

ONE YEAR OF SOVEREIGN DEBT RESTRUCTURING

This idea promoted by the IMF consisting in the possibility of international agreements which should determine the liability of sovereign states and foreign subjects in their relations to one another is one year old. Though it is defended from some NGOs, it presents its risks, as it is asserted that States should appear before new international tribunals, probably, arbitral tribunals, as to discuss their sovereign debts with their creditors. Though it is underlined that it contributes to crisis prevention, it may derive, if not carefully designed as to pay attention to human rights and rights of peoples, in putting States in the hands of foreign creditors. This is happening somehow today with the inclusion of collective action clauses (CACs). However, only the time can tell what would really happen in this arena.

Report on the fact-finding mission to Moscow, Tbilisi and the Pankisi Valley, by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the situation in

Georgia (28 October-2 November 2002)

In the framework of the Council of Europe, this Committee addresses the problems between Georgia and Russia concerning Chechen fighters. The Committee has concluded that Georgia has an active duty to ensure the rule of law in all the territory, but the international community must help the country to achieve this goal. Finally, further bilateral border control and cooperation should be enhanced.



International Protection
Machstraße 8/1/2
1020 Wien

Phone 43 1 729 3776

Fax 1 240 248 7148

THE NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

N°1, NOVEMBER 15, 2002

EDITORIAL

The Fight against Hunger as Priority

By Maria F. Perez Solla, LL.M.

This week was a terrible week for those who believe that every person in this world deserve to live with dignity.

The famine in the South of Africa, in countries as Zambia, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe is threatening more than 14 million people. The question is reflected in some media but not actually in the cover of the newspapers.

In addition, the crisis in Argentina is reflecting a cruel side: children dying from hunger, in the middle of a never-ending negotiation with the multilateral financial institutions. In particular, the IMF insists with recessive measures, in a country where unemployment clearly surpasses 20%.

The international community must address these problems with urgency. International mobilization as to address the African catastrophe and, in the long run, the reform of the financial multilateral system as to seriously address development issues, instead of giving priority to the creditors' interests are needed. A new "consensus" on solidarity has to be given a chance.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

UNAMA criticizes violent repression in Afghanistan

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has condemned the police repression in Afghanistan. Two students died and at least 15 persons were wounded. The events are linked to difficult conditions at the Kabul University. Moreover, denunciations of pressure over persons with information about mass graves at Dasht-i-Leili has also raised concern in the Mission, in charge of Mr. Brahimi.

Millions of children in poverty in Argentina

A consultant firm Equis has reported the existence in Argentina 74,5% of the children under 14 years of age in poverty, that is, about 7,5 millions of children. Moreover, more than 2,5 millions are indigent.. The proportion has dramatically increased, as they represented 50% last year..

UNHCHR intercedes for Chechen asylum seekers

The UNHCHR has interceded before Polish and Lithuanian authorities that would have decided to refuse the requests of asylum of Chechen petitioners. Though the danger of terrorism is a possible ground for the refusal, the agency has asserted that blanket refusal and return to Russia should be object of further analysis by the authorities of these countries.

NEW WITNESS IN DISAPPEARANCES CASES

Mr. Nicolaidis was due to declare on Nov. 15, before the Argentinean federal judge Bonadio in a case investigating the disappearances of „montoneros“ in 1979-80. In the same case, Mr. Scagliuzzi would be extradited from Spain to Argentina.

Hong Kong: No protests, please!

Two pro-democracy activists were detained this week for holding an “unauthorized protest.” In Hong Kong a public safety ordinance asserts that authorities must receive seven days notice about public demonstrations of more than 30 persons. In case of breach, the “perpetrator” can go to prison up to five years. This event has taken place among accusations of deterioration of civil rights, enjoyed before the handover to China in 1997.

NEPAL KILLINGS BY REBELS

Maoist groups in Nepal, fighting against the Constitutional Monarchy regime, have attacked two towns and killed 56 policemen and soldiers. This has deteriorated the situation in the country, as the government had announced to start negotiations with the rebels before these attacks.

RUSSIA REJECTS AN ATTACK ON IRAQ WITHOUT UN AUTHORIZATION.

Russia has made clear its position: the weapons inspectors must inform the Security Council and only with a decision of this organ an attack on Iraq would be licit under international law.

In addition, this is a reply to those who have asserted that the adopted resolution authorizes the use of force. The Russian interpretation is asserting all the opposite.

WTO VS. PROTESTERS

In Sidney, 25 trade ministers are meeting as preparation for next year summit in Mexico. However, they are meeting in almost a fortress. In the streets of Sidney, about 1500 protesters are peacefully requesting to “shut down” WTO for its role in “corporate” globalization.

American Congress, against abortion.

The next Congress in the US will be against abortion: the representatives are planning to limit abortion through a law to be effective in 2003 and 2004.

CITES in Chile The Conference has decided in Santiago to request States reports on measures adopted as to fight against illicit trade of bear parts. This is added to measures of protection concerning the sea horse and mahogany.

GUATEMALA REPORT

The UN Mission in Guatemala has issued a report this Wednesday asserting the increase of human rights violations and the obligation of the State to investigate them and to prosecute the perpetrators.

UN ENVOY IN MYANMAR

The UN Envoy has met the military junta and requested negotiations with the leader of the opposition. Myanmar has been a military regime for forty years.