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Source information: Information presented in this update is condensed from wire and newspaper reports from Lexis/Nexis and from electronic sites on the World Wide Web. Complete bibliographical information is unavailable from these services, but every attempt has been made to properly cite information and give credit to source materials. This update is intended for use by IPJ staff and associates for informational purposes only. As the material in this update is condensed, and does not directly quote the primary source, information from the update should not be quoted. Any opinions expressed herein solely reflect the views of the individual Update author(s) and in no way reflect the official views and/or positions of the IPJ, its staff, or the University of San Diego.

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The Peace & Justice Updates are written by the interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego.

The interns during the fall 2011 term are:

Felicia Gomez (University of San Diego), Andy Paul (University of Colorado - Boulder), Meghan Auker Becker (Swarthmore College) and graduate intern Shabnaz Yousefia (University of San Diego)
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COLOMBIA

Government forces kill FARC leader

President Juan Manuel Santos confirmed the death of Alfonso Cano, the leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). He was killed in a military raid after government forces bombed a FARC jungle hideout in southwestern region of Cauca.

The attack against Cano began on Friday, November 4, when the Colombian military started a bombing raid on a FARC rebel camp. Cano was able to escape, but the military eventually caught up and proceeded to surround him and his men. The Colombian military then fired on them, with help from police intelligence operations and then stopped. They attacked them again in two hours, with heavier artillery, which is when Cano was found dead. It is reported that three other guerrillas were killed in the attack.

Cano took over leadership of the FARC in 2008 after the death of Manuel Marulanda, the FARC’s founder. He went from being a middle-class youth activist in Bogotá to a FARC leader after his participation in peace talks in Venezuela and Mexico during the 1990s. During his time as the top FARC leader he focused on a more aggressive strategy in dealing with the advances of the Colombian military.

The killing of Cano marks one of the “most severe blows yet to the four-decade-old insurgency.” President Juan Manuel Santos remarked, “I want to send a message to each and every member of that organization: demobilize… or otherwise you will end up in a prison or in a tomb. We will achieve peace.”

Many believe the death of Cano to be yet another factor that is contributing to the eventual downfall of the FARC in Colombia. It is reported that the FARC is “at its weakest in decades.” Within the past three years a number of top FARC leaders have been killed, including Manuel Marulanda in 2008; Raúl Reyes, FARC’s second in command, in 2008; and in 2010, the death of Mono Jojoy, FARC military commander. Also the FARC rebels’ numbers have dwindled, leaving them with only 17,000 soldiers as compared to 30,000 which marked its highest number of members. Manuel Santos said, “Politically they are defeated, over 95 percent of the population rejects them, and also militarily they are increasingly weakened.” The operation also reveals how the Colombian military has been able to adapt and be successful in carrying out operations in mountainous regions.

While the death of Cano is a large setback for the FARC, top political analysts believe that this isn’t the end of them. Julian Torres, a columnist for Colombia Reports, stated, “They are weakened, but we must know that they are a guerilla army and can adapt and do prepare.” Also after Morulanda was killed in 2008, many also thought it spelled the end of the FARC.
GUATEMALA

Ex-general wins run-off presidential election

Retired general Otto Pérez Molina was elected president after a close run-off election held November 6. After the first round of elections in September ended with no candidate earning the majority of the vote, Pérez Molina again faced his rival, Manuel Baldizón, this time earning 55 percent of the vote to Baldizón’s 45 percent. Also, for the first time in Guatemalan history, a woman, Roxana Baldetti, was elected vice-president.

The elections were peaceful but tense. There was no major election-related violence reported, however observers said there was a noticeable reduction in voter participation. Experts speculated that the low turnout, which appeared to be just over 50 percent (down from 90 percent in this year’s first round of elections), was a sign of Guatemalans’ frustration with the inability of their leaders to create positive changes in the areas of crime, poverty and health.

The National Unity for Hope party, of which outgoing president Álvaro Colom was the leader, was unable to present a candidate for presidency after former first lady Sandra Torres Casanova was banned from running. The two remaining parties of Pérez Molina and Baldizón were conservative and very similar; both promoting hard fist policies, militarization, and benefits for foreign investors.

President-elect Pérez Molina is a retired military general and a graduate of the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He is the first military official to lead the country after its return to democracy 25 years ago. He has been accused of being involved in abuses committed during the civil war, but no charges have been officially filed. While Guatemalans had previously been wary of links to the military due to its violent dictatorial past, the voters’ demographic (approximately 60 percent are under the age of 35) means many do not know the history. And in a country plagued by a high murder rate, drug cartels, and violent street gangs, many voters were attracted to Pérez Molina’s iron fisted security platform.

However, the new president faces more challenges than just those presented by crime and violence. Guatemala also has a substantial debt problem (around 30 percent of the country’s GDP) and a wealthy elite opposed to any increase in taxes. Pérez Molina has said that increased security will increase the faith in the government’s ability to spend wisely, however, he has not yet explained how he would pay for the expanded military or social programs he has promised.

Sources: Global Voices; LA Times, Nov. 7; New York Times, Nov. 6, 2011.

Please send comments to Meghan Auker Becker at megtab@sandiego.edu.
HAITI

Group demands UN pay for cholera outbreak

A human rights group filed claims with the United Nations November 3, seeking damages on behalf of more than 5,000 Haitian cholera victims and their families.

Boston-based Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) claimed that the UN and its peacekeeping forces were liable for hundreds of millions of dollars for inadequately screening its soldiers and for improper disposal of waste.

The petition says that soldiers arriving from countries with cholera epidemics were not properly checked before entering Haiti and that the organization dumped untreated waste from one of its bases into a river commonly used for washing, bathing, drinking, and recreation.

“The sickness, death and ongoing harm from cholera suffered by Haiti’s citizens are a product of the UN’s multiple failures,” the complaint reads. “These failures constitute negligence, gross negligence, recklessness, and deliberate indifference for the lives of Haitians.”

Brian Concannon, director of IJDH, said he hoped the UN mission would set up a tribunal to evaluate the claims. He also hoped that they would fund and create a program that would provide sanitation, potable water, and medical treatment to the country, as well as issue a public apology. If that doesn’t happen, the group plans to file the claims in a Haitian court.

There is little precedence for compensation demands and lawsuits against peacekeepers in Haiti. The UN signed a Status of Forces agreement with the Haitian government in 2004 that provides immunity for soldiers serving in the country. However, New York attorney Nathaniel Burney said that the agreement also mandated that UN peacekeepers cooperate to fight communicable diseases and if the UN knew it was responsible for the outbreak and did nothing, that may be a violation of the agreement.

According to health officials, cholera has killed more than 6,500 Haitians and infected nearly 500,000 since the outbreak began a little over a year ago. Evidence suggests the disease was brought to Haiti by peacekeepers from Nepal and spread throughout the country after waste from their UN base camp leaked into the river.

Sources: CNN; Democracy Now; Washington Post, Nov. 8; 2011.

Please send comments to Meghan Auker Becker at megtab@sandiego.edu.

Prison trial tests strength of legal system

Now in its fourth week, the trial of 13 police officers involved in a 2010 Haitian prison massacre continues to draw crowds and to test the strength of Haiti’s still developing rule of law. The trial is
unprecedented in the country: the government is trying 13 of its own police officers (and 21 more in absentia), including high-ranking prison officials and riot squad members, on charges of murder, attempted murder, or other crimes stemming from the incident last year.

A week after the devastating earthquake that occurred January 12, 2010, a riot began in a prison in Les Cayes after some of the 400-plus prisoners tried to escape because they were terrified of aftershocks in the overcrowded prison. Officers allegedly stormed the prison to prevent a mass escape, rushing into the building and opening fire. UN police saw the bodies of 10 dead prisoners, but more people are believed to have been killed and dozens more wounded.

Initially, Haitian officials said they did not use lethal force, but rather found the bodies when they entered the prison. They blamed the killings on a prison ringleader who, they said, killed his fellow inmates before escaping. However, evidence now suggests that Haitian authorities shot the unarmed prisoners and sought to cover it up by burying many of the bodies in an unmarked grave.

The prosecution said that the officers fired tear gas into the prison, ordered the prisoners to lie face down, and then opened fire, killing as many as 36 prisoners. However, the entire case is based on the testimony of the prisoners, who the defense claims are lying to get even with the police for putting them in prison. The inmates and the accused were initially kept in the same prison, but threats made by both parties led to their separation.

Josué Pierre-Louis, Haiti’s new justice minister, showed his support by visiting the trial last week. “Haiti has a reputation for impunity,” he said. “This trial is a valuable opportunity to show justice is working, to show that no one is above the law.”

The trial is lauded as a groundbreaking case in Haiti because few legal cases ever make it this far, as the justice system is widely considered corrupt and dysfunctional. About 75 percent of the 5,000 people imprisoned in Haiti have never been charged with a crime.


Please send comments to Meghan Auker Becker at megtab@sandiego.edu.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRAN

International Atomic Energy Agency report released

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released the findings of its investigation of Iran’s nuclear capabilities November 8 creating a delicate international diplomatic situation. Yukia Amano,
director of the IAEA, has had the difficult task of not only assessing Iran’s stage of nuclear weapons development, but also facilitating various demands from the international community. The results, based on what the IAEA has deemed “credible” evidence indicated that Iran has been working on technology to develop an explosive nuclear device since 2003.

According to David Sanger for the New York Times, the IAEA has always been intended as a “purely technical organization insulated from politics, [but] is about to be sucked into the political whirlpool about how the world should respond to murky weapons intelligence.” Politics aside, the IAEA has responded to legitimate concerns about new developments in Iran by making them public.

One of the developmental centers in question is the military base Parchin, which has been a contested site in the past. Briefly inspected by the IAEA seven years ago, Parchin was then deemed to be nuclear free and the IAEA accepted the Iranian government’s claim that the base was merely aimed at working on conventional weapons. However, recent evidence obtained through satellite imagery, Iranian defectors and the tracing of sales records prompted further analysis by the international community.

While the U.S., Israel and Europe have all contributed to these recent findings, the IAEA has asserted that it would only address evidence that is relevant and can be confirmed. Critics have cited the United States’ track record in following hunches on inconclusive reports concerning nuclear activity, namely the belief that Iraq had nuclear and chemical weapon technology in 2003 that contributed to the ensuing invasion. However, the IAEA has maintained that Iran has conducted tests that definitively reflect its nuclear capability.

In a recent statement, Israeli president Shimon Peres explained his country is getting closer to using a strike against Iran to protect itself, should the West choose to stay neutral. China and Russia have taken staunch positions against the publicizing of the report as well as against potential military responses from the U.S. and Israel. Russian president Dimitry Medvedev spoke words of caution in Berlin November 8. “If someone is threatened it could have complex consequences, even provoke a conflict.”

Sources: BBC; BBC; The Hindu, Nov. 8; Al Jazera, Nov.7; New York Times, Nov. 6, 2011.

Please send comments to Andy Paul at ajpaul@sandiego.edu.

IRAQ

Widows struggle to survive in war-torn Iraq

As the proposed date of the U.S. troop withdrawal approaches, attention is turning to the humanitarian crises left behind after nearly nine years of U.S. occupation and the decades of Saddam’s rule before. The country faces numerous uphill battles that include challenges to help the poor, the wounded, the widowed and others scarred by war.
The numbers of widowed Iraqis has swelled in recent years. Tens of thousands of men, including soldiers, police, insurgent fighters, and civilians have died in bombings, sectarian fighting, and other violence during a war that by some conservative estimates has killed more than 100,000 Iraqis.

Minister of Women’s Affairs Ibtihal Gasid al-Zaidi estimates there may be as many as two million women head of households in Iraq (nearly 10 percent of the female population), most of them widows following the U.S. invasion, the ensuing sectarian conflict, the first Gulf War, or the 1980s Iran-Iraq war. The humanitarian group Relief International and the International Committee of the Red Cross confirm these numbers.

“The woman’s suffering is huge in these difficult circumstances because she is the father, the mother, the care-giver and the breadwinner,” Zaidi said. “She is taking huge responsibility, inside and outside the home. We are trying to help her as much as we can.”

Women who had lost their husbands had once been looked after by an extended support system of family, neighbors, and mosques but as their numbers have grown, their needs have come to exceed available help. In large cities like Baghdad, their presence is difficult to ignore as they are often forced to beg for money and food and wait in line outside mosques for free blankets.

During Saddam’s regime, widows were paid a monthly benefit and were given land and a car. He also compensated members of the military who married widows. When his regime was toppled, the benefits stopped. However, in 2009 a new law was passed to help victims of war and their relatives and this past July a state-run compensation committee was established to help those hurt by militant attacks.

Registering for these government benefits, however, can be difficult due to corrupt workers and inefficient processes. For example, one women said she spent over a year registering and when she was about to finish the process, the office in charge told her that her file had been lost.


Please send comments to Meghan Auker Becker at megtab@sandiego.edu.

SYRIA

Government ignores peace process outlined in recent Arab League agreement; violence targets city of Homs

Military action by government security forces left five dead November 7, just one day after 17 were killed in the city of Homs, population two million. According to activists, 111 people have been killed in the city in the last week and reports have put the death count as high as 3,500 in the struggle to remove president Bashar Al-Assad.

The Syrian National Council, currently operating out of Turkey, urged the United Nations and the Arab League as well as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to act.
According to the International Crisis Group, the Arab League agreement “fails to provide a mechanism for effective on-the-ground monitoring to supervise implementation. As far as one can tell, it is backed by neither meaningful incentives nor credible threats in the event the regime reneges on its commitments or plays for time.”

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a statement on the siege of Homs, “It is deplorable that despite making a commitment to the Arab League to end the violence last week, the Syrian government has escalated the repression and many more people have died as a result.”

The actions of Al-Assad have long been condemned by the international community, but seemingly to no avail. Hague has called upon member nations of the Arab League to “address the crisis in their midst.”

Al-Assad, who has been in power in Syria for 12 years, inherited the legacy of his father, Hafez Al-Assad, who ruled for 30 years. Many Syrians have deemed their current president as oppressive and have mounted both peaceful and violent resistance against him in a commitment to see through a change in governance.

Sources: The Telegraph, Nov. 8; Al Jazeera; New York Times, Nov. 7; Huffington Post, Nov. 6; International Crisis Group, Nov. 3, 2011.

Please send comments to Andy Paul at ajpaul@sandiego.edu.

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

INDIA

31 sentenced to life in prison for 2002 Gujarat murders

In the final ruling of a special court November 9, 31 people were sentenced to life imprisonment for their roles in riots that occurred in Sardarpura, Gujarat state and resulted in the deaths of 33 people. While 73 had originally been accused, 42 were acquitted for lack of evidence.

The riots occurred February 28, 2002, shortly after 60 Hindu pilgrims were killed in a train fire. More than 1,000 Muslims were killed in the ensuing riots that lasted three days. This particular incident in Gujarat has been said to be one of the worst in the country’s recent history.

Of those convicted, all were Hindu and the charges included murder, attempted murder and arson. The 33 victims were Muslims who had sought shelter in a building which was razed to the ground during the riots.

“This is the first time in 60 years that so many people have been convicted in a case of communal violence,” said Teesta Setelvd, secretary of the Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) organization.
The court also mandated that Rs 50,000 (roughly 1,000 USD) be paid in order to compensate the victim’s families.

The sentences of the 31 rioters are still open for appeals.

This is just one of many riot cases the Supreme Court of India has faced in recent years, and the first to reach what many have seen as a legitimate verdict. The Hindu nationalist government of Gujarat has been accused in the past of condoning violence against Muslims. In 2003, Supreme Court judges chastised Gujarat authorities for not properly addressing the severity of actions perpetrated during the riots.

Violence and riots reflecting religious tensions have occurred on multiple occasions since India was granted independence by Britain and the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947.

Sources: Al Jazeera; The Hindu; BBC, Nov 9, 2011.

India and Pakistan to discuss key advancements at South Asia summit

Member nations of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), met in the Maldives November 8 to discuss cooperation through trade across South Asia. A key item on the meeting’s agenda is a discussion between India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his counterpart in Pakistan, Yousuf Raza Gilani, set to take place November 10.

The last time the two diplomats held official diplomatic talks together occurred at the SAARC summit in Bhutan in 2010.

The meeting comes shortly after Pakistan granted India “Most Favored Nation” (MFN) trade status on November 2. The move is an effort to normalize trade with India in what has been recognized as a positive step in stabilizing diplomatic relations between the two rivals. Both countries have committed to increasing trade to 6 billion USD in the next three years.

In their discussion, Singh and Gilani are expected to cover the MFN agreement as well as advancements in finding the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks of 2008.

Amid the high profile meeting between Indian and Pakistani diplomats, relations between India and the island host nation of Maldives will be discussed in an address Singh is set to give to the Majlis (Parliament) of the Maldives. Additionally, the role of other South Asian nations in trade such as Afghanistan and Bhutan will be an important issue.

Since Pakistan split from India in 1947, the two countries have engaged in three wars with each other, mainly over the Kashmir region. As a result, Pakistan’s initiative to award India MFN status has come as a major advancement in the positive dialogue between the two countries.

Sources: The Hindu; Khaleej Times, Nov. 8, 2011.

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NEPAL

Protests erupt over prominent Maoist lawmaker’s freedom following murder charges

United Communist Party of Nepal (UCPN)-Maoist Constituent Assembly member, Bal Krishna Dhungel was pardoned despite his 2010 Supreme Court conviction of the murder of Ujjan Kumar Shrestha. Dhungel had reportedly killed Shrestha for “spying against Maoists,” according to the Rising Nepal.

Dhungel belongs to the same party as Prime Minister, Baburam Bhattarai.

Nepali Congress (NC) president Sushil Koirala has accused the current government of breaking the law in withdrawing of charges against Dhungel. The NC has been a staunch political adversary to the UCPN-Maoists and is demanding increased accountability of the Maoists.

Sit-ins in response to the pardon took place outside of the cabinet meeting that freed Dhungel with chants of “take action against murderer lawmaker Bal Krishna Dhungel,” and “implement the Supreme Court's decision”

Shrestha’s family has stated that they will bring the case to the attention of the international courts should the Supreme Court’s verdict of guilt not be acted upon.

The amnesty granted to Dhungel has occurred just one week after PM Bhattarai and other prominent Nepali parties signed a seven-point agreement that is intended to be a critical advancement in the peace process. However, the Maoist party’s intentions regarding the redistribution of power and the drafting of a new constitution, as outlined in the agreement, remain ambiguous and skepticism in Kathmandu has continued.

Sources: The Himalayan Times; The Kathmandu Post (Ekantipur); The Rising Nepal (Gorkhapatra), Nov 9, 2011.

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PHILIPPINES

Government bans deployment of workers abroad to certain countries

On November 2, the government ordered a ban on the deployment of workers to 41 countries where Filipino officials say there are inadequate protections against labor abuse. Workers already in those countries will be allowed to remain until their current contracts expire.

The ban is based on a 2009 law that requires that workers only be sent to countries that provide legal protection to foreign laborers, are a party to international labor protection accords, or have agreements with Manila that guarantee against abuse. The countries affected by the ban include
Afghanistan, Cuba, North Korea, Haiti, India, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, and Sudan. More are expected to be added to the list after official investigations conducted last week found more countries were “noncompliant” with the law. The bans will be lifted if the affected countries take adequate steps to protect Filipino workers from abuse.

The Philippines is one of the world’s biggest labor exporters and the country has been on the forefront of a global movement to demand more rights and protections for its workers abroad, while simultaneously relying on their remittances to boost the national economy. Nearly 10 percent of the Philippine population work abroad, sending home close to $20 billion dollars a year.

Initially the ban was scheduled to take effect November 18. However, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said it is considering a recommendation to postpone the implementation to February 2012. The Department of Foreign Affairs requested the delay to give Philippine diplomats time to dialogue with the affected countries to prevent any backlash.

Sources: GMA News, Nov. 8; Phil Star, Nov. 7; Washington Post, Nov. 2, 2011.

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SRI LANKA

Selective web censorship reveals government’s social repression

A decision made by Keheliya Rambukwella, the Director General of the Department of Government Information and Media mandated that “websites carrying any content relating to Sri Lanka or the people of Sri Lanka… uploaded from Sri Lanka or elsewhere [must] register for accreditation.” The move comes following the government’s belief that many websites had been unjustly mudslinging the president and that the censorship was to address unfair character assassination.

“We have a responsibility to the public of this country,” said Rambukwella. “They do not give [an] opportunity for other party to explain themselves, so they want to carry out that way which is not permissible. Their views can be expressed, certainly, but others views also have to be respected.”

Since the government led by President Mahinda Rajapaksa’s self-proclaimed defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009, human rights violations including the executions of rebels and the maltreatment of hundreds of thousands of noncombatant refugees have largely gone unanswered.

Several popular Sri Lankan web-based news sites have continued to actively voice their positions against Rajapaksa’s government. But this has not come without consequences. In 2007, the “pro LTTE” website Tamilnet.com was blocked without a court order.
Although the list of reasons Rajapaksa’s administration has deemed it necessary to silence voices on the web is dynamic, one thing is clear: the government has demonstrated a “tremendous urge to control,” said Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Director of Colombo’s Center for Policy Alternatives.

Rajapaksa’s rule has been characterized by an unwavering denial that any human rights violations have occurred. In the November 8 session of the United Nations Committee against Torture (CAT) in Geneva, former Attorney General Mohan Peiris asserted that Sri Lanka has done nothing but comply with international regulations and has “assiduously followed a tradition of close and constructive cooperation with all human rights treaty bodies.”

The government is still under a watchful eye of the UN and has been vocally reprimanded by Human Rights Watch, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Human Rights USA, World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), Center for Constitutional Rights, TRIAL, the Yale Law School’s Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, the Campaign Against Criminalising Communities and the Society for Threatened Peoples.

Sri Lankans and the international community alike still await the results of the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Report Committee’s (LLRC), which had been scheduled to arrive on Rajapaksa’s desk November 10 at which point he would personally decide whether to make the findings public or not.

The use of web based media has been integral in providing sources, information and forums for disempowered groups, and its effectiveness has become increasingly apparent in the wake of the Middle Eastern and North African revolutions. How the Sri Lankan government manages widespread discontent and opposition through online media is unlikely to permanently suppress such sentiments in its people.

Sources: BBC, Nov. 7 Groundviews; Voice of America, Nov. 8; Sri Lankan Guardian, Nov. 10

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EAST AFRICA

KENYA

Dadaab refugees support Kenyan invasion in Somalia

Somali refugees from Dadaab camps held a massive demonstration November 8 to protest rising insecurity within the camps, as well as to announce their support for law enforcement. The refugees also declared their support of the Kenyan military offensive in Somalia, as many said it would allow them to return home. Dadaab is one of the largest refugee camps in the world, located in the northeastern region of Kenya.
The demonstration took place after Kenyan law enforcement agents launched an operation to take out criminal gangs operating within the camps as well as to seize weapons illegally possessed. The protest was peaceful and was comprised of individuals carrying placards which denounced criminal groups from operating within the camps. Protesters also made a promise to report any illegal activities.

Since many of the refugees in the Dadaab camps are Somali, many connected their support of the Kenyan invasion in Somalia to their misery in the camps. Many refugees blamed al-Shabab as the sole reason why they have been forced into the camps, noting that their desire is for the Kenyan military to eliminate al-Shabab.

Recently refugees have claimed that there have been an increased number of incidents of insecurity within the past few months, including the kidnappings of aid workers and the seizure of several illegal weapons. The week of November 4, two people were arrested in the Hagadera refugee camp for possession of four AK-47 rifles and 477 bullets in an operation carried out by the Kenyan police. They had buried the rifles underground, and when caught were trying to sell them to police officers. Weeks before, police came across similar weapons in the Dadaab camp.

**Sources:**
Capital News, Nov. 8; The Standard, Nov. 8, 2011.
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**SOMALIA**

**Legislator killed in Mogadishu**
Parliament member and former army cardinal, Aden Bule Mohammed was killed in an attack in Mogadishu November 9. Many are blaming al-Shabab for his death, although they have denied all accusations.

Bule Mohammed died after he was shot several times in the head and the shoulder in front of his house in the Dharkinley neighborhood, located in the southern region of the capital. Witnesses have reported that the assassination was carried out by two men carrying AK-47 rifles. Al-Shabab has denied all accusations that would tie it to the assassination of Bule Mohammed although others wonder what other group would target him and for what reasons.

Al-Shabab has increasingly begun to target government officials in the past week. The night of November 8, a series of attacks were played out that involved lobbing grenades into government residences and government peacekeeping positions in three areas of the Somali capital after evening prayers. These attacks led to the deaths of two people, with several injured. Al-Shabab took full responsibility for these attacks and announced that they had killed 15 government soldiers in four different attacks. Al-Shabab spokesman Abdiasis Abu Musab stated, “We are planning more serious attacks in the capital,” and asserted that the November 9 attacks were just the beginning. Ali
Mohamud Rage, another al-Shabab spokesman stated, “They are the enemy. Whenever you get the chance to kill the enemy, you have to do it. We are the ones who are attacking now; they will not attack us anymore.”

Sources:


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