

## WCI Headlines

August 2008

### **Afghanistan Headlines**

Summary Analysis: Fighting continued to escalate in Afghanistan as both military and civilian deaths increased. A US air strike killed a large number of civilians, prompting backlash from the Afghan government. Aid organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to carry out their operations amid the violence, and there have been numerous incidents of the Taliban targeting marked aid vehicles.

#### Focus Areas:

##### **Conflict:**

- Afghans urge coalition military changes
  - <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/08/25/afghan.strike/index.html#cnnSTCText>
- Taliban killed in Afghanistan clashes
  - <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1835584,00.html?xid=feed-cnn-topics>
- 10 French soldiers killed in clash with Taliban
  - <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/08/19/afghan.attack/index.html#cnnSTCText>
- Afghan forces to take charge of Kabul security
  - <http://e-ariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/ABC8F6B5B6745066872574A500133468?OpenDocument>
- Taliban ambush kills three more aid workers
  - <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=5569779>
- US-led troops kill women in Afghanistan
  - <http://news.theage.com.au/world/usled-troops-kill-women-in-afghanistan-20080808-3sah.html>

##### **Human rights:**

- UN criticizes Afghan decision to free rapists
  - [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2008143784\\_apafghanrapistsfreed.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2008143784_apafghanrapistsfreed.html)

### **Colombia Headlines**

#### Summary Analysis:

ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo spent three days in Bogota to investigate alleged government ties with paramilitary groups. FARC's recent setbacks continued with the indictment of Martin Sombra, a founding member of FARC. A general strike of truck drivers caused billions of dollars of economic losses. President Uribe continued to enjoy record-high approval ratings after the freeing of hostages in July, sparking talk of reelection.

#### Topic Areas:

#### **Conflict**

- ICC Scrutinizes Paramilitary Crimes
  - <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43696>
- Guerrilla bomb kills 7 in Colombian town
  - <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSN1545955020080815>
- FARC founding member indicted in Colombia kidnapping
  - <http://www.washtimes.com/news/2008/aug/04/farc-founding-member-indicted-colombia-kidnapping/>

#### **Economy**

- Strikers talk with government
  - <http://insidecostarica.com/dailynews/2008/august/16/reg02.htm>

#### **International Relations**

- Brazil extradites Colombian drug lord to U.S.
  - [http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wned/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE\\_ID=1347380](http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wned/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1347380)
- Switzerland, Colombia, end Red Cross logo dispute
  - <http://www.topix.net/content/ap/2008/08/switzerland-colombia-end-red-cross-logo-dispute>

#### **Political**

- Uribe backers submit re-election vote signatures
  - <http://www.topix.net/content/ap/2008/08/uribe-backers-submit-re-election-vote-signatures>

### **Ethiopia Headlines**

#### Summary Analysis:

Ethiopia's humanitarian problems continued with flash flooding in the Gambella region, and food shortages resulting from previous droughts. Ethiopian-backed Somali troops were responsible for the

shelling of markets in Bakara. Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawe suggested that Ethiopian troops may be withdrawn from Somalia, even if the Somali government is not stable.

#### Focus Areas:

##### **Conflict**

- ARS Chief Condemns Market Shellings
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808220269.html>
- UIC Hails Ethiopian Troop's Withdrawal Announcement
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808290504.html>

##### **Economy**

- AGOA Exports to US Double in First Half of '08
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808220263.html>

##### **Social/Cultural**

- Government Signs Health Partnership Pact With International Organizations
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808280684.html>
- Thousands More Displaced as Flash Floods Spread
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808270849.html>
- USAID Expedites Emergency Food Aid
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808220262.html>
- Conference of Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs held in Addis Ababa
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808280689.html>

#### **Liberia Headlines**

August 2008

#### Summary Analysis:

Liberia recently celebrated the graduation of 2100 professionally trained soldiers, and statistics that show decreases in sexual exploitation and abuse in the last six months. The new United States Ambassador Ms. Linda Thomas Greenfield stated that Liberia needed to reform its justice system and fight corruption to continue its peace and stability. Libyan Leader Muammar Al Gaddafi promised 30 million USD to accelerate rice production in Liberia, and US Representative Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. proposed a large scale plan to provide assistance to Liberia.

#### Focus Areas:

##### **Conflict**

- UNMIL announces that reports of sexual exploitation and abuse in Liberia have decreased
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808211029.html>
- Liberia's new army grows in strength
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200809010782.html>
- Former leader of the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) refuses to apologize for assassinating former President Doe
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200809010085.html>
- US Ambassador Ms. Greenfield encourages Liberia to mend its broken justice system
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808290200.html>

### **International/Regional Relations**

- U.S. Representative Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. calls for a five-year commitment to Liberia that exceeds normal bilateral assistance
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200807311236.html>
- Libya's Gaddafi pledges USD 30 million toward Liberia's food security drive
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200809010801.html>

### **Internal Structure**

- Kakata province now receiving a constant distribution of pipe-born water
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200809010084.html>

## **Malawi Headlines**

### Summary Headlines:

The government is focused on the upcoming 2009 presidential and parliamentary elections, embarking on voter registration drives. Tensions between the current President (Mutharika) and the opposition party, the United Democratic Front (led by ex-President Muzuli) are also surfacing, in the face of the upcoming elections. The government is coping with problems of food insecurity by implementing measures such as banning the private trade of maize and starting irrigation projects to increase the country's food production. Parliament has finally approved the budget, after threats from President Mutharika. The distribution of free anti-retroviral drugs has proven successful (in the past four years, there has been a 75% decrease in deaths due to AIDS); it has yet to be shown whether the free distribution of female condoms will share similar success in respect to the prevalence of STDs. Malawi is looking to expand its borders, searching for potential investors and aiming to be a larger exporter of goods.

## Focus Areas:

### **Agriculture:**

- President Mutharika announced plans for irrigation project to increase the country's food production
  - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7583871.stm>
- Local pockets of the country face food insecurity
  - <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/KKAA-7HZ2WV?OpenDocument>

### **Politics and Elections:**

- Malawi embarks on fresh voter registration for 2009 elections (to prevent against repeat of faulty voter registration in 2004 election)
  - <http://www.afrol.com/articles/30337>
- Former President Muzuli condemns current President Mutharika; Muzuli seeking Presidency in 2009 elections
  - <http://www.afrol.com/articles/30459>

### **Social**

- AIDS deaths dropped by 75% in the past four years due to increased access to free anti-retroviral drugs
  - <http://www.afrol.com/articles/30477>
- Government clinics distribute free female condoms
  - <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79506>
- Government introducing compulsory birth registration to curb rates of child labor and trafficking
  - <http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2008-07-29-voa61.cfm>

### **Economy**

- Budget finally approved when President threatens to deploy soldiers
  - <http://www.afrol.com/articles/30536>
- Malawi looks for potential foreign investors
  - <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808120836.html>
- Malawi government bans private sale of maize in order to regulate prices

- <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808290026.html>

## **Sri Lanka Headlines**

### Summary Analysis:

The Sri Lankan government pushed closer to the LTTE's administrative capital, raising hopes that the 25-year civil war against the LTTE is coming to an end. However, there is concern over the lack response to the LTTE's intent to use civilians as a human shield in the battle for Kilinochchi. The government urged thousands to move out of Tiger controlled territory and the UN and other NGOs asked for increased donor funding to cover the rising costs of food and increasing numbers of displaced persons.

### Focus Areas:

#### **Conflict**

- Bomb in capital injures 48
  - [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_08/August30151715CH.html](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_08/August30151715CH.html)
- HR agencies silent over LTTE's human shield
  - <http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2008/08/31/sec01.asp>
- End looms for Tigers
  - <http://www.dailynews.lk/2008/08/30/sec02.asp>
- Civilians urged to move to government territory
  - [http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2008/08/080828\\_gota.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2008/08/080828_gota.shtml)

#### **Economic**

- First South Asia Economic Summit
  - <http://news-lanka.blogspot.com/2008/08/first-south-asia-economic-summit.html>

#### **Cultural/Social**

- HIV cases rise in Sri Lanka
  - [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_08/August3050356RA.html](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_08/August3050356RA.html)
- Sri Lankan Airlines appoints first female captain
  - [http://www.southasianmedia.net/index\\_story.cfm?id=526723&category=Frontend&Country=SRI%20LANKA](http://www.southasianmedia.net/index_story.cfm?id=526723&category=Frontend&Country=SRI%20LANKA)
- Newly displaced, rising food costs prompt UN, NGO plea for more aid
  - <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7HWGWB?OpenDocument>

#### **Politics**

- UPFA Secures Sweeping Victory

- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2008/08/080824\\_upfa\\_win.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2008/08/080824_upfa_win.shtml)