

Press release

## Five forgotten wars get worse in the last three months

According to [Barometer #7](#), a quarterly report published by the Alert Unit of the School of Peace Culture at *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*, the armed conflicts destroying DR Congo, Somalia, Darfur (Sudan), Philippines and Nepal have suffered a worrying deterioration in the last three months. On the contrary, as a positive aspect, it is important to mention the beginning of negotiation explorations in Burundi, Philippines, Indonesia (Aceh) and Iraq.

*Bellaterra, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005* – While **international attention focused on the disaster striking south-Asian countries** affected by earthquakes and tsunamis at the end of December, **five armed conflict scenes have recorded a serious and worrying increase of the confrontations during the last three months**, endangering millions of people's lives in each one, according to the analysis of the latest quarterly report [Barometer](#), published by the Alert Unit of the *School of Peace Culture* at UAB.

In this way, while the United Nations warned about the 1000 deaths taking place daily as a consequence of the **DR Congo** conflict, the possible return of the new authorities of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to **Somalia** contributed to increase alarmingly the rate of violence in this country. On the other hand, in the Sudanese region of **Darfur**, where in only two years almost two million and a half people have been displaced because of violence, the humanitarian and security situation has kept getting worse due to deliberate attacks against civilians. In the Asian continent, the struggle between the **Philippine** Government and the armed opposition group Abu Sayyaf generated many mortal victims, at the same time as the situation in **Nepal** went through an unprecedented deterioration after the coup d'état perpetrated by King Gyanendra himself, in February.

As **positive aspects**, we must point out some **negotiation exploration processes begun during this term**, highlighting the one between the **Burundi** Government and the armed opposition group FNL; the one in **Uganda** with the LRA; the one in **Colombia** with the ELN guerrilla; the one in **Philippines** with a split of the MNLF; the one in **Indonesia** with the GAM; the one in **Iraq**; and the one just started between **Israel** and **Palestine**. Furthermore, it is necessary to outline the favorable development of the peace processes going on in **Angola** (Cabinda); **Georgia** (South Ossetia); **India** with the armed opposition groups DHD and NDFB; between **India** and **Pakistan**; **Senegal** (Casamance); and **Sudan**, with the armed group SPLA. Besides, the Rwandan armed opposition group FDLR has decided to abandon their armed struggle against the Rwandan Government.

Therefore, the *School of Peace Culture* emphasizes the need to display and pay attention both to armed conflict situations and to those peace initiatives that remain forgotten by the international community.

(For the complete Barometer #7 document, click [here](#))

*More information in the Alert Unit*

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