

# ALERT UNIT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nº 1, January 2006



We send you enclosed the new **Alert Unit's Monthly Newsletter**, that has the objective of facilitating the follow-up and understanding of the international situations the diffusion of which, free and electronic, we begin this January. As you may see, the newsletter is structured in four parts.

In the first one some of the **most relevant news** of the month, related to **armed conflicts** and **peace-building**, are classified in three sections (**worsening, alert and progress**).

The second one, deals in a synthetic, but more elaborated manner, with an **analysis issue** related to one of the above mentioned news, that might have not enjoyed enough visibility in the media.

In the third section some of the **articles, reports** and **press releases** elaborated by the Alert Unit are presented. In this first number, exceptionally, some of 2005 last quarter publications are enclosed.

Finally, in the fourth section, we enclose a brief **agenda** with some of the events that will take place in the following month.

We hope that this newsletter will be of your interest and that you will find it useful. You may also visit our website, and contact with the Alert Unit for more information or to make suggestions.



## HEADLINES OF THE MONTH

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worsening

- **ECUADOR:** Protests by different collectives intensify and aggravate crisis in the country.
- **NEPAL:** Maoists put an end to last four months' unilateral ceasefire.
- **NIGERIA:** (DELTA OF NIGER) New attacks against oil multinationals cause several deaths in different parts of the region.
- **THAILAND:** The Government refuses dialogue with southern secessionist organizations and announces its intention to carry on a military strategy.
- **TIMOR-LESTE:** Up to a third of the population might have died between 1975 and 1999 due to the Indonesian occupation and the actions of Indonesian AAFF.
- **UGANDA:** A former UN top official points out that most human rights violations against minors are being perpetrated in the war that is being fought in the northern part of the country.

alert

- **CHAD-SUDAN:** Chad declares war to Sudan and undertakes an international campaign to diplomatically isolate the latter within the UA.
- **CÔTE D'IVOIRE:** A new transition Government is appointed despite escalation of confrontations in the west.
- **PHILIPPINES:** Confrontations between MILF factions clearly evidence risk of division and jeopardize the peace process.
- **INDONESIA:** The Armed Forces increase security measures because of violence upsurge in Sulawesi and political tension in Papua.
- **PAKISTAN:** Violence increases in Belochistan region after AAFF operations against BLA opposition armed group.
- **PALESTINE:** Hamas obtains absolute majority in elections to Parliament.

- **BURUNDI:** The Government is willing to enter into peace negotiations with the FNL.
- **CHIPRE:** The Turkish Government submits an action plan to the UN to settle the situation in the island.
- **ERITREA – ETHIOPIA:** The two countries reduce number of troops in the border area and the United States sends high level mission in an attempt to overcome the existing acute tension.
- **INDONESIA (ACEH):** DDR stage is satisfactorily completed while GAM leaders and the Vice-president get together for the first time.
- **SRI LANKA:** The Government and the LTTE announce their first meeting in Geneva since peace negotiations were adjourned in 2003.



## ISSUE OF THE MONTH

### Sri Lanka: A turning point in the peace process?

January is over with an unexpected turn in what seemed to be a tendency in late 2005 (particularly after November's presidential elections), that is, a clear deterioration of the peace process in Sri Lanka, the upsurge of violence by the different armed actors involved and a clear risk of resuming the armed conflict. The announcement that the Government and the LTTE will start conversations in Geneva and meet up for the first time since peace negotiations were adjourned in 2003 gives rise to some hope in as far as strengthening a cease fire agreement is concerned. Despite the ceasefire having been officially in force, there has been a constant infringement and the number of offences

has escalated and caused the death of a large number of people, most of which are civilian. This upsurge of violence has led to the temporary adjournment of the operations carried out by Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) in parts of the country, which is an unprecedented event and which reveals the seriousness of the present situation. It is also important to highlight that despite doubts having been risen as to the role placed by Norway by different social and political sectors, actors in confrontation have reaffirmed their wish that the Norwegian Government continue facilitating the process.



## ARTICLES, REPORTS AND PRESS RELEASES

- 26.01.06 | **Els conflictes armats al 2005.**  
Published in El Ateneu
- 23.01.06 | **África, el continente maltratado.**  
Published in Cristianismo y Justicia
- 19.01.06 | **Liberia: retos de acero para una "dama de hierro".**  
Published in Agencia de Información Solidaria
- 13.01.06 | **¿Elecciones en Haití?.**  
Published in Centro de Investigación para la Paz
- 13.01.06 | **Ciclo(n) electoral en América Latina.**  
Published in Centro de Investigación para la Paz
- 29.12.05 | **El otro tsunami.**  
Published in La Vanguardia
- 15.12.05 | **Fujimori no es la excepción.**  
Published in La Vanguardia
- 02.12.05 | **La guerra de Uganda no existe para el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU.**  
Press release of the Alert Unit
- 22.11.05 | **Sudán descende al infierno del olvido.**  
Published in La Vanguardia
- 29.12.05 | **Sudán: un nuevo viaje al infierno del olvido.**  
Published in Elcorresponsal.com

- 07.11.05 | **América Latina: ¿regresando al pasado para enfrentar el futuro?**  
Published in Nuevamayoria.com
- 26.10.05 | **Mujeres y construcción de paz: de las palabras a los hechos.**  
Published in Agencia de Información Solidaria
- 13.10.05 | **Guatemala: ¿Qué viene después de la tormenta?**  
Published in Agencia de Información Solidaria



## AGENDA

- Afghanistan donors conference in London	31 January and 1 February
- Presidential and legislative elections in Costa Rica	5 February
- First round of presidential and legislative elections in Haiti	7 February
- Beginning of peace negotiations in Tripoli (Libya) between East Sudan armed groups and Sudanese Government	7 February
- Revision of ceasefire agreement between Sri Lanka's Government and the LTTE in Geneva	February

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If you wish more information on the Alert Unit and the School of Peace Culture (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) please visit our website: <http://www.escolapau.org>

For any comments or suggestions, please write to: [alerta.escolapau@pangea.org](mailto:alerta.escolapau@pangea.org)

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