

# ALERT UNIT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nº 11, December 2006



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## HEADLINES OF THE MONTH

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- **DR CONGO:** The clashes between Congolese armed forces and the dissident militias of General L. Nkunda continue in North Kivu Eastern province.
- **NIGERIA:** PDP presidential party primary elections cause several violent episodes in various states, causing the death of at least seven people.
- **PALESTINE:** The tension between the supporters of Hamas and Fatah rises following the announcement by the President, M. Abbas, of early elections.
- **SERBIA (KOSOVO):** K. Annan alerts on the increase of the tension in Kosovo and the wide distance between the Serbian and Kosovar Governments in relation to the province status.
- **SOMALIA:** The offensive led by the Federal Transition Government troops supported by Ethiopia causes the withdrawal of the Supreme Islamic Court of Somalia militias and the handing over of Mogadishu.
- **SPAIN:** The armed group ETA puts a bomb in a car park in Madrid airport, causing two deaths, and the Government announces the break up of the peace process.
- **SUDAN (DARFUR):** Janjaweed militias attack the Al-Fasher market, Darfur main city, forcing more than 400 humanitarian workers to abandon the region in view of the violence increase.
- **THAILAND:** The increase of violence in the Southern provinces causes again the closing-down of schools and leads authorities to fear a population exodus.

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- **ARMENIA – AZERBAIJAN (NAGORNO-KARABAKH):** The Nagorno-Karabakh region approves a Constitution that describes the territory as a State, while OSCE alerts that the approval may undermine the negotiation process between both countries over the disputed territory.
- **CÔTE D'IVOIRE:** The President, L. Gbagbo, announces a new plan to reactivate the peace process, asking for the disarticulation of the security zone that divides the North and the South of the country.
- **FIJI:** A coup d'État in the archipelago ousts the elected Government and provokes international condemnation.
- **IRAQ:** The execution of ex President S. Hussein causes international condemnations and intensifies the sectarian violence in the country.
- **KYRGYZSTAN:** The Government resigns amid the continued crisis over the distribution of power between the Executive and the Parliament.
- **NEPAL:** The Government appoints several diplomatic posts without the permission of the Maoists, provoking protests by the latter.
- **PERU:** Political tension increases in Peru after the murder of eight people supposedly committed by a Sendero Luminoso faction.
- **TURKEY:** The Kurdish armed opposition group PKK is considering abandoning the unilateral truce initiated in October if the Turkish army maintains its attacks against the organization.
- **TURKMENISTAN:** The President death raises the question over the future of the closest regime in Central Asia, while the People's Council announces elections to be hold in February.
- **ZIMBABWE:** Presidential party ZANU-PF promotes a shift in the Constitution to prolong R. Mugabe's mandate until 2010.

- **DR CONGO:** Hundreds of members of armed groups and dissident soldiers from the East of the country take part in the DDR process.
- **INDIA – PAKISTAN:** Pakistan could withdraw its claims on Kashmir if India accedes to its peace proposal.
- **INDONESIA (ACEH):** Aceh holds the first regional elections in its history, resulting from the peace process of 2005, won by a leader of the former armed opposition group GAM.
- **LEBANON:** The General Secretary of the Arab League shows satisfaction with the progress in the mediation over the political crisis in the country and celebrates Syria's collaboration.
- **UGANDA:** Peace talks between the Government and the LRA resume after its interruption following the violation of the cessation of hostilities.



## ISSUE OF THE MONTH

### Where is Somalia going?

The rise in violence that has taken place in the country as a consequence of the confrontation between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) troops supported by Ethiopia, and the Supreme Islamic Council of Somalia (SICS) militias, has concluded temporarily with the withdrawal of the Islamic courts militias and the handing over of Mogadishu. These clashes are the result of the threat that the SICS increasing power posed to Ethiopia, reason why Ethiopia decided to intervene in support of the TFG, whose political and military power was increasingly limited in view of the military expansion of the SICS towards the centre and South of the country. Nonetheless the situation continues to be very serious, mainly in the humanitarian field due to the current insecurity and the difficulties the humanitarian organizations face to access the areas where clashes have taken place. Moreover, the withdrawal of the SICS militias, which was preceded by the handing over of arms to the population and the capital clans, has provoked the flight of thousands of people from the capital fearing that new confrontations may take place soon. In this sense, the TFG provided a three days deadline

starting on the 1st of January, which has already expired, for the Mogadishu clans' militias to voluntarily disarm, although it is expected that new talks between the TFG and the different clans will be held to avoid new confrontations.

On the other hand, various European countries belonging to the Contact Group have made an appeal for a reconciliatory process that includes the SICS, following a meeting held between EU representatives and the European member states of this group. The Contact Group, formed in June 2006, is integrated by the US, United Kingdom, Italy, Sweden, Norway, and representatives of UN, AU, the Arab League, IGAD and Tanzania. This proposal was prepared on US initiative after the defeat by the SICS militias of the alliance of war lords financed by the EU, which marked the start of the expansion of the Islamic courts' militias control over the centre and South of the country. The European initiative shows up the need of a coordinated action to be taken by the international community to contribute to the reconciliatory process in the country.



## ARTICLES, REPORTS AND PRESS RELEASES

- [Crisis regional en el triángulo RCA-Chad-Sudán. Comunicado de prensa./ Regional crisis in the CAR-Chad-Sudan triangle. Press release, \(11th December\)](#)



## AGENDA

Parliamentary elections in Serbia

21st of January

Senatorial elections in Mauritania

21st of January

Parliamentary elections in Bangladesh

23rd of January

Parliamentary elections in Gambia

25th of January

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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>

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