

# ALERT UNIT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nº 3, March 2006



## HEADLINES OF THE MONTH

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worsening

- **ECUADOR:** The Government declares state of exception and deploys hundreds of troops in five Amazonian provinces to contain protests by indigenous groups and Petroecuador workers .
- **PAKISTAN:** Pakistani Armed Forces contra insurgent operations against Taliban militias cause more than one hundred deaths.
- **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:** The Government recognises the existence of a rebellion in the north of the country that has caused dozens of mortal victims and the displacement of thousands of people.
- **SUDAN:** Increase of tension over the feasible deployment of United Nations troops in Darfur region.
- **TURKEY:** Clashes between police and Kurd militants in several areas of the country.
- **UZBEKISTAN:** Government decides to close UNHCR country office within a month in spite of the presence in Uzbek soil of refugees from Afghanistan and Tayikistan.

alert

- **AFGANISTAN:** United Nations expresses its concern on the escalation of violence and the reorganization of Taliban militias.
- **ALGERIA:** The Government begins the release from prison of islamist prisoners within the framework of the National Reconciliation policy, which has been hardly criticised by human rights organizations.
- **BELARUS:** Increase of tension between Government and opposition after Presidential elections and reports by OSCE electoral observers stating that elections were not free or democratic.
- **CHAD:** Coup d'Etat attempt dismantled and increase of violence in the east of the country.
- **LEBANON:** UN Security Council approves the creation of an International Court to judge the assassination of ex Prime Minister R. Hariri.
- **SENEGAL:** Clashes between Guinea-Bissau troops and a faction of the MFDC opposition armed group provoke thousands of displaced.
- **THAILAND:** Massive mobilizations persist in Thailand after two months demanding the Prime Minister's resignation, accused of power abuse.

progress

- **BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA:** The leaders of the seven Bosnian political parties reach an agreement on the first phase of the constitutional reform of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **BURUNDI:** A. Rwasa, leader of the FNL, last opposition armed group of the country, makes an appeal to the Government to initiate peace talks in Tanzania.
- **CÔTE d'IVOIRE:** New and important advances take place in the peace process after several meetings attended by the main parties in the conflict.
- **PHILIPPINES:** Peace talks between Government and MILF resume after the impasse created by the coup d'etat attempt and the state of emergency imposition.
- **NEPAL:** Democratic parties and Maoist armed opposition group reach a new agreement to continue negotiating on an agenda for constituent elections.
- **SERBIA and MONTENEGRO:** Authorities from Montenegro set the 21st of May as the date for the referendum on their independence from Serbia.



## ISSUE OF THE MONTH

The Alert Unit of the School of Peace Culture at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona has just published its annual report 'Alert 2006', a study that summarizes the state of the world at the end of the year through the analysis of some indicators. The conclusions that have been reached, and which include quantitative data on the number of conflicts, situations of tension, peace processes or people being displaced, may give the impression that improvements have been made worldwide throughout the year. Nevertheless, a qualitative and detailed analysis of the indicators on the whole, provide a less optimistic view or rather a more critical interpretation of some of the trends that have been consolidating during the last years, such as the enormous difficulties to rehabilitate and resolve some of the structural problems in countries which have recently undergone an armed conflict, the appalling proportions of humanitarian crises such as the one in Darfur (Sudan), the oblivion of populations which are in danger because their basic needs have not been met, the increase in military expenditure at international level, threats to the human rights system as a result of counter terrorism measures, the few advances that have been made

towards achieving the Millennium Goals on Development or the little attention that has been paid to gender-related issues in terms of peace building initiatives. In other words, there have been too many gaps on vital issues that affect development and the well-being of people, societies and future generations.

2005 has probably been one of the years when, due to the natural catastrophes that have occurred, greater awareness has been raised all over the world as to the frailty of human beings, particularly when natural cycles are not respected or a permanent abuse of natural resources is being made.

The end of an oil era is increasingly being referred to as well as the need for responsible consumption, which are just two examples of the increasing ecological awareness. However, we are still far from achieving a more global awareness that may include Humanity as a whole or, at least, a large part of it, taking on responsibility for everything that affects us all and making sure that advances in some areas do not mean weakening or contempt for other vital issues.



## ARTICLES, REPORTS AND PRESS RELEASES

- March | **Alert 2006! Report on armed conflicts, human rights and peace-building. Icaria Editorial**
- 22.03.06 | **La mujer tiende puentes para la paz** published in AIS

Soon available. Barometer 10 Report on armed conflicts, human rights and peace-building



## AGENDA

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| - Parliamentary elections in Thailand                                     | 2nd of April |
| - Deadline established by the EU for the turn in of R. Mladic to the ICTY | 5nd of April |
| - Parliamentary elections in Solomon Islands                              | 5nd of April |
| - First round of Presidential elections in Peru                           | 9nd of April |

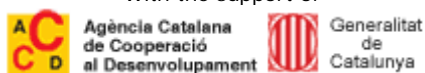
- Second meeting between Sri Lankan Government and LTTE	19nd of April
- Second round of parliamentary elections in Haiti	21nd of April
- Parliamentary elections in Lao	30nd of April

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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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