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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

Crisis in Sri Lanka

UNHCR concerned about conditions in the Internally Displaced People (IDP) sites in Sri Lanka.

20 May 2009, *UNHCR News*.

This is an excerpt from the statement issued by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Ron Redmond at the Palais des Nations press briefing in Geneva.

As the fighting in north-east Sri Lanka comes to an end, the scale of the challenges facing UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies on the ground become more apparent.

It is now estimated that up to 80,000 people have left the former fighting zone in the last three days, which brings the total who have fled the fighting in the last several months to 280,000.

Some 230,000 have been screened and registered and are currently accommodated in 41 sites spread across four districts. Another 50,000 people are undergoing screening and registration at various points and awaiting transportation to the sites.

The Government of Sri Lanka is facing great challenges in providing assistance to the internally displaced population. There are several issues that need urgent attention, including overcrowding and the limited services available at the camps. Civilians coming out of the conflict zone are sick, hungry and suffering from acute malnourishment and dehydration. (click here for the full summary of the statement)

Additional Info:

History of conflict in Sri Lanka (International Crisis Group (ICG)).

Chronology of key events in Sri Lanka (BBC).

What should be done (in Sri Lanka) (ICG).

UNHCR protection chief applauds Japan and South Korea, asks them to be better Asian role models (UNHCR News).

Sri Lanka must allow access to war refugees, UN, Red Cross Say (Bloomberg).

MIGRATION

News & Commentaries

- Cielito Habio, 'Remittances: Defying gravity?' 17 May 2009, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*.
- Claire Bolderson, 'Migrant workers hit by global downturn', 18 May 2009, *BBC News*.
- Sayuri Daimon, 'Opening the door to foreigners', 30 April 2009, *The Japan Times*.
- Joanna Hartley, '55% back plan to extend visas for jobless expats', 2 May 2009, *ArabianBusiness.com*.
- Andrew Trounson, 'Universities demand easier passage for academic migrants as shortage looms - FEDERAL BUDGET', 11 May 2009, *The Australian*.
- Teresa Watanabe, 'Recession hits immigrant workforce harder than native workforce', 30 April 2009, *The Los Angeles Times*.

- Sarah McInerney, 'Unemployment rising fastest amongst migrants', 3 May 2009, *Times Online*.
- 'Strict immigration laws foster human trafficking – Vatican', 19 May 2009, *LifeinItaly.com*.

Papers & Reports

- Robert W. Howard, The Migration of Westerners to Thailand: An Unusual Flow From Developed to Developing World, *International Migration*, Vol. 47, Issue 2, June 2009.

Thousands of Westerners migrate to Thailand; some go to expatriate jobs and some are self-funded retirees but many are former tourists who live precariously for years on small local salaries with insecure visa status. The present study examined demographics, reasons for migration, well-being, perceived assimilation and experiences of Westerners living in or who had lived in Thailand for at least one year. The move apparently works out well for many but assimilation often may be illusory and there are signs of a local backlash against the influx of Westerners.

- International Organization for Migration, IOM Policy Brief: Migration, Climate Change, and the Environment, May 2009.

This Policy Brief presents key information and analysis on the interplay between migration, climate change and the environment. It is designed as a general introduction to the topic and presentation of the perspective and involvement of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in this field.

- Homer Venters, et al, 'Into the Abyss: Mortality and Morbidity Among Detained Immigrants', *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 31, No. 2, May 2009.

The lack of transparency in immigration detention in the United States has contributed to serious concerns about the fate of immigrants who are detained in the United States and require medical care. In particular, deficiencies in initial screening, chronic disease management (including referral to outside care), and pain management of detainees have been identified by numerous governmental and nongovernmental groups. This article provides an overview of the current Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) health care system, presents four cases of detainee deaths and independent reporting of similar systemic problems, and recommends several specific changes to the ICE health care system.

Events & Announcements

- Panel Discussion: Vienna Migration Group meets European Migration Network: Unaccompanied Minors in the European Union Member States, 8 June 2009, IOM International Organization for Migration (IOM), Nibelungengasse 13/4 – 1010 Vienna, Austria.
- Conference: 6th Annual Immigration Law & Policy Conference, 24 June 2009, Migration Policy Institute, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington DC, USA.

Latest Publications

- *Migration*, Spring 2009, International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Edited by Jean-Philippe Chauzy, Christopher Lom, Jemini Pandya and Niurka Piñeiro, IOM.

This issue of *Migration* tackles the effect of the economic crisis on migrants, the victims of Cyclone Nargis, public health care in Haiti, and the trafficking of arms and people in Afghanistan and Nicaragua.

About the Journal

Migration offers a variety of articles presenting IOM's current activities in the field of migration and other related topics which are implemented in various regions of the globe. This bulletin is published quarterly and is available by subscription from IOM.

INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT

News & Commentaries

- 'Thailand rejects Cambodia's demand for border damages', 14 May 2009, *ASEANAFFAIRS*.
- Phil Mercer, 'PNG riots hit Chinese businesses', 18 May 2009, *BBC News*.
- 'Influx of last survivors of Sri Lankan conflict could overwhelm stretched aid agencies', 19 May 2009, *Reuters AlertNet*.
- 'Tamil children "being abducted"', 20 May 2009, *BBC News*.
- 'Aid groups demand Sri Lanka access', 21 May 2009, *Al Jazeera*.
- 'Pakistan: The issue of internally displaced persons should be addressed urgently and seriously', 19 May 2009, Asian Human Rights Commission.
- 'Humanitarian crisis worsens in Swat', 20 May 2009, *Al Jazeera*.
- Sabine Freizer, 'Time for Turkey to be visionary in the South Caucasus', 15 May 2009, International Crisis Group.
- Molly Corso, 'Georgia: Villagers want jobs, not protests', 15 May 2009, *EurasiaNet.org*.
- 'Darfur war crimes suspect in court', 18 May 2009, *Al Jazeera*.
- 'Ethiopian forces return to Somalia: Witnesses', 20 May 2009, *The Sydney Morning Herald*.
- Colin Thomas-Jensen and Rebecca Feeley, 'Congo-Kinshasa: New civilian catastrophe looms in east', 20 May 2009, *allAfrica.com*.

Papers & Reports

- *Asiaint South Asia Review*, May 2009, *Asiaint.com*.

An analysis of Sri Lanka leads this report, which also covers India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. In the final stages of the civil war, defeating the Tamil Tigers proved a straightforward task for Sri Lanka. Two issues now dominate the horizon: how to finance the reconstruction of an island devastated by 30 years of civil war; and what, if any, political concessions will be granted by the Buddhist, Sinhala-speaking majority to the mostly Hindu, Tamil-speaking minority.

- OCHA Regional Office for Central and East Africa, *Displaced Populations Report*, January-March 2009, Issue 5.

At the end of March 2009, 10 countries in the East and Central African region reported a combined total of 9,144,326 internally displaced persons (IDPs). This is a net increase of 21,754 IDPs compared to December 2008; sixteen countries reported a combined total of 1,870,318 refugees at the end of March 2009. This is a net increase of 20,066 compared

to December 2008; The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia and Sudan continue to be the countries with the largest IDP populations. Sudan has over 4 million IDPs, The DRC and Somalia have over 1.3 million IDPs each; Chad, Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania continue to host the largest number of refugees in the region. Each country hosted over 250,000 refugees at the end of March 2009; the combined displaced population - IDPs and refugees - totals 11,014,644 in the region covered (see map).

- Laura Davis, *Small Steps, Large Hurdles: The EU's Role in Promoting Justice in Peacemaking in the DRC*, May 2009, International Center for Transitional Justice.

In Congo over the past decade, demands for justice have been largely unmet in peace negotiations: impunity for the worst crimes is entrenched, and the root causes of the conflict remain unaddressed. As the European Union, often through the European Union Special Representatives (EUSRs), is engaging in more peace negotiations around the world, *Small Steps, Large Hurdles: The EU's role in promoting justice in peacemaking in the DRC* analyses the EUSR's role in recent peace deals in Congo and the EU's policy framework for promoting justice in peacemaking. It offers recommendations for how the EU could strengthen its role in promoting justice and human rights in peace agreements, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and elsewhere.

- International Crisis Group, *Congo: Five Priorities for a Peacebuilding Strategy*, 11 May 2009, Africa Report No. 150.

The deal struck by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda for renewed military and political cooperation is an important step forward, but is not sufficient to bring peace to the Kivus. Their five-week joint military operation did not produce significant results against the Rwandan Hutu rebels. Integration of the former insurgency that came over to the government's side after Laurent Nkunda was dropped as its leader is precarious, despite the 23 March 2009 agreement it signed with Kinshasa. An international monitoring group chaired by UN Special Envoy Olusegun Obasanjo and Great Lakes Envoy Benjamin Mkapa should work with the Congolese and Rwandan governments to support and implement a genuine and comprehensive peacebuilding strategy, while donors should condition their support on adoption and implementation by Kinshasa of a comprehensive package of judicial measures to fight impunity.

Events & Announcements

- Australian Responsibility to Protect Fund: Call for applications, deadline 5 June.
- New York Premiere: *My Neighbor, My Killer*, 2009 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, New York, USA, 20 June 2009, Facing History and Ourselves and Witness.
- Workshop: Japan's Role in Implementing the Responsibility to Protect, 22 June 2009, Nishi-Waseda Building, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.
- Workshop on "R2P: Constituency Building in the Philippines", 25-26 June 2009, Edsa Shangri-La, Manila, the Philippines.

Latest Publications

- *Global Responsibility to Protect*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2009, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

Edited by Alex J. Bellamy, University of Queensland and Sara E. Davies, Griffith University.

The latest issue of this journal covers issues concerning Myanmar, cyclones and humanitarian crises within Southeast Asia and China, amongst other things. It includes a paper by

Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony and Associate Research Fellow Belinda Chng from the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies.

About the Journal

Global Responsibility to Protect is the premier journal for the study and practice of the responsibility to protect (R2P). This journal seeks to publish the best and latest research on the R2P principle, its development as a new norm in global politics, its operationalization through the work of governments, international and regional organizations and NGOs, and finally, its relationship and applicability to past and present cases of genocide and mass atrocities including the global response to those cases.

Global Responsibility to Protect also serves as a repository for lessons learned and analysis of best practices; it will disseminate information about the current status of R2P and efforts to realize its promise. Each issue contains research articles and at least one piece on the practicalities of R2P, be that the current state of R2P diplomacy or its application in the field.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

News & Commentaries

- 'Cambodia sees higher sex trafficking during crisis', 6 May 2009, *Reuters*.
- 'Human trafficking threat discussed', 18 May 2009, *Gulfnews.com*.
- 'Armenia, UAE to sign pact on human trafficking', 19 May 2009, *Khaleej Times Online*.
- 'NGO: Crisis most threatens foreign labourers in Czech Republic', 19 May 2009, *Prague Daily Monitor*.
- 'Scrapping of visa hits many "vultures"', 16 May 2009, *The Standard*.
- 'IOM study recommends greater focus on adult female victims of trafficking in Honduras', 5 May 2009, International Organization for Migration.
- 'Girls on our streets', 6 May 2009, *The New York Times*.
- Matthew Berger, 'Rights: Few govts serious about human trafficking, U.N. finds', 14 May 2009, *IPS*.
- 'New ILO report reveals shocking details on cost of coercion', 19 May 2009, UN.GIFT.

Papers & Reports

- The Cost of Coercion, May 2009, International Labour Organization.

In a new study on the patterns of forced labour worldwide, the International Labour Office (ILO) says the "opportunity cost" of coercion to the workers affected reaches over USD 20 billion per year. The report, entitled *The Cost of Coercion*, also details the growing number of unethical, fraudulent and criminal practices that can lead people into situations of forced labour, and calls for increased efforts to eradicate the practices. The report too charts the significant progress on the international and national levels in reducing and preventing forced labour, but warns of the possible impact of the global economic and jobs crisis.

- The Trade in Human Beings: Human Trafficking in the UK, May 2009, Parliament of the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom Parliament Home Affairs Committee inquiry into “modern slave trade” paints picture of poor understanding of the problem, patchy enforcement and little protection for victims. The Committee publishes its report to coincide with a conference hosted by the Committee that brings together the Chairs of the relevant Committees from across Europe.

Latest Publications

- *Global Eye on Human Trafficking*, Issue 5, May 2009, International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Amongst other things, the latest issue of this newsletter covers issues concerning the nexus between drugs, sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

About the Newsletter

The *Global Eye on Human Trafficking* is a quarterly bulletin published by the International Organization for Migration. It is a bulletin of news, information and analysis on the phenomenon of trafficking in persons.

WATER SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- ‘Kenya to fence out farmers from national parks’, 11 May 2009, Circle of Blue/Waternews.
- ‘Water shortages trigger domestic violence in Uganda’, 16 May 2009, Circle of Blue/Waternews.
- Marwaan Macan-Markar, ‘Burma: Nature conspires against cyclone victims, denying them clean water’, 19 May 2009, *IPS*.

Papers & Reports

- Asia Society, *Asia’s Next Challenge: Securing the Region’s Water Future*, Leadership Group on Water Security in Asia, April 2009.

Decreased access to a safe, stable water supply in Asia ‘will have a profound impact on security throughout the region,’ warns a new Asia Society Leadership Group report. In response to the cascading set of consequences reduced access to fresh water will trigger—including impaired food production, the loss of livelihood security, large scale migration within and across borders, and increased economic and geopolitical tensions and instabilities—the report recommends a comprehensive strategy to avert a regional crisis.

Events & Announcements

- Singapore International Water Week, 23-25 June 2009.
- 2009 World Water Week, Stockholm, 16-22 August 2009.

Latest Publications

- *Stockholm Water Front - A Forum for Global Water Issues*, No. 1, May 2009, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

The latest issue of *Stockholm Water Front* goes in-depth with transboundary waters. Senior experts from the World Bank take a practitioner’s perspective to look ‘Beyond the River’, while SIWI researchers explore how to build benefits and not conflict from shared waters. It

also presents fresh thinking on water security, water resources management and lessons to be learned from the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul.

About the Magazine

Stockholm Water Front is a quarterly, English-language magazine that spreads knowledge on important water and water-related issues. *Stockholm Water Front* presents a mix of popular scientific information and news reporting about the activities of the Stockholm International Water Institute.

About Us

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies is a research centre of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Please visit the Centre's website at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/home.html, for more information or email us at NTS_Centre@ntu.edu.sg.
