

# NTS BULLETIN

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## MAIN HIGHLIGHT

### Refugee Numbers Set to Surge in 2009

**The number of people uprooted from their homes fell to 42 million in 2008 but is set to surge this year because of conflicts in Pakistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka according to the UN refugee agency.**

**16 June 2009, Agence-France Presse.**

The number of people uprooted from their homes fell to 42 million in 2008 but is set to surge this year because of conflicts in Pakistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka, the UN refugee agency said Tuesday.

The total of internally displaced people, refugees and asylum seekers around the world dropped by 700,000 last year, according to UN High Commissioner for Refugee's annual "Global Trends" report.

But fresh displacement, which was not included in the report, including some two million in northwestern Pakistan, had "more than offset that decline", the UNHCR said. "In 2009, we have already seen substantial new displacements, namely in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Somalia," High Commissioner Antonio Guterres said. "While some displacements may be short-lived, others can take years and even decades to resolve."

Some 80 percent of the people uprooted in the world are in developing nations, the UNHCR said, noting that wealthy nations were growing increasingly reluctant to take in asylum seekers as the economic crisis bites.

#### **Additional Info:**

World's ills trigger ICRC's record annual expenditure (The Brunei Times).

Click to see a map of the sources of displaced people (BBC News).

UN warns that causes for displacement are increasing (BBC News).

The Geneva Convention and its application in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (IRIN).

## MIGRATION

### News & Commentaries

- 'Applying for asylum: After the backlog, a backlog', 18 June 2009, *The Economist*.
- 'Immigration: Its time', 18 June 2009, *The New York Times*.
- 'ILO adopts "Global Jobs Pact" aimed at creating jobs, protecting workers and stimulating economic recovery', 19 June 2009, International Labour Organization.
- 'Concern over Bangladesh refugees', 19 June 2009, *BBC News*.
- 'HIV debate shifts focus to migration', 22 June 2009, International Organization for Migration.
- 'IOM launches youth employment initiative: Alternatives to migration, decent jobs for Filipino youth', 23 June 2009, International Organization for Migration.
- 'New report investigates male smuggling from the Horn and East Africa to South Africa', 23 June 2009, International Organization for Migration.

## **Papers & Reports**

- Demetrios G. Papademetriou, et al., 'Harnessing the Advantages of Immigration for a 21st-Century Economy: A Standing Commission on Labor Markets, Economic Competitiveness, and Immigration', May 2009, Migration Policy Institute.

The Migration Policy Institute proposes a set of reforms to make the United States immigration system more responsive to the changes in the US labour market and its economic conditions, as well as to protect the wages and standards of American labourers. They recommend the institution of a 'standing commission' of career economists, demographers and other social scientists to regularly review market conditions and compile policy recommendations for the US president and Congress for adjusting employment-based immigration levels.

- Philip Martin and Manolo Abella, 'Migration and Development: The elusive link at the GFMD', *International Migration Review*, vol. 43, no. 2, Summer 2009.

The Second Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Manila, Philippines from 27-30 October 2008, provided a forum for government-level representatives to discuss migration issues within the rubric of international development. The paper examined the results of the forum and its consequences for policymakers. Among the findings were that while governments and NGOs can discuss migration issues, it remains difficult to identify best practices that protect migrant rights and ensure that emigration contributes to the development of origin countries.

## **Events & Announcements**

- 6th Annual Immigration Law and Policy Conference, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington DC, USA, June 24, 2009.

## **Latest Publications**

- *A Nation of Emigrants: How Mexico Manages Its Migration*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009.

By David Fitzgerald.

This book takes up the issue of migration policy in the context of Mexican immigration to the United States from the 1950's to the present. However, rather than tackling the problem from the perspective of the US, the book looks at the policies that Mexico attempted to implement as a sending country. Following initial attempts to halt emigration, Mexico moved to a policy of integrating returning migrants and offering incentives for them to re-invest in their hometowns. However, these efforts demonstrated the weaknesses of the Mexican state, in particular local governments, and emphasised the newfound importance of hometown associations, and their contribution to pooling migrant resources together.

## **INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Catherine Philp, 'The hidden massacre: Sri Lanka's final offensive against Tamil Tigers', 29 May 2009, *TIMESONLINE*.
- Tim Reid, 'Praise for Sri Lanka raises questions of how effective UN really is', 29 May 2009, *TIMESONLINE*.
- Mark Dearn, 'Mindanao: Poverty on the frontlines', 4 June 2009, OpenDemocracy.net.

- Bong S. Sarmiento, 'Mindanao's forgotten refugees', 10 June 2009, *Institute for War & Peace Reporting*.
- Ramesh Thakur, 'The world was wrong to oppose a military solution in Sri Lanka', 11 June 2009, *Ottawa Citizen*.
- 'Thailand, Cambodia reaffirm dialogue as border dispute resolution tool', 12 June 2009, *MCOT English News*.
- Lizza Bornay-Bomassi, 'Frustration and civil unrest: The financial crisis in Asia', 18 June 2009, East-West Institute.
- 'Thai PM moots southern autonomy', 19 June 2009, *Asiainst.com*.

## **Papers & Reports**

- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 'Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2008', May 2009.

International efforts have failed to reduce the scale of internal displacement caused by conflict. According to IDMC's report 'Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2008', an estimated 26 million people were still displaced within their countries, the same number as in 2007 and the highest since the early 1990s. 4.6 million people were newly displaced in 2008. The biggest new displacement in the world was in the Philippines, where 600,000 people fled fighting between the government and rebel groups.

- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 'Preventing Violence, War and State Collapse: The Future of Conflict Early Warning and Response', June 2009.

From the start, conflict early warning was envisaged as distinct from intelligence-based analysis that focused on protection of state interests. It sought multi-stakeholder solutions, was gender-sensitive, used open source information and aimed at protecting human lives and creating sustainable peace based on locally owned solutions. However, this approach has been overshadowed by the new Northern perception of international threats that emerged after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and consequent counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation measures taken by the United States and its allies. Those attacks also acted as a spur to growing interest in and analysis of weak, fragile and failed states. In spite of the increased resources going into early warning, key shortcomings of governmental and multilateral interventions in violent conflict remain.

- Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 'Preventing Genocide and Mass Atrocities: Causes and Paths of Escalation', 8 June 2009.

At the 2005 United Nations World Summit, Member States agreed that it is the responsibility of each state to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility, they recognised, 'entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement'. This report, the first in a new series on the prevention of these four crimes provides a framework for thinking about the causes of these crimes - a necessary precursor to the development of effective policy. Prevention is the single most important dimension of the Responsibility to Protect (or 'R2P').

## **Latest Publications**

*Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur*, Yale University Press, 2009.

By Ben Kiernan.

Kiernan examines outbreaks of mass violence from the classical era to the present, focusing on worldwide colonial exterminations and twentieth-century case studies including the Armenian genocide, the Nazi Holocaust, Stalin's mass murders, and the Cambodian and Rwandan genocides. He identifies connections, patterns, and features that in nearly every case gave early warning of the catastrophe to come: racism or religious prejudice, territorial expansionism, and cults of antiquity and agrarianism. The ideologies that have motivated perpetrators of mass killings in the past persist in our new century, says Kiernan. He urges that we heed the rich historical evidence with its telltale signs for predicting and preventing future genocides.

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

### **News & Commentaries**

- 'Human trafficking escalates as world economy plunges', 3 June 2009, *UCLA Today*.
- 'African Union starts campaign against human trafficking', 16 June 2009, *UN.GIFT*.
- 'Recession boosts global human trafficking', 16 June 2009, *CNN.com*.
- 'India not doing enough in addressing human trafficking: US', 17 June 2009, *The Economic Times*.
- 'Trafficking worsens in Philippines', 18 June 2009, *The Manila Times*.
- 'US human trafficking report disappoints UAE officials', 20 June 2009, *gulfnews.com*.
- 'Nigeria shows the political will to investigate, prosecute, and convict', 22 June 2009, *HumanTrafficking.org*.
- 'Enforcement agencies in Malaysia combating human trafficking', 22 June 2009, *HumanTrafficking.org*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- U.S Department of State, 'Trafficking in Persons Report 2009', 16 June 2009.

According to the US Secretary of State, Mrs Clinton, "The ninth annual Trafficking in Persons Report sheds light on the faces of modern-day slavery and on new facets of this global problem. The human trafficking phenomenon affects virtually every country, including the United States. In acknowledging America's own struggle with modern-day slavery and slavery-related practices, we offer partnership. We call on every government to join us in working to build consensus and leverage resources to eliminate all forms of human trafficking."

- UN.GIFT, 'Interview: Human Trafficking in Bangladesh', 9 June 2009.

UNODC Bangladesh recently held a one-on-one interview with Prof. Md. Zakir Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Chitagong and Member, Judicial Service Commission, People's Republic of Bangladesh. Prof. Hossain gives an overview of the human trafficking situation in Bangladesh, and explains how Bangladeshi legislation addresses the issue.

## **Latest Publications**

'Sex Trafficking: Identifying Cases and Victims', *NIJ Journal*, Issue No. 262, March 2009.

By Robert Joossy, J.D.

The following is an excerpt:

'In the last eight years, since the enactment of the federal sex trafficking criminal statute in 2000, the number of human trafficking cases brought in (US) federal courts has dramatically increased. Although great strides have been made in combating sex trafficking, we can and must do a better job of identifying victims of this crime. Human trafficking is a serious federal civil rights crime and combating it is a top priority of not only the US Department of Justice and the federal government as a whole, but also of many state and local governments. In fact, to date, at least 39 states have passed sex trafficking laws.'

## **WATER SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- 'Melting Everest reveals Asian water supply on slippery slope', 28 May 2009, *Waternews*.
- 'South Korea's "green new deal" - A focus on water', 12 June 2009, *Waternews*.
- Tran Dinh Thanh Lam, 'Vietnam: Saltwater intrusion adds to water woes', 13 June 2009, *IPS*.
- 'Rising water shortages and technical innovations spurring growth of desalination industry, says Frost & Sullivan', 15 June 2009, *PR Newswire*.
- 'Asia-Pacific Water Forum to set up climate change group', 17 June 2009, Asia-Pacific Water Forum.
- Eva Bartlett, 'Mideast: Attack on water brings sanitation crisis', 18 June 2009, *IPS*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- Asia Society, 'Asia's Next Challenge: Securing the Region's Water Future', An Asia Society Task Force Report, April 2009.

The global demand for freshwater is soaring as supply is becoming more uncertain. The United Nations projects that by 2025, half of the countries worldwide will face water stress or outright shortages. Water-related problems are particularly acute in Asia. Although Asia is home to more than half of the world's population, it has less freshwater – 3,920 cubic meters per person per year – than any continent other than Antarctica. Almost two-thirds of global population growth is occurring in Asia, where the population is expected to increase by nearly 500 million people within the next 10 years. Asia's rural population will remain almost the same between now and 2025, but the urban population is likely to increase by a staggering 60 per cent. Through this report, the Asia Society's Leadership Group on Water Security aims to raise awareness of the importance of water as a means of security at multiple levels in Asia.

- Ania Grobicki, 'Water Security: Time to Talk Across Sectors', 2009, Stockholm International Water Institute.

Water security is a key element of human security, together with food security, energy security, health security, economic security, and freedom from fear. But water is threatened in many places around the world from growing demand, scarcity, mismanagement and increasing climate variability. This paper argues that the growing awareness of water insecurity could lead to opportunities for change and development, for increasing cooperation among various



stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international level, and for highlighting water as a key strategic area for investment.

- Carin Smaller and Howard Mann, 'A Thirst for Distant Lands: Foreign Investment in Agricultural Land and Water', May 2009, International Institute for Sustainable Development.

There has been a recent surge of interest in foreign investment in agricultural land. The purchase or long-term lease of agricultural land for food production, predominantly by state-owned and private investors from Arab and wealthy Asian states (Japan, China and Korea) into Africa and Southeast Asia, has received significant media attention. Investment banks, hurt by the crisis in the banking and property sector, and in search of new sources of investment, have also contributed to the recent surge. This paper focuses on the renewed interest in purchasing or leasing land, and securing water rights for agricultural production. It identifies the key drivers behind the recent surge in these investments, and examines prevailing trends in reported land contracts. The range of legal issues associated with these types of contracts, including in relation to domestic law, the international investment contracts and international investment agreements, is identified.

### **Events & Announcements**

- New Thinking on Water Governance, Singapore, 1-3 July 2009.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asia Water Forum, Manila (Philippines), 29 September- 2 October 2009.
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### ***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.***

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