

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

Environment. Indonesia to plant 79,000 trees. Bengali rice poisoned with arsenic. Earth capacity.
Inter-State Conflict. Taliban overruns west of Kandahar. UK honors Israel, screws over Arabs.
Proliferation. 77 countries studying nuclear energy.

Poverty. Poor countries meet in Thailand. UN poverty monitoring. Compensation for brain drain.
Infectious Disease. Constant vigilance requires on old and new diseases.
Civil War. Ethiopian rebels claim 270 government troops killed (most in packed trucks).
Genocide. See links. Darfur remains a mess, 15 other [genocides](#) ignored by the world.
Transnational Crime. Macau triads thriving. \$400M in cocaine from Colombia seized in Mexico.
Other Atrocities. DNA discovers disappeared children in Argentina. Burma child soldier brokers.
Terrorism. UK denies Saudi warning on bombings.

Policy Summary

Diplomacy. Karen Hughes gone. King Abdullah low-rent warlord. Calls to loosen Cuban embargo.,
Security. Germany worried about “no go areas” in megacities. UK *De Menezes* verdict of concern.
Society. Schwarzenegger: marijuana should not be illegal (would free millions from prison slavery)

Economy. .See links.
Education. No Child Left Behind criticized by teachers.
Energy. Norway puts 4.3 billion into Singapore. Nova Scotia tidal energy. Oil going over \$200/barrel.
Health. Malaysia adds 96 mobile health clinics to existing 151. Diagnostics via public networks.
Immigration. .9K US “minutemen” against illegal immigration. Mexico gets 24B/year from illegals.
Water. Drinkable supply vanishing—population stress compounds water scarcity around the world.

Agriculture. US farm subsidies for millionaires. Italy invests in Caribbean food security.
Family. See links.
Justice. US deserters winning on illegal Iraq war. Singapore and EU disagree on death penalty.

Major Player Summary

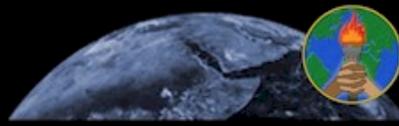
Iran. UK offers peaceful uranium. Wise old men could dampen flames of war.

Brazil. Defense spending boosted 50%.
China. 40% jump in deformed babies. Uighur women forced to move to factories in eastern China.
India. .Talks with Pakistan on terror continue. Kashmir incursions stopped by fence.
Indonesia. Indonesia recognizes Iran’s opposition to US. Rice prices double over two years.
Russia. .White supremacist from Texas addresses 5,000 Russian nationalists. Putin says no to US.
Venezuela. Chavez continues to roll along.
Wild Cards. Cuba-Bolivia-Ecuador-Nicaragua-Bolivia: Latin America at a historic juncture.

World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 November 2007

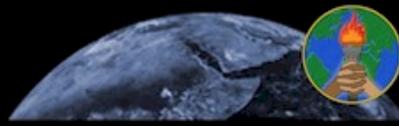
-  **Alert:** Ethiopia/Eritrea, Pakistan
-  **Deteriorated:** Bosnia & Herzegovina, Iran, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Pakistan, Somalia, Somaliland, Sri Lanka, Sudan
-  **Improved:** Israel/Occupied Territories
-  **Unchanged:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), Colombia, Comoros Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Indonesia, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Northern Ireland (UK), North Korea, Philippines, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Syria, Tajikistan, Taiwan Strait, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Zimbabwe

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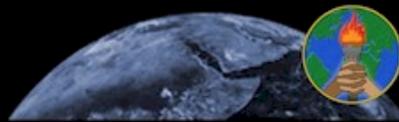
Threats		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Threats</i>
Poverty news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor countries convention to be held in Bangkok -- "... to explore ideas on how to strengthen their savings and community managed development funds ..." UNDP launches a powerful resource for monitoring progress on the Millennium Development Goals; "... will show how and where the world is succeeding or failing in meeting the Millennium Development Goals on ending poverty" -- U.N. launches poverty monitoring site. See: http://www.mdgmonitor.org A former Caribbean diplomat proposes a fair but difficult idea to address the brain drain from the developing world -- Big nations should compensate small countries for poaching skills.
Infectious Disease news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A professor of medical geography looks at WHO's report 'A Safer Future' -- Only constant vigilance defends us from old and new diseases.
Environment news list forecast		<p>↓ "A finite earth can support only a limited number of humans. There is therefore a global "carrying capacity" for humans" -- Six steps to "getting" the global ecological crisis.</p> <p>Indonesia to plant 79 mln trees across country -- a 1,000 trees will be planted at each of 79,000 locations throughout Indonesia to help reverse the depredations on the world's third largest forested area.</p> <p>Bengal rice could be poisoned: British researchers -- "arsenic in ground waters in Bangladesh and West Bengal constitutes a major hazard to human health".</p>
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast		<p>↓ Taliban overrun another Afghan district -- the Taliban have massed in unusually large numbers in the last week in the west near Kandahar, challenging government assertions that they can rout the rebels in any direct engagement. Taliban 'taking MI6 for a ride' -- "It is a bitter pill to swallow, for soldiers who have seen colleagues killed, then to be told to accompany intelligence officers who go to take tea with the enemy."</p> <p>Warning of Somali 'catastrophe' -- "the UN says about 90,000 have fled Mogadishu since Saturday and the worsening security means relief cannot be given to them."</p> <p>Winston Churchill's complex Zionist evolution -- November 2 marks the 90th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, when Britain established a Jewish homeland in Palestine. [Comment: In contrast, all WWI promises to Arab nations were broken.]</p>
Civil War news list forecast		<p>↓ Ethiopia's Ogaden National Liberation Front rebels claim to have killed another 270 government troops in the remote eastern Horn of Africa; most were blown up in packed trucks -- Ethiopia rebels say 270 more troops killed.</p>
Genocide news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Other Atrocities news list forecast		<p>↓ Report: Brokers Supply Child Soldiers to Burma-- "Burma's military government has been forcibly recruiting child soldiers through brokers who buy and sell boys to help the army deal with personnel shortages ..."</p> <p>Families from Argentina's 'dirty war' reunited -- "...thanks to the establishment of a DNA bank and a publicity campaign scores of children of the 'disappeared' have discovered their original identities and have been reunited with their true families."</p>
Proliferation news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of nuclear energy spreading worldwide - UN nuclear agency says -- "the IAEA is studying requests by 77 countries which are exploring nuclear energy [including] Algeria, Belarus, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Libya, Nigeria,

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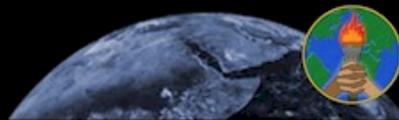
		<i>Thailand, Vietnam and Yemen."</i>
Terrorism news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Saudi king: We warned British of bombing</i> -- "We have sent information to Great Britain before the terrorist attacks in Britain, but unfortunately no action was taken and it may have been able to avert the tragedy." [Comment: This was denied by UK authorities.]
Transnational Crime news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mexico in record cocaine seizure</i> -- the total haul of <u>23 tonne</u> in two seizures, valued at <u>\$400M</u>, were found at the port of Manzanillo by the Mexican navy in cargo containers on a ship from Colombia. <p><i>Cocaine trans-shipment</i> is set to become the <u>biggest industry</u> in Guinea-Bissau; is this an economic good? -- <i>Cocaine could lead nation's economy</i>.</p> <p><i>Triads endemic in booming Macau: security expert</i> -- "Macau is becoming a mess."</p>
Policy		
Agriculture news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>US farm subsidies: "It's also a horrible deal. It redistributes our taxes to millionaire farmers "</i> -- <i>Down on The Farm</i>. • <i>More Italian money for Caribbean agriculture</i> -- Italy has now invested \$8.3M in Caribbean food security projects.
Diplomacy news list forecast		<p>↓ Why is the West scared of a two-bit warlord whose throne was invented by an oil company? -- <i>Why we need to be nice to King Abdullah</i>.</p> <p><i>Karen Hughes, US image chief quits</i> -- so few have done so little for so much money about the "abysmal" US image throughout the world.</p> <p>"Cuba's regime uses the US embargo as a scapegoat for Cuba's miseries ... So why not loosen the economic sanctions?" -- <i>More Cuba fulminations [Boston Globe Editorial]</i>.</p>
Economy news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Education news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teacher Protests No Child Left Behind Test</i> -- "the test is a <u>poor way to measure student progress</u>, takes up too much class time and is <u>used unfairly to punish schools</u>."
Energy news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Norwegian Solar Energy Firm to Invest \$4.31 Billion in Singapore</i> -- "... the potential of becoming the <u>world's biggest complex of its kind</u>". • <i>Syria: \$1.5 bln agreement with Iran and Venezuela to build oil refinery</i> -- the \$1.5B refinery will produce up to 140,000 barrels per day (bpd). • <i>Tidal Energy Coming to Nova Scotia</i> -- a plan to deploy MCT's SeaGen technology in the Bay of Fundy, one of the greatest tidal resources in the world. • <i>Iran warns oil price might go over 200 Dollars</i> -- "Safavi, former Commander of the Revolution Guardians (Pasradanes), said that US government strategy towards the Middle East is designed to try to control oil and sell weapons".
Family news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Health news list forecast		<p>↓ In Malaysia, an additional 96 mobile health clinics to the present 151 will bring free health-care to the remotest areas -- <i>Easier access to healthcare for all</i>.</p> <p>The Future: "The diagnostic and therapeutic equipment now locked up in hospitals will someday be available on home or public networks ..." -- <i>Wireless networks pave way for e-health era</i>.</p>
Immigration news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 9,000 member Minuteman Civil Defense Corps (MCDC) patrols the Mexico

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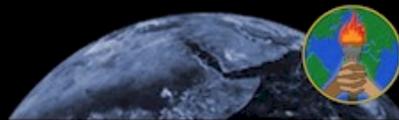
	<p><i>border</i> and pickets <i>construction sites</i> employing <i>undocumented workers</i> -- <i>Minuteman group grows amid illegal immigration fight</i>.</p> <p>"The U.S.-dependent <i>Mexican</i> economy gets about \$24 billion annually in <i>remittances</i> from migrants living and working in the U.S. <i>illegally</i> ..." -- <i>Immigration Crackdown Killing Mexican Economy</i>.</p>
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Death Penalty Threatens to Split World Body</i> -- "this attempt by the <i>EU</i> to impose its values will also be seen in a very poor light by many countries" says slaughter-loving <i>Singapore</i>. <p><i>Many Americans don't realize Iraq war is illegal</i> -- breach of a truckload of <i>international law</i> is just an academic point maybe, but it may be a viable defense for US <i>military deserters</i>.</p>
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>UK de Menezes</i> verdict will have both legal and psychological effects; "to suggest that it is wrong to prosecute the police for an alleged offence under the ... act is to submit that the police are <u>above the law</u>. It applies to them as it applies to any other employer. They are accountable" -- <i>De Menezes ruling will 'inevitably' make forces more cautious about high-risk ops</i>. <p>"the most important question exercising many Americans regarding <i>cyber war</i> is <u>where the US Air Force Cyber Command will be based</u>" -- <i>US military cyber warriors looking for a home</i>.</p> <p><i>\$43.5 Billion Spent on Intel in 2007</i> -- "How the money is divided among the <u>16 intelligence agencies</u> and exactly what it is spent on is classified."</p> <p><i>Germany's intelligence service worried about megacities</i> -- "The increasing <i>privatization</i> of core state responsibilities in the <i>military</i> and <i>security</i> areas carries with it the danger - even in Western states - of the erosion of the <u>state's monopoly on the use of force</u>." [The item also discusses the world's <i>megacities</i> – <i>Bladerunner</i> style – as <i>no-go areas</i>.]</p>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arnold Schwarzenegger: Cannabis not a drug</i> -- "why should I care if a politician takes sleeping pills every night so long as he can do his job?"
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ A US Army War College paper addresses the <i>strategic</i> aspects of looming widespread <i>water crises</i>; "already <i>stressed regions</i> are the ones projected to have some of the largest <i>population</i> growth in the years ahead" -- <i>Can the U.S. do more to help avert a world water shortage?</i></p> <p>"The <u>problems extend from the global north to the south</u> and are as pervasive as water itself. Equally encompassing are the <i>politics of water</i>" -- <i>Drinkable water supply is vanishing</i>.</p>
<p>Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brazil boosts military spending more than 50 percent</i> -- "... to around <u>US\$5 billion</u>, and draw up a new defense plan, but told its <i>neighbors</i> they should not worry."
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "China's government is forcibly moving <i>young women</i> of the ethnic <i>Uighur</i> minority from their homes in <i>Xinjiang</i> to factories in eastern China ..." -- <i>Uighur activist asks U.S. to help stop China removals</i>. <p><i>Beijing to raise emission standards for Olympics</i> -- "The capital, regularly cloaked in a grey-brown <i>haze</i>, has spent billions in a drive to improve the city's environment for the August 8-24 <i>Olympics</i>, which are viewed as a chance to showcase a modern new China."</p> <p>"China's reforms have had a '<i>huge detrimental effect</i>' on the population, especially</p>

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	<p>in the countryside ..." -- <i>The reality behind China's economic miracle</i>. China catches up with the hi-tech world: "China experienced a <u>40% jump</u> in babies born with 'visible deformities' from 2001 to 2006, with the number now reaching up to <u>300,000 annually</u>" -- <i>Birth defects jump in China</i>.</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jammu-Kashmir: "India says infiltration from Pakistan has come to a halt with the fencing of the border" -- <i>Crossings from Pakistan stop</i>. <p>After some recent delays, India and Pakistan resume meetings under the Anti-Terrorism Mechanism; "information relating to all terrorist attacks was discussed and exchanged" -- <i>India, Pak exchange information on attacks during anti-terror meet</i> --.</p> <p>An average day in India: "In the backdrop of serial blasts that shook the city on August 25, the police recovered a carton containing eight sticks of ammonium nitrate-based explosive material connected to a motor-cycle battery" -- <i>IEDs, detonators found in Hyderabad</i>.</p>
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Iran is the first Muslim country which has <u>opposed the United States' avarice</u> and is an epitome of resistance for other idealistic nations of the world," says the head of an Indonesian parliamentary delegation -- <i>Iran idol of 'idealistic nations'</i>. <p><i>RI warned of food shortages on decline in world rice output</i> -- "the international rice price has <u>doubled</u> in the last two years. What if this continues and it doubles again?"</p> <p><i>Condemned Bali bombers 'regret' killing Muslims</i> -- He said had a group of infidels been outside his own house, "I would have blown up my house."</p> <p><i>New groups seeks to 'awaken' Indonesia</i> -- "Democracy should be a tool to lift the welfare of Indonesians and improve the country's development, but what's happening now is that <u>democracy only touches the electoral process</u> in Indonesia."</p>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK's Prime Minister Brown touts a plan that would supply peaceful-use uranium to Iran; "US-allied Gulf states said yesterday they were planning a consortium to provide enough enriched uranium for Iran's civil nuclear programme" -- <i>Brown considers plan to give Iran limited supply of uranium</i>, <p>It's time for some adult supervision: "It's beyond time for us to negotiate with Iranians. It's time for <u>old men to talk</u>, before they send <u>young men to die</u>" -- <i>Tamping the Flames of War</i>.</p> <p>see Indonesia</p>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "There are those who would like to build a unipolar world, who would themselves like to rule all of humanity," says President Putin in a speech to military cadets -- <i>Putin says Russia threatened by 'Unipolar World'</i>. <p>US-Russian Solidarity: a white supremacist from Texas addresses 5,000 nationalists in Moscow -- <i>Russian Nationalists March in Moscow</i>.</p>
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With approval by a friendly National Assembly, President Chavez now needs to win a popular vote with a swathe of far-reaching constitutional changes -- <i>Chavez leads massive rally</i>.
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of the Cuban parliament has a sense that <i>Latin America</i> is facing an historic moment; "If it were not for the resistance of the Cuban people, we would not have stepped forward, but we also need the solidarity with Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Ecuador" -- <i>LatAm in Defining Moment, Alarcon</i>. <p><i>Relations between Armenia and PKK Terrorism</i> -- a look at the sometimes intimate relations between the PKK and Armenian interests.</p>

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Fierce fighting continues in **Pakistan's Swat valley**; "*Police and Frontier Constabulary sources have confirmed the death of 60 to 70 miscreants in the ongoing operation in Khwazakhela*" -- *70 militants killed in fresh fighting in Swat valley*. **Pakistani** troops captured by **Taliban** have – significantly – been released unharmed, but this signals an undercurrent in the military that would worry commanders; "*We did not want to fight these Muslims brothers (militants) who are striving for the enforcement of Islamic sharia (law)*," said one of the released soldiers -- *Militants free 48 captured Pakistani troops*.

An analysis finds **Benazir Bhutto** eroding the *national interest* for political self-interest -- *Benazir Bhutto's Return*.

President **Musharraf** takes an all-or-nothing gamble – declares a *State of Emergency*, dismisses the **Chief Justice** (again), closes non-government *media*, his colleagues speculate that imminent elections may now be "delayed" -- *Musharraf Declares State of Emergency*. Also: *Pakistan elections could be delayed for a year*.

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