

COLOMBIA: MORE INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Bad news come from Colombia. From July to September of this year, the country has had new 150,000 internal displaced. The situation is linked to the 38 years' civil war that is affecting the country. The total of persons internally displaced is 2 millions of people.

HAITI: DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ARISTIDE

Thousands of demonstrators are protesting in Haiti and requesting Aristide to resign. Aristide has started his second term in 2001, but the economic situation of the country and accusations of corruption and human rights violations are the main causes of the unrest. Aristide was victim of a coup in 1991, but thanks to international intervention he could return to power in 1994 and to disband the Army.

Kosovo Rebels accused of War Crimes

Four former rebels in Kosovo have been charged with war crimes by UN Prosecutors. The suspects have been detained by NATO. The crimes would have been committed against civilians and would include illegal detention, inhumane treatment, torture of illegally detained people and murder.

THE NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

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EDITORIAL

Right to Peace or Getting Ready for a New War?

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The Third Committee of the General Assembly has approved this week fifteen new resolutions concerning human rights, one of them referring concretely to the right to peace.

At the same time, the *defensive* alliance, NATO, has announced further expansion in the Summit in Prague. Seven Eastern European countries would be incorporated, and three countries of the Balkans have been invited.

NATO has found a mission, once absent the Soviet Union. Though there is still division in the alliance on an attack to Iraq (Germany is reluctant; France requires express mandate of the UN), a political declaration was issued concerning effective action to assist and support the United Nations concerning weapons inspections.

Which is the role of the right to peace? At least, we would like that it means the respect for legality, e.g., the UN Charter, that all NATO members are obliged to respect.



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INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Chechens look for asylum in Kazakhstan.

About 12,000 Chechens have recently intended to obtain asylum in Kazakhstan.. This request is problematic, as to grant asylum to Chechens implies to puts at risk the relations with Moscow, plus security risks. It is foreseeable that the policy would be tough concerning these asylum-seekers. However, the situation constitutes a dilemma, as denounces of human rights violations in Russia against Chechens after the events in Moscow are widespread.

Cambodia: is Justice coming?

The Third Committee of the General Assembly has adopted a Draft Resolution concerning past violations in Cambodia, where more than one million people were killed in the seventies under Pol Pot. Pursuant to it, the Secretary General should pursue negotiations with the government as to create Chambers as to try to the members of the Khmer Rouge. The resolution was sponsored by Japan and France.

Miss World Unrest in Nigeria

100 people have died in Nigeria, after riots between Muslim and Christians. The conflict started after an article in a newspaper, that expressed that the Prophet would have taken any of the contestants as wife.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER IN SPAIN BUT EXEMPLARY DECISION IN LA PLATA, ARGENTINA

A federal judge of La Plata, Argentina has ordered Shell to conduct measures to restore the environment in Magdalena, Province of Buenos Aires, for about 35 million dollars, caused by oil dumping. The decision is contemporary to the disaster in Galicia, Spain, where the damages would be important.

HRW: Refugees in Uganda & Kenya

HRW has issued a report on urban violence against refugees in Uganda and Kenya, based on hundreds of interviews. The report reveals the lack of measures of protection regarding refugees pursuant to the international obligations of these countries.

NEW GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN?

New government, but the same self-appointed president! Human rights groups assert that this is a government serving the president, with a slim majority, that would last few time. Democracy is far from existing in a country strategic in many opinions: for the fight against terrorism.

THE UNHCR NEEDS HELP

The UNHCR has a crisis of funding. The shortfall is of nearly US \$200 million, expected to end the year some \$170 million short of the \$1.04 billion needed to address basic refugee needs. Moreover, other humanitarian organizations are facing the same problem. For this reason, programs in many developing countries would be terminated.

ANNOUNCEMENT IN MYANMAR

The Military Junta in Myanmar has announced the liberation of 115 political prisoners, including pro democracy leaders. This is a favorable step as the country is in transition to national reconciliation.

Anti Terror Law of Pakistan, in effect.

The law permits the military authorities to detain persons up to one year without charges and to persecute the relatives concerning their assets.

Accusation against Zimbabwe. Physicians for Human Rights has accused the government to use the food as political tool. The country is in a food crisis, aggravated by drought but there are several accusations pointing at the authorities and their policy to distribute and withhold food.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS MAIN ICTY MAIN PROSECUTOR

Kofi Annan has met the Carla del Ponte this week in Belgrade, as to pressure cooperation from Yugoslavia in the detention of war crimes suspects to be hand down to The Hague.

FREE MILOSEVIC (ONLY FOR ONE YEAR)!

Two international lawyers have advised the ICTY that Milosevic should be set free for one year, as to recover from his health problems, and then to continue the trial in The Hague. Milosevic is charged with genocide and crimes against humanity.