

ALERT UNIT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nº 7, July 2006



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HEADLINES OF THE MONTH

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worsening

- **PHILIPPINES:** Clashes between MILF and pro governmental militias in Mindanao provoke dozens of deaths and the displacement of some 30.000 people.
- **INDIA:** A bomb attack in Mumbai attributed to Kashmir armed groups causes 200 deaths and the interruption of the peace talks between India and Pakistan.
- **ISRAEL – LEBANON:** Israeli attacks against Lebanon have caused the death of more than 500 people and the displacement of a fifth of the Lebanese population.
- **SRI LANKA:** Armed forces bomb LTTE positions causing several casualties of LTTE combatants, in what appears to be a serious escalation of violence.
- **SUDAN (DARFUR):** The NGOs and humanitarian agencies withdraw from several areas after becoming the direct objective of the armed attacks while the new armed opposition alliance NRF attacks a city in the Northern region of Kordofan breaking the current ceasefire in Darfur.

alert

- **CÔTE D'IVOIRE:** The militias sympathisers of the President, Young Patriots, hinder violently the process of identification for the census.
- **DR CONGO:** Irregularities, intimidation and violence in the first days of the electoral campaign that will lead to the first elections in more than 40 years. Meanwhile, in the oriental region the MRC has laid down the arms in exchange of amnesty.
- **EI SALVADOR:** The FMLN demands UN the immediate reestablishment of a mission for the verification of the peace agreements.
- **ETHIOPIA – SOMALIA:** Following the advancement of the UIC towards Baidoa, headquarters of the Transitional Federal Government, Ethiopian troops enter in Somali territory with the intention of supporting the new Government.
- **INDONESIA (ACEH):** The approval of the new legislation for Aceh by the Indonesian Parliament provokes suspicions in the GAM and civil society organisations.
- **SERBIA (KOSOVO):** The negotiations between the main Serbian and ethnic Albanian leaders to solve the final status of the region fail.
- **SOMALIA:** The Islamic Courts Council defeats the last Mogadishu warlord backed by USA. Meanwhile in Baidoa, at least 19 Ministers and Deputy Ministers resign and promote a vote of censure against the current Government.

progress

- **ANGOLA (CABINDA):** Cabindese Forum for Dialogue meets in Brazzaville (Congo) with the Government to sign a peace agreement based on amnesty, armed forces reduction in Cabinda and the demilitarization and reinsertion of Cabindese combatants.
- **CYPRUS:** Important agreement for the advancement of the peace process between Greek and Turk Cypriot leaders.
- **RUSSIA FED. (CHECHNYA):** The Foreign Minister of the Chechnya self proclaimed Ichkeria Republic announces the disposal of the Chechnyan resistance to participate in peace talks.



ISSUE OF THE MONTH

Are the hopes of peace between Israel and Palestine vanishing?

Last 15th of July, the Government of Angola and Cabinda's Forum for Dialogue (FCD), platform that reunites several civilian associations, representatives from Catholic Church and leaders of the armed opposition groups that operate in the area united under the name of FLEC, signed a peace agreement, putting an end to 30 years of clashes. The text is based on five points: end to the hostilities, amnesty for the FLEC members, reduction of the number of troops in Cabinda, demilitarization and social reinsertion of the FCD. The last meeting took place in Brazzaville, capital city of Congo, with the support of the African Union and its current President, S. Nguesso, after of process of dialogue initiated by both parts during March, with continued meeting in Cabindese territory.

90% of the oil production in Angola comes from Cabinda, without this situation meaning an improvement of the life conditions of its inhabitants. Since Angola annexed this territory after its independence from Portugal in 1975, lots of groups have emerged that in the

last 30 years have fought for the autonomy of the region.

Nevertheless, both the negotiations and the final agreement have been constantly questioned by different sectors of the FCD, that consider that the representative that signed the agreements, B. Bembe, does not respect the will of the Cabinda people and that he is approaching the Government of Angola with the intention of obtaining private benefits. One of points that has been more questioned is the absence of a clear definition of the special status for the region and the local government responsibilities, that should have been reinforced after the signing of the peace. The critical sector also brings the attention on the absence of authority that the representative of the FCD has to order the FLEC to abandon the fight and to give its arms, stating that the right person for the negotiation would have been the President of the armed coalition, N. Tiago. According to Global Witness, it will be necessary to wait to see the credibility that the peace agreement has among the population and the effect that has in the FLEC.



ARTICLES, REPORTS AND PRESS RELEASES

- [Alertas para un camino de construcción de paz.](#) Publisher in Cuadernos para el Diálogo.
- [Los ataques israelíes en Gaza: nuevas violaciones de la legalidad internacional.](#) School of Peace Culture press release
- [Se incrementan las hostilidades en 12 países en conflicto.](#) School of Peace Culture press release



AGENDA

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| - Parliamentarian elections in Tuvalu | 3rd of Agost |
| - Presidential and parliamentarian elections in Guyana | 28th of Agost |
| - Presidential and parliamentarian elections in Angola | Agost |

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