony right presses for attack.</p>
	<p>Brazil. Leaning toward admission of Venezuela to Mercosur, Chavez insults continue to sting.</p> <p>China. Rebels attack, give one week to leave Sudan. Smog spells disaster for Olympics & athletes.</p> <p>India. Landless march for land and water. Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline a “go.” Sonia Gandhi to China.</p> <p>Indonesia. Assumes UN Security Council presidency. Sympathetic to Occupied Palestine.</p> <p>Russia. Provides 40% of EU’s energy. Putin compares missile defense to Cuban missile crisis.</p> <p>Venezuela. Thousands (generally Catholic students) protest. US loss on trade is Venezuela’s gain.</p> <p>Wild Cards. Pakistan cracking on several fronts. France lonely in Africa. Central Asia organizes.</p>

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

↗	Alert: Democratic Republic of Congo
↓	Deteriorated: Bangladesh, Burundi, DR Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Philippines, Somalia
↑	Improved: Sierra Leone, Turkey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unchanged: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & 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 (UK), 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

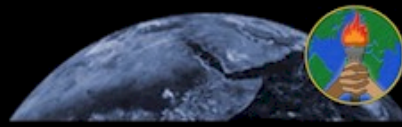
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Threats see *daily* items with *links to full stories on the web* at **PDB-Threats**

<p>Poverty news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ 2 Billion Lack Access to Electricity -- "people from third world countries resort to <u>poor energy sources</u> like firewood, candles and lanterns which gulp an average of <u>10 US dollars per month</u>".</p> <p>New eBay site will finance world's poor -- "MicroPlace will allow people to invest as little as <u>\$100</u> to support development in impoverished areas".</p> <p>Africa is now being robbed blind of its brightest and best: "at the tertiary skills level, Africa has <u>the largest proportion of its tertiary level skills stock outside the continent compared to the total stock available, which is small in the first place</u>" -- . Continent Seeks Ways of Harnessing Brain Drain. Also: Developed World Poaches Continent for Skills -- "developed Western countries, who in their <u>quest to save and minimise costs and maximise returns</u>, are producing too few engineers, doctors and nurses to even meet their own demands".</p> <p>These issues are not restricted to Colombia: Women and the struggle for social change in Colombia -- "The principal issues related to gender that FARC women identified <u>do not differ</u> significantly from those highlighted by Colombian women engaged in non-violent political activities, although their language reflects a Marxist orientation".</p>
<p>Infectious Disease news listforecast</p>	<p>• Malaria is not just a disease of the poor; it claims a 41-year-old lieutenant colonel -- Filipino peacekeeper in Sudan dies of malaria.</p>
<p>Environment news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) located in Gakona, Alaska seeks to control the Van Allen Belts -- Military Experiments Target the Van Allen Belts.</p> <p>This is REAL ... "The human population is now so large that the amount of resources needed to sustain it exceeds what is available at current consumption patterns" -- U.N. Warns of Rapid Decay of Environment. Also: Humans living beyond Earth's means, warns UN report -- "humanity's footprint is <u>21.9 ha/person</u>, while the Earth's biological capacity is, on average, only <u>15.7 ha/person</u>, thus resulting in net environmental degradation and loss".</p>
<p>Inter-State Conflict news listforecast</p>	<p>• "The military is a key, an essential element in dealing with those problems, but by and large these problems can <u>only</u> be resolved politically," says Air Chief Marshall Stirrup, the Chief of UK Defence Staff -- Military action won't work in Afghanistan or other war zones, says UK armed forces chief.</p> <p>The Pushtun Civil War-- "put another way, Afghanistan is just part of a tribal civil war in the Pushtun community. The Taliban are a small part of all that, supported by <u>a few million of the 40 million Pushtuns</u> in the region".</p> <p>CURVEBALL: Spies, Lies and the Con Man who Caused a War -- <u>the story that was too good to verify</u>...</p>
<p>Civil War news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ Some overseas Kurds are joining a call to arms -- Britons join Kurdish rebels to fight Turks.</p> <p>A checklist of key stakeholders in Sudan's Darfur -- Darfur conflict: the key players. Sudanese rebels now target Chinese oil interests; "JEM says its attack on the Defra oil field in Sudan is 'only the beginning' of a campaign to drive foreign oil companies out of the country" -- Sudanese oil field attack threatens peace talks.</p> <p>see also: China</p>

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In **Lebanon** "a *sectarian* fire far more dangerous than that which we are currently struggling to put out in **Iraq**" is in the offing; too many **factions**, too much **foreign** interference, too little time -- [Lebanon Inching Closer to War](#).

Thai authorities are playing an ambiguous role with **Burmese** activists *in exile* in **Thailand**, and relaying junta propaganda; [\[Thai\] Intelligence services tell Burmese media outlet to close temporarily](#) --the junta says " ...*monks* have visited Mae Sot in **Thailand** and some of them have attended **training courses in explosives and community organizing there**". In a minimalist gesture of yet unknown dimensions, **Aung San Suu Kyi** has left her house arrest briefly to meet with an official specifically appointed to liaise with her -- [Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi leaves home to meet with government official](#).

International Crisis Group discuss the dangerous role of *paramilitaries* in the south **Thai insurgency**; "the need for the Thai government to review the use of irregular forces such as the paramilitary rangers and village volunteer militias and to crack down on **private sectarian vigilante groups**" -- [Southern Thailand: The Problem with Paramilitaries](#).

In **Sri Lanka**, under the cover of darkness, **suicide bombers** supported by two **light aircraft** destroyed military aircraft and equipment worth more than £20 million, leaving Sri Lanka's military stunned -- [Tamil Tiger suicide squad in audacious strike](#). As the dust settled, it was clear the **Tamil Air Tigers** raid had done massive damage to government **air assets** -- [Damage of rebel attack amounts 30% of Sri Lanka's international bond issue - Mangala](#).

Uranium worth a fight, **Niger nomads** say -- "for centuries, the **Tuareg** have used camel caravans to trade salt throughout the region. But there is another, more modern wealth beneath the sands."

One of several wars in the **Horn of Africa** racks up another notch; [Eritrea deploying 25000 troops into Ethiopia border - opposition](#) -- "Eritrean 19 and 13 military division forces fully armed are deployed at the temporary security zone where **UN peace keepers** are deployed".

see also: **Terrorism**

Genocide
[news list|forecast](#)

- **China** continues its *extermination* of **Tibetan** society -- [Concern at Tibet monk 'arrests'](#).

Other Atrocities
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ "We have never before seen a **gang** that was engaged in **smuggling and trafficking** in under-age **Nigerian** girls on this scale" -- [Action against the trafficking of Nigerian girls](#).

"Our motives were simple: we just wanted to rescue them from death" -- **trafficking** for profit, or act of compassion? -- [French held over Chad 'adoptions'](#)

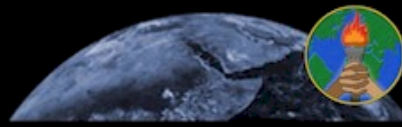
[Atrocities in East Congo Attributed to all Parties](#) -- "civilians are frequently accused of supporting one side or another in the conflict, then cruelly punished or killed for it".

[UN shares blame for Timor riots, Indonesia says](#) -- "Indonesia can't, and does not deserve to be, entirely held responsible for the **riots**, because **Portugal**, elements in the **international community** and the **UN** played some role in bringing about the riots".

Proliferation
[news list|forecast](#)

- Again ... the **US** is interested only in the perfidy of **arms sales** when it directly affects **US interests** -- [U.S. extradition for arms dealer](#).

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France seals nuclear deal with Morocco -- "the energy of the future is not destined to be the exclusive property of the most **developed countries** as long as international conventions are respected".

South Korea Develops 1,000 km Cruise Missile -- "it flies in a **non-ballistic** very low altitude trajectory to avoid **radar** detection".

"Countries which are signatories to **Chemical Weapons Convention** ignore the consequences of **stockpiling** chemical weapons since they themselves possess such weapons" -- **Iran urges int'l bodies to counter CWs**.

"Sailors on the **submarine** USS Hampton failed to do daily **safety checks** on the ship's nuclear reactor for a month and **falsified** records to cover up the omission" -- **Navy: 6 punished for skipped checks**.

Terrorism
 news list|forecast

↓ **The Bhutto bombing: Pakistan Blasts 10th Deadliest Terror Attack Since 2000** -- Comparable to **Karbala** and **Baghdad** (2004 March 02) 181 killed; and **Luanda [Angola]** (2004 Aug. 10) 150 killed.

Lessing says Sept. 11 attacks not so bad -- Doris **Lessing** makes a point about **Risk** and **Harm** that few will understand.

Clausewitz after 9/11 -- "today's new, **non-Clausewitzian realities of armed bands**" maybe, but "**America's sense of vulnerability**" produces a very Clausewitzian response [scholarly book review]. **When 'block thinking' on Islam blurs all subtleties** -- "**block thinkers on each side give aid and comfort to block thinkers on the other side** .. " says professor emeritus of philosophy at McGill. **A Guide for the Perplexed: Intellectual fallacies of the 'war on terror'** -- "**one of the worst (and least comprehensible) blunders in the history of American foreign policy**".

"**Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife....** extremists round the world have seen mighty **America's vulnerability to the rocket-propelled grenade, the AK-47 and the suicide-bomber**" -- . **After smart weapons, smart soldiers**

"**the US Defence Threat Reduction Agency identified melioidosis - an uncommon but potentially fatal form of bacterial pneumonia - as the biological weapon of choice for terrorist groups**" -- **Bioterrorism threat warning**. Also: "**SUPERBUGS** [such as **methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)**] pose a **far greater threat to humanity than bio-terrorism**, a genetics pioneer warned yesterday" -- **Danger from MRSA bugs supersedes bio-terrorism**.

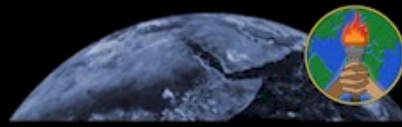
"While focusing on vulnerability-based analyses of the **nuclear threat**, the true capabilities of terrorists or states are overlooked" -- **Nuclear terrorism's fatal assumptions**.

Terror watch list swells to more than 755,000 -- the rapid growth, and the many **alternative spellings** of '**foreign**' names, calls into question the quality of the list itself.

Osama **bin Laden** issues a call to **unity** to the troops; "**beware of division ... The Muslim world is waiting for you to gather under one banner**" -- **Shun extremism: Osama to Mujahedeen**.

More on the **Behavioral Analysis** approach to **counter-terrorism**; "**you could look at Vegas as the incubator of a whole host of surveillance technologies**" -- **From Casinos to Counterterrorism**.

More detail on the presumed place the **Horn of Africa** has in "global terrorism" -- **Al-Qa'eda target west from Horn of Africa**.



see also: **Civil War**

Transnational Crime
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ Sir Richard **Gozney**, the outgoing *British High Commissioner* to **Nigeria** is candid about transfers of *stolen public monies* and other *suspicious funds* -- *Why Britain Tightened Anti-Money Laundering Laws*, by *Gozney [Interview]*.

Botswana, Zambia Worry Over Transnational Crime -- "the southern African region is increasingly becoming vulnerable to threats of *terrorism, illegal migration, human and drug-trafficking* and *armed robberies*."

Bush wants \$1.4 billion for Mexico drug war -- "a \$1.4-billion *military and security package* to assist *Mexico* and several *Central American* countries in their fight against *drug-trafficking groups*".

The **mafia** and lesser *organized crime syndicates* account for **7%** of **Italy's** gross domestic product -- *Mafia thriving in Italy and beyond*.

"Two AFP [*Australian Federal Police*] agents would be based in the *Afghan capital Kabul* and the others in the eastern city of *Jalalabad*" -- *AFP targeting Afghan heroin supply*.

Tajikistan accounts for 70 % of drugs seized in Central Asia -- "owing to its geopolitical situation one of the main *transit countries* in the spread of drugs on the so-called *northern route: Central Asia-Russia-Europe*".

Policy

Agriculture
[news list|forecast](#)

• In **Brazil** the **G-M** debate gets unfriendly: "a security guard and an activist were killed by gunfire Sunday at the research farm owned by **Syngenta AG**, a global company with a heavy focus on **genetically modified seeds**" -- *Activist, security guard killed in clash at Syngenta experimental seed farm in Brazil*.

Diplomacy
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *Survey: 40% of world population wants U.S. to have less say in global affairs* -- "and almost as many — 35% — would like the **European Union** to have a bigger say on the world stage."

At last, a mission ... *Africa Command Gives Top Priority to Aggressive Maritime Security* -- "that's something I think that is somewhat new in some ways that **AFRICOM** will be focusing on and that we think is important".

A **Left** view from *Workers World*; "socialist **Cuba** has survived against all odds" -- *U.S. imperialism intensifies hostilities against socialist Cuba*.

Economy
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ The administration needs to dig yet deeper into the war chest; *Trillion-dollar war: Afghanistan and Iraq set to cost more than Vietnam and Korea* -- "[President **Bush**] was accompanied by the **family** of a dead US marine when he made the request for funds on Monday".

China will have about US\$17 trillion CASH by 2010 – enough to buy every publicly-listed company in **America**...with change left over -- *China Sovereign Wealth Fund Could Buy Every US Company*.

Education
[news list|forecast](#)

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

Energy
[news list|forecast](#)

• *Uzbekistan invites Japan to develop uranium deposits* -- "Securing new exploration projects in **Central Asia** is key to **Japan** which relies on **nuclear power** for over **25%** of its electricity and imports some **60%** of its uranium from **Australia** and **Canada**".

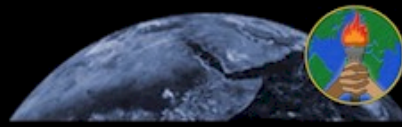
Family
[news list|forecast](#)

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

Health

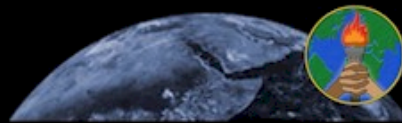
↓ "At least **30%** of troops who served for **four months** or longer in **Iraq** or **Afghanistan**

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<p>news list forecast</p>	<p>were at risk of potentially disabling neurological disorders from the blast waves of IEDs and mortars" -- <i>MoD surveys brain injuries in returning troops</i>. [Due to modern high-velocity explosives.]</p> <p>"Of the more than <u>1.4 million</u> service men and women who have served in the two war zones, nearly <u>700,000</u> have become eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs medical care" -- <i>Wounded Troops Overwhelm Care</i>.</p>
<p>Immigration news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU 'blue card' aims to attract skilled migrants -- "the 27-nation bloc is trying to compete with the US "green card" system and schemes in other western countries for the best-qualified migrant labour".
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The FBI has assigned up to <u>300 agents</u> to help build war crimes cases against Guantánamo Bay detainees once held by the CIA and now in military custody as big-time al-Qaeda captives... " -- <i>FBI to help build war crimes cases</i>.
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the UK, Prime Minister Brown will create a US-style Security Council; "the dramatic shake-up has been driven by the conclusion that existing policies and structures are <u>inadequate</u> to the task of meeting the terrorist threat facing Britain" -- <i>Brown to create US-style security council</i>. • California Fires: Will the US survive its traditions of localism? San Diego County, the largest county in California, <u>does not have its own fire department</u> and the local outfits within the area are starved of tax money -- . <i>Firefighters Get Control as Questions Rise</i> • A US State Department panel has made 19 recommendations to improve the operations and monitoring of security convoys in Iraq -- . <i>More Oversight of Security Contractors</i>. • US Short on Labs for Radiation Testing -- "the tests available only address <u>six of the 13 radiological isotopes</u> that would likely be used in a dirty bomb".
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Rising temperatures, little rainfall, increasing population, urban sprawl, waste and overuse will .bring water shortages to <u>36 US states</u> within five years -- <i>36 States Face Water Crisis</i>.</p>
<p>Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committee in Brazil's lower house of Congress has approved Venezuela's entry to Mercosur, but several more stages of voting remain, with Brazilian senators still stinging from Chavez' insults -- <i>Brazil and Mercosur Prepare Summit Under Chavez Cloud</i>. <p>see also: Agriculture</p>
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>Darfur Rebels Attack Oil Field, Warn Chinese to Leave Sudan</i> -- Darfur rebels have given Chinese interests "a week" to leave Sudan.</p> <p>see also: Civil War</p> <p>Smog chokes Beijing amid Games delay fears; "wear a face mask if you have to go out today" -- not looking good for several Olympiad events such as the marathon.</p> <p>"In 2003, China became the first Asian nation to use its own rocket to put an astronaut in space"; and now continues to go it alone in Space -- <i>China launches first Moon orbiter</i>.</p> <p>China Rejects Renewed Accusations of Cyber Spying -- "we decisively reject these unfounded accusations. We will apply for a clarification from the German</p>

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government".

Uyghur human rights activist, Rebiya **Kadeer**, from the dissident northwest region of **Xinjiang** spoke in **Germany** in same week the **Dalai Lama** visited the **US** -- *Human rights activist requests support for Uyghur while in Hamburg.*

India
 news list|forecast

• **Indian landless march into Delhi** -- protesters waved flags and chanted "give us **land**, give us **water**", as they marched in long, orderly lines into the centre of the capital.

Maoist Rebels Fire on Crowd in India -- "around 40 **rebels**, including some **women**, disguised themselves as soldiers and police and surrounded a football field in **Jharkhand** state a few hours before dawn and fired at spectators". **Maoists inducting fresh blood to hoodwink police** -- "these groups have replaced their most-wanted guerrillas of the region with comparatively new faces from other zones". *Who are India's influential communists?* [Factbox]

ULFA sends extortion notices to traders -- "Following pressure from security and paramilitary forces in **Assam**, **ULFA [United Liberation Front of Asom]** has begun targeting the neighboring state of **Meghalaya** with **extortion demands** to traders in the **Garo Hills** area"

Lethal similarity between terror strikes -- "the terror strike at **Mecca Masjid**, **Samjhauta Express** and the recent strike at **Ajmer**, all had one thing in common. The **bomb** itself."

China visit a "milestone" in Sino-India relations: Sonia Gandhi -- both sides see the visit by **Sonia Gandhi** to **China** as important.

India committed to Iran-Pak-India gas pipeline -- "I said we remain committed to the pipeline. We would have to sort out one or two issues relating to the **transit charges**".

The **US-India Nuclear Deal: The real deal on the N-deal [Analysis]** -- "what both the sides are not telling the country is that they disagree over the exact definition of the word '**operationalise**'".

India, Russia To Design 'Fifth-Generation' Fighter -- "**Russia** and **India** will split the cost and intellectual effort of designing the new fighter, which will be both countries' biggest joint military program ..."

Indian Army working on Space vision 2020 -- "Carried by the **Cartosat** satellite, the **SBS** will enable **Indian Army** commanders keep close tabs on **troop movements**, **missile silos**, **military installations** and **airbases** of neighbouring countries ..."

Forces want to be ready for space battle -- India's 'Army Space Vision-2020'.

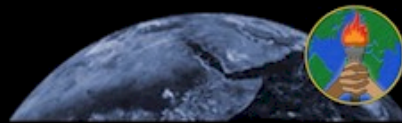


Indonesia
 news list|forecast

• '**Indonesia brings countries together**' – comments by Indonesian Permanent Representative to the UN on Indonesia assuming the **Security Council presidency** next month. [Jakarta Post - Indonesia, 20071025 -- item misfiled after publication; #23745]

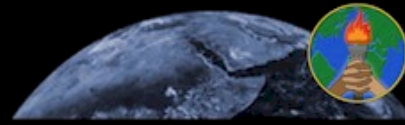
Indonesia has aired its sympathies for the people of **Occupied Palestine** for some

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	<p>years; "a cooperation forged by Indonesia's national news agency Antara and Palestinian News Agency (WAFA) was expected to be a starting point to open the eyes of the world" -- <i>ANTARA Expected to provide positive information on Palestine and RI.</i></p>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Thousands of students chanted "Death to dictator" in the Polytechnic University of Tehran</i> -- from National Council of Resistance of Iran, Iranian opposition in-exile. <i>US announces sanctions against Iran's Revolutionary Guards</i> -- unprecedented, harsh, and ... "more symbolic than practical". <i>Who's the boss in Iran?</i> -- "... no one outside the inner caucus of the country's leadership knows why [nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani] went or what his departure means for policy" ... but we'll speculate anyway ... <i>SAS raiders enter Iran to kill gunrunners</i> -- "an SAS squadron is carrying out operations along the Iranian border in Maysan and Basra provinces with other special forces, the Australian SAS and American special-operations troops". <i>Iran would need 3-8 yrs to produce bomb - IAEA chief</i> -- "it would need between another <u>three and eight years</u> to succeed," ElBaradei told <i>Le Monde</i>. "All the intelligence services agree on that." HOWEVER ... <i>Iran closer to nuclear bomb, emigre opposition says</i> -- Curveballs and carpetbaggers continue to urge the US to another war. <i>'Iranians study nuclear physics in UK'</i> -- "about 60 Iranians had been admitted to study postgraduate courses considered 'proliferation-sensitive' by the British security services".
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Russia remains the EU's largest energy supplier</i> -- "In 2005, Russia supplied more than <u>40%</u> of the EU's natural gas imports and more than <u>30%</u> of crude oil imports" <i>US missile shield is like Cuban crisis - Putin</i> -- "there was a similar situation in the mid-1960s, when the Soviet Union deployed missiles in Cuba. For us, the technical situation is very similar" Putin said.
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thousands of university students [largely from Catholic University Andres Bello (UCAB)] scuffled with police and government supporters during a protest against constitutional reforms -- <i>Clashes break out at Venezuela protest.</i> <p>The zero-sum game continues: "Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is poised to score a <u>public relations victory</u> in Latin America if the U.S. Congress fails to approve free-trade pacts in the region" -- <i>US official says Chavez gains if trade pacts nixed.</i></p>
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Cracks are said to be appearing in the resolve of Pakistan's military -- "While the West sees an Islamist war against its liberties, many here see a US-led war against Islam itself" -- <i>Pakistan's Army: Unprepared to tackle terrorism?</i>. As though the Bhutto camp were not now nervous enough ... <i>Bhutto receives threat from female suicide bombers.</i></p> <p>More iconoclasm: <i>Pakistani deploys troops to fight pro-Taliban militants</i> -- "there are also reports that Islamists have partially destroyed a <u>seventh-century</u> statue of Buddha in Swat valley."</p> <p><i>ICG says army trying to control Balochistan through force</i> -- "the military is determined to impose state control in Balochistan through force instead of redressing Baloch political and economic grievances".</p> <p><i>Pakistan finds 28 million 'lost' voters</i> -- "the commission's first draft put the number</p>

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at 52 million, 20 million fewer than voted in the 2002 election".

"**Pakistan** has proposed that the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** set up a **police force** similar to **Interpol** to aid investigations and prevent crime in the eight-nation grouping" -- *Pakistan proposes SAARC police force.*

*The **PKK** is 'a Political Problem': an Interview with **Kurdistan Foreign Minister Falah Mustafa Bakir** -- "we believe a strong Kurdistan is a strong **Iraq**.... We need to give a chance to have a **federal** system."*

*Africa's gendarme **France** not hanging up baton yet -- the **French**, the only European country with a military presence "are lonely in **Africa**. There is no-one else to take the lead." Also: President **Sarkozy** " called Mediterranean countries to a meeting in Paris in June 2008 to establish the foundations of a **Mediterranean Union**" -- *Sarkozy calls meeting to create Mediterranean Union.**

*Central Asia set to take major step forward in regional cooperation -- "eight member countries of the **Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)** program will discuss ways to deepen **interaction** and **integrate** more effectively with world markets ...".*

Uzbekistan will join the project on the construction of the **Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway** network -- *Uzbekistan to join Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railroad construction project.*

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