



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...

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 for new readers 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*.

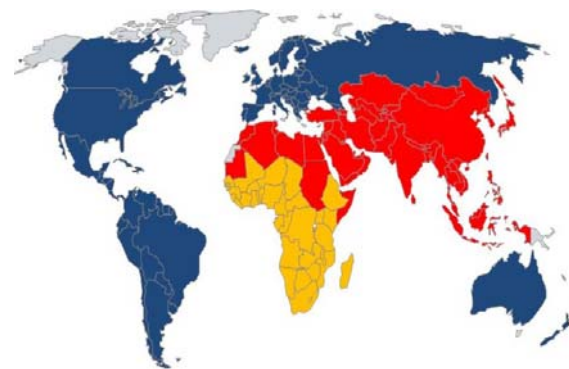
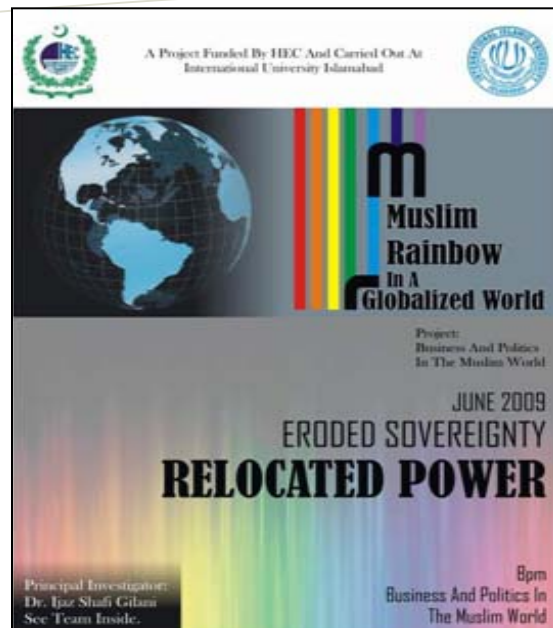
- ◆ We will make the e-letter a multi-layered presentation: in other words Friday on the Facebook will provide clicks to deeper levels of information; for comprehension (Maps and Data) as well as for elaboration



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 21st 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 '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.



Globalized Opinions

This week report consists of **25** surveys including **3** multi-country surveys. **13** polling organizations have been represented.

Gallopedia Highlights Week # 120

Dated May 16-22, 2010

ASIA zone-3 national polls& **1** Global poll:

West Asia: Turkey

Northeast Asia: Japan

AFRICA zone- 1 Global poll:

EURO-AMERICAS zone-19 national polls, **2** Multi national polls & **1** Global poll:

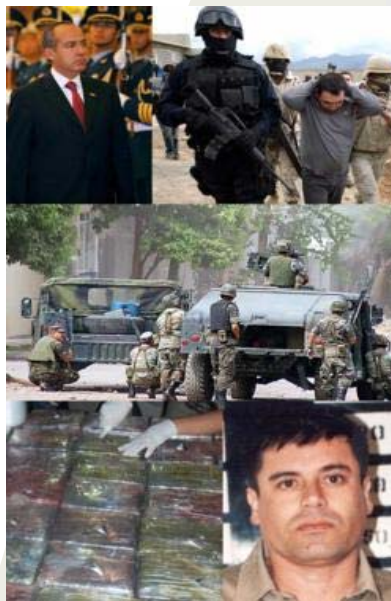
East Europe- Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic

West Europe- France, Germany, Ireland, UK

North America- U.S.A, Canada

Latin America- Brazil, Mexico, Colombia

Australasia: Australia



Upper Left: Mexican President Felipe Calderon

Upper Right: Mexican Security Forces arrest cartel members

Center: Mexican soldiers during a gun battle in Apatzingan

Lower Left: Packs of drugs seized from cartels.

Lower Right: Drug lord Joaquin Guzman

Commentary:

Mexico's Drug War: View's on both sides of the Border

Neither Americans nor Mexicans favor U.S. military intervention¹

Americans and Mexicans have strikingly similar attitudes about the drug war in **Mexico**, according to a study conducted by *Harris Interactive* and its global network partner, *Indemerc*, in early May 2010. **39 %** of both *American* and *Mexican* adults believe **Mexico** is a *failed state*, which is a striking characterization of the **Mexican** government; notably, its policies and the potential solutions it offers to the **Mexican drug war**.

Both *American* and *Mexican* adults agree that the **Mexican drug cartels** and **drug lords** bear responsibility for the current drug war. **90 %** of *Americans* say the drug lords are very or somewhat responsible for the current drug war and **87%** of *Mexicans* say the same. However, **American drug consumption** is cited widely as a cause, as well: **88%** of *Americans* and **75%** of *Mexicans* say it is very or somewhat responsible for the drug war.

Mexicans also place a significant amount of blame for the **Mexican drug war** on **American gun dealers**. **81 %** of *Mexican* adults say **American gun dealers** are very or somewhat responsible for the problem, compared to **54%** of *Americans* who say the same. *Mexican* adults also blame **corrupt U.S. authorities** for the problem more than *Americans* do with **85%** of *Mexicans* saying the corrupt U.S. authorities are to blame, compared to **60%** of *Americans*. However, majorities of both *Americans* and *Mexicans* feel that **corrupt Mexican authorities** are responsible for the drug war - **84%** percent of *Americans* and **88%** of *Mexicans* say this.

"The enormous coincidences in opinion between Mexicans and Americans are surprising with respect to the war on drugs," commented *Dr. Carlos Moreno Jaimes*, Chief of the Social, Political, and Judicial Studies Department for ITESO. *Dr. Moreno* continued, "Citizens from both countries think that **drug lords** are the main cause of the war and also accept that *both societies have contributed to the problem*: *Americans* for their high *consumption of narcotics* and *Mexicans* for the *corruption of authorities*. The most important implication of the poll is that the **solution to the problem** should come from a **joint effort** of the two countries, but **not a military intervention**. It is also clear that the Mexican government's strategy is not perceived as an effective one." §

SUMMARY OF POLLS

Zone 1- ASIA

CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA

Students in Turkey Disturbed by Military Intervention in Politics (Click for Details)

A public survey carried out by the Ankara-based **MetroPOLL** polling company among young people in **Turkey** ahead of the *May 19* Youth and Sports Day has revealed that the majority of the youth are concerned about the military meddling in political issues.

53.7% of the youth are against the military voicing views on political issues.

May 18, 2010

[Security/IR »Military Intervention](#)

Majority in Turkey Disapproves of Baykal's Accusation against Gov't on Video Scandal (Click for Details)

A newly released opinion poll by the Ankara-based **MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center** has shown that a majority of the **Turkish** public is critical of newly resigned Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Deniz Baykal holding the government responsible for the emergence of a video clip posted online last week that allegedly shows Baykal in a compromising position with a CHP deputy.

May 15, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japanese Condemn Hatoyama Cabinet (Click for Details)

The appointed cabinet of **Japanese** Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama is widely disliked, according to a poll by **Yomiuri**. **67%** of respondents disapprove of the sitting administration, up **16** points since April.

May 17, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

Zone 3- EURO-AMERICAS

EAST EUROPE

Riots in Kyrgyzstan: Popular Uprising or Anti-Constitutional Coup? (Click for Details)

Most of the **Russians** are unaware of the happenings in neighboring Kyrgyzstan. A majority of respondents say the mass protests are caused by the fall in living standards and wrong policy of the *Kyrgyzstani* authorities (**47%**).

Russian Public Opinion Research center (VCIOM)

April 2010

[Politics » Political perceptions](#)

Thinking Of V.I. Lenin Today (Click for Details)

In anticipation of the 140th anniversary of Lenin's birth **Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM)** presented the information describing what **Russians** think about V.I. Lenin and his role in Russian history. By and large the modern Russians attitude is more of 'indifference' than any thing else. The response for 'respect' has declined though still more than **three in ten** respect him but do not like him as much.

May 11, 2010

[Politics » History](#)

WEST EUROPE

Britons Want Changes to Voting System (Click for Details)

People in **Britain** are in favor of implementing specific guidelines to modernize the country's voting system, according to a poll by **Angus Reid Public Opinion**. **73 %** of respondents support counting ballots electronically, instead of by hand.

May 19, 2010

[Politics » Elections](#)

Most Britons Approve of Governing Coalition (Click for Details)

A majority of people in **Britain** agree with the coalition agreement between the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats, according to a poll by **Angus Reid Public Opinion**. **57 %** of respondents approve of the alliance, whereas **31**

% disapprove of it.

May 21, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

Two Thirds of French Reject Sarkozy (Click for Details)

French president Nicolas Sarkozy remains highly unpopular, according to a poll by **Ifop** published in *Paris Match*. **66 %** of respondents disapprove of Sarkozy's performance, down one point since April.

May 20, 2010



[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

Labour Party Sees Rebound in Ireland [\(Click for Details\)](#)

Ireland's Labour Party (Lab.) has gained a significant number of supporters over the past few weeks, according to a poll by Red C. **24 %** of respondents would vote for Labour in the next legislative election, up seven points since March.

May 22, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

NORTH AMERICA

Three in Five Americans Give President Obama Negative Job Ratings [\(Click for Details\)](#)

According to the results of [The Harris Poll](#) currently, two in five [Americans](#) (**42%**) give President Obama positive ratings on the overall job he is doing while **58%** give him negative ratings. This is almost unchanged from last month when **41%** gave him positive ratings and **59%** gave him negative ones.

May 21, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

In U.S., Increasing Number Have No Religious Identity [\(Click for Details\)](#)

[Americans](#) have become increasingly less tied to formal religion in recent decades, with the percentage saying they do not have a specific religious identity growing from near zero in the 1950s to **16%** this year and last. [Gallup USA](#).

May 21, 2010

[Society » Religion](#)

Americans' Outlook for U.S. Morality Remains Bleak [\(Click for Details\)](#)

[Americans](#) are three times more likely to describe the current state of moral values in the United States as "poor" than as "excellent" or "good." Americans' assessment of U.S. morality has never been positive, but the current ratings rank among the worst [Gallup](#) has measured over the past nine years.

May 17, 2010

[Society » Social Perceptions](#)

White Gender Gap in Obama Approval Widens With Education [\(Click for Details\)](#)

Approval of [US](#) President Barack Obama among white U.S. adults has held fairly steady around the **41%** mark in 2010, after a gradual decline from **62%** in January 2009. At the same time, a gender gap among whites, averaging six percentage points, has persisted throughout Obama's presidency. Thus far in May, his approval rating is **44%** among white women vs. **39%** among white men. [Gallup USA](#).

May 21, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

Public's Priorities for Congress: Jobs and Energy Top Immigration [\(Click for Details\)](#)

The [America](#) public views tougher regulations on financial institutions as an important priority for Congress, but far more want Congress to take action on the job situation and energy policy. The [Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll](#)

May 18, 2010

[Politics » Political Institutions](#)

Smoking and Age: The Baby Boomer Bulge [\(Click for Details\)](#)

Older [Americans](#) are generally less likely than those who are younger to report that they smoke, but the age/smoking relationship is not uniform. Smoking is higher among younger baby boomers between the ages of 44 and 54 than it is among those in their 30s and those 55 and older. After peaking in the high **20%** range for Americans in their 20s, smoking rates drop to **21%** at age 40. [Gallup USA](#).

May 20, 2010

[Society » Health & Disease](#)

Conservatives Most Enthusiastic About Voting in 2010 Midterm [\(Click for Details\)](#)

Registered [American](#) voters who identify themselves as conservatives are significantly more enthusiastic about voting in this fall's congressional elections than are liberals or moderates. Those who say they are "very" conservative are the most enthusiastic of all, with substantially higher enthusiasm than those who say they are "very" liberal. [Gallup USA](#).

May 18, 2010

[Politics » Elections](#)

Most Americans Endorse Terrorist Expatriation Act [\(Click for Details\)](#)

A large proportion of people in the [United States](#) would support a proposed law that would strip all Americans with links to terrorist organizations of their U.S. citizenship, according to a poll by [Angus Reid Public Opinion](#). **77 %** of respondents approve of the bill currently being discussed in Congress.

May 20, 2010



[Security/IR » Terrorism](#)

Canadians Back New Rules for Criminal Pardons (Click for Details)

The recent proposal to modify the rules regarding criminal pardons is supported by a large proportion of [Canadians](#), according to a poll by [Angus Reid Public Opinion](#). **81 %** of respondents agree with the bill recently introduced by Canadian public safety minister Vic Toews.

May 19, 2010

[Society » Crime](#)



LATIN AMERICA

President Calderón Gains Two Points in Mexico (Click for Details)

Public support for Felipe Calderón remains stable in [Mexico](#), according to a poll by [Consulta Mitofsky](#). **55.5%** of respondents agree with the way their president is governing, up 2.1 points since February.

May 19, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

Mockus Jumps to First Place in Colombia (Click for Details)

Former Bogota mayor Antanas Mockus is now leading the presidential race in [Colombia](#), according to a poll by [Datexco](#) released by El Tiempo and W Radio. **32.8 %** of respondents would vote for Mockus of the Green Party (PV) in this month's ballot, up eight points since early April.

May 20, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

Lula Remains Immensely Popular in Brazil (Click for Details)

Public support for [Brazil's](#) Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva continues to grow as he heads to the final days of his tenure, according to a poll by [Instituto Sensus](#). **83.7 %** of respondents approve of Lula's performance as president, up two points since January.

May 18, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

AUSTRALASIA

PM Rudd Losing Appeal for Australians (Click for Details)

The popularity of [Australian](#) Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has taken a hard blow, according to a poll by [Newspoll](#) published in The Australian. **50 %** of respondents are dissatisfied with Rudd's performance, up nine points since mid-April.

May 18, 2010

[Politics » Approval Ratings](#)

GLOBAL/MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Country's Leadership Matters to Potential Migrants (Click for Details)

[Gallup](#) survey of **148 countries** shows that the potential migrants give positive ratings to the leadership of those countries where they want to go to. This is true among migrants who would like to move to the [United States](#) -- the No. 1 desired destination worldwide -- and six other top destination countries that Gallup asked adults to rate the leadership of, including [Canada](#), the [United Kingdom](#), [Japan](#), [Russia](#), [France](#), and [Germany](#).

May 21, 2010

[Politics » Immigration](#)

Czechs' Commitment to Free Markets and Democracy Stays Strong amidst Troubled Economic and Political Waters-
comparative study (Click for Details)

A fall 2009 survey by the [Pew Research Center's](#) Global Attitudes Project found broad-based [Czech](#) discontent with the country's economic situation and the way democracy is working. Nonetheless, the data also showed a strong commitment among Czechs to free markets and democratic values. Moreover, Czechs ranked high among their peers in the region in terms of happiness with the transition to free market economics and multiparty politics.

May 19, 2010

[Politics » Political perceptions](#)

Vast Majorities on Both Sides of the Border Place Responsibility for Mexico's Drug War on America's Drug Consumption
(Click for Details)

[Americans](#) and [Mexicans](#) have strikingly similar attitudes about the drug war in Mexico, according to a study conducted by [Harris Interactive](#) and its global network partner, Indemerc, in early May 2010. But neither Americans nor Mexicans support U.S. intervention.

May 19, 2010

[Society » Crime §](#)

Zone 1- **Asia: Summary**

Asia, Middle East & North Africa



TURKEY

Political Front:

Turkish naval forces have conducted air attacks against the *Kurdish Workers Party* in Northern Iraq.

Geo-strategic Front:

Iran has signed a nuclear swap deal with **Turkey** and **Brazil**. *Iranian* Uranium therefore would be stored in **Turkey**. Major Powers however have expressed dissatisfaction with the trilateral agreement. The *United States* has been making efforts to get **UNSC** approval for another round of sanctions against *Iran*. Meanwhile, the **Turkish** Foreign Minister has asked world powers to give a chance to *Iran*.

Turkey and **Armenia** have agreed to work out on new idea proposed by the former to enhance cooperation.

All the while the **Turkish** Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the holding of the so-called "parliamentary elections" in *Nagorno-Karabakh* region occupied by *Armenians*.

Turkey and *Azerbaijan* have decided to establish a high-level strategic cooperation council to further develop relations between the two countries.

The *UK's* newly appointed Foreign Secretary has voiced support for **Turkey's** bid to join the *EU*.

All the while **Israel** has rejected a call by **Turkey** and **Russia** to include Hamas in the Middle East peace process, maintaining that Hamas is a terrorist group.

Economic Front:

Turkey's southern province of *Antalya* has drawn nearly 2 million tourists since the beginning of the year.

GCC

Geo-strategic Front:

Saudi ambassador to Washington has asked the US to either settle the Palestinian issue or recognize *Palestine* as an independent state.

Meanwhile *Chinese* and **Arab** leaders agreed to develop *China-Arab* relations and discussed a number of regional issues of common interest at the *China-Arab Cooperation Forum*.

Kuwait has expressed keen interest in enhancing ties with the EU. Meanwhile EU has taken the decision to sign a free trade agreement with **GCC**.

Economic Front:

Despite economic growth unemployment and inflation persist as major challenges in **Gulf** countries.

EAST ASIA

Political Front:

Malaysia's opposition party has won a seat in critical bi-elections where the government has failed to win ethnic *Chinese* voters.

In the **Philippine** Esmel "Toto" Mangudadatu, deputy mayor of the lakeside town of Buluan, was proclaimed Maguindanao governor by the elections commission, beating two rivals with links to Andal Ampatuan Sr, patriarch of a clan that ruled the province for nearly a decade. Emergency was posed in the province last year following the 23rd Nov Maguindanao massacre by the ruling clan.

Philippine Senator Benigno the President elect is expected to take over the reigns of the country.

Cambodia's ruling party has set up local committees nationwide to work out the political preferences of each citizen ahead of national elections in 2013.

Meanwhile continuous violence in **Thailand** has compelled the government to launch bloody operation against red-shirt protestors. **Thai** government has rejected protestors' unconditional offer to negotiate. Meanwhile the UN has urged the **Thai** government of to step back from the operation in order to avoid further loss of lives.



Geo-strategic Front:

The **Cambodian** government has urged all parties concerned in **Thailand** to resume peaceful talks in order to achieve a political settlement to the current stand-off.

Singapore's Minister has declared presence of American troops in East Asia to be significant.

Economic Front:

Thai stock exchange has been adversely affected by protests in Bangkok. Meanwhile **Thai** seafood exports have received minimal impact from the riots in Bangkok with only a small volume of cargoes being delayed at the capital's ports.

Singapore's economy grew by a better-than-expected **15.5 %** year on year in the first quarter.

Social Front:

Heavy fighting broke out between two separate factions of the **Moro** Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao Province of **Philippines**.



SOUTH ASIA

Political Front:

Main opposition leader of **Bangladesh** and BNP chief Khaleda Zia has announced to launch a protest in June, against ruling regimes' inability and incompetence to cope with the issues like corruption.

Meanwhile political crisis still prevails in **Nepal** as the ruling regime and Maoists have not reached any conclusion as regards resolving the ongoing crisis.

An investigation into the last months of **Sri Lankan** civil war has declared the government forces to be responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands more civilians than previously estimated. The Government envoy however has denied such allegations.

Geo-strategic Front:

Bangladeshi PM has recently paid a visit to **South Korea** to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Maldives has secured a seat in the United Nations Human Rights Council with the highest number of votes.

Economic Front:

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged **Malaysian** entrepreneurs to invest more in **Bangladesh**, particularly in labor-intensive industries including readymade garment, textile, light engineering, electronics, agro-based products, ICT, power and infrastructure.

The World Bank has estimated **Nepal's** gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for fiscal year 2009/10 at **3.5%**.

Meanwhile according to reports agricultural trade still occupies an important place in the total exports of **Nepal**.

AFGHANISTAN

Political Front:

More than a thousand residents in eastern **Nangarhar** province of **Afghanistan** have protested a coalition forces' raid, which resulted in the killing of **11** civilians. Meanwhile a **NATO** helicopter crashed in the Southern province of the country. Also eight **NATO** soldiers were killed in a blast in **Kabul**.

Geo-strategic Front:

EU is supporting peace *jirga* in **Afghanistan**.

Economic Front:

Japan has pledged \$1 billion to construct a railway in **Afghanistan**.

Social Front:

Flood has caused damage to the lives and property in **Badakhsha'n** in **Afghanistan**. Meanwhile an **Afghani** Minister has promised to provide his people with telecommunication facilities and internet connectivity within five years.





KOREA

Geo-strategic Front:

China has recently rejected **North Korea's** aid request and claimed that it could not support **North Korea** beyond the framework of sanctions set by the United Nations Security Council.

The sinking of **South Korean** ship has become a serious bone of contention between North and South. **South Koreans** have claimed possession of evidence regarding **North Korean's** involvement in the issue and warned to take an action in response. **North Koreans** however have denied the allegation. The situation further deteriorated when multi-national investigation teams announced their report condemning **North Korea** for its involvement in the incident. The US Secretary of State also condemned **North Korea**. Meanwhile **North Korea** has demanded the investigation team provide evidence regarding the allegations levied against it.

Economic Front:

Posco The Pohang Iron and Steel Company in **South Korea** received a setback has plans to set up a \$12 billion steel plant in **India** after police opened fire on local farmers protesting the government's move to acquire agricultural land for the project.

JAPAN

Political Front:

About 17,000 **Japanese** linked hands and surrounded a U.S. military base to protest its presence on the southern island of Okinawa, the Associated Press reported.

CHINA

Geo-strategic Front:

Taiwan has denied any chances of arms race with **China**. All the while growth in Chinese-Taiwanese trade has been observed.

Also **China** and **Russia** have announced to cooperate at the economic and strategic front.

China's close ties with **Sweden** and **Canada** also grabbed attention.

Economic Front:

Highly effective investment in infrastructure by the **Chinese** government and the urbanization process in **China** has helped ensure stable economic growth. However in recent reports a negative trend in the **Chinese** stock exchange has been observed. §

Zone 2- Africa: *Sub Saharan Africa*

POLITICS OF SECURITY AND CONFLICT ISSUES



West Africa: The challenges and opportunities for **Africa's** peace and development were the focus of discussions between General Assembly President *Ali Treki* and **Cameroonian** President Paul Biya last week.

In **Nigeria** former governor of *Lagos* State, Bola Tinubu, has called on president, *Goodluck Jonathan* to abolish the current voters' register, describing it as a "fraud."

According to Donald Oji, a **Nigerian** brigadier general and the leader of the task force Troops of the Special Task Force (STF) on the *Jos* Crisis, have averted renewed violence in Bukuru, Jos.

Chad has become the 100th nation to agree to give the *United Nations* International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) more information about its nuclear activities, which the agency hailed as a milestone in efforts to bolster



global nuclear verification efforts.

South Africa: Madagascar's government is accusing former President Marc Ravalomanana of being behind an attempted mutiny last week when security forces battled with a dissident group of military police. Military officials say at least two soldiers were killed and several civilians wounded in the violence in the capital, Antananarivo. The mutineers were said to be angry at alleged abuses by their superiors.

Swaziland's banned opposition PUDEMO party is demanding an

independent inquiry into what they say is the "murder" of a member of the group after he was arrested and imprisoned by security agents.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

West Africa: One **Nigerian** was shot dead while after trying to flee from a routine police inspection. **32** Street vendors were detained by police at a popular open-air market after throwing stones and metal objects at custom authorities in reaction to the killing of one of their colleagues. A similar case in *Greece* in 2007, had led to a massive protest by African immigrants.

Nigerian police routinely carry out summary executions of suspected criminals, use torture to extract confessions from detainees, and rape as an interrogation technique, according to a report by the *Open Society Justice Initiative* (OSJI), a rights group, which appealed to President Goodluck Jonathan to make good on promises to urgently reform the force.

The 820 prisoners on death row in **Nigerian** prisons across the country have dragged the 36 state governors and the Comptroller-General of Prisons before a Federal High Court sitting in Lagos, seeking an order to stop their planned execution. The governors had recently announced that they will start signing execution warrants to kill prisoners sentenced to death, as a way of decongesting prisons in their states.

In **Mali** a controversial new family law intended to give greater freedoms and rights to women, has been sent back to the National Assembly for a second reading after protests from Muslim radicals.

South Africa: Human Rights Watch has warned in a letter to **Zambian** leaders that recent homophobic statements by religious leaders and government authorities risk undermining **Zambia's** fight against HIV/AIDS. Meanwhile a **Malawi** judge gave the maximum sentence of 14 years to a gay couple convicted of "gross indecency" and unnatural acts. The **Malawian** minister of information, Leckford Mwanza Thotho said his government is pleased with the conviction.

Amnesty International is accusing **Zimbabwe's** unity government of failing to compensate hundreds of thousands of people forcibly evicted from their homes in 2005 following a "slum clearance programme",

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS



West Africa: The WHO's baseline estimate for achieving the health-related MDGs is at least 23 health workers per 10,000 people - against an average of 13 in Africa. Shortages of medical staff have been identified by IRIN as one of the major impediments in **Chad, Burundi, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Mozambique** and **Niger**.

Reports from northern **Nigeria** say a growing number of people from **Niger** are crossing the border into **Nigeria** because of the food crisis at home. Aid agencies have said that about seven million people in **Niger** - about half the population - are short of food.

South Africa: In Madagascar by mid-May admissions to the malnutrition

rehabilitation centre had topped the combined totals for 2008 and '09, and at 117 seemed set to breach the '07 level as well. Meanwhile despite some remaining pockets of food insecurity and fears that a prolonged dry spell would set back **Malawi's** maize production in 2010, the country looks set to realize another surplus year.

POLITICAL ECONOMY

West Africa: The **Nigerian** National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) had signed an MOU with *Chi006Ea* State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. to construct three oil refineries (about 250,000 bbl/day capacity each) and a petrochemical plant. The total cost would reportedly be \$28.5 billion. Meanwhile the Nigerian *naira* weakened to 152.40 to the U.S dollar last week, from 151.75 previously, in the interbank market after heady buying of dollars by some banks.

Multinational *German* telecommunications firm, *Siemens* AG, has assured **Nigerians** that it will pay the price for the bribery scandal involving it and some top government officials, if fined by the federal government.

A group, Northern Elders Assembly, has accused President Goodluck Jonathan of contravening his oath of office and violating the constitution over the recent appointments made in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the **Nigeria** National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). Out of the 20 senior officials of the ministry of petroleum, 10 are from the South- South zone, the area where the president comes from.

According to the **Mozambican** National Director of Research and Innovation in the Ministry *Chinese* assistance could boost the productivity of rice farmers from their current average of 1.2 tonnes per hectare to 10 tonnes per hectare (733%). Meanwhile the *China* Development Bank is to fund construction of a cement factory in Beluluane, in **Mozambique's** Maputo province costing US\$100 million.

Researchers from the Centre for Chinese Studies at the University of Stellenbosch have said that despite having secured licenses to invest in **Tanzania**, most Chinese investors still continue to import *Chinese*-made goods.

Transportation costs in **West Africa** are among the highest in the world second only to **East Africa**, according to a study of one of the primary trade corridors in **West Africa** funded by USAID.

East Africa: *China* Development Bank (CDB) has extended a 50 million U. S. dollars loan to **Kenya's** largest Equity Bank. §

Zone 3- Euro-America: *Transatlantic Community*

WESTERN EUROPE

Nick Clegg, **British** new deputy prime minister is geared at reforming the country's law that would better accord freedom to the citizens than limit it, vowing to deliver the most significant changes to **British** democracy since the Great Reform Act of 1832.

The **German** government is out calling for a tough regulation of international market. Chancellor *Angela Merkel* hopes to create a European benchmark that will help monitor and regulate budget indiscipline. Meanwhile most **Greeks** are still unsettled with the austerity plan of their government and are ready to puncture the economy much further with industrial strikes

Unconfirmed reports have been aired that Vakili Rad, an *Iranian* accused and charged for killing *Shahpour Bakhtiar*, who served as prime minister under **Iran's** shah before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, was released and swapped for *Clotile Reiss*, 24, a **French** citizen arrested in Iran during the post-election unrest. Authorities on both sides have rejected the reports of prisoner swap.

The **British** government is planning to make the largest digitalized newspaper archive that will preserve past events for research. The plan is to digitize up to 40 million pages of newspapers, including fragile dailies





dating back three and a half centuries.

Google, the *US* internet giant is pitted in debate with **European** capitals over privacy rights. Europeans are alleging Google of storing fragment of their personal activities online which is a breach of privacy right. **German** authority is spearheading the prosecution with the support of **UK** asking for the data to be destroyed.

Portugal a predominantly Catholic country becomes the sixth European country allowing same-sex marriage. The **Portuguese** conservative government reluctantly approved the legislation last week.

Having experienced an unprecedented air travel derailment caused by natural phenomenon, the **EU** aviation safety body has drafted rule that will give more flexibility to national air traffic controllers and will involve the creation of a European crisis coordination center to ensure a smoother response to emergencies like the ash scare which grounded flights in April.

Greece-Turkey relation saw a new look with the visit of *Turkish* Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Athens. It was a historic development as both countries have been at loggerhead on the **Cyprus** conflict. With the visit both countries signed numerous bilateral agreements and hope to further normalize ties.

Political impasses between ruling and opposition parties in **Albania** persist. The latter wants the ruling party to reopen the ballot boxes of the June election 2009 under a third party (EC) investigation.

Political consensus transpired at the **Croatian** parliament as parliamentary committee on the constitution agreed on almost all proposed amendments, the sole exception being the controversial issue of the expatriate voting from **Bosnia**.

As part of the **EULEX** criminal investigation ongoing in **Kosovo** to purge the country from corruption, two government officials were investigated last week. The investigation has raised the profile of the institution in the EU.

The ethnic **Albanian** Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) **Macedonia**, leader Ali Ahmeti has rejected reports about quitting the coalition government. His party hopes to work for **Macedonia-EU** integration and finding solution to the name dispute between *Skopje* and *Athens*.

Romanian parliament has adopted a law on lustration that limits the involvement of former communist officials in politics. The bill was supported by 203 of the 343 members of the Chamber of Deputies.

Montenegrin Foreign Minister Milan Rocen visited Ljubljana last week and said that ousted *Thai* Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has a **Montenegrin** passport, must not use the country as a base for sending political messages to his homeland.

The *European Bank* for Reconstruction and Development in its annual report states that economies in the **Balkan** region will register growth of **3.7%** this year, instead of the **3.3%** forecast in January. At the same time, the Bank warned recovery remains *fragile*, "with increasing differences in the pace of growth across countries and new risks arising from fiscal pressures and financial volatility in *Western Europe*."

The **IMF** has reportedly agreed with **Serbian** government for a possible hike in the public sector wages and pensions. Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic noted that **Serbia** has emerged from economic crisis, and returned to an annual GDP growth of 1% in the first quarter of this year.

Romanians in hundreds staged a massive protest against government austerity plan by which salaries and pensions will be slashed. Joining the demonstration were public officers, police officers, teachers, health and public administration staff, who called on the government to resign.

The diaries found in **Bosnian** Serb commander Ratko Mladic's wife apartment has been turned over to the UN war crimes tribunal and the court will be using the document for prosecuting Serbs under prosecution at The Hague. Meanwhile, court still has an axe to grind with Serbia over mass grave found near Raska, in southern **Serbia**.

The *European Parliament* showed the sense of commitment by approving allocating an additional 300m-euros in compensation to **Bulgaria** by **2013**, for dismantling the four oldest units at the *Kozloduy nuclear power plant*.

Somalia has become the 69th country to recognize **Kosovo's** independence.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

An unclear film clip that was taken on a mobile phone, showing **Russian**-speaking men shooting survivors has been examined by **Polish** and **Russian** experts and declared digitally manipulated, intended to embarrass Moscow.

Polish Finance Minister, Rostowski has said that the Greek crisis should not adversely affect the **Polish** schedule for the adoption of the Euro by 2015.

Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer's visit to *Mongolia* this week is the first at head of government level since 1993.

Hungarian Prime Minister-elect Viktor Orban rejected last week a **Slovak** call for a summit over plans to offer dual citizenship to ethnic kin in neighboring countries. **Slovak** premier Robert Fico had called earlier in the day for an urgent meeting with Orban over an issue he has described as a threat to **Slovakia's** security.

Hungary, the largest investor in **Montenegro**, is supporting the country's accession to the European Union. Meanwhile the **Hungarian** parliament approved changes to the constitution last week that would halve the number of MPs (200 from the current 386), in a bid to cut bureaucracy and streamline decision-making in parliament.

European Union officials have expressed serious concern at reports of an ongoing crackdown against the opposition in **Belarus**, where President Aleksandr Lukashenko has ruled with an iron fist since 1995. Scores of activists, including opposition writer *Vladimir Nekliaev*, a proclaimed opponent in the upcoming presidential election, have been arrested as a result of nationwide police raids.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and **Ukrainian** President Viktor Yanukovich signed a range of bilateral documents. The two heads of state signed joint statements on European security, on settling the conflict around **Moldova's** much-troubled *Dniester* region, and on security measures in the *Black Sea* littoral area. Medvedev has also invited **Ukraine** to join a security bloc of former Soviet republics. Meanwhile **Ukrainian** President Viktor Yanukovich met Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi last week to discuss bilateral ties.

The European Commission concluded last week that **Estonia** has fulfilled the so-called *Maastricht* criteria and is ready to adopt the euro next year. However challenges facing the tiny Baltic economy are still unchecked, where a dramatic decline has pushed unemployment to a record high.

At the economic front the *zloty* extended its decline as **Polish** officials indicated they are comfortable with its depreciation and the benchmark stock index dropped to a three-month low. Meanwhile the *World Bank* signed an agreement with **Poland** concerning economic reforms.

According to new edition 2010 of Research and Markets survey regarding **Czech** economy, following the global downturn the fiscal position of the nation was hit hard, prompting a rapid shift in policy from stimulus to consolidation.

According to the data released by Bloomberg, **Slovakia's** GDP not only returned to growth but also blessed the market with better-than-expected numbers and now export-oriented economy is set to grow for the rest of the year and even beyond. However, economists also suggest that economic performance in the second half of the year might be affected by austerity measures if the government formed after the June 12 general election opts for belt-tightening policies.

A report published by the **Hungarian** ministry of environment and water reveals that **Germany's** Deutsche Bank has recommended that the **Hungarian** government sell recycled certified emission reduction (CER)



credits. **Hungary's** decision to sell CERs that it had received from its installations to meet their compliance obligations under the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) has already caused chaos in the carbon market earlier this year.



Ukraine's credit ratings were raised at *Standard & Poor's* to 'B/B', from 'B-/C', on improvements in the country's policy coordination and after a **Russian** gas subsidy agreement helped boost the government's debt outlook. Meanwhile the **European** Parliament approved a 500-million-euro (616-million-dollar) *European Union* loan to help **Ukraine** out of its financial crisis.

According to the statistics office **Estonia's** unemployment rate leapt to an all-time high of **19.8 %** in the first quarter from **15.5 %** in the previous quarter.

Flash floods triggered by days of heavy rain have killed at least four people, forced mass evacuations and cut off power to thousands in **Poland Czech Republic, Slovakia & Hungary (Central Europe)**. Prime Minister Donald Tusk has said that if the losses caused by the flood amount to over two billion Euros than **Poland** would become eligible for up to *100 million Euros* in European Union aid funds. He ruled out any possibility to call a state of emergency because it would delay presidential elections scheduled for June 20.

Organizations representing **Hungary's gypsies, or Roma**, have expressed concerns about a new wave of violence against the minority in the country after the entry of a far right party in parliament. Hundreds of people in a heavy rain gathered in a rally, which was aimed at easing tensions between the two communities.

For the sixth time the **EU** celebrated 17 May as International Day against Homophobia (IDAHO), an annual event.

On May 16 this year, *Memorial Day* was observed in **Ukraine**, Bykivnia Forest, the place where hundreds of thousands of *Ukrainians, Poles, Russians, Jews*, people of other ethnic groups were massacre by the tyrannical *Stalinist* government.

Latvia's relations with neighboring **Russia** came under strain after the **Latvian** government accused **Russia** of attempting to influence the *European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)*, following a decision on a controversial war crimes trial of Kononov versus Latvia. *Vasiliy Kononov*, an 87-year-old former took part in the killing of nine villagers near the **Latvian-Belarusian** border in 1944 and **Latvia** later convicted of war crimes.

RUSSIA

The leaders of **Russia** and **Turkey** have said that the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas should not be excluded from peace efforts in the *Middle East*.

For the first time since the Bolshevik Revolution, **Russia's** president visited **Syria**. The two premiers announced at a press conference that they had talked about nuclear cooperation, including the potential construction of a nuclear power plant in **Syria**. Meanwhile Israel has criticizes Russia's plans to supply arms to *Syria*

Four young men were seized in *Moscow* for trying to hold an unauthorized rally near the Iranian embassy. The police did not identify the political belonging of the young men but some media outlets reported that members of the outlawed *National Bolshevik Party* tried to hold the rally.

Russia's biggest business lobby has asked Prime Minister *Vladimir Putin* for a moratorium on tax hikes and called for a mass privatization program to plug the budget deficit.

President *Dmitry Medvedev* has ordered tighter security at the *2014 Winter Olympics*, which will be staged in the same mountain range that is home to Islamist insurgents in the region.



In **Russia's Dagestan** region at least **8** people have been reported dead as a bomb blast hit a police-escorted vehicle carrying workers sent to fix a communications tower that had been damaged in a sabotage attack overnight.

Russian border guards seize large batch of illegal Chinese imports comprised of men's, women's and children's clothes. The clothes were transported by three *Kamaz* trucks.

Meanwhile **Russia's** economy expanded for the first time since 2008 in the three months through March as the world's biggest energy producer rebounds on an oil-funded stimulus program and record-low borrowing costs. According to Bloomberg news, **Russia's** Gross Domestic Product rose an annual **2.9%** in the first quarter after contracting **3.8 %** in the last three months of 2009.



Jailed former **Russian** oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky ended a two-day hunger strike last week after the *Kremlin* confirmed complaints about his detention had been

passed on to President Dmitry Medvedev. Khodorkovsky, once **Russia's** richest man, was arrested in 2003 after falling foul of then-president Vladimir Putin and is serving an eight-year sentence for tax dodging.

A 9-month-old girl from *Tajikistan* has been hospitalized in **Moscow** with polio as a *Tajik* outbreak reached the **Russian** capital.

Some **84** people injured in the methane blasts at the *Raspadskaya* coalmine remain at the hospitals, **46** people passed outpatient treatment and **3** people were discharged from hospitals. Igor Volkov, the head of the *Raspadskaya* coal mine resigned earlier last week, a day after he was severely criticized by **Russia's** Prime Minister *Vladimir Putin* regarding safety violations.

A *Moscow* court has ruled that **Russian** air traffic controllers cannot go on strike. The national union of air traffic controllers is in dispute over a new contract and is demanding the resignation of Valery Gorbenko, who heads **Russia's** state air traffic corporation. The protest started in April and by the end of the month staff at 55 air traffic management centers were involved. Rather than stopping work, the controllers are on a hunger strike, reportedly consuming less food when not on the job.

Russia's new research module has been successfully latched on ISS, brought to orbit by the U.S. Atlantis space shuttle at the cost of about \$200 million.

Rumors regarding the development of a new strategic bomber for the **Russian** Air Force, the so-called perspective long-range aviation complex have been confirmed by **Russia's** Vice Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov during a meeting with **Russian** reporters in Washington.

US/CANADA

According to *Secretary of State* Hillary Clinton the **United States** and other major powers have agreed on a draft resolution for new U.N. sanctions against *Iran* over its nuclear program. The announcement came a day after Iran accepted a *Brazilian* and *Turkish*-mediated deal to export some of its enriched-uranium stockpile. Iran's acceptance of the uranium deal mediated by *Brazil* and *Turkey* had been widely viewed by analysts as an effort to blunt the U.S.-led drive in the U.N. Security Council for new sanctions.

Meanwhile Senatorial party primaries are on in the **U.S** but characterized by discontentment for the establishment. The primaries are showing the deep rooted feelings of Americans, how they would want change to be

effected in Washington through new elected public officers. It was a test for both democrat and republican parties as their supports were shaken, and also accentuated the weakness of *Obama's* endorsement on fellow party members.

Support for political parties in **Canada** continues to fluctuate; recent poll by *Ekos* suggests that the minority conservative government is heading all opposition parties. The Liberal opposition party is **10%** behind the conservative party.

United States financial regulators are geared at stepping up rules that will further guide financial conduct as preventive measure to guide against the repetition

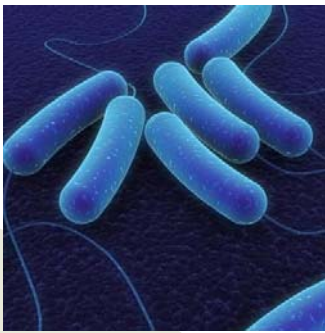


of stock market's epic dive. The measure is termed as circuit breaker which will give investors a break during extreme market dips; they'll be less likely to set off a chain reaction of human and computerized selling. Similarly, the Senate passed a far-reaching financial regulatory bill that broadens government influence on the banking system and financial markets; with the measure any eventual reoccurrence of 2008 financial crisis could be abated.

Congressional investigators into the alleged attempt by *Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab* to blow up a *Detroit-bound* airliner has come up with 14 points kicking at the intelligence agencies for failing to monitor him closely and linked such failure to the intelligence lapse leading to 9/11.

Western Powers along with *China* and *Russia* agreed on new sanctions on *Iran*. The new sanctions were against *Iranian financial institutions*, including those that supported the *Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps* responsible for overseeing the military aspects of the nuclear program. They have also assumed commanding roles in the broader *Iranian* economy. However, the *Chinese* blocked any measure that would stop the flow of oil from *Iranian* ports or gasoline into the country. The new sanctions come amid *Iran's* negotiation with *Brazil* and *Turkey* over **nuclear swap**. *Brazil* and *Turkey*, non-permanent UNSC members rejected the sanctions and called for acknowledging the diplomatic break through as *Iran* has agreed on nuclear swap.

The **United States** has notified HCOC, an organization overseeing efforts to curb the spread of such weapons that pre-notification regarding the launch of ballistic missile tests or satellites will always be issued. Although the document is said to have exempted certain weapons, yet it was reported as an attempt by the **United States** to consolidate the new **START** treaty reached with *Russia*.



The *Vatican* responded to the technological breakthrough in the **United States** by which synthetic cell from man's DNA was created. The church though acknowledges the scientific development but warns against the misuse of the invention if standing contradictory to the view that life only comes from God.

Britain's Iraq war inquiry panel headed by former civil servant John Chilcot was in the U.S last week continuing their inquiry though not publicizing those to be interviewed. The essence of the panel however is questioned as it has no power to apportion blame or establish criminal or civil liability.

LATIN AMERICA

Argentine President Cristina Kirchner has called on *Britain's* new Prime Minister David Cameron to halt all oil exploration in the "disputed" waters around the *Falkland* Islands. Kirchner also used an *EU-Latin America summit* last week to call for a resumption of talks between *Buenos Aires* and *London* over the disputed Islands.

According to authorities **Argentina** and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have agreed to set up an office in Buenos Aires to coordinate anti-drug and anti-crime efforts in the region.

According to reports the European Union (EU) and *Mercosur* (**Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil** and **Uruguay**) renewed their talks last week in Madrid to reach a free trade agreement that would open up a potential market of 270 million people to the EU.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva made an official visit to the Middle East and Europe last week in his latest foray into bilateral and international affairs. The tour spanned *Russia, Qatar, Iran, Portugal* and *Spain*, and was aimed to show **Brazil's** determination to act as a mediator in the *Mideast* conflicts and strengthen its growing role on the international stage.

Earlier this month, *Iran, Turkey* and **Brazil** signed a joint declaration in Tehran to endorse a fuel swap according to which *Iran* will ship most of its low-enriched uranium to *Turkey* in exchange for the **20 %** uranium fuel needed for its reactor. Meanwhile the **Brazilian** government rejected *Israeli* criticism of the deal following statements by a senior *Israeli* official accusing **Iran** of having 'manipulated' *Ankara* and *Brasilia*. The central concern in *Israel* is that the deal will delay the onset of harsh United Nations sanctions over *Iran's* contentious nuclear program.

According to a statement by Da Silva **Brazil** will finance €1bn of food exports to *Iran* over the next five years to make trade between the two countries less dependent on foreign banks.

The Foreign Ministry reported that an agreement between the governments of *Russia* and **Brazil** on visa-free short-term trips will come into effect on June 7.

According to the U.N.'s highest court **Honduras** has dropped a case accusing **Brazil** of meddling in its internal affairs by allowing ousted President Manuel Zelaya to stay at one of its embassies in 2009. Zelaya now lives in the **Dominican Republic** and is trying to negotiate a reconciliation that recognizes current **Honduran** President *Porfirio Lobo*.

According to a **US** State Department official the *Pakistani* man arrested by **Chilean** police after traces of explosive material were detected on his belongings

during a check at the *United States* Embassy in *Santiago* is **not** believed to be connected to the attempted bombing in Times Square earlier this month. The accused was charged with illegal possession of explosives, but was freed pending a probe.

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera said last week that he plans sweeping electoral reforms that could help him woo opposition support for capital market reforms and an \$8.4 billion financing package after a massive earthquake.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia and his **Chilean** counterpart Sebastian Pinera agreed in a meeting last week to make efforts to bring about a thaw in bilateral relations. Diplomatic ties between the two nations have been frozen since January 2008, when **Peru** filed a suit against **Chile** at the International Court of Justice in The Hague over a marmite border dispute between them.

According to a report released recently by a coalition of civic groups killings of gays and lesbians have risen in **Mexico** despite a government tolerance campaign and a law legalizing same-sex marriage in the capital.

In **Mexico** gunmen killed a candidate for mayor from President Felipe Calderon's conservative National Action Party last week. The party's leader said that the victim and other candidates had been receiving threats.

Meanwhile the **Mexican** federal Attorney General's Office has reported that a former **Mexican** presidential candidate *Fernandez de Cevallos* who has remained a power broker in the ruling party is missing amid signs of violence.

A band of armed men shot and killed eight people in a bar in northern **Mexico** and wounded 18 others in the latest outbreak of violence in the country. Meanwhile a recent report discloses that since December 2006, the **Mexican** federal government charged more than 400 government officials at all levels with accepting bribes from drug cartels. The chart shows how the cartels differed in what kind of officials they targeted.



AUSTRALASIA

Anti-Muslim politicians in **Australia's** most populous state, New South Wales failed in their move to see the ban of veil in the state. The parliament rejected the proposal by 26 to 3 votes. Debate for the veil ban was triggered by national Senator Cory Bernardi arguing that veil could be used for robbery.

Aborigines in central **Australia** have recorded the highest pneumonia in the world after *Gambia*. §



Veiled women take part in a flash mob event in *Sydney* to protest against *burqa* bans

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.

Principal Investigator- DR. IJAZ SHAFI GILANI



BPM- Business & Politics
In the Muslim World