



**PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WATCH**

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*Beijing's envoy to Sudan said sanctions and pressure "only make the issue more complicated" in Darfur.*

**Genocide in Darfur: A Legal Analysis** *Click here to access the [PILPG Report](#).*

**Peace Negotiations Watch** is prepared by the [Public International Law & Policy Group](#) in cooperation with [American University](#) and is made possible by a grant from the [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#) and the [Ploughshares Fund](#).



## **Armenia**

### **U.S. official cites progress in Armenia-Azerbaijan talks on disputed territory**

Desmond Butler, *Associated Press*, 6/1/07

Armenia and Azerbaijan have made substantial progress toward a settlement on control of a disputed territory, the chief U.S. mediator in the talks said.

After more than a decade of efforts by international mediators to broker a deal on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents are close to solving most remaining obstacles to an agreement on basic principles, according to Matthew Bryza, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state.

President Ilham Aliiev of Azerbaijan and Armenian President Robert Kocharian are expected to focus on the sticking points during talks in St. Petersburg, Russia, on June 9.

"If the St. Petersburg meeting is successful, then the number of differences remaining on basic principles could be reduced to close to zero," Bryza told The Associated Press.

Diplomats from the so-called Minsk group of mediators from Russia, France and the United States have in the past expressed optimism toward breakthroughs on the difficult dispute only to see negotiations turn backward.

Nagorno-Karabakh is inside Azerbaijan but has been controlled by ethnic Armenian forces since a 1994 cease-fire ended a six-year conflict that killed some 30,000 people and drove more than 1 million from their homes.

Despite signs of progress in the talks, tensions in the region remain high. Azerbaijan has been building up its military as its economy has boomed from oil revenues at one of the fastest clips of any in the world. It controls portions of the Caspian Sea, on its eastern fringe, which has some of the largest oil and gas fields in the former Soviet Union.

Bryza would not identify the unresolved issues, but he outlined some of the basic principles already reached for a potential resolution.

The two sides have agreed on the return of districts surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh that are also under ethnic Armenian control.

Bryza would not say whether there is an agreement on the return of refugees to the region or on any compensation for those who fled the territory.

A public statement in early May by Aliev that the two countries had agreed that refugees could return provoked an angry denial from Armenian officials.

Negotiators have agreed that a settlement would stipulate that a vote would be held in the future on the territory's status, but they have not yet agreed on the timing of the poll or the details of who would be entitled to vote.

An international peacekeeping force would be present during the interim period before the vote, and a land corridor would be established from the territory to Armenia, open to ethnic Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Bryza praised the two sides for making progress on an issue that stirs passions within both countries.

"The leadership of Armenia and Azerbaijan should be lauded for their courage in trying to bring stability and prosperity to their peoples," he said.

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## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### **Key war crimes fugitive arrested on Serbia-Bosnia border**

Dusan Stojanovic, *Associated Press*, 6/1/07

Zdravko Tolimir, a former Bosnian Serb general charged with genocide and crimes against humanity by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, was arrested on the Bosnia-Serbia border, police said.

Tolimir was a top aide to the Bosnian Serbs' wartime military commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic, during the slaughter of over 7,000 Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica in 1995 the worst single atrocity in Europe since World War II.

He was considered the third most wanted war crimes suspect still at large in the Balkans after Mladic and Bosnian Serb wartime political leader Radovan Karadzic.

Olga Kavran, the spokeswoman for the chief U.N. war crimes prosecutor for the former Yugoslavia, said they were informed of Thursday's arrest by Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Milorad Dodik.

"We welcome the arrest of Gen. Tolimir ... whom we consider responsible for genocide and other crimes in Srebrenica and the region," Kavran said. "We hope that the remaining two charged with genocide, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, will be arrested soon."

Kavran said preparations for Tolimir's transfer to the U.N. detention unit near The Hague, Netherlands, were "under way."

Tolimir, who was reported to have organized Mladic's escape from justice, was arrested after a major security sweep of the border region near the town of Ljubovija that included helicopters and anti-terrorist units, the Bosnian Serb police said.

"The (Bosnian Serb) police, in cooperation with the Serbian police, today arrested Zdravko Tolimir, and his transfer to The Hague is in process," said Bosnian Serb spokeswoman Tamara Despic.

"Tolimir was considered the mastermind of the actions to shelter Mladic for a long time," Rasim Ljajic, a Serbian government minister in charge of cooperation with The Hague tribunal, told state television.

As a ranking intelligence and security officer during Bosnia's 1992-95 war, Tolimir, 59, was charged in 2005 by the U.N. tribunal with genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, extermination, murder, persecution, forcible transfer and deportation, as well as murder in connection with the Srebrenica massacre.

The indictment against Tolimir alleges that, "with an intent to destroy a part of the Bosnian Muslim people as a national, ethnical, or religious group, ... (he) killed members of the group by planned and opportunistic summary executions."

The "large scale systematic murder," the indictment says, began on July 13, 1995, and continued for days until the "entire Muslim population had been either removed or fled" from Srebrenica and the nearby enclave of Zepa by November 1995.

"Over 7,000 Muslim men and boys from Srebrenica had been murdered" by the Bosnian Serb forces, the indictment said.

The European Union welcomed Tolimir's arrest, describing it as "an important step towards bringing to justice all remaining fugitives."

"Full cooperation with the (U.N. war crimes tribunal) is not only an international obligation, but also a key step to achieve lasting reconciliation in the Western Balkans region," EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn said in a statement.

Associated Press writers Aida Cerkez-Robinson in Sarajevo, Irena Knezevic in Banja Luka and Jovana Gec in Belgrade contributed to this report.

### **Survivors of Srebrenica massacre sue United Nations and Dutch government for damages**

Mike Corder, *Associated Press*, 6/4/07

Survivors of Europe's worst massacre since World War II filed a lawsuit Monday against the United Nations

and the Dutch government, saying they failed to protect civilians in Srebrenica when Bosnian Serb forces overran it in 1995 and slaughtered 8,000 men.


The long-awaited lawsuit came on the day when former Bosnian Serb Gen. Zdravko Tolimir, one of the main suspects in the killings in which up to 8,000 men and boys died, was arraigned before the U.N. war crimes tribunal but declined to enter a plea.

"The goal is not financial for the mothers and other survivors: it's about satisfaction," said lawyer Marco Gerritsen, who will represent 6,000 family members of victims in the class action lawsuit.

"Unfortunately the U.N. and the Dutch state are not willing to take their responsibility they do not even want to talk about it."

In evidence-gathering civil hearings in 2005, a lawyer for the Dutch state argued that compensation claims should be directed at the perpetrators of the massacre: the Bosnian Serb troops under the authority of Gen. Ratko Mladic and political leader Radovan Karadzic, the U.N. tribunal's most-wanted fugitives.

About 200 survivors from the group known as the Mothers of Srebrenica traveled from Bosnia to accompany lawyers as they delivered the civil summons at the Dutch Supreme Court Monday, where claims against the state must be filed.

The lawsuit's chances of success are uncertain, and the degree of culpability of the  U.N. and its Dutch soldiers in the massacre is fiercely debated.

During the 1992-95 Bosnian war, the U.N. declared Srebrenica which had been besieged by Serb forces a U.N.-protected safe area for civilians.

But around 450 Dutch soldiers on peacekeeping duty stood by helplessly as thousands of Bosnian Serb forces stormed the region in July 1995. In a chaotic and menacing situation, Dutch soldiers even assisted in separating the women from the men, who were taken away in buses by the Serb forces and murdered, their bodies buried in mass graves.

An independent study by the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation cleared the Dutch troops of blame, noting they were outnumbered, lightly armed, undersupplied, and under instructions to fire only in self-defense.

However, the institute's 2002 report assigned partial blame to the Dutch government for setting the troops up to fail, prompting the Cabinet of Prime Minister Wim Kok to resign.


Former U.N. director-general Kofi Annan admitted "errors of judgment," regarding Srebrenica in 1999.

The Dutch government has accepted "political responsibility" for the mission's failure, and gives around \$20 million in aid to Bosnia annually, of which a third is reserved for projects related to rebuilding Srebrenica.

Lawyer Gerritsen said that it wasn't enough for the Dutch to compensate the Bosnian government, that it must also compensate the victims personally. He said the initial filing requests \$34,000 in compensation for 10 mothers of victims.

Other lawyers representing survivors in the past have said \$2.7 billion in compensation would be the starting point for negotiations in a settlement.

The International Court of Justice earlier this year dismissed a claim filed by Bosnia against Serbia seeking compensation for the genocide at Srebrenica; Bosnian Serbs were primarily behind the massacre and links with neighboring Serbia were too tenuous, the court found.

Tolimir's appearance before judges at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal was his first since he was arrested at the Bosnian border with Serbia last week after two years on the run. 

One of Mladic's top aides, he is charged with genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, extermination, murder, persecution, forcible transfer and deportation, as well as murder in connection with the Srebrenica massacre.

Tolimir complained that international laws were not obeyed in his arrest and extradition, which he said took place in his "native country" of Serbia without opportunity to consult a lawyer. In addition he said he was filmed illegally during his arrest. "My health is very bad: I've had three attacks, strokes" and he was losing weight, he said.

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## **Burundi**

### **Burundi police arrest dissident rebel leader**

*Agence France Presse, 6/3/07*

Burundi police Sunday announced the arrest of Jean-Bosco Sindyigaya, the head of a dissident wing of the country's last active rebel group.

"Sindyigaya was arrested along with two of his men ... on the night of Thursday to Friday," a police official said, requesting anonymity.

"He received a light bullet wound while he was being arrested and has since been questioned by the police," the official said.

Sindyigaya heads a breakaway faction of the National Forces of Liberation (FNL).

The arrest was confirmed Sunday by national police spokesman Pierre Chanel Ntarabaganyi.

"Many of the bandits we have arrested say they bear allegiance to Jean-Bosco Sindyigaya. We have arrested him so that he can explain this," he said.

According to police sources, the rebel leader has recruited hundreds of men since the start of this year who have been looting and pillaging around the country.

A former number two in the FNL, Sindyigaya rebelled against his chief, Agathon Rwaswa and proclaimed himself the head of the group on October 10, 2005.

According to informed sources, he was backed by the Burundian government who wanted to split the movement.

Burundi is only just emerging from 13 years of civil war that killed more than 300,000 people.

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## **Chechnya**

### **5 killed in clash between police, militants in southern Russia**

*Associated Press, 6/3/07*

A clash between police and militants in the southern Russian region of Dagestan killed two officers and three rebels, officials said Sunday.

The gun battle occurred Saturday outside the town of Khasavyurt near the border with Chechnya when suspected militants refused to surrender to police and opened fire, regional Interior Ministry spokeswoman Anzhela Martirosova said.

One officer was also wounded, two militants were believed to have escaped and authorities were searching for them, she said.

Dagestan, a mostly Muslim region that is home to many ethnic groups, has been plagued by shootings, bombings and other violence, some spilling over from neighboring Chechnya and some stemming from local disputes and criminal activity.

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## **Democratic Republic of Congo**

### **MPs from DRC's violence-torn Kivu region boycott assembly**

*Agence France Presse, 5/29/07*

National assembly members from the Democratic Republic of Congo's violence-ridden eastern Kivu province said Tuesday they would boycott the house until security in the region had been established.

"We the deputies from North- and South-Kivu ... have decided to suspend our participation in national assembly work. This until there are clear and strong signals that peace is being re-established for our martyred populations," North-Kivu MP Emmanuel Bahati said.

The security and humanitarian situation in the province has vastly deteriorated since the beginning of the year.

A massacre of up to 30 people in two South-Kivu villages at the weekend, believed to have been committed by Rwandan Hutu rebels, sent shockwaves through the province.

And in North-Kivu battles between government troops and Rwandan rebels, along with resistance to integrating rebel forces into the regular army have forced more than 113,000 people from their homes since mid-January.

Despite pleas from the assembly, the government "has done nothing to bring about the beginning of a solution to our populations' suffering," Bahati said.

Not all the Kivu MPs followed the walk-out, and several said it would be risky to boycott the assembly sessions just as budget discussions got underway.

Before presenting the 2007 budget, which had been delayed by the fact that the government voted into power late last year was not sworn in until February, Prime Minister Antoine Gizenga requested a minute of silence for the weekend's massacre victims.

### **Angry locals block UN probe into DR Congo massacre**

*Agence France Presse, 5/30/07*

A UN probe into the murder of 18 civilians by rebels in Democratic Republic of Congo was blocked by villagers angry at the UN and army's failure to protect them, the UN mission here (MONUC) said Wednesday.

"Yesterday (Tuesday), Monuc sent an assessment team but it was unable to get to the villages affected because it was blocked by local people who wanted to express their discontentment," spokesman Kemal Saiku told a press conference.

Witnesses told AFP that road blocks were set up and UN vehicles were attacked by stone-throwing villagers, angry at how such a massacre was possible in a zone theoretically under army control and patrolled by UN troops.

"Although this reaction is understandable, it is regrettable that the mission could not carry out its work," Saiku added.

Overnight Saturday to Sunday, assailants attacked two villages in the Kaniola area of the volatile eastern region of South-Kivu, using axes, bayonets, knives and clubs to kill their victims in their sleep.

Some 18 people, including women and children, were killed in the attack and 27 were wounded, Monuc said. On Wednesday, Saiku said there was still no news about a further 18 people who were kidnapped during the raids.

Villagers identified the assailants as Rwandan Hutu rebels from the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), although the FDLR denied involvement.

According to MONUC, there are more than 10,000 Rwandan Hutu rebels in the forests and mountains of eastern DRC where they have been operating since the Hutu-led genocide of at least 800,000 mostly minority Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994.

Kaniola has for years been the target of attacks and kidnappings staged by Rwandan Hutu rebels, and the UN humanitarian agency in South-Kivu has recorded people fleeing the area, without providing any definite numbers.

On Monday, MONUC installed two 'mobile bases' of UN soldiers to help secure the region but acknowledged people would probably continue to flee due to the lack of army troops, who are charged with protecting the civilian population.

## **Democratic Republic of Congo Negotiation Simulation**

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### **Georgia**

#### **Water dispute heightens tension between Georgia and separatist South Ossetia**

*Associated Press, 5/31/07*

Leaders of separatist South Ossetia on Wednesday accused Georgian authorities of cutting off the provincial capital's main water supply and threatened to block pipes bringing water to ethnic Georgian villages in the region if it is not restored.

The dispute over water supplies before the start of the hot Caucasus Mountain summer heightened tension between the breakaway region's leadership and Georgia's central government, which lost control of South Ossetia in a war in the early 1990s.

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has vowed to bring South Ossetia back into the fold. While he stresses the intention to do so by peaceful means, distrust is deep and sometimes deadly clashes have broken out intermittently between Georgian and South Ossetian forces.

South Ossetian officials said the regional seat, Tskhinvali, has been largely without water supplies for days and accused Georgian authorities of deliberately hampering the flow through the main supply line. Georgian officials say the suspension is the result of damage to the supply line and say they are fixing the problem.

South Ossetian officials accused Georgia of preventing South Ossetian specialists and repair crews from inspecting the main supply line, and separatist leader Eduard Kokoity warned that water flowing to a handful of ethnic Georgian villages via Tskhinvali would be cut off in the afternoon if supplies were not restored.

However, following talks between Kokoity and the head of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe's mission to the region, South Ossetian officials said they would give Georgia three more days to restore supplies.

Russia's close ties with the separatist governments of South Ossetia and another breakaway region, Abkhazia, are among the elements in Georgia's severely strained relations with Moscow, which have worsened since the 2004 election of the pro-Western Saakashvili.

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### **Kashmir**

## **Rebel violence leaves three soldiers, two militants dead in Indian Kashmir; 22 injured**

Aijaz Hussain, *Associated Press*, 6/1/07

Suspected Islamic militants attacked a paramilitary camp, a police post and an army vehicle in Indian-controlled Kashmir in an upsurge in violence on Friday, killing three government soldiers and wounding another 22, police said.

A grenade attack at the paramilitary camp killed at least two soldiers in Nihama, a village 75 kilometers (45 miles) south of Srinagar, capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, Police chief S.P. Pani said.

Three soldiers critically wounded in the blast were taken to a hospital, Pani said.

"We are verifying from where the grenade was lobbed," Prabhakar Tripathy, a spokesman for the Central Reserve Police Force, told The Associated Press.

Also Friday, suspected rebels fired at a police post at Sheeri, a village 70 kilometers (45 miles) north of Srinagar, killing one policeman and critically wounding another, said Viplav Kumar, a senior superintendent of police. Two militants were also killed as police repulsed the attack, Kumar said.

No one claimed responsibility for the two attacks.

Hours earlier, militants triggered an improvised explosive device as an army vehicle passed by in a high-security zone in Srinagar, said Sajjad Ahmed, a police officer. The 15 wounded soldiers were hospitalized, one in critical condition.

In a statement faxed to the local Kashmir News Service, Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen spokesman Ahsan Illahi claimed his group's responsibility for the attack.

Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen is one of a dozen rebel groups fighting for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan since 1989. More than 68,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the conflict.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over control of Kashmir since they won independence from Britain in 1947.

The longtime rivals have been holding talks since 2004 to settle the Kashmir dispute, but without success so far.

## **Indian army logs more militant infiltration from Pakistan**

*Agence France Presse*, 6/4/07

The Indian army said Monday it had registered an increase in militant activity along the heavily-militarized Line of Control in Kashmir, despite a pledge by Pakistan to block cross-border insurgents.

The comments came after Indian troops on Monday killed four suspected Islamic militants along the de facto border with Pakistan, in what police said was the sixth infiltration attempt in less than 10 days.

"There has been no let-up in infiltration by militants into our side from across the Line of Control," army spokesman A.K. Mathur told AFP, asserting that militant training camps were still intact across the border in Pakistan.

"The infiltration this time of the year is bit higher than last year," he said, after troops reported killing a group of four "heavily-armed" fighters in a fierce gun battle on Monday.

The army says militant attempts to cross the ceasefire line into Indian Kashmir increase in the summer as snow melts on mountain passes.

The level of militant activity this season will be closely watched as a barometer for the state of the slow moving India-Pakistan peace process launched in 2004.

Islamabad denies New Delhi's charges of arming and funding the militants, and has pledged to do its best to stop insurgents in Kashmir.

In other violence, Indian troops also shot dead six more suspected Islamic militants in three separate gun battles in the north and south of Indian Kashmir, police said.

They said ten civilians were also hurt when suspected rebels hurled a grenade at a security bunker, which missed the target and exploded among pedestrians in the summer capital Srinagar's busy commercial area.



The divided territory of Kashmir has sparked two of the three wars fought between the neighbors since their independence in 1947.

The insurgency launched against Indian rule in 1989 has claimed more than 42,000 lives by official count.

### **Indian army ditches Muslim 'hearts and minds' bid**

*Agence France Presse, 6/4/07*

The Indian army in Kashmir has been forced to abandon its latest bid to win 'hearts and minds' in the revolt-hit state by renovating Islamic sites, an official said Monday.

The mainly Hindu government troops were conducting structural work with the best of intentions, but have now been forced to bow to Muslim anger, according to the region's governor, S.K. Sinha.


"They were doing it with all the good intentions," he said. "Now they are not doing anything."

The army, viewed by locals as more of an occupying army than do-gooders, has spent 5.5 million rupees (135,000 dollars) on sprucing up Sufi shrines and mosques as a "goodwill gesture" for the war-weary public.

But Kashmiri clerics argued that Islam permits only Muslims to carry out work on their shrines, and last week called on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Abdul Kalam to tell the army to keep their hands off the sites.

The clerics also said the army's gesture was "un-Islamic" and the cause of "grave concern and anguish."

The army chief in the region, Lieutenant-General A.S. Sekhon, apologized over the affair.

"We will not undertake any activity that hurts sentiments or interferes in any religious activity," he told a gathering in Gandherbal, on the outskirts of  Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar.

An estimated half-a-million Indian soldiers are in Kashmir battling a separatist revolt that erupted in 1989.

The conflict has claimed at least 42,000 lives, more than a third of them civilians, according to official figures.

## **Kashmir Negotiation Simulation**

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### **Kosovo**

#### **Russia rejects revised European-U.S. proposal for independence for Kosovo**

Edith M. Lederer, *Associated Press*, 5/31/07

European nations and the United States introduced a revised U.N. resolution Thursday supporting independence for Kosovo under international supervision, but it was immediately rejected by Russia which hinted it would veto the measure.

The new draft made several minor changes and tried to address Russia's concerns about ensuring that Kosovo's multiethnic character is preserved. But it did not include Russia's main proposal for new negotiations between the province's majority ethnic Albanians who are demanding independence and its minority Serbs who want to remain part of Serbia.

"The introduction of this updated version of the draft has not changed anything as far as we are concerned," Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said. "We should think in terms of continued effort to find a mutually acceptable solution to the future of Kosovo."

He pointed to "an important letter" from Serbia's Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, asking the U.N. chief to set up new negotiations on Kosovo's status. Jeremic said the main objective is "to reach a compromise solution," with international mediation, to guarantee Kosovo's long-term stability but he also reiterated Serbia's opposition to Kosovo's independence.

The resolution's supporters said they want swift action on the resolution, which would end U.N. administration of Kosovo in 120 days and have the European Union take over the province's supervised transition to independence. NATO-led troops would remain to help ensure security and an international civilian representative would oversee the transition.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, the current council president, said council experts would meet Friday to discuss the new draft. Churkin said he might send an expert to listen, but "we are not discussing the draft in a situation where the fundamental concerns we have expressed have not been taken care of."

Khalilzad said "the United States' preference would be for a vote to take place next week."

"Frankly, the ball is in Russia's court to come up with ideas and suggestions, but the process to move forward has started," he said. "Kosovo's independence is inevitable, but we will make every effort to accommodate to constructive ideas and suggestions from our Russian colleagues."

Asked what Russia will do if the new draft resolution is pushed to a vote, Churkin said, "under those circumstances, unfortunately, the outcome would be obvious."

A reporter then asked if that meant he would veto the resolution. "I don't like this word until I receive final instructions, but you're guessing well what is in my mind," Churkin replied.

While Kosovo remains a province of Serbia, it has been under U.N. and NATO administration since a 78-day NATO-led air war that halted a Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists in 1999.

Last month, U.N. envoy Martti Ahtisaari recommended that Kosovo be granted internationally-supervised independence a proposal welcomed by its ethnic Albanian majority, who comprise 90 percent of the 2 million population, but vehemently rejected by its Serb minority, Serbia, and Russia, which has strong cultural and religious ties to the Serbs.

The draft resolution, which is backed by the U.S. and the European Union's Security Council members France, Britain, Slovakia, Belgium and Italy would be under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter which deals with threats to peace and security and can be militarily enforced.

The initial draft expressed appreciation to Ahtisaari "and endorses the provisions" in his comprehensive settlement proposal. The revised draft expresses appreciation to Ahtisaari "and, bearing in mind the objective of a multiethnic Kosovo supports the provisions" in his proposal "and calls for its full implementation."

Council diplomats said "supports" was a step down from "endorses" and the changes were made including adding the reference to a multiethnic Kosovo to demonstrate more openness to Russian concerns. The new draft also asks Ban to appoint a special envoy to report on the situation of of refugees and internally displaced people in the region.

Some 200,000 Serbs and other minorities fled during a period of revenge attacks by ethnic Albanians that followed the crackdown by Serb forces. Only a small number of Serbs have returned since then, and many of them have faced attacks.

The draft resolution recognizes "the specific circumstances that make Kosovo a special case, including the historical context of Yugoslavia's violent and non-consensual break-up, as well as the massive violence and repression that took place in Kosovo in the period up to and including 1999."

Kosovo's Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed the Ahtissari plan and accepted its obligations in the document. The new draft "demands that Kosovo comply in full with those obligations," stronger words than the initial draft which underscored the importance of complying.

Churkin has cited "at least three fundamental differences and three matters of principle for us." Russia does not approve the Ahtisaari plan because it has not been approved by Belgrade, it cannot accept lifting the resolution that authorized the U.N. takeover of Kosovo because it has not been implemented, "and we cannot accept the assertion that Kosovo is a unique case," he said.

But Churkin stressed that "the Russian approach does allow for considerable flexibility."

"We're not calling for things to be stagnated in Kosovo," he said. "We, for example, can envisage the transfer of responsibility from the United Nations to the European Union in Kosovo, but within the framework of the current political status of Kosovo."

Is it still possible to bridge what Churkin calls the "fundamental differences" between Russia and the U.S. and Europeans?

"I'm a very good engineer," said France's U.N. Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere.

**Serbian president 'not giving up' on Kosovo**

*Agence France Presse, 6/2/07*

Serbia's president said Saturday his country was "not giving up" on joining the EU or on its opposition to independence for Kosovo as the UN Security Council takes up the issue.

President Boris Tadic also said Serbia would work hard to pursue negotiations for closer ties with the European Union, which has supported supervised independence for Kosovo, a Serbian province.

"We are not giving up (on) Kosovo, and at the same time we are not giving up (on) the European Union," Tadic said in Helsinki, where he held talks with Finnish President Tarja Halonen and EU enlargement chief Olli Rehn.

"This is our main strategic goal: to be a member state of the European Union in the future," he added.

Rehn announced Friday that the EU would resume key talks with Serbia on closer ties in the coming days, following the arrest of a general wanted for war crimes.

The EU froze negotiations a year ago because it said Serbia was not fully cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, which indicted the general, Zdravko Tolimir.

Tolimir was arrested in Bosnia on Thursday and is scheduled to make his first appearance before The Hague-based tribunal on Monday.

"We are going to do anything in our power to finalize this cooperation," Tadic said.

On the issue of Kosovo, Serbia deeply opposes losing the province, and its ally Russia has threatened to use its UN Security Council veto to stop it from happening. At the same time, Serbia badly wants to reap the economic and political benefits of joining the EU.

Serbia has proposed autonomy for Kosovo instead.

Both Tadic and Rehn said that the issues of Kosovo and Serbian ties with the EU would be treated separately.

Kosovo has been under UN stewardship since 1999, after a NATO bombing campaign helped drive out Serbian forces carrying out a brutal crackdown on the majority ethnic Albanians.

Some 10,000 ethnic Albanians died and hundreds of thousands fled Kosovo during the 1998-1999 conflict.

### **Ethnic Albanian leaders to hold contest for creating new flag, anthem**

Garentina Kraja, *Associated Press*, 6/4/07

Ethnic Albanian leaders agreed Monday to launch a contest for creating a new flag and anthem for Kosovo within days, despite continuing international disagreement over whether the disputed province should be given supervised independence or remain within Serbia.

A U.N. proposal recommends Kosovo be given internationally supervised independence, along with its "own, distinct, national symbols, including a flag, seal and anthem reflecting its multiethnic character."

Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority has backed the U.N. plan. But Serbia vehemently rejects it, and Serbia's traditional ally Russia has hinted it could use its position as a permanent U.N. Security Council member to veto agreement on the proposal.

Kosovo has been under U.N. and NATO administration since a 1999 NATO-led air war halted a Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists.

Since then, its ethnic Albanians who comprise about 90 percent of the 2 million population have used Albania's red flag with a black double-headed eagle. The province's minority Serb communities have used Serbia's blue, white and red flag.

"We will have the symbols ... when Kosovo will need them for its presentation," Kosovo's President Fatmir Sejdiu said after a two-hour meeting with top U.S and EU diplomats in Kosovo.

Sejdiu said the terms of the contest would be announced within days, and pledged that the winning symbols would respect the recommendations of the U.N. plan.

"Our symbols need international legitimacy," Kosovo's Prime Minister Agim Ceku said.

The debate over Kosovo's future has exacerbated tensions between Russia and Western countries, including the United States, that support the U.N. proposal for Kosovo's independence.

In an effort to reach agreement, the U.S. and European nations last week introduced a revised U.N. proposal with minor changes aimed at ensuring Kosovo's multiethnic character was preserved. Russia rejected the revisions.

### **Kosovo Negotiation Simulation**

[Click here to access the Kosovo Negotiation Simulation prepared by the Public International Law & Policy Group.](#)

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## **Liberia**

### **Prosecutor: Dozens of witnesses to link Charles Taylor and Sierra Leone war crimes**

Arthur Max, *Associated Press*, 5/30/07

Dozens of witnesses will be called in Charles Taylor's trial to link the former Liberian president to atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's civil war in the 1990s, Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp said Wednesday.

Those witnesses include insiders claiming to have seen Taylor instigate and give orders leading to war crimes, Rapp said.

The long-awaited trial begins Monday with the prosecution's four-hour opening statement, then will adjourn until June 25 when it will hear the first of the 150 witnesses the prosecution plans to summon to the stand.

Taylor's defense will give its opening statement after the prosecution rests its case, in about one year, Rapp said. The trial should take about 18 months before the judges retire to consider their verdict.

Taylor, 59, is facing 11 charges of terrorism, murder, rape, sexual slavery, mutilation and recruiting child soldiers. He has pleaded innocent to all counts.

He was arrested last year and flown to the Netherlands amid fears that staging his trial in Sierra Leone, where the court usually sits, could trigger fresh unrest or even attempts by his supporters to break him out of prison.

Of the 150 scheduled prosecution witnesses, 62 will testify "to Taylor's control, to his orders, to his instigation, to his plans, to his provision of assistance of arms, training, safe refuge to the rebels, with full knowledge of the atrocities they were committing to the civilian population," he told the Netherlands-based Foreign Press Association.

Some of those witnesses were from Taylor's inner circle. Some may have shared responsibility for crimes, but were not being prosecuted because the court chose to pursue only those most responsible, he said.

Most of them will testify under pseudonyms to protect their identities from public disclosure, though the defense will know who they are. Some will be eligible for relocation after the trial to avoid retribution.

During a pretrial hearing three weeks ago, defense attorney Karim Khan said potential witnesses feared leaving Sierra Leone to testify on Taylor's behalf for fear of identifying themselves as his associates and exposing themselves to possible U.N. sanctions.

Khan also complained that the two defense lawyers and three legal aides were outgunned by the 10-man prosecution team. Taylor, although he was reported to have stashed away huge wealth from his years in power, has declared himself unable to pay for his own defense team and relies on court-appointed counsel.

Operating from his residence in Monrovia known as White Flower, Taylor never entered Sierra Leone during the conflict, making it a challenge for the prosecution to link him to the actions of rebel forces.

"We don't say he chopped off any hands himself. We don't say he shot anybody himself," Rapp said. "We have a variety of evidence showing that these people (the rebels) viewed Taylor as the boss man, as the person responsible," Rapp said.

The upheaval in West Africa "was a kind of terrorism," he said. "It was, in our view, a systematic attack against civilians with the intent to take control of Sierra Leone."

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has no maximum sentence. Life imprisonment is not in its statute, but Taylor could be sentenced to a term that would leave him jail for his expected lifetime. Under a U.N. sanctioned agreement, Britain has agreed to imprison him if he is convicted.

### **Rights group joins prosecutor to urge more funding for Charles Taylor trial**

Arthur Max, *Associated Press*, 5/31/07

The war crimes tribunal trying former Liberian President Charles Taylor for allegedly orchestrating atrocities in West Africa's upheavals needs more money to complete its cases, Human Rights Watch said Thursday.

The New York-based group made the appeal for more funding from donor countries after Stephen Rapp, the chief prosecutor in the Taylor case, warned that the former African leader will go free if the Special Court for Sierra Leone exhausts its funding.

The tribunal has made clear "if they run out of resources and can't continue the trial, the judges will simply have to release the accused persons," Rapp told reporters Wednesday.

No matter how good his case, he said, "if we run out of money, I lose."

Taylor, 59, is facing 11 charges of terrorism, murder, rape, sexual slavery, mutilation and recruiting child soldiers. He has pleaded innocent to all counts.

The trial starts Monday in The Hague, where it was moved for fear that trying the former president in Sierra Leone could re-ignite militia conflicts and lead to a possible attempt to break him out of prison. It is expected to last 18 months.

Human Rights Watch, which closely monitored the 11-year conflict in Sierra Leone, said the Taylor trial sends "a strong signal that no one is above the law." He is the first former African head of state to stand before an international criminal court.

"The trial of a former president associated with human rights abuses across West Africa represents a break from the past," said Elise Keppler, counsel with the independent group's International Justice Program. "Taylor's trial puts would-be perpetrators on notice."

The Special Court has the backing of the U.N. Security Council, but unlike the war crimes tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda it is not financed by the United Nations and must raise operating funds from U.N. member countries.

The United States is the biggest donor, followed by the Netherlands, Britain and Canada, Rapp said.

He said the court needs \$36 million this year for the Taylor trial and for three other cases involving eight defendants being conducted in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The Special Court, which is renting courtroom space and other facilities from the International Criminal Court, pays the ICC \$750 a day for the two prison cells Taylor occupies in the ICC prison in a Hague suburb, Rapp said. Witnesses must be flown from Sierra Leone, and some former insiders testifying against Taylor will be put in a witness protection program and relocated.

"The Special Court has faced constant financial shortfalls and still needs funding to cover anticipated costs associated with Taylor's trial," Human Rights Watch said.

Despite the cash crunch, independence from the U.N. gives the Sierra Leone court more flexibility in hiring staff and making decisions without going through the cumbersome U.N. bureaucracy, Rapp said. "We can do things much faster."

Taylor, a former warlord who became Liberia's president in 1997, was indicted in 2003, accused of sponsoring Sierra Leone's rebel Revolutionary United Front in exchange for illegally mined diamonds. Taylor agreed to give up power and go into exile, but was arrested in Nigeria in March 2006 and moved to the Netherlands three months later to await trial.

### **Liberia's Taylor boycotts opening of his war crimes trial, defense attorney walks out**

Mike Corder, *Associated Press*, 6/4/07

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor plunged the start of his landmark war crimes trial into uncertainty Monday by boycotting the hearing and firing his lawyer, saying he did not believe he would get a fair trial.

The judges, though, ordered proceedings to continue against Taylor, charged with controlling and arming rebels who murdered, raped, mutilated and enslaved civilians during Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war that ended in 2002.

Refusing to leave his jail cell Monday, Taylor said he did not believe he could get a fair trial because he was being denied enough time or money for an adequate defense.

Taylor's court-appointed lawyer, Karim Khan, delivered the news to judges at the Special Court for Sierra

Leone. He then gathered up his papers and left, despite warnings from the presiding judge, Julia Sebutinde, that he could be in contempt of court.

"This is not defense counsel making some cheap trick," Khan told The Associated Press outside the courtroom. Taylor "thought this was a railroad to a conviction and in those circumstances, he exercised his right to terminate my representation and to represent himself."

In a letter to the court read by Khan to the judges, Taylor complained that his single defense attorney was heavily outgunned by the nine-member prosecution team.

"This is neither fair nor just," Taylor wrote in his letter.

🔒 "I cannot participate in a charade that does injustice to the people of Sierra Leone ... and the international community in whose name this court claims to speak," Taylor wrote.

Speaking after the hearing, Prosecutor Stephen Rapp dismissed Taylor's concerns as administrative issues "blown out of proportion in order to create a reason for what we view as obstructive conduct in this case."

Rapp added that Taylor was getting more money for his defense up to US\$2 million (euro1.5 million) for the trial than any other suspect charged by the court.

Elise Keppler of Human Rights Watch conceded that Khan's courtroom drama "certainly drew a lot of attention and tried to shift focus from the presentation of the prosecutor."

Rapp went ahead with his opening statement after Khan walked out, outlining atrocities committed by rebels and saying he would call witnesses who will directly link them to Taylor. The Liberian leader shipped rebels arms, ammunition and supplies such as alcohol and drugs used to desensitize children forced to fight. In return he got diamonds, often mined by slave laborers.

Rebel attackers "would mutilate; amputating arms, limbs, gouging eyes," Rapp said. Child soldiers were sometimes forced to kill their own parents. Women were repeatedly raped and forced into sexual slavery.

Taylor, 59, has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity over the period from 1996-2002. The court has no death sentence and no limit to the number of years in prison he could be sentenced if he is convicted.

The next hearing is set for June 25. It remained unclear who would be sitting on the defense bench when it resumes. The trial was expected to last 18 months.

In his letter, Taylor claimed he had been prevented from seeing a court official mandated with making sure he is properly defended.

Sebutinde called Taylor's inability to see the court official "worrying" and ordered court staff to arrange for the official, Vincent Nmehielle, to fly from Sierra Leone to meet with the defendant. 🔒

Despite the problems, the trial has been hailed as a watershed for war-torn western Africa.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the start of Taylor's trial, "a significant move towards peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone and in the region," U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said in a statement.

"This is an important day for the international community, contributing to the fight against impunity and the strengthening of the rule of law not only in West Africa, but in the world as a whole," Okabe said.

A conviction, Rapp told the court, "will not bring back the dead from their graves, nor give back limbs to the

thousands of amputees ... it will not give back the childhoods to countless boys and girls," but would give "some small measure of closure" to the people of Sierra Leone.

In Sierra Leone Monday, at the complex where the court trying him at The Hague usually sits, school children, researchers, rights activists and others watched Monday's proceedings via satellite hookup.

"I believe that if Charles Taylor is to be tried the truth will be out about the part he played during our rebel war and justice will be done," said Fatmata Kamara, a 17-year-old high school student.

The charges he faces refer only to events in Sierra Leone, Liberia's neighbor, although Taylor also is linked to brutality in his own country.

At the Liberian capital's largest cemetery, where most of the tombstones date from the period of the country's 14-year civil war, four gravediggers listened to radio reports of the trial. Flomo Tokpah, 54, said his older brother was killed by Taylor's forces, and that he was glad Taylor did not address the court himself.

"I don't want to hear that wicked man's voice anymore," he said.

From 1989 to 1997, Taylor led the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia, whose aim was to unseat then-President Samuel K. Doe. Taylor is believed to be one of the first warlords to recruit children, who were organized into a Small Boys Unit and christened with names like "Babykiller." Taylor was elected Liberia's president in 1997 and quit and went into exile in Nigeria after being indicted in 2003.

He was arrested in 2006 and transferred to The Hague a year ago amid fears his trial in Sierra Leone could trigger fresh violence in the region.

Associated Press writers Rukmini Callimachi in Monrovia, Liberia and Clarence Roy-Macaulay in Freetown, Sierra Leone contributed to this report.

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## **Macedonia**

### **Report: Macedonian president willing to join NATO under FYROM acronym**

*Associated Press, 6/3/07*

Macedonia, whose name is disputed with Greece, is willing to join NATO under the lengthy substitute name that is used by the United Nations, its president was quoted as saying in an interview published Sunday.

Athens refers to the nation of Macedonia by the acronym FYROM Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under which it entered the U.N. in 1993. Greece says that the name Macedonia implies a claim by FYROM on the northern Greek province of Macedonia and could destabilize the region.

Macedonian President Branco Crvenkovski was quoted by the newspaper Kathimerini as saying,

"We are ready to join NATO with the same name used at the U.N.," and adding that his country would not, however, back down from calling itself Macedonia.

"We have already made far too many concessions. ... Believe me when I say that, more than anyone else, we want to resolve the issue and rid ourselves of this outdated and degrading acronym," Crvenkovski said.

Crvenkovski rejected the allegation that the name implies a claim on the Greek province. He insisted that "the Republic of Macedonia has no territorial claims against its neighbors, including Greece."

Later Sunday, Greek Foreign Ministry spokesman Giorgos Koumountsakos urged Macedonia to refrain from what he called "pointless tactics."

"The only way to reach a mutually acceptable solution is for the government in Skopje to "show moderation," he said.

Greece is a member of both NATO and the European Union, to which Macedonia applied for membership in 2004. Greece has threatened to stand in the way of Macedonian membership under that name in both international organizations.

In 1994 Greece imposed a damaging year-long trade embargo on Macedonia over the name dispute, which nearly destroyed the small country's economy. Greece is now the largest foreign investor in Macedonia.

Greece also accuses Macedonia of hijacking its history, using ancient Greek names and symbols.

Late last year, the dispute flared up again over a decision to rename Petrovec airport in Macedonia's capital, Skopje, "Alexander the Great Airport," after the ancient Greek warrior king.

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## **Moldova**

### **Moldovan political prisoner released by separatists after 15 years**

Corneliu Rusnac, *Associated Press*, 6/2/07

Andrei Ivantoc, a political prisoner who was jailed for 15 years on charges of terrorism in Moldova's separatist state of Trans-Dniester, was released Saturday after serving his term.

Ivantoc, 46, was driven in a militia truck to the border with the rest of Moldova by Trans-Dniester authorities, freed and expelled. After he was released he tried to return to the separatist republic but was stopped by separatist authorities.

He was later forcibly bundled into a car, in which his wife Eudochia and Moldova's deputy minister for Reintegration, Ion Stavila, were also traveling. The car set off for the Moldovan capital. No statements were made and there was no immediate explanation for his action.

Some 50 people came to greet Ivantoc, carrying roses and wild flowers to this border town some 60 kilometers (37 miles) southeast of Chisinau.

Among them was Alexandru Lesco, who was one of four people who were imprisoned on terrorist charges in

Trans-Dniester in 1992. Lesco was freed in 2004 after serving a 12-year-term.

The leader of the Popular Moldovan Front, Ilie Ilascu, was released in 2001 and moved to Romania. He is now a lawmaker with the ultranationalist Greater Romania party.

The remaining prisoner, Tudor Petrov-Popa, is due to be released in two days.

The European Court for Human Rights in 2005 ordered the separatists, Moldova and Russia to free Ivantoc and Petrov-Popa, and ordered Moldova and Russia which backs Trans-Dniester to pay the four a total of euro750,000 (US\$1,007,700) in compensation for the deprivation of their freedom, torture and inhumane treatment while in custody.

Ivantoc was a member of the Popular Moldovan Front, a political movement that called for the reunification of Moldova with neighboring Romania, from which it was annexed in 1940. Some 1,500 people were killed during the war.

Separatist authorities arrested Ivantoc in 1992, and he and the three others were sentenced on charges of committing terrorist acts against citizens of Trans-Dniester a year later.

The group's members were seen as martyrs by some in Moldova and Romania for their opposition to the separatists.

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## **Morocco**

### **Morocco, Polisario Front to start W Sahara talks on June 18**

*Agence France Presse, 6/4/07*

Talks between Morocco and the separatist Polisario Front opposed to Rabat's rule in the disputed Western Sahara will start on June 18, the Front said Monday.

The Front had received an invitation from United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to start "direct negotiations on June 18," with Morocco, a source told the Algerian news agency APS.

The source did not specify where the talks will be held but added that the Front hoped that this time "Morocco would respond positively and seriously to this invitation."

The Front's national secretariat, which met on Sunday, also hoped that Rabat would not put stumbling blocks as it had in the past.

Morocco annexed the desolate northwest African territory after the withdrawal of the former colonial power Spain and neighbor Mauritania in the 1970s, settling it with around 300,000 Moroccans in 1975.

A war with the Polisario Front ended in 1991 with a UN-brokered ceasefire.

On April 30, the UN Security Council urged Morocco and the Front to launch direct, UN-sponsored talks on self-determination in the Western Sahara.

Morocco has proposed an autonomy referendum in Western Sahara that envisages giving Sahrawis "control

over their affairs through legislative, executive and judicial institutions" under Moroccan sovereignty and calls for "negotiations for a political solution acceptable to all parties."

The Polisario Front rejects the Moroccan proposal, saying they want full independence.

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## **Nepal**

### **Nepal parties agree to first post-war poll in November**

*Agence France Presse, 5/31/07*

Nepal's eight political parties announced Thursday a November date for the Himalayan nation's first post-war elections, originally scheduled for June.

The vote for a body to rewrite Nepal's constitution had been set for June 20, but Nepal's top election official has repeatedly said more time was needed to prepare.

"We have agreed to hold the constituent assembly elections by the end of November and the eight party leaders have given the responsibility to the government to fix the (exact) date," minister for peace and reconstruction Ramchandra Poudel told AFP.

"The prime minister has proposed November 26 as election day, but it has not been approved by the leaders of the eight parties," said C.P. Mainali, leader of the United Left Front party.

Nepal's former rebel Maoists ended their decade-long civil war late last year and have been given five ministerial portfolios in the new government.

The elections will decide the future of Nepal's embattled monarch King Gyanendra, who has been stripped of most of his powers after being forced to end a much-criticized 14-month period of authoritarian rule last April.

The fiercely anti-monarchy Maoists want the interim government to declare a republic before the polls and while agreeing to a November ballot added a note of dissent.

"Our party thinks that we will not be able to hold the elections without declaring a republic through parliament so we have sent a note of dissent on the election date agreement to the other party leaders," said Dinanath Sharma, a senior Maoist leader.

Nepal's parliament, formed in January, needs to amend the interim constitution in the next two weeks, said peace minister Poudel.

"We have also agreed to amend the interim constitution and formulate the necessary election laws by mid-June," he said.

Nepal's chief election official hailed the announcement of November polls.

"We welcome this agreement and now this political decision should be backed up swiftly to make sure we can hold the election in November," election commissioner Bhojraj Pokharel told AFP.

The commission has recently finished updating Nepal's electoral register, and around 17.6 million of the 27 million population are now registered to vote, Pokharel said.

However, the eight-party government that includes the Maoists also face law and order problems in Nepal, where at least 65 people have been killed in ethnic unrest in the south since January.

"The government also needs to improve peace and security in order to create a stable environment to hold the polls," the election chief said.

Some 9,700 polling centers would be set up across the country, he added.

At least 13,000 people were killed during the Maoist insurrection launched in western Nepal in 1996.

As part of a landmark peace deal reached late in 2006, the ultra-leftists have placed their weapons and troops in camps under United Nations supervision.

### **Nepal Negotiation Simulation**

[Click here to access the Nepal Negotiation Simulation prepared by the Public International Law & Policy Group.](#)

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## **Philippines**

### **Australia, Philippines seal new military agreement**

*Agence France Presse, 5/31/07*

Australia and the Philippines agreed to expand counter-terrorism cooperation Thursday, with elite Australian troops to train their Philippine counterparts in the restive south.

Australia also pledged to supply up to 30 high-speed gunboats to the Philippines military to help hunt down militants in the rivers and marshes on the southern island Mindanao.

Philippine President Gloria Arroyo witnessed the signing of the Status of Forces Agreement during an official visit to the Australian capital.

"This is an agreement that will help us to modernize and professionalize our armed forces -- it will help the inter-operability of our armed forces in the fight against terrorism," Arroyo told reporters at a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

"Overall, it will be good for the battle against terrorism."

Arroyo praised Australia's help for the Philippines military as it battles Muslim extremists in the south.

"Our allies help us root out and destroy these vicious killers who ply their dislocated and evil ideology on the innocent," she said.

While Australia already provides counter-terrorism training to Philippines troops, Defense Minister Brendan Nelson said the new agreement provided a legal framework to expand military cooperation.

"Ongoing cooperation between the two nations is vital to addressing regional and broader security concerns, including the fight against transnational terrorism," Nelson said.

"Military exercises increase mutual confidence amongst regional defense forces that may have to operate together in global and regional contingencies, such as peacekeeping or natural disaster relief."

Nelson stressed that the agreement did not provide authorization for Australia to deploy troops or conduct operations in the Philippines.

It means Australia will be only the second country after the United States to be able to send their troops to the Philippines.

Nelson said Australia was helping the Philippines develop a force of 30 boats to patrol the river and marshland areas on the southern island of Mindanao.

Philippines officials say the gunboats, which can each carry six soldiers and three crewmen and navigate with a global positioning system, are to be delivered in batches starting this year.

The boats are expected to be used to hunt down members of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the Al-Qaeda-linked militant group behind the Bali bombings in 2002 and 2005, in which a total of 222 people died, including 92 Australians.

Australia's army chief Lieutenant General Peter Leahy visited the Philippines last year for what local officials described as a briefing on a hunt for two suspects in the 2002 Bali bombings.

However, the Australian defence department denied there was a briefing, saying Leahy was merely in the Philippines for a "counterpart visit."

Howard and Arroyo also signed an agreement which will see Canberra provide 250 million dollars (205 million US) towards human rights projects in the Philippines.

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## **Somalia**

### **Somali semi-autonomous region claims killing two foreign fighters**

*Agence France Presse, 5/30/07*

Troops from the Somali semi-autonomous region of Puntland on Wednesday killed two Arab fighters who entered the region by boat, officials said.

The two foreign fighters were accompanied by Somali gunmen when they entered the fishing village of Bargar, a top government official told AFP.

"We have killed two foreign fighters of Arab origin who were among a group of others including Somalis. We are looking for others who came by two boats into a village called Bargar," the official told AFP.

"They were all heavily-armed," said the official, speaking by phone from Somalia's northeastern region.

"We have sent more troops to the coastal village to capture those who have fled after they came under heavy fire."

The killing came after almost daily attacks, mainly in the Somali capital Mogadishu, since Ethiopian-backed government forces defeated Islamist and clan fighters at the end of April.

The United States has said the Islamists were allied to Al-Qaeda, a charge they vehemently deny.

Somalia plunged into lawlessness with the 1991 ouster of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and more than a dozen attempts to restore central authority have since failed.

Northern Somalia is home to two enclaves -- Puntland and neighboring Somaliland -- that broke away from Somalia proper and declared versions of autonomy.

### **Group linked to al-Qaida tried to assassinate Somali prime minister in suicide bomb attack, says official**

Salad Duhul, *Associated Press*, 6/3/07

A group linked to al-Qaida tried to assassinate the Somali prime minister in a suicide bomb attack in front of the premier's house that killed and injured an unknown number of people, the deputy defense minister said.

It is at least the third attempt on Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi's life since he returned to Somalia in May 2005.

It took place two days after Somali security force operations and shelling from a U.S. warship led to the defeat of a group of Islamic militants in a remote, mountainous northeastern area of Somalia, during which at least eight foreign fighters were reported killed.

"It was a suicide attack. They are terrorists linked to al-Qaida. They planned to kill the prime minister. He escaped their assassination attempt. He is alive. And now he is in a safe place," Deputy Defense Minister Salad Ali Jelle told The Associated Press.

Paddy Ankunda, spokesman of the African Union peacekeeping force in Mogadishu, said that a number of people were killed and others wounded. African Union troops are busy evacuating the wounded, Ankunda said.

An Associated Press reporter saw five bodies lying on the street outside the prime minister's house.

Ankunda said that within minutes of the explosion, peacekeepers sealed off the area around Gedi's house and took charge of security. The peacekeepers are based at President Abdullahi Yusuf's residence, the main international airport and Mogadishu port.

"I can confirm that the prime minister is safe and unharmed and our troops evacuated him from the explosion site to a safe location," Ankunda told The Associated Press.

Qasaye Mohamed Ali, who lives in the neighborhood, said he was standing near the prime minister's house when he saw the car force its way through a roadblock. Guards outside the premier's house opened fire and

then the car rammed into a wall and exploded, he said.

Ali was waiting for a friend who was inside the premier's house when the explosion happened. He said he hid behind a wall to protect himself.

The last attempt on Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi's life was on May 17, when a bomb exploded as Gedi's convoy was on its way to the capital's airport. No one was injured and no vehicles were damaged in that attempt.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Sunday's attack undermines the government assertion that it has defeated Islamic insurgents who have vowed to launch an Iraq-style guerrilla war unless Somalia becomes an Islamic state.

When Gedi declared victory in April, the death toll was at least 1,670 people killed since March 12. About 400,000 people have fled the capital's violence since February.

The battles pitted the government and Ethiopian troops propping it up, against clan rivals and Islamic insurgents.

Officials of the semiautonomous region of Puntland said that the dead foreign fighters in Friday's fighting included some from the United States, Britain, Sweden, Pakistan and Yemen. Somali fighters were also killed in the mountainous northeastern area of Bargal, but officials did not specify how many.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, traveling in Asia, declined to comment Sunday on the reported U.S. naval bombardment in the remote and mountainous area, saying "that's possibly an ongoing operation."

Elsewhere, in southern Somalia on Sunday, militias of rival clans clashed, killing nine people and wounding 12, clan elders said.

It was not clear why the fighting happened in Berhani village, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) from the port town of Kismayo, though one clan spokesman, Col. Hassan Mohamed Ali, said "This is not political war."

Ali and a leader from a rival clan, Suldan Abdirashid Dure said that elders are going to try to resolve the disagreement.

Earlier Sunday in the Somali capital, an Ethiopian army vehicle was hit when a device exploded near it, but the vehicle was not damaged, an eyewitness said. Ethiopian troops in other vehicles got out and opened fire indiscriminately, said Yahye Ali, who was nearby.

Associated Press writers Mohamed Olad Hassan in Mogadishu and Nasteex Dahir Farah in Kismayo, Somalia, contributed to this report.

## **8 Militants Killed in Somali Fighting**

Salad Duhul, *Associated Press*, 6/3/07

At least eight foreign and an unspecified number of Somali Islamic militants were killed in fighting with Somali government forces and during bombardment from a U.S. warship on a remote, mountainous northeastern area, officials said Sunday.

The fight against Islamic militants in Somalia has moved to the relatively peaceful northeast of the country. Somali government forces and their allies have previously fought the militants only in the country's south.

"Foreign fighters, Somali militants and members of the international terrorists including British nationals, Americans, Swedish, Pakistanis and Yemenis were killed in separate operations carried out by Puntland troops and U.S. navy forces," said a Sunday statement by the government of the semiautonomous northeastern region of Puntland.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, asked Sunday to comment on the reported U.S. naval bombardment in northeastern Somalia, said, "That's possibly an ongoing operation." Therefore, he added, he would not comment.

Gates is in Singapore for a conference on security issues affecting the Asia-Pacific region.

The Puntland government statement said the militants were "defeated," in Friday's battles, but did not give details about either the number of casualties or their identities.

Information Minister Mohamed Abdulrahman Banga told journalists Sunday that they were waiting for more information from the security officials in the area where the fighting took place before releasing more details.

On Saturday, however, Puntland Vice President Hassan Dahir Mohamoud told The Associated Press that his government's troops killed eight foreign Islamic militants and five of them came from Britain, Eritrea, Sweden, the U.S. and Yemen.

Security forces identified them from their passports, said Mohamoud, speaking from the Puntland capital, Garowe. He said the remaining three could not be immediately identified.

Puntland Finance Minister Mohamed Ali Yusuf told journalists on Sunday that they will only release the identities of the foreigners once they completed investigations.

Mohamoud said that there were no civilian casualties because the area is uninhabited. Earlier reports had said the fighting took place in a village, and it is not clear why there was the discrepancy.

He said his government asked for the U.S. navy to help them, but he did not give details why Puntland wanted such assistance.

At least one U.S. warship late Friday pounded the area, which is near the port town of Bargal, after the government forces clashed with the militants.

Somalia's government declared victory against Islamic insurgents in the Somali capital, which is in the south, in April. But since then officials of the government and Ethiopian troops sent to prop it up have been targeted in bomb attacks.

"The insurgency appears to be spreading to other parts of Somalia, which raises a fundamental problem for the TFG (transitional federal government). In addition, the military tactics being used by the insurgents, including the use of suicide bombings, raises a very serious question about the prospects for long-term stability in Somalia and the region," said Ted Dagne, a specialist in African Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, the research arm of the U.S. Congress.

Southern Somalia is where most of the country's 16 years of violence and chaos have taken place. Puntland has known relative peace since forming its own regional government in 1998.

A task force of coalition ships, called CTF-150, is permanently based in the northern Indian Ocean and patrols the Somali coast in hopes of intercepting international terrorists. U.S. destroyers are normally assigned to the task force and patrol in pairs.

The United States has repeatedly accused Somalia's Council of Islamic Courts of harboring international terrorists linked to al-Qaida and allegedly responsible for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya

and Tanzania.

The U.S. sent a small number of special operations troops with the Ethiopian forces that drove the Islamic forces into hiding. U.S. warplanes carried out in January at least two airstrikes in an attempt to kill suspected al-Qaida members, Pentagon officials have said.

Associated Press writer Mohamed Olad Hassan in Mogadishu, Somalia, Robert Burns in Singapore and Tom Maliti in Nairobi, Kenya, contributed to this report.

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## **Sri Lanka**

### **Sri Lankan president ready for peace talks amid fighting**

*Agence France Presse, 6/1/07*

Sri Lanka's president is ready to resume peace talks with Tamil Tiger rebels even as security forces are locked in combat with the guerrillas, a presidential spokesman said Friday.

President Mahinda Rajapakse would enter negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) if the guerrillas agreed to resume where they left off in October 2006, spokesman Chandrapala Liyanage told AFP.

"I am ready to talk even today in the present circumstances," the president was quoted as saying. "I am a total democrat and I believe in a peaceful negotiated settlement."

The Tigers last week insisted that they will not resume the Norwegian-brokered peace talks unless the Sri Lankan government halted military action against the guerrillas.

Rajapakse said he had not ordered troops to enter rebel-held Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu regions and was still abiding by the Oslo-arranged truce.

"The ceasefire agreement has been violated 8,000 to 9,000 times, but we have still not given up the ceasefire," Rajapakse said.

Officials private admit that the truce is all but dead.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in a new wave of violence since Rajapakse came to power in November 2005. Since then two rounds of peace talks ended in failure and led to more fighting with the rebels who want independence.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in fighting in the past 35 years.

### **Sri Lanka war planes bomb Tigers ahead of Japan's peace move**

*Agence France Presse, 6/4/07*

Sri Lankan war planes bombed suspected Tamil Tiger positions in northern Sri Lanka Monday, the day before an attempt by top donor Japan to revive the tattered peace process.

On the ground, the two sides traded artillery fire after fierce hand-to-hand combat over the weekend that left scores dead along the front lines that separate government areas from the mini-state run by the rebels, officials said.

"The army conceded the territory they had recently captured along the Mannar and Vavuniya defense lines," a top military officer who declined to be named said of Sunday's fighting.

"Security forces were too thinly spread when the Tigers attacked."

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched the attacks on Saturday night using hundreds of fighters.

The defense ministry said Monday's air attacks targeted Tiger concentrations ahead of military lines.

The guerrillas, who have been fighting for an independent homeland since 1972, said they had smashed four positions, captured weapons and drove off with at least two army vehicles, including an armored personnel carrier.

Both sides offered conflicting accounts and casualty figures, but agreed that it was the bloodiest fighting in recent months.

The Tigers claimed that they killed 30 soldiers and placed their own losses at 18, while the military claimed to have killed at least 52 Tigers and placed their own losses at 10 killed and 20 wounded.

However, military sources said both suffered several times more than they were publicly admitting and the total number of casualties could be in excess of 100.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the latest long-range artillery attacks, which were raging in the same areas as Sunday's fighting as well as further north on the Jaffna peninsula.

Japan's special peace envoy, Yasushi Akashi, is scheduled to visit the island Tuesday in the latest attempt at bringing the two sides back into the peace process.

Akashi was planning to "discuss with the government and the parties concerned the current situation of the peace process and its future," the Japanese embassy said in a statement.

Japan is the largest single donor to Sri Lanka, accounting for almost two thirds of aid money given to the island. But Tokyo has so far resisted calls from international rights groups to link aid to progress on rights and peace.

The escalating fighting since December 2005 has made a mockery of a 2002 truce brokered by Norway, which monitors say is holding only on paper.

Sri Lanka's army chief Sarath Fonseka, in remarks published in the state-run Daily News, said the ceasefire agreement now needed to be re-examined -- arguing that the Tigers had used the truce to strengthen themselves.

"The government might lay down some conditions so that the LTTE can't take advantage like bringing weapons, killing the opponents, consolidating their military defenses," Fonseka said.

President Mahinda Rajapakse meanwhile ordered an immediate inquiry into the killing of two Sri Lankan Red Cross employees over the weekend and said it was designed to discredit him.

The Red Cross said the incident would have a major impact on its volunteers working across Sri Lanka.

Only last week, key Sri Lankan aid donors announced the government had offered security guarantees for aid workers -- who have been accused by state media and public officials of being pro-rebel.

## **2 missing Red Cross workers found dead in Sri Lanka; 10 soldiers killed in clashes**

Bharatha Mallawarachi, *Associated Press*, 6/4/07

Two abducted Sri Lankan Red Cross workers were found shot to death, as battles between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels killed 10 soldiers, the aid group and military said.

The bodies of the two ethnic Tamil men were found Saturday in Ratnapura district, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of the capital, Colombo, said Red Cross Director General Neville Nanayakkara.

Nanayakkara said the two men, S. Shanmugalingam and K. Chandramohan, involved in tsunami reconstruction, had been in Colombo to attend a two-day workshop.

They had been waiting for a train home at a station in the capital Friday, along with four other colleagues from the eastern town of Batticaloa, when they were approached by men claiming to be police, he said Sunday.

Nanayakkara said the men, dressed in civilian clothing, checked their identity cards and then took Shanmugalingam and Chandramohan away, saying they needed to be questioned.

The other four insisted they would also wait at the police station until the questioning was over, but the men drove off in a white car, he said.

"Yesterday, I saw some television reporting that two bodies were found and I had my doubts, so I sent two officers today to Ratnapura hospital and they identified the bodies," Nanayakkara said.

Hundreds of people have been abducted in the capital and the island's north and east in recent months amid a deepening conflict between ethnic Tamil rebels and the government.

Aid workers have been increasingly targeted during the conflict, and the execution-style killing of 17 local workers of the international aid group Action Against Hunger last August, in the eastern town of Muttur, drew widespread international attention.

Meanwhile, clashes between the army and rebels erupted Saturday in three areas along the de facto border separating rebel- and government-held territory, Lt. Col. Upali Rajapakse, a senior military official said.

Ten soldiers were killed and 20 others wounded in the fighting, he said, adding that 52 rebels died.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan was not available for comment.

However, a rebel statement later said the bodies of 15 dead soldiers had been recovered and would be handed over to the military through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Rajapakse did not offer an immediate comment on the rebels' claim. Each side often inflates the casualty figures for the other, and lowers its own.

Sri Lanka's undeclared war continues to worsen despite a 2002 cease-fire that remains officially in place. Since the Norwegian-brokered truce began crumbling in December 2005, more than 5,000 people have been

killed, according to European cease-fire monitors.

Tamil Tiger rebels have fought government troops since 1983 to create a separate homeland for the country's 3.1 million minority ethnic Tamils, who have suffered decades of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese.

About 70,000 people have died in the conflict.

Associated Press reporter Krishan Francis contributed to this report.

### **Sri Lanka Negotiation Simulation**

[Click here to access the Sri Lanka Negotiation Simulation prepared by the Public International Law & Policy Group.](#)

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## **Sudan**

### **Bush announces new sanctions against Sudan for its role in Darfur**

Deb Riechmann, *Associated Press*, 5/29/07

President George W. Bush ordered new U.S. economic sanctions to pressure Sudan's government to halt the bloodshed in Darfur that the administration has condemned as genocide.

"I promise this to the people of Darfur: the United States will not avert our eyes from a crisis that challenges the conscience of the world," the president said Tuesday.

The sanctions target government-run companies involved in Sudan's oil industry, and three individuals, including a rebel leader suspected of being involved in the violence in Darfur.

"For too long the people of Darfur have suffered at the hands of a government that is complicit in the bombing, murder and rape of innocent civilians," the president said. "My administration has called these actions by their rightful name: genocide.

"The world has a responsibility to put an end to it," Bush said.

Bush had been prepared to impose the sanctions last month, but held off to give U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon more time to find a diplomatic end to the four-year crisis in Darfur where more than 200,000 people have been killed.

Ban said at the United Nations on Tuesday that he still needed more time to promote political negotiations and persuade the Sudanese government to accept more peacekeepers. Asked whether the U.S. sanctions would complicate his job of getting Sudan to agree to a larger U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force, Ban said: "We will have to see."

Sudan's government criticized Bush's action. "We believe this decision is unfair and untimely," Sudan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Sadiq told The Associated Press. He urged the rest of the world to ignore

the U.S. move.

Beyond the new U.S. sanctions, Bush directed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to draft a proposed U.N. resolution to strengthen international pressure on the Sudanese government of President Omar al-Bashir.

Save Darfur Coalition director David Rubenstein welcomed the sanctions, but said they might be too little, too late.

"President Bush must not give further months to determine whether these outlines measures work the Darfuri people don't have that much time," he said. "The president must set a short and firm deadline for fundamental changes in Sudanese behavior, and prepare now to implement immediately further measures should Khartoum continue to stonewall."

Bush said he delayed imposing sanctions last month to allow more time for diplomacy, but that al-Bashir has continued to make empty promises of cooperation while obstructing international efforts to end the crisis.

"One day after I spoke, they bombed a meeting of rebel commanders designed to discuss a possible peace deal with the government.," the president said. "In the following weeks he used his army and government-sponsored militias to attack rebels and civilians in south Darfur. He's taken no steps to disarm these militias in the year since the Darfur peace agreement was signed. Senior officials continue to oppose the deployment of the U.N. peacekeeping force.

"The result is that the dire security situation on the ground in Darfur has not changed," Bush said.

The conflict erupted in February 2003 when members of Darfur's ethnic African tribes rebelled against what they considered decades of neglect and discrimination by the Arab-dominated Khartoum government. Sudanese leaders are accused of retaliating by unleashing the janjaweed militia to put down the rebels using a campaign of murder, rape, mutilation and plunder a charge they deny. The fighting in Darfur has displaced 2.5 million people.

Al-Bashir agreed in November to a three-phase U.N. plan to strengthen the overstretched, 7,000-strong African Union force in Darfur.

After five months of stalling, the Sudanese president gave the go-ahead in April for the second phase a "heavy support package" with 3,000 U.N. troops, police and civilian personnel along with six attack helicopters and other equipment.

Over the weekend, however, al-Bashir reiterated his opposition to the deployment of a 22,000-strong joint U.N.-AU force, saying he would only allow a larger African force with technical and logistical support from the United Nations.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations has already drafted a resolution and plans to start discussing it with allies on Tuesday, a Security Council diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the issue.

But a U.S.-backed sanctions resolution is expected to face a tough time in the council, not only because of longstanding opposition from China which has strong commercial ties with Sudan but because of the timing.

The new sanctions target 31 companies to be barred from the U.S. banking system. Thirty of the companies are controlled by the government of Sudan; the other one is suspected of shipping arms to Darfur, the officials said.

Nearly 10 years ago, the United States cut off about 130 Sudanese companies from the U.S. system over a different dispute, forcing them to find ways to do business outside the sanctions framework.

The U.S. also is targeting three individuals, cutting them off from the U.S. financial system to prevent them, too, from doing business with U.S. companies or individuals.

The Treasury Department said that Ahmad Muhammed Harun, Sudan's state minister for humanitarian affairs, has been accused of war crimes in Darfur by the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Sudan's head of military intelligence and security, Awad Ibn Auf, was also designated, along with Khalil Ibrahim, leader of the Justice and Equality Movement, a rebel group that has refused to sign the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The U.N. resolution Bush is seeking would apply new international sanctions against the Sudanese government in Khartoum. It also would seek to impose an expanded embargo on arms sales to Sudan, prohibit Sudan's government from conducting offensive military flights over Darfur and strengthen the U.S. ability to monitor and report any violations.

### **Sudan: New US sanctions over Darfur unfair**

Alfred de Montesquiou, *Associated Press*, 5/29/07

The Sudanese government Tuesday bitterly criticized a new set of U.S. economic sanctions aimed at pressuring it to halt the bloodshed in Darfur, describing the move as "unfair and untimely" and calling on the rest of the world to ignore them.

U.S. President George W. Bush announced the United States was enforcing sanctions that bar 31 Sudanese companies owned or controlled by Sudan's government from the U.S. banking system. The new sanctions also prevent three Sudanese individuals from conducting business with U.S. companies or banks.

"We believe this decision is unfair and untimely," Sudan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Sadiq told The Associated Press.

The spokesman said Sudan accepted in April a first batch of 3,000 U.N. peacekeepers to reinforce the overwhelmed African Union force already deployed in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have fled their homes in four years of fighting between Sudanese forces and local rebels.

"These American measures come at a time when Sudan is actively discussing peace in Darfur and working on the hybrid force," of U.N. and AU peacekeepers, Sadiq said. "We invite the international community to ignore and condemn these sanctions."

His call found support in China, Khartoum's top diplomatic ally and a key business partner. Beijing's envoy to Sudan said sanctions and pressure "only make the issue more complicated" in Darfur.

China's cooperation with Khartoum "is helpful for the development of Sudan's economy and will fundamentally help Sudan to address the conflicts and wars in Sudan," Liu Guijin told reporters in Beijing.

Officials said Chris Hill, the U.S. nuclear negotiator with North Korea, was heading to China on Wednesday and planned to raise Darfur with the Chinese.

But the European Union's foreign policy chief said the EU was willing to consider sanctions to push Sudan to finally allow the large U.N. peacekeeping mission into Darfur.

"In principle, we are open to consider that," Javier Solana told the AP on Tuesday.

The EU's announcement and the unilateral U.S. measures come as the U.S. mission to the United Nations drafted a resolution for broader U.N. sanctions against Sudan.

But the resolution is expected to face resistance in the council because of China's long-standing opposition and questions over its timing.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said he still needed more time to promote political negotiations and persuade the Sudanese government to accept more peacekeepers.

Asked whether the U.S. sanctions would complicate his job of getting Sudan to agree to a larger U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force, Ban said: "We will have to see."

The U.N. agreed last week with the AU on the final outline of the "hybrid force" that would more than triple the number of peacekeepers in Darfur with a mission of at least 23,000 soldiers and police. The peacekeepers would be allowed to launch pre-emptive attacks to stop violence.

South Africa's U.N. ambassador on Tuesday questioned the timing of the U.S. sanctions in the midst of these negotiations.

"It's not clear to us what are the sanctions supposed to achieve, what's really the aim?" said Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, whose country is a large contributor to the current 7,000-strong AU force in Darfur.

Arab League chief Amr Moussa also criticized Bush's announcement, saying "this is not time for sanctions but time for intensifying efforts to reach understanding."

However, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir recently repeated his opposition to a direct U.N. involvement in Darfur peacekeeping, stating the world body should only operate in support of the AU.

World powers are growing increasingly frustrated with Sudan's dallying on the fine print of a U.N. deployment.

Sadiq, the Sudanese spokesman, warned that sanctions would "give the wrong signal" to rebel groups fighting in Darfur.

But one of the individuals targeted for sanctions is Khalil Ibrahim, the head of the Justice and Equality Movement rebel group that opposes a peace deal signed last year by one rebel faction and the Sudanese government.

JEM rebels voiced outrage at the fact Ibrahim had been targeted after repeatedly meeting with U.S. officials to find a way out of the conflict.

The U.S. Embassy in Khartoum said the rebel chief was listed because his troops actively contribute to the ongoing violence. "Meetings notwithstanding ... the U.S. government regards them as obstructing the peace process," said embassy spokesman Joel Maybury.

The two targeted government officials are Awad Ibn Auf, Sudan's head of military intelligence and security, and Ahmed Harun, the minister for humanitarian affairs, the U.S. Treasury Department said.

Ibn Auf could not immediately be reached on Tuesday, but one of his top deputies at the intelligence services said the U.S. measures left him indifferent.

"I don't see anything new in these sanctions, the U.S. have been targeting us for 25 years" said the Sudanese general, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media. "They are just trying to push Sudan around, and to outmaneuver the United Nations."

Harun, the Cabinet minister, declined to comment. The International Criminal Court in The Hague issued an arrest warrant against him earlier this month on charges of 51 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

Associated Press writers Edie Lederer at the United Nations and Constant Brand in Hamburg, Germany, contributed to this article.

**Genocide in Darfur: A Legal Analysis**

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