

ALERT UNIT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nº 10, November 2006



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HEADLINES OF THE MONTH

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worsening

- **CHAD – CENTRAL AFRICAN R. – SUDAN:** The border area between the three countries sees an escalation of violence and the spreading of Darfur armed conflict.
- **LEBANON:** The political crisis is intensified following the mass demonstrations against Prime Minister, F. Siniora, and the assassination of a Lebanese minister from the anti-Syrian coalition.
- **MEXICO:** The conflict in Oaxaca is intensified with the intervention of parapolice forces and the offensive by the Mexican Federal Police which corners the APPO and transfers many of its leaders and supporters into maximum security prisons.
- **RUSSIA, FED. OF (CHECHNYA):** The situation in Southern Chechnya worsens because of the persistence and intensification of the military and rebel attacks.
- **SRI LANKA:** Declarations made by the LTTE leader put the country on the brink of a formal resumption of the armed conflict after months of serious escalation of violence.
- **SUDAN (DARFUR):** The Sudanese Government rejects the proposed AU-UN hybrid force for Darfur and declares that the channels of dialogue with the rebels remain open.
- **UGANDA:** The LRA announces the suspension of its participation in the peace conversations in view of the violations of the cessation of hostilities on the side of the Ugandan army.

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- **CÔTE D'IVOIRE:** UN Security Council approves by unanimity the extension for a year of the current Côte d'Ivoire Government, increasing the powers of the Prime Minister.
- **GUATEMALA:** Nearly 1.000 women and children have been murdered during the first ten months of 2006, in drug-trafficking, organized crime and youth gangs violence-related episodes.
- **IRAQ:** UN Secretary General describes the situation of the country as civil war and proposes an international conference, proposal that is rejected by the Iraqi authorities.
- **KYRGYZTAN:** The Government and the opposition agree a new Constitution that envisages wider equilibrium between the President and the Parliament, but the situation of political tension remains after the crisis generated over the distribution of power.
- **MADAGASCAR:** A retired military perpetrates a coup d'état attempt few days before the elections, reporting the illegitimacy of the current Government.
- **MALI:** The Tuareg armed group ADC from Mali declares the war against the Algerian armed group FSPC, demanding the Government of Algeria its cooperation in this fight.
- **PERU:** The Office of the Ombudsman warns about 96 existing social conflicts, ranging from communal hostilities to environmental issues, which if not solved could escalate into full-blown crises
- **SERBIA (KOSOVO):** The UN Special Envoy for the status of the province delays the proposal for a definitive resolution until after the Serbian elections in January, while Serbia approves by referendum a new Constitution that considers Kosovo an integral part of the country.
- **SOMALIA:** The regional intervention and the US proposal to give green light to the peacekeeping regional mission to give support to the Transitional Federal Government leave the country on the brink of an escalation of the armed conflict.
- **SUDAN:** The SPLA and the Sudanese army clash in Southern Sudan jeopardizing the peace agreement signed in 2005 and causing a high death toll.
- **TURKEY:** The Primer Minister announces the acceleration of the fight against the PKK, while there continues to be Kurdish appeals to seize the armed group unilateral truce and find a negotiated solution to the conflict.

- **ARMENIA – AZERBAIJAN (NAGORNO-KARABAKH):** Presidents of both countries meet and the Azeri leader announces that it will be possible soon to overcome the deadlock in the territorial dispute.
- **CYPRUS:** The leaders of the opposed communities accept United Nations proposal to relaunch the peace plan.
- **PHILIPPINES:** The deadlock in the peace talks between the Philippines Government and the MILF could break after the exchange of new proposals about Mindanao territorial organization, in spite of the last ceasefire violations.
- **ISRAEL – PALESTINA:** Israel Government and PNA reach a new ceasefire agreement in Gaza, in an attempt to reopen the peace talks.
- **MAURITANIA:** The second round of the legislative and local elections takes place in the country after a first round developed in a calm and freedom climate, as being said by the EU observers.
- **NEPAL:** The Government and the Maoists sign a peace agreement that leads to the conformation of a new interim Government that will include the Maoists, and both parties also reach an agreement on disarmament.
- **DR CONGO:** The defeated candidate in the second round of the Presidential elections, J.P. Bemba, shows its rejection to the announcement made by the Supreme Court ratifying the victory of J. Kabila, but accepts to lead the opposition.
- **DR CONGO (ORIENTALE)** Three armed groups present in the Ituri region sign a peace agreement with the Government.
- **MANO RIVER SUBREGION:** Representatives from Liberia, Sierra Leona and Guinea meet in Conakry promising to present a regional proposal to consolidate peace in the Mano River region.



ISSUE OF THE MONTH

The peace agreement in Nepal

The signature of the peace agreement on the 22nd of November between the Government, made up by the political parties coalition that led the opposition against King Gyanendra's regime, and the Maoist opposition armed group, means the culmination of a process initiated when the now signatory parties were part of the opposition. Since May 2005, months after the coup d'état perpetrated by the King, a dialogue process began between the Maoists and the main political parties, which crystallized in an agreement that established a common agenda to face up the authoritarian monarchy. This initial agreement, that achieved the union between the political and the armed opposition, have laid the seeds of the current agreement that has put a formal end to the armed conflict. It has to be pointed out that this peace agreement not only means the end of the armed violence, but also the beginning of a democratic process that will deal with some of the structural causes that lie behind the violence that has devastated the country since 1996. Therefore, the agreement envisages the celebration of constituent assembly elections in which the future of the monarchy will be decided, and it also

includes some principles, absent until now, such as the rule of law, human rights respect, social justice, the inclusion of the different ethnic and social groups or the socioeconomic transformation of the country. It is also worth mentioning the fact that the peace agreement has been accompanied by another one related to the disarmament issue, fact that shows the compromise of both parties with the sustainability of the process. Finally, it has to be added that, beyond the mentioned questions, the Nepal peace process has special importance because the omnipresent antiterrorist fight has not polluted the process to the point of hampering the signature of an agreement. The fact that the Maoists were included in the US Government list of terrorist organizations has not been an obstacle for them being considered a legitimate interlocutor and being included in the interim Government created as a result of the peace agreement. The process has, therefore, several points that will allow to face the country's near future with optimism and under the premise that going backwards to a situations of direct violence will be very unlikely if the current conditions do not change.



ARTICLES, REPORTS AND PRESS RELEASES

- La consolidación de la Rehabilitación posbélica en Haití: una responsabilidad compartida / The post-war rehabilitation consolidation in Haiti: a shared responsibility. (Published by the School of Peace Culture, November 2006, spanish)
- ¿Excepción o cambio de tendencia? Cascos azules occidentales en Líbano. / Exception or change of trend? Western Blue Helmets in Lebanon (Published in AIS, 2nd December 2006)

AGENDA

Parliamentary elections in the self-proclaimed independent Transdniester region (Moldova)	10th of December
Regional elections in Aceh (Indonesia)	11th of December
Parliamentary elections in Madagascar	December

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