



**ASIA**  
 MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA; WEST ASIA; SOUTH ASIA; NORTH ASIA; EAST ASIA



**AFRICA**  
 WEST AFRICA; EAST AFRICA & HORN OF AFRICA; CENTRAL AFRICA; SOUTH AFRICA



**EUROAMERICA**  
 WEST EUROPE; EAST EUROPE; NORTH AMERICA; LATIN AMERICA



**GLOBALIZED OPINION...**



**GLOBALIZED FINANCE...**



**GLOBALIZED ELECTIONS...**

Trial Issue # 9  
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# Friday on the facebook

WEEKLY NEWS MONITOR OF OPINIONS & EVENTS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Based on weekly reports produced by the project 'Globalized Business & Politics: a View from the Muslim World.

Using a rich data-base of news reports and opinion polls from all over the world we analyze and compile papers on global trends and patterns in the sphere of economics, politics and society. These reports and analytical summaries are uploaded online for discussion and are accessible on the [BPM Blog Page](#).

## WELCOME REMARKS What is FOF?

Dear Colleagues,

We are mailing to you the weekly e-letter of the project: Globalized Business and Politics: A View from the Muslim World". The e-letter is a snapshot of the detailed data gathering and analysis which our research team does each week.

Why should one add another e-letter to many similar exercises already underway? We have pondered this question and here is what we believe to be our possible contribution or *Competitive Advantage*.

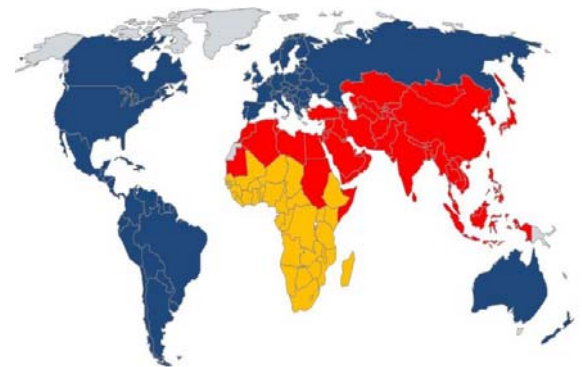
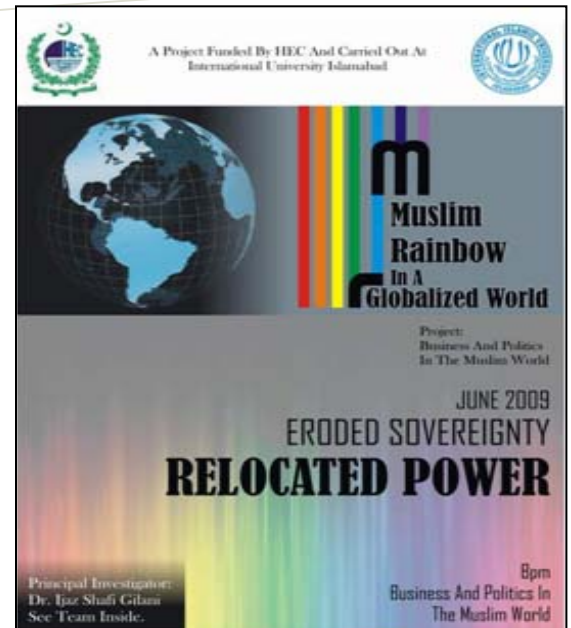
- ◆ We will make the e-letter a multi-layered presentation: in other words Friday on the Facebook will provide clicks to deeper levels of information; for comprehension (Maps and Data) as well as for elaboration



and analysis (complete weekly Events data, supplementary commentaries and related links).

- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be grounded in a thorough Analytical framework of Relocation of Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be targeted to produce an annual synthesis of Global Trends. Each issue will serve as an input for the annual analysis.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be designed to become a teaching tool for class-room instruction in courses dealing with global political sociology or related fields.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will also be designed to build a theoretically inclined community of political sociologists.

With best wishes and prayers we present our 'pilot weekly e-letter: *Friday on the Facebook. - A Weekly Monitor of Global Opinions and Events.* §



Business and Politics in the Muslim World (BPM) refers to a study funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, and is conducted at the International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad.



Principle Investigator- DR. IJAZ SHAFI GILANI



## Globalized Opinions

This week's report consists of 33 surveys. One of these surveys is a Global Survey while the rest are national surveys.

Week # 105

### Commentary on Gallopedia Polls

Dated January 31 to February 06, 2010

#### Will Troops Increase in Afghanistan Help U.S. Win the War?

With the recently announced increase in US troops in Afghanistan, questions have been on the rise regarding the reviewed US strategy in the war torn country. Last month's UK Afghanistan summit is also being widely perceived as an effort towards development and propagation of an 'Exit Strategy'. Afghan perception of US in general and US leadership in particular increasingly depicts a negative trend consistently prevailing since mid 2009. According to a recent Gallup survey<sup>1</sup> at present more than half (52%) of Afghans hold a negative view of the US. Similarly their approval ratings for US leadership have declined by 6 percentage points during this year. These stats indicate that Afghans are losing confidence in the US & its role as a *messiah*. With the reformed Afghan policy in place, the authorities are now to attempt co-opting 'friendly' elements among the 'Taliban' in hopes of augmenting a smooth exit from the conflict. The efficacy of this evolved strategy however remains to be tested where some may speculate whether any strategy could be carried through given the lacking confidence in the US among Afghan citizenry. *Is it possible to a win war without wining the hearts of Afghans?*

#### Did Ahmadinejad Really Win The Elections?

*Iranian Presidential Elections* last year became a flash point in world politics when huge protests were launched by supporters of *Mousavi*. They alleged fraudulent elections had been staged by Ahmadinejad and disputed his right to take office. However it is interesting to note that the surveys conducted by various organizations, pre and post the elections, show that Ahmadinejad really did enjoy popular support among Iranians.<sup>1</sup> He held majority support before the elections and in fact touted increased popularity (allegedly augmented by fear, hence depicting skewed results) after the elections. In these a two thirds majority voices confidence in President Ahmadinejad and believes him to be a fairly elected president. The vast coverage that protestors in Iran received however depicts a different story. *One may question how one sided is the depiction propagated by popular media.* §



MAHMOUD ABBAS

Zone 1  
ASIA

#### MIDDLE EAST

##### *Palestinians Want Abbas to Stay in Office*

Most people in the West Bank and Gaza want Mahmoud Abbas to retain his post of president of the Palestinian Authority until a new ballot takes place, according to a poll by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion. 57.6 per cent of

respondents support this idea, while 28.3 per cent reject it.  
February 04, 2010

#### NORTHEAST ASIA

##### *Hatoyama's Cabinet Keeps Dipping in Japan*

Public backing for the Japanese government has continued to fall dramatically, according to a poll by



Nikkei. 45 per cent of respondents approve of the cabinet led by Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama, down five points since December.

February 03, 2010

#### WEST ASIA

##### *Little Evidence Iranian Public Sees Government as Illegitimate*

Indications of fraud in the June 12 Iranian presidential election, together with large-scale street demonstrations, have led to claims that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad did not actually win the election, but the analysis of polls conducted by three different organizations do not support this assumption.

February 3, 2010

##### *Afghans More Skeptical of U.S. Leadership, Troops in 2009*

Afghans' views of U.S. leadership appeared to erode from mid- to late 2009 as the Obama administration



weighed its course of action. The 44% of Afghans who said they approved in late September/early October was down slightly from 50% in June.

February 3, 2010

#### EAST ASIA

##### *Susilo's Appeal Drops Considerably in Indonesia*

Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono remains highly popular but has lost a significant amount of public backing, according to a poll by the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI).

70 per cent of respondents are satisfied with Susilo's performance, down 14 points since September.

February 01, 2010

Zone 3  
EURO-AMERICAS

WEST EUROPE

**Seven-in-Ten Britons Want Legal Euthanasia**

The push to legalize euthanasia is supported by a majority of people in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 71 per cent of respondents generally oppose the practice, while 18 per cent are opposed.



February 03, 2010

**Britons Not Impressed with National Economy**

People in Britain are not ready to say that their domestic economy is doing well, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as poor or very poor.

January 31, 2010

**Germans Consider Ending Afghan Mission Now**

A third of people in Germany want their country's troops serving in Afghanistan to be withdrawn immediately, according to a poll by Forsa released by Stern and RTL. 32 per cent of respondents share this view.

February 04, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

**Socialism Viewed Positively by 36% of Americans**

More than one-third of Americans (36%) have a positive image of "socialism," while 58% have a negative image. Views differ by party

and ideology, with a majority of Democrats and liberals saying they have a positive view of socialism, compared to a minority of Republicans and conservatives.

February 4, 2010

**Americans Reject Campaign Financing Decision**

People in the United States reject a recent Supreme Court decision that allows corporations to spend freely to support candidates in federal elections, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 65 per cent of respondents disagree with the ruling.

February 02, 2010

**Asian-Americans Lean Left Politically**

Gallup Daily tracking data reveal that Asian-Americans tend to be more Democratic and much less conservative than the general population in their political views.

February 3, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

**Many Colombians Reject Re-Election Referendum**

Almost half of people in Colombia oppose the government calling a referendum on whether the constitution should be modified to allow Álvaro Uribe to run for a third term as president, according to a poll by Datexco published in *El Tiempo*. 47 per cent of respondents oppose the proposed referendum, whereas 41 per cent support it.

February 05, 2010

**Four-in-Five Brazilians Convey Support for Lula**

The vast majority of people in Brazil are content with the performance of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 81.7 per cent of respondents approve of the way the president has handled his duties, up 2.8 points since November.

February 03, 2010

**Mexicans Assess Proposed Electoral Reforms**

Most people in Mexico say politicians stand to gain from a series of electoral reforms proposed by the government, according to a poll by *Reforma*. 57 per cent of respondents think



politicians alone will benefit from the proposed changes, while 34 per cent say citizens will gain with them.

February 06, 2010

AUSTRALASIA

**Australians Back Abbott on Proposed Green Jobs**

Most people in Australia support a proposal by opposition leader Tony Abbott to employ thousands of people to develop major environmental projects, according to a poll by Essential Research. 59 per cent of respondents back Abbott's idea, while 15 per cent oppose it.

February 01, 2010

GLOBAL POLLS

**Mixed Views of Hamas and Hezbollah in Largely Muslim Nations**

Across predominantly Muslim nations, there is little enthusiasm for the extremist Islamic organizations Hamas and Hezbollah, although there are pockets of support for both groups, especially in the Middle East.

February 4, 2010

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Week # 105, Dated 30 to 5 February 2010

**TURKEY**

**Political Front:** In the stead of the *democratic initiative* the **Turkish** government has established a state institution to deal with human rights violations and make proposals to prevent them. Furthermore **Turkey** has lifted a controversial security protocol that sanctioned a military coup in case of domestic security risk, after a coup plot report surfaced publicly known as *EMASYA*.

Sixteen former members of the now-banned *Democratic Society Party* have been taken into custody in an operation under suspicion of being part of an urban branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK.

**Geo-strategic Front:** Defense Ministers of NATO held an informal meeting in Turkey last week. The US envoy appreciated Turkey's role in Afghanistan. Turkey has also granted \$1 million in aid to Haiti.

Iranian FM in a recent visit to turkey reaffirmed strong relations between the two states; He deemed any threat against Turkey as a threat against Iran and vice versa.

A senior U.S. official has called on Turkey and Armenia to ratify protocols signed last year to normalize relations. Meanwhile the Turkish Foreign Minister said that Turkey's criticism of Israel targeted the offensive on Gaza and had nothing to do with anti-Semitism. Turkey has also reiterated its intention to strengthen ties with Russia. Meanwhile the Turkish PM gave warm welcome to his Bulgarian counterpart. The premier also promised support for Kosovo's recognition internationally. He also stressed Turkey's determination in its efforts for EU accession despite adversity.

**Social Front:** Workers in Turkey began a nation-wide one-day strike to support workers of the Tobacco and Liquor Administration. Government reiterated its stance and declared the strike to be ineffective. All the while snowfall has halted flights and traffic in Turkey.

**Economic Front:** Turkish State Minister for foreign trade announced Turkey's export target for 2010 at \$ 111 billion USD.

Turkey's hazelnut export sector has yielded more than \$728.87 million this year. Turkish tourist and property markets have also revived. Inflation in Turkey accelerated in January because of tax increases and higher energy prices. Meanwhile Turkey and Azerbaijan have agreed on the price of natural gas imported from the latter.

**FERTILE CRESCENT**

**Political Front:** At a protest held outside **Egyptian** parliament Protestors have called on the *Egyptian People's Assembly* to take



decisive action against sectarian acts of violence.

**Iraq's** Shiite-led government has alleged as illegal a decision by an appeals panel to suspend a ban on candidates with alleged ties to Saddam Hussein's outlawed Ba'ath Party until after an election. Meanwhile in a *Gaza* meeting the rival Fatah and Hamas movements have formed a committee in charge of discussing field issues that are preventing reconciliation.

**Geo-strategic Front:** **Egyptian** police shot dead a sub-Saharan African migrant and wounded another as they tried to enter Israel illegally. Meanwhile *Hamas'* exiled leader *Khalid Meshaal*, in a recent statement said that a reconciliation deal with rival Palestinian faction Fatah was "within reach", and called on **Egypt** to host a meeting to seal an accord.

**Israeli** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused **Lebanon** of allowing *Hezbollah* to develop its military

force by smuggling weapons "in violation" of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701. Meanwhile **Israeli** Defense Minister, Ehud Barak, warned of the possibility of military confrontations with **Syria** due to the lack of progress during indirect talks with the country.

A UN Human Rights Council report compiled by a team led by the *South African* judge **Richard Goldstone** has accused both **Israel** and *Hamas* of war crimes during the three weeks war in the region. Hamas however has rejected accusations of having committed "war crimes" during last year's **Israeli** offensive against the *Gaza Strip*.

**Social Front:** Female students at Cairo University have started challenging religious and state efforts to ban the so-called controversial *Niqab* from schools and colleges. The battle between the Ministry of Higher Education and university students entered a new phase following last week's Supreme Administrative Court ruling that university administrations could not ban female students from wearing the *niqab* during exams.

**Economic Front:** **Iraqi** rice harvest has experienced a record decline where agricultural officials have blamed the slump on the falling water level of the Euphrates River

**GCC**

**Political Front:** A senior official of the **Yemeni** ruling party has said that military operations against Al Houthi rebels would cease only after the rebels start implementing the six conditions set by the government.

**Geo-strategic Front:** Tehran has slammed plans by the United States to beef up defenses in the Gulf against potential **Iranian** missile attacks, with the Islamic republic insisting it posed no threat to its neighbors.

**Saudi Arabia** has retaliated against US decision to place special security checks against people of 14 countries including Saudis. Meanwhile a leading **Bahraini** lawmaker has expressed "tremendous concerns" that claims about



Continued...

the alleged threat of *Al Qaeda* in **Yemen** may prove to be as baseless as the reports of WMDs in Iraq.

**Qatar** and **Iran** are expected to sign agreements in oil and gas industry, tourism, investments and other important fields to boost their economies. Meanwhile **Kuwait** has claimed that it would not allow anyone including the US to use its territory for launching attacks against any country.

**Social Front:** GCC member states are making concrete efforts for increasing job opportunities. Meanwhile **Kuwait's** immigration bureau has directed to not allow maids into the country without police approval for the sponsors.

A **Bahrain** women's rights group has stepped up pressure to make the citizenship issue a top priority in the application of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*. Meanwhile the Ministry of Labor has made a proposal to the cabinet laying out the framework for a new employment system for expatriates.

**UAE** has maintained in 2009 its third spot on the press freedom Index among Arab countries, following **Kuwait** and **Lebanon**. Meanwhile **Saudi Arabia's** Assistant Minister of Education for Girls' Affairs has vowed support for the ongoing pay parity drive for almost 100,000 female teachers with their male counterparts.

#### CENTRAL ASIA

**Political Front:** The ruling party of **Azerbaijan** has expressed joy over the registration of its 500,000<sup>th</sup> member as the number of party members crossed that of the Communist party in Soviet era. Meanwhile leaders of the **Kazakh** Communist Party and the unregistered *Algha* (Forward) party are demanding an immediate investigation into accusations of corruption against President Nursultan Nazarbaev's son-in-law.

President of **Kyrgyzstan** has fired the chief of Culture Agency for permitting the U.S. photographer Sergei Melnikoff (who has been critical of Russia) to hold a photo exhibit in Bishkek. Meanwhile an enlarged meeting of the **Tajik** Cabinet to review the results of the past year's work opened in Dushanbe last week. Also three judges from the **Tajik** Supreme Court and a Dushanbe court filed lawsuits against three independent newspapers.

**Geo-strategic Front:** Azeri Parliament



has confirmed the agreement on mutual visa-free travel between **Azerbaijan** and **Kazakhstan**.

**Kazakh** protesters collided with police at a rally against their government's burgeoning ties with neighboring *China*. Meanwhile **Kazakhstan** has recently offered to hold joint military exercises with **Turkey**. Also *Russia* remains Kazakhstan's main strategic partner in space exploration.

**Kyrgyz** nationals in the United States have established a group called the *Kyrgyz Movement for Democracy*.

President of Turkmenistan recently held a meeting with his French counterpart.

**Social Front:** Nearly 23,000 people have been vaccinated against H1N1 virus (swine flu) in **Azerbaijan's** capital.

Two **Kazakh** newspapers criticized a libel suit brought by President Nursultan Nazarbaev's son-in-law against them, calling it an attack on the country's independent media. Meanwhile a private foundation has urged **Kazakhstan** to free Yevgeny Zhovtis, a prominent government critic and civil rights lawyer, jailed for four years over a road accident late last year, saying he was imprisoned in "an unfair trial". Also around 200 protesters rallied in a southern **Kyrgyz** village demanding the release of imprisoned former Defense Minister.

Increase in infectious and parasitic diseases rate has been registered in **Kyrgyzstan** in 2009. Meanwhile in **Tajikistan** 71 of 81 religious groups and organizations functioning have been able to reregister by January 1 deadline.

Europe's main democracy and



security watchdog has sharply criticized **Uzbekistan** for jailing and harassing journalists, saying there has been no real improvement in its media freedom.

**Economic Front:** **Azerbaijan** and **Turkey** have agreed on price of the Azerbaijani gas in the first stage of the *Shah Deniz project*. Meanwhile **Kazakhstan** has announced its plan to increase the assets in its sovereign fund to \$90 billion by 2020 from current \$24.4 billion, while allocating \$8 billion a year from it on industrial development.

The International Monetary Fund has granted **Kyrgyzstan** \$337.5 million for 17 years of cooperation. Also the Cabinet of Ministers of **Uzbekistan** held a session on 29 January to consider the results of the socioeconomic development of the country in 2009 and the main priorities for 2010.

#### EAST ASIA

**Political Front:** Analysts have claim that the **Indonesian** Finance Minister enjoys real authority and power as a consequence of weak presidential leadership. Currently the nation's vice president is the only potential challenger for such political weight.

The **Thai** PM has denied any chances of a coup in his country while expressing satisfaction with his party's popularity in Central and Northern regio. Meanwhile in the **Philippines** Presidential candidate Aquino's popularity has declined while that of Villar has gained momentum according. All the while in recently held talks with rebels, **Philippines'** government has offered 'enhanced autonomy to *Moro Islamic Front* in order to resolve Mindanao's issue.

**Geo-strategic Front:** The **Cambodian** government has sent a strongly-worded letter to US internet giant Google, complaining that its online Google Earth map has incorrectly placed parts of the 11th century Preah Vihear temple in **Thailand**.

**Social Front:** In **Indonesia**, following protests by thousands of people a bronze statue of President Obama, previously erected in the National Park has been relocated to the school that the American president attended as a child. Meanwhile Rights activists have termed the new anti-pornography laws in **Indonesia** a crusade against regional traditions and religious minorities, where some fear it to be a push by some Islamic parties for *Shariah*.

Meanwhile a huge death-toll of



ducks in southern **Cambodia** has raised concerns of the government.

**Economic Front:** Statistics of World Bank Economists evince that the **Indonesian** economy has almost recovered from the effect of the Global economic crisis. The process of economic recovery has also started in all of the *East Asian states* including **Vietnam** and **Malaysia**. Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) for **Malaysia** rose by 16 points to 112 in the fourth quarter of 2009, lifting the figure above the neutral point of 100 for the first time last year. **Malaysia's** exports rebounded in December, climbing the most in 17 months amid a global economic recovery that led the government to predict higher overseas sales this year.

**SABAH** economic and business planners have expressed interest in forming alliances with **Brunei** in the halal business in a bid to strengthen trade ties. Meanwhile **Vietnam** has launched its first dispute at the *World Trade Organization* with a case against US anti-dumping measures on its key exports of shrimp.

#### SOUTH ASIA

**Political Front:** **Bangladesh's** Supreme Court declared as illegal a Constitutional amendment that had allowed religion-based political parties to flourish in the country, paving the way for the government to ban such groups. On the **Sri Lankan** Independence Day, amidst allegations of electoral rigging, President Mahinda Rajapakse vowed to build an efficient, advanced nation through commitment, discipline and elimination of corruption.

**Maldives** Department of Information has collected an audio recording of a radio station in its investigation, consisting live coverage of a protest which sparked outside the president's palace and Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) head quarters. Meanwhile **Nepali** Maoists have asked former PM Koirala to play his role in constitution making and bring an end to the

ongoing political crisis.

**Geo-strategic Front:** **Bangladesh** has hinted at handing over a top jailed **Indian** separatist leader, but wanted New Delhi to reciprocate by deporting some of its wanted terrorists allegedly hiding in **India**.

The third edition of the **India-Bhutan** Friendship Car Rally was flagged off from Kolkata. Meanwhile **India** has announced \$2.7 million worth material donation to war-hit **Sri Lanka**.

**Maldives** has claimed that it would not allow any terrorist group to use its land for any kind of terrorist activities against **India**. Meanwhile the UK Immigration Service, now known as "UK Borders Agency" has suspended the applications process for student visas from northern **India**, **Nepal** and **Bangladesh** after a dramatic upsurge in numbers and allegations of fraud.

Apart from **India**, **China** too intends to play an effective role in **Nepal**. Meanwhile the US government has proposed that no military aid be made available to **Nepal** unless the secretary of state certifies that the *Nepali Army* is fully cooperating with investigations related to violation of human rights by its officials.

The interrogation of a top Maoist



**KOBAD GHANDY**

leader Kobad Ghandy, currently in the custody of Delhi Police's Special Cell, has confirmed the **Nepali** link to the Maoist movement.

**Social Front:** The **Sri Lankan** government has announced to increase the salaries of its security forces.

Meanwhile in **Bhutan** the ban on worship by Christians and other minorities continues despite wide spread prevalence of 'western' practices such as 'discos'. The main reason cited for this is to prevent any cause for fragmentation in the small kingdom. The promotion of the tourism industry has also been at the forefront in the government's agenda.

At environmental front 'climate change' has become a serious source of concern for developing countries including

**Bhutan.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) too has added climate change as a primary concern in Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for **Nepal** along with strengthening peace and good governance.

**Maldives** has sought the help of CBI to help tackle attempts by international drug cartels to smuggle in contraband using **Indians**.

**Economic Front:** **Bangladesh** has been trying to attract \$7 billion of foreign investment to boost its electricity generation, a shortage of which has slowed the country's economic development. The nation's tea exports sank by slightly more than two thirds in 2009 as most of the crop produced was consumed locally, a trend expected to continue this year. **Bangladeshi** workers abroad sent home a record \$6.48 billion as remittances in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, registering a 20.89 percent growth.

Opening of the first Commercial Bank in **Bhutan** has become a source of delight for the entrepreneurs. Meanwhile **Sri Lankan** shares rose 0.24 percent led by hopes of better earnings due to post-war economic recovery. Also after more than a year of slack, **Malaysia** has placed a record high demand for 100,000 **Nepalese** for blue collar jobs within the next six months.

#### INDIA

**Political Front:** Rahul Gandhi's visit to Mumbai and his statement 'Mumbai for all Indians' has provoked Shiv Sena who have been at odds with the Congress party over the immigrant's issue. Meanwhile the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) criticized Congress leader Dig Vijay Singh's visit to the family of an alleged Indian Mujahideen (IM) operative, accusing him of "vote bank politics". The visit was also opposed by the Muslim Ulema Council. Meanwhile the Sangh Parivar has asked its volunteers in Maharashtra to try to prevent the spread of anti-north Indian and anti-Hindi sentiments.

**Regional Front:** The BJP in Madhya Pradesh has elected 100 Muslim representatives in urban local bodies. 82 Muslims, including 36 burqa-clad women, were elected on the BJP symbol in the recent elections to 268 urban bodies. Meanwhile Samajwadi Party expelled Amar Singh and Jayaprada from the party on the charges of indulging in anti party activities and damaging its political interests and image.

Meanwhile a dispute over formation of the new state of Gorkhland



disrupted the law and order situation in Darjeeling, West Bengal.

**Geo-strategic Front:** India has proposed the resumption of talks with Pakistan, while Pakistan has sought clarity of the content of the talks. Meanwhile India and Germany have expressed keenness to enhance bilateral ties.

**Social Front:** Hindutva activists damaged minority worship places and institutions in Kampala. They threw stoned Mosques, Churches and an orphanage. In the meantime Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan has come under severe criticism of Shiv Sena for his sympathetic support to Pakistani cricketers against the IPL decision of their exclusion from the league.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) has stressed on an urgent need to ban websites that circulate pornography and hate speeches, and has emphasized the need for cyber law enforcement in India.

A recently published report claims that almost 45,000 children die in Maharashtra every year due to malnutrition.

**Economic Front:** The Trinamool Congress opposed increase in the prices of LPG and other petroleum products recommended by an expert panel; saying a new burden of raised prices would hit the common people hard. Also Indian firms have made plan to increase hiring remarkably.

#### CHINA

**Political Front:** Chinese PM paid a visit to a village and an urban community in order to get feedback from the people for his work report that he has to deliver at the annual session of the National People's Congress, in March.

Chinese vice Premier stressed that civilians and army should develop favorable interactions to secure both economic and defense development. Meanwhile a senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has urged party organs, government departments and law enforcement departments to make more efforts in solving social conflicts, promoting innovative social management and law enforcement in a just

manner.

The mayor of Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, has promised a persistent crackdown on the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

**Geo-strategic Front:** Chinese Foreign Minister has asked the US to stop selling arms to Taiwan and has warned to ban companies involved in arms sale. China also suspended its plan to have military exchange with US. Meanwhile the US has been highly critical of China's Internet policy after Google threatened to pull out of China, citing problems of censorship and hacking attacks.

Chinese high officials held meetings with their counterparts from Jamaica, France, Serbia, Vietnam, Russia and Britain and focused on bilateral ties. China has also expressed positive hopes regarding peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue.

**Social Front:** President of China's Supreme People's Court has asked to speed up efforts to fight corruption in the country's court system. Government has started focusing on rural development along with that of the urban areas. Chinese central and local governments have poured money into the building of national cultural information and resources sharing network.

Last week the State Council of China issued an urgent notice urging relevant departments and local authorities to settle pay disputes involving migrant workers as millions of them are heading home for lunar New Year reunion. Meanwhile one of the China's top political advisors called on the country's Buddhists to contribute to ethnic unity, social stability and national unification.

13 more Swine flu deaths have been reported in China, while 74 million people have been vaccinated against the influenza. Meanwhile on the environmental front Chinese State Councilor has urged northern Shanxi Province, China's main coal mining hub, to adopt low-carbon technologies.

**Hong Kong & Macao:** A total of 101,298



people in Macao have been inoculated with the A/H1N1 vaccines so far. Meanwhile Police of Hong Kong and Chinese mainland has agreed to join forces in security, especially to enhance cooperation in training.

**Economic Front:** The Bank of Communications (BoCom) has claimed that China would enter a new round of upward economic growth cycle in 2010. Also centralized procurement by the Chinese government has helped save close to 2 billion Yuan (about 290 million U.S. dollars) in 2009. In fact government cut down expenses in many aspects and focused more on energy efficient and innovative products. Of the GDP growth of 8.7 percent last year, investment growth contributed 8 percentage points. Meanwhile Land sale revenues for China's local governments rose more than 60 percent in 2009 as the country's property market surged.

The US has been asking China to increase the value of Yuan; an issue that has strained relations between the two countries. Meanwhile China and Switzerland held their first study meeting on the feasibility of a Free Trade Area (FTA) in Beijing. Besides all that Preliminary data released by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) shows that China's current account balance dropped 35 percent in 2009 to 284.1 billion U.S. dollars.

**Hong Kong & Macao:** At the economic front Hong Kong stocks initially moved up 0.61 percent, to close at 20,243.75; later on stocks in Hong Kong dropped by 3.12%. Macao's gaming sector generated record high monthly revenues of 1.7 billion U.S. dollars in January 2010, which was a significant increase of 55 percent over the same period of last year. However Macao's total value of merchandise exports in 2009 fell by 52.1 percent year-on-year to 970 million U.S. dollars. §

Week # 105, Dated: 31 January – 06 February 2010

### POLITICS OF SECURITY AND CONFLICT ISSUES

**West Africa:** According to the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), Muslims in the nation have rejected attempts by Al-Qaeda and its affiliate groups to procreate their cells in Nigeria.

The international community has been increasing pressure on Ivory Coast to hold a presidential election and end the seven year old political and security crisis. The opposition too has called for long delayed polls to be held by March this year after a civil war which has allowed President Laurent Gbagbo to stay in power for a decade without seeking a second term. Meanwhile investigators have concluded that a voters' list being drawn up for polls deferred five times after the failed 2002 coup is marred by "fraud".

**South Africa:** Last week in an interview South African Prime Minister Tsvangirai said that early elections could be the only way to solve the country's political problems.

Meanwhile a South African nuclear expert Kelvin Kemm has urged the government to go ahead with the development of the pebble bed modular reactor nuclear technology.

The Executive Secretary of SADC (Southern African Development Community), Tomas Salomao, believes that the political factions in Madagascar will return to the negotiating table very soon to achieve a lasting solution to the



crisis that erupted last March when the mayor of Antananarivo, Andry Rajoelina, seized power.

**East Africa:** An official of the Southern Sudan government has said the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is not putting pressure on the party's independent candidates for governor to withdraw ahead of the scheduled April general election.

Last week the head of the joint African Union/United Nations mission in Darfur joined the efforts in Doha to broker a peace deal between Sudan's government and Darfuri rebels.

Somalia's U.N.-supported Transitional Federal Government marked its one-year anniversary under former Islamist opposition leader Sharif Sheikh Ahmed last week amid one of the most intense insurgent attacks in the capital in months.

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

**West Africa:** Last week Nigeria's influential state governors backed a proposal for Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to become acting head and end a vacuum following President Umaru Yar'Adua's lengthy hospitalization abroad. Meanwhile the fast crumbling President's camp received further heat as some young professional ministers have resolved to break ranks with the hawks in the Federal Executive Council. Amidst these traumatic times

Amidst growing instability oil company Royal Dutch Shell cut back production in Nigeria last week just

hours after the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend), the main rebel group in the oil-rich southeast, declared it would no longer abide by a ceasefire it agreed to last year. Meanwhile Muslim-Christian violence has drawn a threat of jihad from an al-Qaeda-linked group.

Rebels in Senegal's restive Casamance region have forced nearly 600 people to leave their villages and flee to neighboring Guinea-Bissau. Meanwhile in Guinea the new prime minister has said that a presidential election meant to bring civilian rule may not be held within six months. Also in a shifting balance of power a military hard-liner and vocal supporters of Guinea's exiled coup leader, Colonel Moussa Keita was arrested last week.

Togo has lodged a legal complaint against the African Football Confederation (CAF) and a rebel group behind a deadly attack on the team as it traveled to the African Nations Cup in Angola last month.

A federal court in the United States has ordered the son of former Liberian president Charles Taylor to pay more than US\$22 million in damages to five people tortured by his paramilitary unit during Liberia's civil war

A New UN Gender Equality Initiative was launched to enhance cooperation among all stakeholders in the West African region. Meanwhile last week A Geneva-based housing rights group urged Nigerian authorities to provide "adequate emergency shelter" for thousands of people displaced by deadly violence in the central city of Jos.





**South Africa:** A two-year land audit due to begin in **Zimbabwe** in February has been put in doubt following an angry reaction from President Robert **Mugabe's** allies and more attacks on white farmers in the region.

Meanwhile **Zimbabwe's** civil servants, in a serious blow to the year-old unity government, went on strike last week demanding higher wages.

**East Africa:** In **Kenya** Human rights activists have hailed a landmark ruling by the *Gambia-based African Commission on Human and People's Rights*, ordering the **Kenyan** government to take steps to return land to a group of indigenous people forced out by the government in the 1970s from Lake Bogoria, one of the top tourist destinations in the country.

Meanwhile the corruption watchdog Transparency International last week blasted **Kenya's** draft constitution and warned that unless lawmakers deliver an improved version, the country could collapse into a failed state.

U.S. President Barack Obama has sharply criticized an anti-gay bill in **Uganda** that would impose the death penalty in some cases.

Meanwhile in yet another incident of piracy The European Union's anti-piracy naval force has reported that **Somali** pirates have hijacked a *North Korean*-flagged cargo ship. Meanwhile in another incident *Danish* Special Forces serving as part of *Nato's* counter-piracy operation freed the crew of a cargo ship boarded by pirates off **Somalia**.

An *African Union summit* has given the organization more authority to act against unconstitutional changes of

power, Coups and conflicts in the region are dominating the summit agenda this week.

Meanwhile 33 **Burundian** soldiers accused of mutinying while serving in Somalia as peacekeepers have gone on trial. They are charged with refusing to obey orders in January 2009 in a protest over their salaries.

**Central Africa:** **Rwanda** and nine other African countries have been elected as the new members of the *African Union (AU)'s Peace and Security Council (PSC)*.

## HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

**West Africa:** In **Benin** cholera has killed five people in the past two weeks in a rare dry-season outbreak. Meanwhile the U.N. Children's Fund says it needs more than \$263 million for emergency funding in West and Central Africa this year because of flooding, higher food prices, and outbreaks of disease including cholera, measles, yellow fever, and meningitis.

**South Africa:** **South Africans** have reacted strongly to allegations that President Jacob Zuma's fathered a child out of wedlock, highlighting a gaping cultural divide that has triggered debate in the HIV plagued country. Following the scandal two Christian political parties have also urged the President to resign.

**East Africa:** The *Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI)* has awarded items and cash prizes to



primary and secondary school pupils in Kayonza for sensitizing local communities on climate change.

Meanwhile **Kenya** faces stiff competition from **Tanzania** as a tourist destination of choice in the East African region. The two countries are locked in a tight scramble for international tourists and revenue, even as *East African Community* partner states prepare to market the region as a single tourist destination.

**Central Africa:** In **Rwanda** as part of the continuous effort to eliminate the country's nutritional problems, Health Minister Dr. Richard Sezibera has called upon experts to advice on policy regarding use of food fortification as a way of increasing availability of micro nutrients.

## POLITICAL ECONOMY

**West Africa:** **Nigeria** plans to sell oilfield assets this year containing as much as 2 billion barrels of reserves either relinquished by Western firms or unsold in three previous bidding rounds.

**South Africa:** **South African** trade unions are up in arms over visas granted to over 50 construction workers from mainland *China* who are building new premises for the Chinese consulate in Cape Town.

**Central Africa:** MTN **Rwanda** has finally launched the much anticipated 'Mobile Money' product, through the use of cell phones, targeting 100,000 subscribers in 2010. §

# Zone 3- Euro-America: *Summary*

## *Transatlantic Community*

### Zone 3- Euro-Americas Summary Week # 105

#### WESTERN EUROPE

**British** Prime Minister Gordon Brown has condemned the record-breaking rise in anti-Semitic incidents last year. The Community Security Trust in **Britan** has attributed the unprecedented increase in anti-Jewish incidents to extreme reactions to the conflict in Gaza.

Meanwhile in the wake of the proceedings of the *Iraq inquiry* in the **UK** the leader of Plaid Cymru's MPs has claimed possession of a memo allegedly showing that Tony Blair and George Bush struck a secret deal to invade Iraq a year before the 2003 war. Meanwhile campaigners have attacked a deal struck by **UK** defence contractor *BAE Systems* to end inquiries into its affairs. The firm is to admit two criminal charges and pay fines of £286m (\$447m) to settle US and UK investigations.

Last week **French** President Nicolas Sarkozy and **German** Chancellor Angela Merkel brushed off President Barack Obama's decision not to attend an annual summit with *European* leaders, while stressing the importance of **Russia** as a European partner.

At the economic front Greek



**GREEK PM GEORGE PAPANDREOU**  
ARRIVES AT THE SUMMIT OF  
EUROPEAN LEADERS IN BRUSSELS

Prime Minister George Papandreou has announced tough austerity measures aimed at cutting his country's soaring public debt, amidst a grave financial crisis. Meanwhile **Portugal's** opposition-led parliament has passed a bill on regional finance, turning down a mooted government austerity plan.

#### SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

**Romania** has agreed to host missile interceptors as part of a new US defence shield. The new system would provide better defence from "the emerging threat" of Iranian short- and medium-range missiles

Last week the peacekeeping force KFOR in **Kosovo**, made up of



troops from 32 countries, downsized from 14,000 to 10,000 troops. The downsizing is being implemented in accordance with a NATO decision from July 2009 amid improving security and the strengthening of local institutions.

According to a report given by US National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair to the US Senate, events in the **Balkans** will remain the main challenge facing European stability in 2010.

Last week, the Constitutional



Court in *Tirana* decided that an agreement on the **Greek-Albanian** border delineation violates the constitution and must be renegotiated. Meanwhile the **Albania** President Bamir Topi has agreed to assume the role of mediator between the government and the opposition to end the ongoing political crisis.

Twelve opposition parties led by the Social Democratic Alliance of **Macedonia** formed a bloc last week, aimed at changing the balance of power in domestic politics.

#### RUSSIA

**Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan** will reportedly be kept apart in the draw for the qualifying tournament for the 2012 European Championship, ensuring the former war foes will not play against each other in the qualifying stages.

Public criticism of **Russian** Prime Minister Vladimir Putin by the speaker of the country's Upper House of Parliament has prompted members of Mr. Putin's political party to demand the lawmaker's dismissal. Sergei Mironov, who is number three in the Russian power structure, has responded

with a call for respect of minority rights in parliament

According to a senior **Russian** legislator the first major **U.S.-Russian** nuclear arms control treaty in nearly two decades will be ready for signing by the end of March this year. Meanwhile last week **Russia** hailed a new agreement with the *United States* intended to boost joint anti-drug efforts, but urged the U.S. and NATO to do more to stem a flow of drugs from Afghanistan

At the economic front First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov announced that the **Russian** government will step up its privatization program this year, considering more share sales than previously announced.

## US/CANADA

The **US** Federal Budget cites the projected deficit in the coming year at nearly 11 percent of the country's entire economic output. Meanwhile according to projections, American deficits will not return to what are widely considered sustainable levels over the next 10 years. Also the US unemployment rate unexpectedly fell in January, to its lowest level in five months.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of *Seven major industrial countries* met last week to settle differences on global banking industry changes.

## LATIN AMERICA

In the midst of the domestic political confrontation **Argentina's central bank** President Martin Redrado resigned last week after a standoff with the government over its plan to use \$6.6 billion in reserves to pay debt due this year. An **Argentine** congressional committee has backed President Cristina Fernandez's firing of former Central Bank chief Martin Redrado.

Meanwhile **Argentina** is to issue its "most energetic protest against the imminent start of drilling" near the



Falkland Islands archipelago, according to a ministry e-mailed statement. Falkland Oil & Gas and partner BHP Billiton Ltd. expect to begin drilling in their Toroa offshore field in April.

**Brazilian** Cabinet Chief Dilma Rousseff surged in a presidential poll taken in January as voters become increasingly aware that she's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's chosen heir to lead the country.

Meanwhile a \$17 billion project on the Xingu River in the northern state of Para is expected to help the fast-growing Latin American country cope with soaring demand for electricity but has raised concern about its impact on the environment and native Indians.

Ousted **Honduran** president Zelaya last week left the **Brazilian** embassy in Tegucigalpa, where he had taken refuge since Sept. 21, 2009, and arrived in the Dominican Republic accompanied by his family and aides.

**Mexico** City's mayor says he will defend the capital's gay-marriage



law and insists the ordinance will take effect in March despite an appeal by federal prosecutors. The law is a first for Latin America.

Meanwhile Twitter access in **Mexico** may soon be restricted if plans by the Mexican Revolutionary Democratic Party to restrict Twitter usage in an attempt to cut down on crime become law. From sharing the location of drunk driving checkpoints to more serious usage of Twitter by drug cartels, they believes that restricting access to Twitter will help reduce crime and create a "cybernetic police force" that will help in all areas of crime reduction.

**Venezuelan** President Hugo Chavez warned on last week that he may quicken his drive to build a socialist state, as he shuffled his cabinet amid opposition demonstrations sparked by closure of a television station. In the same line **Venezuelan** Socialists denounced the violent protests launched by the opposition to 'destabilize Venezuela', where two young people died and dozens have been injured. Meanwhile the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) slammed the **Venezuelan** government for dropping six cable TV channels, which triggered the protest.

The government of the *Netherlands* recently granted the *US* military use of its islands in the Caribbean, under the pretext of help in the "war against drugs", however it has been deemed as a direct threat to the Chavez government in **Venezuela**.

## AUSTRALASIA

An **Australian** firm has signed a \$60bn (AUS\$69bn; £38bn) deal to supply coal to Chinese power stations. §

### Telesopic Analysis: *Global Justice & Global Jurisdiction- Acquiring a niche as a Constitutive Norm?*

The acceptability of the concept of **Global justice** has always enjoyed an exalted position in view of its mass appeal as a universal ideology. The acceptability of global jurisdiction however has been in flux as its enforcement in the international community in light of other constitutive norms has been on the rise.

Where the concepts of *Democratic domestic governance* and *Human Rights* enjoy a 'legitimate appeal' world wide, questions regarding enforceability through global jurisdiction of widely adhered to 'norms' are a more complex undertaking. Following are a few cases that highlight this disputed arena.

#### **Goldstone Report- Israel**

Last year following the issue of UN-sponsored Goldstone report, both Israel and the Palestinians were asked to investigate accusations of human-rights violations committed during the conflict in the Gaza Strip. In the wake of this development a British court issued an arrest warrant against Tzipi Livni, Israel's former foreign minister, for her role in orchestrating Israel's military offensive against Hamas. The supporting legislation was under the controversial 1988 Criminal Justice



**TZIPI LIVNI, ISRAEL'S FORMER  
FOREIGN MINISTER**

Act, which gives courts in England and Wales universal jurisdiction in war crimes cases.

Previously Britain had abstained during the United Nations vote on the Goldstone report, which accused Israel and Hamas of committing war crimes in Gaza, and the Swedish proposal to recognize Jerusalem as a shared Israeli and Palestinian capital. In response to the warrant, Livni voiced affront at the comparison of Israel Defense Forces soldiers to 'terrorists'. This incident was the latest in a string of attempts by pro-Palestinian activists to have Israeli officials arrested on British soil. Previous attempts include:

**Oct 2009:** Former military chief Moshe Yaalon cancelled a UK visit because of fears of arrest for alleged war crimes

**Oct 2009:** Failed attempt to raise warrant against Defence Minister Ehud Barak. Court ruled he had diplomatic immunity

**Sept 2005:** Arrest warrant issued for a former head of Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip, Gen Doron Almog. He received warning before disembarking from an aircraft at Heathrow Airport, and flew back to Israel

Though this latest warrant was subsequently annulled it has



raised havoc in diplomatic and legal circles in its wake. Pro-Palestinian groups welcomed news of the abortive move as "long overdue". The Foreign Office however was deeply embarrassed by the episode, where David Miliband, UK's Foreign Secretary stated that "*The Government is looking urgently at ways in which the UK system might be changed in order to avoid this sort of situation arising again*".

#### **Kosovo**

Following Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence in February 2008, Serbia announced last year that it would seek an opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of the issue and that Belgrade would abide by the court's decision,





*General Omar al-Bashir, President of Sudan, the first head-of-state indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity*

despite it being a nonbinding, advisory opinion. The question being pondered in the international Court simply seeks to confirm whether Kosovo's declaration of independence accords with international law.

Kosovo, formerly a province of Serbia, unilaterally declared independence on February 17, 2008, after UN-brokered talks between Belgrade and ethnic-Albanian officials in Pristina broke down. Since then, more than 60 countries, including 22 of the EU's 27 members, have recognized Kosovo's independence. The judges are expected to issue their nonbinding opinions sometime during 2010.

## **Nigeria**

Last year The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against

Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir for atrocities committed in Darfur; the first international arrest warrant ever issued against a sitting head of state.

Though Sudan under the pretext of not being a signatory of the Rome Statute refused to hand over the accused president, the warrant did raise issues for nations such as Nigeria that was hosting the African Union summit on refugees, which Bashir subsequently declined to attend. Nigeria, though it announced it would not proceed with the arrest, faced pressures pertaining to its international legal obligations including under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which it has ratified.

Professor Noah Weisbord is of the opinion that ICC's first arrest warrant against a sitting head of state is an historic moment in international affairs. "They (ICC) may have discovered a way to leverage their force and advance the cause of international justice. States will enforce the warrant when they realize that going after Bashir is not going after Sudan."

In light of these examples, the novel development in recent history of international law whereby national courts may act on global stimuli or conversely the acceptance of non binding

international rulings in a national sphere, no matter how disputed, depicts a distinctive trend. Regardless of its potential enforceability, the fact of such stimuli being potent diplomatic arguments is in it self quite remarkable. §

### **Discussion Question:**

*In your opinion is the concept of 'Global Jurisdiction' an asset in international law or an impediment to sensitive diplomatic dealings?*



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## ***Universal Jurisdiction:***

*Universal jurisdiction* is the principle that every country has an interest in bringing to justice the perpetrators of grave crimes, no matter where the crime was committed, and regardless of the nationality of the perpetrators or their victims. It was most famously utilized in the **1998** arrest of former **Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet** on torture charges in London at the request of a Spanish court.

The principle of universal jurisdiction is rooted in the belief that certain crimes, such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, torture, “disappearance” and extrajudicial executions, are so serious that they amount to an offence against the whole of humanity and therefore all states have a responsibility to bring those responsible to justice. To fulfill this responsibility, more than **three-fifths of all states** have enacted universal jurisdiction laws to ensure that their national courts are able to investigate and prosecute persons suspected of committing these crimes, and to ensure that their country is not used as a “safe haven” to evade justice.

### ***How many states have used universal jurisdiction in their national courts?***

Since the end of the Second World War more than a dozen states have conducted investigations, commenced prosecutions and completed trials based on universal jurisdiction or arrested people with a view to extraditing the persons to a state seeking to prosecute them. These states include:

***Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States***

### ***Who can be prosecuted using universal jurisdiction legislation?***

The Charter of the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, the Statutes of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court all confirm that courts can exercise jurisdiction over grave crimes under international law regardless of the official capacity of the accused at the time of the crime or later, be it a head of state, head or member of government, member of parliament or other elected or governmental capacity. The fact that no one is above the law was confirmed when the British House of Lords ruled that Augusto Pinochet had no right to immunity from prosecution as a former head of state.

### ***Can universal jurisdiction be misused as a political tool?***

The Bush administration has claimed that universal jurisdiction is a dangerous political tool that can be misused against American officials and service personnel. Amnesty’s landmark global survey on universal jurisdiction has found no evidence to support this assertion. Instead, when political motivations have come into play, it has been to block legitimate cases from moving forward. The cases described above show that universal jurisdiction is first and foremost an effective road to justice for victims who have nowhere else to go.

[http://www.amnestyusa.org/international\\_justice/pdf/UniversalJurisdiction.pdf](http://www.amnestyusa.org/international_justice/pdf/UniversalJurisdiction.pdf)



## ***The Pinochet Effect***

The arrest of Augusto Pinochet is the most well known case where states have exercised universal jurisdiction. Pinochet, the former President of Chile, is allegedly responsible for human rights violations including murder, torture and ‘disappearance’ committed during his administration in Chile between 1973 and 1990.

Efforts to prosecute Pinochet in countries other than Chile have served as a catalyst for a number of positive developments that benefit victims and survivors in Chile, including:

§ challenging his as well as his supporters’ version of what happened in the country and delegitimizing any effort to justify the abuses;

§ sending a strong message that no one is above the law;

§ kicking open the door that had prevented investigations in the past -- by the time Pinochet returned to Chile, he was facing some 300 complaints in local courts, hundreds of his colleagues were indicted, and the affect of the amnesty law dulled.

§ putting pressure on a DC-based bank to agree to pay damages into a fund established to compensate Pinochet’s victims. The bank in question had helped Pinochet set up false accounts to avoid having his assets frozen.

[http://www.amnestyusa.org/international\\_justice/pdf/UniversalJurisdiction.pdf](http://www.amnestyusa.org/international_justice/pdf/UniversalJurisdiction.pdf)

**Summary- A Balanced Strategy: Reprogramming the Pentagon for a New Age**

*By Robert M. Gates- U.S. Secretary of Defense.*

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates, in his article that appeared in *the Foreign Affairs* in January 2009, notes that the primary focus of Pentagon's National Defense Strategy is balance, where by the Department of Defense must set priorities and consider inescapable tradeoffs and opportunity costs. Such a strategy is inevitable considering today's conventional and sub conventional security arena—as well as tomorrows projected conflicts.

**Unconventional thinking**

The secretary opines that the United States' ability to deal with future threats will depend on its performance in current conflicts. At present there is going to be an inevitable projected decline in forces in Iraq. However the US will continue to maintain its advisory position and counterterrorism efforts for years to come. Meanwhile Afghanistan, a more complex and difficult long-term challenge than Iraq, will require a significant U.S. military and economic commitment for some time.

In the current scenario the US must not be so preoccupied with preparing for future conventional and strategic conflicts that it ends up neglecting its current commitments. Traditionally support for conventional modernization programs is deeply embedded in the Defense Department's budget, in its bureaucracy, in the defense industry, and also in Congress. The major concern, Gates voices, is the lack of commensurate institutional support -- including in the Pentagon -- for the capabilities needed to win today's wars and some of their likely successors.

Direct military force will



continue to play a role in the long-term efforts against 'terrorists' but the United States cannot 'kill or capture its way to victory'. These so called 'Kinetic operations' must be subordinate to measures aimed at promoting better governance, economic programs, and efforts to address the grievances among the discontented. In the future likely catastrophic threats to the U.S. homeland are more likely to emanate from failing states than from aggressor states. Hence greater focus is likely to be meted out to indirect intervention.

However even the biggest of wars will require "small wars" capabilities, but one should bear in mind that nearly every major deployment of U.S. forces has led to a longer subsequent military presence to maintain stability. In the Secretary's opinion, so far, mainly in matters of capacity to maintain security and stability in the aftermath of active conflict,

the military and civilian elements of the United States' national security apparatus have grown increasingly out of balance. To truly achieve victory, as Clausewitz defined it -- to attain a political objective - - the United States needs a military 'whose ability to kick down the door is matched by its ability to clean up the mess and even rebuild the house afterward.'

**Conventional threats in perspective**

The 2008 National Defense Strategy concludes that although U.S. predominance in conventional warfare is not unchallenged, it is sustainable for the medium term given current trends. To keep some perspective the U.S. Naval battle fleet is still larger than the next 13 navies combined -- and 11 of those 13 navies are U.S. allies or partners.

Even as its military hones and institutionalizes new and unconventional skills, the United States still has to contend with the security challenges posed by the military





forces of other countries. Both Russia and China have increased their defense spending and modernization programs to include air defense and fighter capabilities that in some cases approach the United States' own. In addition, there is the potentially toxic mix of 'rogue nations, terrorist groups, and nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons'. All these potential adversaries have learned that it is unwise to confront the United States directly on conventional military terms.

Yet even though the days of hair-trigger superpower confrontation are over, Beijing's investments in cyber warfare, anti-satellite warfare, anti-aircraft and anti-ship weaponry, submarines, and ballistic missiles perturb the US. Russia's conventional offensive in Georgia too was augmented with a sophisticated cyber attack and what Gates terms as a 'well-coordinated propaganda campaign'. Political scientist Colin Gray has noted that the categories of warfare are blurring. One can expect to see more tools and tactics of destruction -- from the sophisticated to the simple --

being employed simultaneously in hybrid and more complex forms of warfare.

The United States seeks a better balance in the portfolio of its capabilities in accordance with this blended high-low mix of adversaries and types of conflicts. *The Department of Defense's conventional modernization programs seek a 99 percent solution over a period of years. Stability and counterinsurgency missions require 75 percent solutions over a period of months. The challenge is whether these two different paradigms can be made to coexist in the U.S. military's mindset and bureaucracy.*

### Sustaining the institution

At present one of the enduring issues the military struggles with is whether personnel and promotions systems designed to reward the command of American troops will be able to reflect the importance of advising, training, and equipping foreign troops. Another is whether formations and units organized, trained, and equipped to destroy enemies can be adapted well enough and fast enough to dissuade or co-opt them -- or, more significantly, to build the



capacity of local security forces to do the dissuading and destroying.

For decades there has been no strong, deeply rooted constituency inside the Pentagon or elsewhere for institutionalizing the capabilities necessary to wage asymmetric or irregular conflict. The base budget for fiscal year 2009, for example, contained more than \$180 billion for procurement, research, and development, the overwhelming preponderance of which was for conventional systems. What the US needs to be conscious of is that the capabilities needed for the complex conflicts the United States is actually in and most likely to face in the foreseeable future also have strong and sustained institutional support over the long term.

As a large, hierarchical organization, some tendencies of organizational behavior, as identified by Robert Komer, to some degree impede the U.S. national security apparatus' adaptation of evolved realities. The advances in precision, sensor, information, and satellite technologies have led to extraordinary gains in what the U.S. military can do. But one should not neglect the psychological, cultural, political, and human dimensions of warfare. In conclusion *The Pentagon has to do more than modernize its conventional forces; it must also focus on today's unconventional conflicts -- and tomorrow's.* §

Business and Politics in the Muslim World (BPM) refers to a study funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, and is conducted at the International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad.

Principle Investigator- DR. IJAZ SHAFI GILANI



BPM- Business & Politics  
In the Muslim World