

UNITY

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A. UNITED NATIONS & AGENCIES

URGENT NEED FOR MORE PEACEKEEPERS IN DARFUR

The security situation in West Darfur has deteriorated so sharply in the past two months that the UN's efforts to bring humanitarian relief to those in need is being severely undermined, a new UN report says, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and warning that the region needs many more peacekeepers (20/2/08).

The latest report of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping mission to Darfur (UNAMID) says the "slow pace" of deployment is making it difficult for the forces that are in place to provide "even a modest level of protection to civilians."

Just over 9,000 troops and police officers have been deployed so far, even though UNAMID is supposed to have more than 26,000 uniformed personnel in Darfur when it reaches full capacity.

Less than a quarter of the mission's authorised number of civilian staff have also been deployed. "The mission will not be in a position to effectively fulfill its mandate or meet the tremendous expectations of Darfur's civilians with the meagre human and material resources currently in the mission area," Mr Ban writes.

"We need to urgently demonstrate to the conflict-affected population of Darfur that [UNAMID](#) will bring a material improvement to their daily lives, or risk losing their confidence at this critical juncture in the life of the mission."

REPORT: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25689&Cr=darfur&Cr1=unamid>

UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATES KOSOVO

The UN Security Council on Monday continued debating the future of Kosovo. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the UN would continue to run Kosovo until a transition could be reached (18/2/08). ARTICLE:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jtAZBWTf_WXhooRFFs-yNZhKn3vwDBUT32JG0

UN ESTIMATES 2.5M VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The first major UN conference on the growing problem of human trafficking opened in Vienna with more than 1,000 delegates from over 100 countries discussing solutions, including techniques to monitor criminal gangs, the BBC reported (13/2/08).

UN officials say human trafficking was the hidden crime of globalisation and nothing short of modern day slavery. The UN estimates that about 2.5 million people are involved in forced labour as a result of trafficking, the majority of victims being between 18 and 24 with about 1.2 million children trafficked each year. ARTICLE: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7242180.stm>

US RELEASES UN CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

The Bush administration has been posting hundreds of highly confidential UN audits and investigation reports on a US government website, opening the UN's inner workings and some of its more colorful scandals to unusual public scrutiny, The Washington Post reported (17/2/08).

Together, the nearly 500 documents and thousands of pages constitute a trove of UN secrets over five years, including allegations of bribes paid for tsunami relief projects in Indonesia, of sexual harassment in Gaza and a revelation that a UN anti-drug official ran a presidential campaign while receiving a UN pay cheque.

Mark D. Wallace, the U. representative for UN management and reform, has posted 477 documents, following the lead of his former boss, John R. Bolton, who as US ambassador to the UN began releasing documents as early as 2006. ARTICLE:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp.dyn/content/article/2008/02/16/AR2008021602221.html>

UN APPEALS FOR \$25 MILLION TO HELP TAJIKS

The UN, with the government of Tajikistan, has appealed for \$25 million to help humanitarian agencies provide adequate food, water, heat and health care during the most severe winter the country has seen in nearly three decades, the UN News reported (18/2/08).

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), hydroelectric power stations – the country's main source of energy – are barely producing any electricity, leading to a major disruption in basic services, such as heating and water supplies. It is estimated that they will be operating at 40 per cent capacity until spring.

The extreme cold, coupled with the energy crisis, has affected food supplies in rural areas. Aid agencies reported that more than 500,000 people may face food shortages, and at least 260,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance.

B. CLIMATE CHANGE

AUSTRALIA URGED TO GO BEYOND 60% EMISSION TARGET

Australia could be among the worst-hit countries if the world did not act to slow the rate of climate change, a report by economist Ross Garnaut warns, according to the ABC (21/2/08).

Professor Garnaut handed down his interim report on carbon emissions targets and the creation of an emissions trading scheme on Thursday.

The report was commissioned by the federal, state and territory governments to help develop major policies on climate change.

Professor Garnaut says Australia's large agricultural sector and a reliance on trade with developing nations in Asia - that are also put at risk by rising temperatures - makes it one of the most vulnerable countries in the developed world.

He urges Australia to play a lead role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by going beyond its stated target of a 60 per cent cut by 2050.

He also says Australia is relatively well-placed to convert strong action on climate change into economic opportunity. The report sets out an initial guide to the design of an emissions trading scheme.

State and federal leaders have been briefed on the details of the interim report. WA Premier Alan Carpenter said the report has a blunt warning: "What Ross Garnaut has done is basically tell us, 'less time than you thought, more action than you thought, maybe in a shorter space of time.'"

Climate Change Minister Penny Wong, welcoming the interim report, said Labor would not go past its election commitment of a 60 per cent cut in emissions by 2050.

ARTICLE: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/02/21/2169028.htm>

GLOBAL WARMING COULD 'KILL EVERYBODY'

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg joined UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Monday to galvanize world action to roll back climate change, an issue he described as "just as important" as nuclear proliferation and terrorism, AFP reported (11/2/08).

"We are damaging our planet. Nobody knows at what rate but at any rate it is not good," Mayor Bloomberg said during a UN General Assembly debate on the impact of global warming.

"We have to do something about it and we have to do it now," he said. "This is just as important as stopping nuclear proliferation. This is just as important as stopping terrorism."

"Terrorists kill people, weapons of mass destruction have the potential to kill enormous numbers of people. Global warming long-term has the potential to kill everybody," he said.

Mr Ban underscored the need to "encourage new kinds of cleaner technologies, industries and jobs and integrate climate change risks into national policies and practices." He reminded participants of the achievements made at last December's Bali conference in Indonesia, where agreement was reached on setting a 2009 deadline for a landmark new treaty to cut global-warming greenhouse gases once the current Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

"Developed countries need to take a clear lead, but success is possible only if all countries act," the UN chief said. "The more ambitious the commitments by developed countries, the more actions we can expect from developing countries," he said. "The more developing countries engage, the more ambitiously the developed countries will commit."

British tycoon Richard Branson, president of the Virgin Atlantic airline called for "a powerful partnership that helps to scale up the best innovation by bringing together business leaders, economists, environmental groups and other expert organisations to tackle the war against global warming."

He said this was indeed "a war ... the first war that truly threatens almost all human life -- a war that to win we must all fight together." Virgin was putting up a \$25 million (Euro 17.25 million) prize to "encourage scientists and inventors to put their mind to it.

REPORT: http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5izqwYUyM_pJlaTiLUGc4SO1ySkLg

BUSINESS LEADERS COME TO TACKLE EMISSIONS

Hundreds of investors controlling \$20 trillion in capital came searching for answers on how to put a price on carbon emissions and create a new — and lucrative — economy based on cleaner sources of energy, the Washington Times/Associated Press reported (15/2/08).

Business leaders asked how they could blunt the economic cost of cutting carbon emissions — chiefly carbon dioxide from burning oil, coal or natural gas — when cheap and carbon-intensive energy is powering growth around the globe.

"As soon as people believe carbon has a price, it's going to have a price," said Vinod Khosla, a venture capitalist who was one of the co-founders of Sun Microsystems.

Peter Darbee, chairman and CEO of PG&E Corp., an energy-based company in San Francisco, said cleaner-burning utilities should be rewarded and "those that burn coal should have to pay for clean energy."

The gathering of 480 investors and other Wall Street types was organised by groups supporting UN efforts, such as the UN Foundation, Ceres and the UN Fund for International Partnerships.

ARTICLE: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/article/20080215/FOREIGN/305466488/1003>

REPORT SHOWS 'LOW COST EMISSION CUTS' POSSIBLE

A report from McKinsey showing that 30 per cent emissions reductions by 2020 can be achieved at low cost has been welcomed by Australian Greens climate change spokesperson, Senator Christine Milne (15/2/08).

"The McKinsey report should end the defeatist claim that serious emissions reductions will ruin the economy," she said. "McKinsey make it clear that large emissions reductions can be achieved for very little cost, including a great array of abatement options that save money. Perhaps more importantly, they set this cost against the far larger economic growth, showing how small a

sacrifice we need to make.

"The report puts a cost of \$290 per household by 2020, over which time household income will be \$20,000 higher," she said. Although not included in the study, householders will be able to make deeper cuts and achieve greater savings with behavioural changes, such as cycling, walking and taking shorter showers, she said.

"What we need now is further studies looking at deeper, faster cuts, in recognition of that fact that climate science, climate impacts and emissions trajectories are all moving faster than anyone had expected." DETAILS: Tim Hollo on 0437 587 562.

OCEANS 'DAMAGED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY'

Every major water body in the world has been damaged by human activity, according to a new study published in the journal *Science* (15/2/08). The study looked at 17 different activities that affect the oceans, from fishing to pollution, and found the areas most impacted to include the North Sea, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, the Toronto Star reported. ARTICLE: <http://www.thestar.com/sciencetech/Environment/article/303884>

GARRETT SEEKS A SOLAR AUSTRALIA

For a long time Australia was ahead of the game on solar research and development and the immediate challenge was to close the gap between where it is now and where it was only a decade ago, Minister for the Environment Peter Garrett told the third International Solar Cities Congress at Adelaide Convention Centre (19/2/08).

Not only had investment in clean technology left Australian shores, so had a critical mass of scientific and entrepreneurial know-how, he said. The task was not only to provide an environment conducive to incubating knowledge and expertise – but to deploy the fruits of this research on-scale, ensuring Australia maximised its share of the clean technology boom.

The Federal Government had committed to investing \$150 million in clean energy technology research under a new Energy Innovation Fund, including \$50 million for solar thermal research and \$50 million for PV solar research and development.

SPEECH: <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2008/pubs/tr20080219.pdf>

C. PEACE & SECURITY

EAST TIMOR

EAST TIMOR AND AUSTRALIA 'UNITED TO PROTECT DEMOCRACY'

At a Dili press conference with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, East Timor's Prime Minister Gusmao said in Dili that he and Mr Rudd stood "together not only united by the will for peace but united in the values that support peace. Values which defend social equity and inclusion, uphold transparent and accountable democratic institutions that respect, above all, the constitution of a nation." (15/2/08).

President Gusmao also endorsed values that supported social welfare as compassionate and necessary for those who suffered deeply from poverty and promoted dialogue above violence and debate over political self interest.

"Mr Rudd, as we enter into this period of restoration, I give thanks to you, the Australian Parliament, the combined efforts of the Australian Peacekeeping mission and the Australian people for their unwavering support to Timor-Leste," he said.

Mr Rudd replied that the Australian people were stunned and shocked to learn the news of the brutal and violent assault on the democratically elected leaders and that the "purpose of my visit

today is to state in clear and loud terms that Australia will stand shoulder to shoulder with East Timor into the future in the defence of its democratic system of government.”

Discussions had been held with the East Timor prime minister on cooperation in the economic sphere, agriculture and youth employment programs. The two countries could work as partners on security and development, Mr Rudd said. He believed ensuring young people across East Timor had a job was core business for the country's long term stability and development.

EAST TIMOR AUTHORITIES ACT ON CAMPS

When the rain-laden clouds open up, as they frequently do this time of year, the tarpaulin over Alicia Pinto's bed leaks and the pathway outside her tent home becomes a quagmire, the New York Times reported (19/2/08). Still, a crowded tent in a camp for internally displaced people on the eastern fringes of Dili is better than going back where she came from. The house where Ms. Pinto lived with her family in Baucau, about 75 miles east of the capital, was burned down in riots in April 2006, when a large part of the population was forced to flee. “We are afraid to go back,” Ms. Pinto, 21, said. “The neighbours won't accept us.” ARTICLE:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/19/world/asia/19timor.html?_r=2&ref=world&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

GIVE EAST TIMOR MORE TIME!

Timor has only been independent as a nation since May 2002, writes election observer Jefferson Lee, of Sydney. “Admittedly its leadership has made errors. But the United Nations administrators could have performed much better. Indeed Australia's report card is not all good. We did not negotiate in good faith over oil and gas revenues in the Timor Sea. We cancelled aid budgets to show our petulance here, exacerbating existing hunger problems. We have not apologised or offered real reparations for arming the Indonesian TNI military and training the Kopassus "killing machine" for two and a half decades after the Balibo Five murders in October 1975.

“As an observer to two national elections in East Timor, where turnout is nearly 98 per cent, with voluntary voting, I can assure you the Timorese want both good governance and democracy. As the oil and gas revenues start to kick in they may prove to be more stable than even Australia. “We have no long term plan for husbanding revenues from our resources boom. We export 'for a song' and spend it immediately. The reverse is true in Timor.

“The key aspect of the Reinado issue was the lack of effective judicial and civil police systems. If Canberra put more attention to these issues - and helped the Timorese gain a sense of justice - we wouldn't have to rely on the expensive big ticket items like army hardware to police what are unresolved domestic and neighborhood quarrels grown out of proportion from a population still traumatised by war.” - **Jefferson Lee, Sydney.**

GREATER ROLE FOR PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS IN RAMSI

Pacific Island countries have agreed to play a bigger role in the activities of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), the ABC reported (22/2/08).

RAMSI has been in Solomon Islands since 2003. Its leadership, and most of its funding comes from Australia. At a meeting in Honiara, foreign ministers accepted the findings of a review of RAMSI, recommending that other Pacific Islands countries play a bigger role in governing RAMSI activities. Foreign Minister Stephen Smith is scheduled to visit today.

REPORT: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/02/22/2169344.htm>

PAKISTAN/AFGHANISTAN

AUSTRALIA URGES NATO ON AFGHAN TROOPS

Australia will campaign hard to convince NATO member countries to increase their commitment to fight terrorism and aid reconstruction in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said.

"Whatever work we (Australian troops) do in Afghanistan is very, very dangerous," he said, according to the ABC on Thursday.

"And that's why we have been arguing with the NATO conference coming up ... we need to see a very strong long-term commitment from NATO, from European countries and the international community ... which is both a combative military one for counter terrorism and counter extremism purposes (and) ... helping Afghanistan to build as a nation." NATO members will meet in April in Bucharest, Romania. SEE Air Chief Marshal Houston and Iraq report - [MIDDLE EAST](#).

US RESHAPES FIGHT AGAINST AL-QAIDA IN PAKISTAN

As the US pursues Al-Qaida inside Pakistan, it is increasingly ignoring the Pakistani Government and instead relying more on local sympathisers for key information, the Washington Post reports (19/2/08). It says the new approach was behind the incident a couple of weeks ago when missiles fired from a CIA-controlled Predator aircraft killed a senior Al-Qaida commander. ARTICLE: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/18/AR2008021802500.html>

KOSOVO

BAN URGES RESTRAINT OVER KOSOVO INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

While the situation on the ground in Kosovo - which declared its independence from Serbia on Sunday - remained calm overall, the UN mission there reported violent attacks by Serb fringe groups on two boundary crossings (19/2/08).

The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Kosovo, Joachim Rucker, condemned the attacks on the crossings at gates in northern Mitrovica, which resulted in the destruction of property, saying "any violence is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated."

Mr Rucker, who heads the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), added that he expects all citizens to exercise calm and respect UNMIK and the NATO-led Kosovo Force, or KFOR, which would continue to ensure a safe and secure environment throughout Kosovo.

Secretary-General Ban stressed the need to ensure the stability of Kosovo which the UN has run since 1999. The Security Council was debating the latest developments. ARTICLE: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25661&Cr=kosovo&Cr1=>

AUSTRALIA RECOGNISES THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Australia has today formally recognised the Republic of Kosovo as an independent state. Kosovo declared independence on February 17 2008. Australia respects the decision of the people of Kosovo. The US and the United Kingdom have also indicated their recognition of Kosovo's new sovereignty. Australia will soon consider the establishment of diplomatic relations with Kosovo. DETAILS: Foreign Minister's office on 02 6277 7500; department on 02 6261 1555.

MIDDLE EAST

TIME TO LEAVE IRAQ: ADF CHIEF

The chief of the Australian Defence Force told a Parliamentary Committee it was time for Australian troops to leave Iraq, the ABC reported on Wednesday. The Federal Government has ordered Australian combat troops be withdrawn from Iraq by the middle of the year.

Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said Iraqi forces have faced a number of challenges over the past 18 months and have always come out on top without any major support from Australia.

"It's been a very pleasing outcome," he said. "We have achieved our objectives in southern Iraq and frankly if you look at the two provinces, it's time to leave." Australia sent troops into Iraq in March 2003 to support the US push to overthrow dictator Saddam Hussein.

INQUIRY INTO ISRAELI USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS

A leading human rights group has called for a UN investigation into Israel's use of cluster bombs during its 2006 campaign against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, the International Herald Tribune reported (17/2/08).

New York-based Human Rights Watch has called for an independent inquiry to determine whether individual Israeli commanders "bear responsibility for war crimes."

It reported that Israel violated international humanitarian law with hundreds of "indiscriminate and disproportionate cluster munitions attacks on Lebanon." The report was released ahead of the opening on Monday of a 120-nation conference in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, on a proposed convention to ban cluster munitions. ARTICLE:

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/02/17/news/New-Zealand-Cluster-Bombs.php>

AFRICA

KENYA BREAKTHROUGH HAILED

Ex-UN chief Kofi Annan has announced considerable progress in talks between Kenya's government and opposition aimed at ending the political crisis, the BBC reported (21/2/07). Talks have been adjourned until Friday, as negotiators consult on a compromise. The deal involves creating a prime minister's post, which the opposition says would have to have real power. Some 1,000 people have died in violence since disputed elections in December. REPORT: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7256216.stm>

AFRICAN FIRST LADIES 'WILL QUELL HOTHEADS'

In a bid to support initiatives to restore and strengthen peace on the unrest-prone continent, wives of African heads of state or their representatives have formed a conflict-resolution group, the IRIN News reported (18/2/08).

The African Network of Women Peace Negotiators was created on February 15 in the Congolese capital, Brazzaville, at the sixth conference of the African First Ladies' Peace Mission, known by its French acronym MIPREDA, which was launched in 1997 in Nigeria to advocate for peace, stability and harmony in Africa.

"Brazzaville will be the starting point of action of women for peace on the continent," said the first lady of Chad, Hinda Déby Itno. The Chadian capital, N'djamena, came under heavy attack in early February by rebels bent on toppling the government of President Idriss Déby.

"Unlike men, who are the first to set them off, we have the opportunity and means to extinguish all these hotbeds of tension and crisis in our country," she said. The first ladies painted a grim picture of Africa and condemned the violence meted out to women and girls during conflicts, particularly in the Darfur region of Sudan, Somalia, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and recently in Kenya and Chad.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in a message delivered to the first ladies by the UN Development Program's Resident representative in Congo, Aurélien Agbenonci, said 65 per cent of the UN's budget for maintaining peace went on Africa.

ARTICLE: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=76805>

SOMALIA: WORLD'S FORGOTTEN CATASTROPHE

According to the UN, the worst catastrophe in Africa is not taking place in Kenya, or even Darfur. Fifteen years after the disastrous Black Hawk Down incident, Somalia has more refugees than any country in the world, the London Independent reported (9/2/08).

Khalid Abdullahi was nine the day his father died in 1993: "We were sitting here in this room when we heard a big noise," he says. The big noise was the sound of an American Black Hawk helicopter being shot down and crashing into Khalid's house. Eighteen US Army Rangers were killed in the firefight that followed. Their broken bodies were dragged through Mogadishu's battle-scarred streets.

An estimated 1,000 Somalis died that day too, although they didn't get a Hollywood film made about them, the Independent said. The US had been leading a UN peacekeeping mission but following the Black Hawk Down incident, the US troops pulled out. The rest of the UN mission soon followed and Somalia was left to slide back into anarchy.

ARTICLE: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/somalia-the-worlds-forgotten-catastrophe-778225.html>

HR WATCH WANTS VIOLENT PERPETRATORS PROSECUTED

The Kenyan Government must bring to justice those responsible for the violence that exploded after elections in December and not allow them to go unpunished as has previously occurred, Human Rights Watch said, according to Bloomberg (17/2/08).

The failure of earlier Kenyan governments to prosecute rights violators during elections in 1992 and 1997 had fed the current crisis in which more than 1,000 people died and 310,000 forced from their homes, New York-based Human Rights Watch said. "Impunity for the political violence of the 1990s continues to fuel clashes," Georgette Gagnon, HRW Africa director, said. ARTICLE: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601102&sid=a260.0K8pTH4&refer=uk>

ZIMBABWE INFLATION OVER 100,000 PER CENT

Zimbabwe's annual inflation rate has soared to more than 100,000 per cent, according to official figures.

"The year-on-year inflation rate for the month of January 2008, as measured by the all items Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 100,580.2 per cent, gaining 34,367.9 percentage points on the December rate of 66,212.3 per cent," the Central Statistical Office (CSO) said in a statement.

"This means that prices as measured by the all items CPI increased by an average of 100,580.2 per cent between January 2007 and January 2008." Inflation of food and non-alcoholic beverages reached 105,428.0 per cent while non-food inflation was 97,885.7 per cent." The southern African country's economy has been in a tailspin for the past seven years, characterised by shortages of basic commodities such as sugar, cooking oil and petrol.

ARTICLE: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/02/21/1203467216941.html>

D. HUMAN RIGHTS

A group of independent UN human rights experts have welcomed Australia's recent apology to its Indigenous peoples for the pain and indignity they endured under the government's past laws and policies.

The apology, made in a speech delivered by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at the Federal Parliament on February 13, "will strengthen the moral fabric of the country and reinforce the Aboriginal contribution to Australian society," the experts said in Geneva (18/2/08). "We are specially moved by the apology offered to the members of the Stolen Generation and their families, victims of a deliberate policy of assimilation of the Aboriginal culture that contradicted the basic human rights principles of equality and dignity," the group said.

"Australia's efforts to acknowledge historical injustices and to promote reconciliation set an example of how to enhance harmonious and cooperative relationships between Indigenous peoples and states, in the spirit of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."

In carrying out measures to protect and promote the rights of Aboriginal peoples, the experts encouraged the government to examine the recommendations made by several UN Special Rapporteurs who have visited the country in recent years.

URGENT REFORM TO INDIGENOUS POLICY AND SERVICE DELIVERY NEEDED

Australia has reached a 'crossroads' in Indigenous policy and service delivery, according to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma, who said that modifying the existing system must be an urgent priority for reform (20/2/08)..

Delivering his 'Reform' speech at the Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) Queensland's annual meeting, he said the new Federal Government had been left with a system limited in its capacity to meet commitments to Indigenous affairs and reconciliation.

"Reform is necessary to ensure standards of accountability are upheld and that a clear, consistent vision is applied with a guaranteed capacity to deliver," he said. " First and foremost, Indigenous peoples must fully participate in policy making processes. Secondly, it is not good enough to rely on 'record levels of expenditure' as the measure of progress. We should instead be setting ambitious targets that have bipartisan support and form the basis of inter-governmental cooperation."

Mr Calma said the recently announced Joint Commission on Indigenous Policy provided the vehicle for this to occur. He added that this could be enhanced with support from business leaders, academics, community workers and others, to ensure that its work is evidence-based and informed.

This was the second of six speeches outlining an agenda for change in Indigenous Affairs. The 'Essentials for Social Justice' series is being presented between February and April.
SPEECHES: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/essentials/index.html

CHALLENGE TO BUSINESS

Australian Human Rights Commissioner, Graeme Innes, challenged the business sector to incorporate human rights considerations into everyday business practices and not to put human rights in the too hard basket. A new information page about Corporate Social Responsibility and human rights: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2008/16_08.html

MILITARY JUSTICE BILL TABLED

A Bill tabled on Thursday by the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, was described as enhancing the Defences military justice system. Among the reforms is the right in all cases to appeal summary authority convictions to a military judge of the Australian Military Court, and the right to choose trial over summary discipline in all but a number of minor offences.
DETAILS: <http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/snowdontpl.cfm?CurrentId=7438>

MIDDLE EAST

CONDITIONS IN GAZA AND WEST BANK 'GETTING WORSE': UN OFFICIAL

Concluding a five-day visit to the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel, the top UN relief official highlighted the worsening humanitarian conditions in Gaza and the West Bank, resulting from closures and restrictions on movement (18/2/08).

"Medical services in Gaza are deteriorating, private industry has more or less collapsed, and there are real worries about education," Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes said in Jerusalem. "After eight months of very serious restrictions on the movement of goods, the political and security crisis in and around Gaza has increasingly severe humanitarian consequences," Mr Holmes said. He is also UN Emergency Relief Coordinator.

"There is increasing dependence on international aid, which has risen very sharply over the last eight months," he said, noting that 73 per cent of the population relies on food aid, and concerns are mounting about nutrition, particularly among children.

In addition, "the quality and quantity of water are declining, with some areas having water only for a few hours a day or even a week. Moreover, due to deterioration of the sewage system, some 40 million litres of sewage are pumped daily into the Mediterranean Sea," he said. While strongly condemning the firing of rockets from Gaza, he once again called for Gaza crossings to be open for humanitarian supplies and commercial goods.

He later met the director of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and went to Ramallah to meet with the chief of staff of the Palestinian president and Palestinian prime minister. He also met with UN humanitarian partners to discuss the strengthening of aid coordination.

ARTICLE: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25658&Cr=Palestin&Cr1=>

UNHCR SENDS ENVOY TO IRAQ

The UN refugee agency will dispatch an envoy to Baghdad for the first time since a massive bomb attack demolished the UN's Iraq headquarters in 2003. The move is intended to better assist Iraqi refugees, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said, Reuter reported (18/2/08).

He said earlier the UNHCR and the Iraqi Government were planning an assessment of conditions. Some two million Iraqis have fled abroad, while another two million are displaced inside Iraq. "To promote returns one needs to be sure that there is security, that they can return in safety, but also that there are conditions for a successful integration in society," he said.

ARTICLE: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSL1873033720080218>

PROJECT TO EMPOWER PALESTINIANS IN STATE DESIGN

Sponsored by the Centre for Human Emergence Middle East, the Palestine 21 project, which aims to empower Palestinian citizens to design their own state, has been established according to a media release from Mass Media Distribution Newswire (14/2/08).

The convention was reported to have been organised by Palestinian leaders inspired by the geopolitical work of Dr Don Beck, the American founder of the Global Centers for Human Emergence (CHE).

"For the political 'Road Map' involving Israel and Palestine to be successful, the 'Palestinian Development Map' must first be implemented," Dr Beck said. ARTICLES: <http://www.mmdnewswire.com/palestinin-nti-building-movement-2953.html>

An election planned by Myanmar's generals must be credible, the Association of South East Nations said on Wednesday, adding the outcome would affect all members of the 10-nation group.

MYANMAR JUNTA EXCLUDES AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Myanmar's ruling generals earlier announced a referendum in May on a new constitution, to be followed by an election in 2010. If held, the poll would be the first since a 1990 election whose outcome the military ignored.

"What we are concerned about is the credibility of the process," Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo said on Wednesday. Earlier he said opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi would not be allowed to take part in the proposed elections because she had been married to a foreigner.

In the new constitution, a Myanmar citizen who has a foreign husband or who has children who are not citizens of Myanmar, will be disqualified, as it was in the 1974 constitution, Yeo said. Suu Kyi was married to Briton Michael Aris, who died in 1999.

"The military have made it very clear that they don't think that Aung San Suu Kyi should have some kind of role in the politics of Burma. So the past 20 years really have been a process of finding ways to exclude her from the entire process," David Scott Mathieson, a Myanmar consultant for Human Rights Watch, told Reuters Television in Thailand.

UN ENVOY SEES MYANMAR'S MOVE AS PROGRESS

Myanmar's new timetable for political reform is a "significant step" forward for the country, the UN special envoy said. But Ibrahim Gambari cautioned it was key that the planned reforms - a referendum on a new constitution in May, and national elections in 2010 - are legitimate, the BBC reported (19/2/08). REPORT: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7252122.stm>

UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY IN BURMA

- In a simple studio tucked into the shadows of a wealthy Rangoon (Yangon) neighbourhood, a leading member of Burma's underground political art movement lights a cigarette, smoke curling into the hollows of his cheeks. The artist, 61, probably weighs less than 100 pounds, Newsweek reports. The paintings spread across the wall could bring a prison sentence in this military dictatorship, where freedom of expression has not existed for 46 years. "It's very difficult to show our inner sense, our expression," says the artist. "There are many censors for art here."

ARTICLE: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/111444>.

WAR CABINET ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES NEEDS 'TIME TO WORK'

Queensland Democrat Senator Andrew Bartlett has hit out at Coalition critics of the Prime Minister's planned non-partisan 'war cabinet' on Indigenous issues.

"There is no other area of policy where government and politicians of all political persuasions have failed as comprehensively and unacceptably, decade after decade, as we have in regards to Indigenous Australians," he said. "I expressed support for Kevin Rudd's idea when he first proposed it as Opposition Leader in June last year, and I believe it is an initiative which should be given a chance to work.

"It is time to try something new. A non-partisan 'war cabinet' does not prevent political parties from criticising the government. What it does do is make everyone across the political spectrum responsible for outcomes.

"It also provides a real chance to provide a key factor which has been lacking in Indigenous issues for all but a few brief periods, and that is the political will to make this the priority issue it deserves and needs to be." DETAILS: Tracee McPate on 0417 607 655.

HOMELESSNESS STEERING GROUP STARTS WORK

A Homelessness Green Paper is to be tabled in Federal Parliament and issued for formal consultation during May. A White Paper is scheduled for August. The government has established a small steering group to provide leadership and direction on the core elements of a new approach to: prevent homelessness, improve services, create exit points to secure longer term housing, and stop the cycle of homelessness. The group will start meetings in February.

E. HEALTH & MEANS

BUSH GIVES FUNDS TO FIGHT TROPICAL DISEASES

New funding for neglected tropical diseases, announced by US President George W. Bush, has been welcomed by WHO Director-General Margaret Chan (20/2/08).

The funds will vastly increase funding for the integrated treatment of seven of the most important neglected tropical diseases: lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, blinding trachoma,

onchocerciasis, and three soil-transmitted helminthiases. They are blinding, deforming, and debilitating diseases.

WHO believes that an intensified attack on these diseases delivers a blow against the poverty of millions of people. Dr Chan said such diseases had caused misery and sapped productivity since antiquity. She also welcomed Mr Bush's challenge to other donors to complement this US commitment of US\$ 350 million over five years. DETAILS: Emma Ross, Communications, WHO, Geneva, on: + 41 22 791 1492/ + 41 79 475 5534; rosse@who.int

PREVALENCE OF FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING DROPS

The prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in Niger fell dramatically between 1998 and 2006, according to a national statistics agency survey (15/2/08).

The practice, which involves removing and sewing-up parts of the female genitalia, occurred in only 2.2 per cent of women in Niger in 2006 compared to 5.8 per cent of women in 1998.

The advance in Niger was "remarkable", according to the Niger UNICEF representative Akhil Iyer. Niger could become the first country in the West Africa region to completely eradicate the practice. FGM/C has been illegal in Niger since June 2003 with practitioners facing between six months and 20 years in jail if found guilty.

"The law is extremely persuasive in getting people to stop," said Maïga Amsou, president of the Nigerien Committee on Traditional Practices, a non-governmental organisation. NGOs lobbied the government to pass the law and then worked to educate people about the health risks associated with the practice.

REPORT: IRIN, **humanitarian news and analysis**, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs at <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=76784>

US BUSINESSMAN TO BE UN MALARIA ENVOY

US businessman Ray Chambers will serve as a special UN envoy on malaria, the UN announced (14/2/08). Mr Chambers, 65, will work with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to raise the malaria battle's international profile as part of efforts to slash mortality rates associated with the disease. He told a UN news conference he foresaw a "massive public-private partnership" to raise \$8 billion to 10 billion over the next four to five years from donor countries, companies and international and non-governmental organisations.

REPORT: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N1466384.htm>

ART RAISES \$2M TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

Art collectors spent \$42.6 million at a Valentine's Day charity auction to benefit Africa's battle against HIV/AIDS. Proceeds from the auction, which was sponsored by rock star Bono and British artist Damien Hirst, will be distributed to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria, and Bono's charity-minded 'Red' brand (15/2/08).

ARTICLE: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/B195050.htm>

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIANS

More than 2.7 million Australians will receive increased financial support from March 20, following legislation introduced into Parliament (14/2/08). The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin said the new arrangements would help make ends meet for seniors, carers and people with a disability.

Under the legislation the Utilities Allowance will increase from \$107.20 a year to \$500 a year and an increased allowance will be paid through the Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, Widow B Pension, Wife Pension and Bereavement Allowance. Veterans and partners will also receiving an allowance. REPORT:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/financial_support_15feb08.htm

F. OTHER NEWS

CASTRO RESIGNS BUT CASTRO STAYS

Fidel Castro may have resigned as Cuba's president, but he remains a towering figure, loved and hated across continents, the Associated Press reported on Wednesday.

Long after he ditched his cigar and traded military fatigues for tracksuits, Castro remains both a Cold War icon and a model of resistance to the world's lone superpower. Castro made clear in his resignation announcement Tuesday that he has no plans to disappear.

"The great legend continues. Fidel is the only living legend in the history of humanity," Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said. "He built this through his strength of character, strength of will and also lots of controversy."

Castro's tattered band of rebels caught the imagination of Cubans — and others worldwide — as they toppled Fulgencio Batista's corrupt dictatorship in 1959 amid exulting crowds. ARTICLE: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hASp3fdaeN4JMV2fOR1FnodIWA0QDBUTO03O0>

TO DELIVER ON WHEAT EXPORT PROMISES

The Federal Government would deliver on its election commitment to dismantle the wheat export monopoly by July 1, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke has told a Wheat Export Marketing Alliance (WEMA) meeting.

He said he had received from the alliance a lengthy document outlining some proposals. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry had subsequently advised that the proposals were 'fundamentally different' to the government's policy of increasing competition in the wheat export market.

The minister said he had recently appointed an expert advisory group and encouraged members to comment on a discussion paper scheduled for next month. DETAILS: Ann-Marie Wilcock on 0413 872 275.

UN APPEALS FOR HELP FOR TAJIKISTAN

The UN has launched an emergency appeal for \$25 million in aid to Tajikistan where an unusually harsh winter, combined with frequent power and water shortages, has created a humanitarian crisis for thousands of people, IRIN News reported (18/2/08). ARTICLE: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=76806>

FILIPINOS DEMAND PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION

Marchers demanded resignation of Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as a Senate inquiry was being held into official corruption, the Sydney Morning Herald reported (19/2/08).

The inquiry, into allegations of bribery in a telecommunications deal, has prompted renewed calls for her resignation as it was reported last week that about 10,000 people demonstrated in Manila's financial district.

Analysts say Dr Arroyo's position remains secure because the dominant Catholic Church has not called for her to go and she has the support of the military and the lower house of Congress. She has already survived three impeachment attempts and at least three coup plots. Her final term runs out in mid-2010.

ARTICLE: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/02/18/1203190740380.html>

PACIFIC ISLAND WORKERS 'BETTER BET THAN BACKPACKERS'

Queensland Democrat Senator Andrew Bartlett has called for the Federal Government to allow workers from Pacific Island countries into Australia to fill labour market vacancies, rather than further expand the rules for backpackers visiting on working holiday visas.

"A scheme for Pacific Island workers to fill seasonal or regional labour market gaps would need to be carefully designed and monitored, but it makes far more sense than relying on the inherently erratic backpacker market to fill employment shortages in specific areas," he said.

"Not only would it improve our relationship with countries in the Pacific region and help fill growing employment shortages, it would also provide much needed assistance to the economies and many families from countries in the Pacific," Senator Bartlett concluded.
DETAILS: Tracee McPate on 0417 607 655.

PNG FOREIGN MINISTER: AUSTRALIA SHOWS NEW RESPECT

Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister Sam Abal said the Rudd Government was showing more respect towards his country than the Howard administration, the ABC reported (16/2/08). Mr Abal had met with Foreign Minister Stephen Smith.

Relations appear to be on mend after a number of years of friction between the two countries and Mr Abal says he noticed change in Canberra's attitude towards PNG during his visit.

"States are made up of people, human beings. Through that type of human relationship you can deal with most issues, even if they seem hard to deal with," he said. Next month's visit by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to PNG was another example of Australia's willingness to have closer ties with its nearest neighbour.

CONTROL ORDER AGAINST DAVID HICKS CONFIRMED

A Federal Magistrate has confirmed a control order against convicted terrorism supporter David Hicks, the ABC reported on Tuesday. But he now has to report twice a week and his curfew was eased by two hours.

Mr Hicks, 32, was released at the end of last year. Federal Magistrate Warren Donald confirmed the order after an interim one had been granted to police at the time of Mr Hicks's release.

Lawyer David McLeod says the way in which a control order had been imposed on his client supported arguments for a Senate Inquiry into counter terrorism laws.

UN WORKER AND AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Roy Skinner, formerly of Canberra and who has served in a total of ten military and civilian UN appointments, is on a visit to Australia from his home in Switzerland. Author of *Jerusalem to Baghdad 1967-1992*, he will give a lecture on 'Holistic Peacekeeping' at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, in support of its new galleries. Mr Skinner has served in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, including four UN agencies. The lecture will be at the Memorial at 2pm on Sunday, March 2.

ROTARY SEEKS MORE PEACE FELLOWS

Rotary Centres give Rotary World Peace Fellows are given the opportunity to pursue a master's degree in conflict resolution, peace studies, international relations, and related areas.

Each year, up to 60 Rotary World Peace Fellowships are offered on a competitive basis at six Rotary Centres, which operate in partnership with seven leading universities in the US, Japan, Argentina, England and Australia.

Applications:

[Rotary World Peace Fellowships Application 2009-11](#) (Word)

[Rotary World Peace Fellowships Application 2009-11](#) (PDF)

G. MEDIA MATTERS

1000 MARCH FOR PRESS FREEDOM: SRI LANKA REPORT

A thousand-strong protest march for press freedom was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on February 14, organised by the Movement Against Media Suppression.

The Free Media Movement (FMM) subsequently reported four incidents, three on one day, involving abuse or attacks on journalists, claimed to be instigated by police and/or Civil Defence Committee (CDC) members.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has joined the FMM in requesting the Inspector General of Police to advise police personnel on the rights and duties of media workers and journalists; alert them to the fact that media accreditation cards exist and are valid identification for all media workers and journalists; to be sensitive to threats made against media workers and journalists at a time of unprecedented censorship and violence directed against them and to Civil Defence Committees that they must not impede the lawful activities of media workers and journalists.

The IFJ asks press freedom organisations to show support by contacting: Victor Perera, Inspector General of Police, Police Headquarters, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka, on +94 011 2421 750 and fax: +94 011 244 61 74. DETAILS: IFJ Asia-Pacific on +612 9333 0919.

CAMBODIA: According to the Cambodian Association for the Protection of Journalists (CAPJ), *Saka!* newspaper editor Khuon Phlay Vy (aka Sar Keo Virak) was seriously injured when a vehicle rammed his motorcycle on February 15. He had received an anonymous threat not to publish a report about illegal gambling in Phnom Penh.

PAKISTAN: Leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have stated that the media would be supported by the proposed new coalition government in Pakistan (22/2/08).

According to the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, the leaders undertook to lift the ban on six anchors of three major TV channels and honour their commitments to revoke two anti-media ordinances promulgated under emergency rule in November 2007.

The PFUJ is urging the future government to abolish all “black laws” against the media to allow journalists to work unhindered by heavy and often arbitrary rules and demands imposed by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA).

Journalists from television, radio and newspapers defied a last-minute attempt by PEMRA to stifle coverage of the national elections on February 18, when it issued a “media silence period” notification to prevent live interviews with political candidates. The journalists’ defiance was supported by the Pakistan Broadcasters’ Association (PBA), which threatened to strike.

More than 2000 journalists from across Pakistan and international press freedom organisations had earlier signed a petition, stating that fair, democratic and transparent elections were not possible without permitting journalists to report freely and fairly.

NEPAL: The Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) reported (19/2/08) journalists and cameramen working in four districts in and near Kathmandu had suffered physical and verbal abuse during bans or strikes called by the Federal Republic National Front (FRNF), the Madheshi People’s Rights Forum (MPRF) and the United Democratic Madheshi Front (UDMF). A news correspondent for Janaki FM, was reportedly attacked by armed police force personnel; the editor of weekly *Birat Darpan*, Bujaya Kumar Pathak was allegedly attacked by MPRF supporters.

Cameramen were forced to stop filming by protesters in rallies on February 15 and 17. Reporter Gokul Shrestha and cameraman Amrit Bhatta, of Sagarmatha TV, have also been assaulted. DETAILS: IFJ Asia-Pacific on +612 9333 0919.

H. ARTICLES IN FOCUS

A MATTER OF INFLUENCE FOR A NATION STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

Only nine years ago Indonesian forces were pillaging East Timor, beating, murdering and systematically destroying every major building erected since 1975, before withdrawing and leaving behind up to 200,000 casualties of a 25-year occupation, Mark Forbes in the Sydney Morning Herald recalls (16/2/08). It seemed inconceivable they could ever return to help the fledgling nation ... (but) the editor of the prestigious *Globe* magazine suggested "Give the TNI (Indonesian army) a chance to restore security and stability in Timor and the situation will improve. The Timorese will see Indonesian troops more as their new brothers compared to the Western-style, heavily-armed white soldiers who always try to look superior."

ARTICLE: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/02/15/1202760599960.html>

THE INTERNATIONALIST

On August 19 2003, a Kamash truck pulled into the alley behind the Canal Hotel in Baghdad and a bomb detonated, crumpling a corner of the UN mission in Iraq, writes Francis Fukuyama in the New York Times (17/2/08). Inside was Sergio Vieira de Mello, a Brazilian-born UN official who had previously served in Vietnam, Lebanon, Cyprus, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Kosovo and East Timor. More than anyone else at the UN, he embodied the UN's idealism, as well as its limitations. He was pinned under the rubble and hung on for several hours before dying.

ARTICLE: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/17/books/review/Fukuyama-t.html?ex=1203742800&en=21bdc1a13490ac9b&ei=5070&emc=eta1>

LEGAL FURORE OVER KOSOVO RECOGNITION

The recognition of independence for Kosovo raises serious questions of international law as well as sensitive diplomatic difficulties, the BBC reported (16/2/08). The US and many European Union countries accept that Kosovo should no longer be formally part of Serbia. They will recognise a limited form of independence for Kosovo, as recommended in a report drawn up for the UN by the former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari. The EU is sending a major law and order mission to Kosovo, made up of 1,800 police and justice officials, including judges, in effect taking over from the current UN presence. *Paul.Reynolds-INTERNET@bbc.co.uk*

DETAILS: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7244538.stm>

AUSTRALIA MUST GIVE CHINA AID

Should Australia continue to give aid to China, a country that shoots rockets towards the moon, has developed one of the world's most extreme rich-poor divides and is itself a donor, backing its political friends in the Pacific Islands? The answer, strangely and unequivocally, is yes, according to an article in The Australian (18/2/08). Our role in engaging China goes to the heart of aid effectiveness - of using resources effectively - and of Australia's position in international development, as China and other countries in our region begin to move beyond traditional aid needs. ARTICLE: http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,25197,23229287-7583,00.html?from=public_rss

A CARD TO PLAY FOR CUBA'S FREEDOM

The long-awaited "resignation" of Fidel Castro may give both Cubans and Americans a chance to escape the trap they've been in for more than four decades, writes Robert Kagan in the Washington Post (20/2/08). That the Cuban leadership has finally reached the point where it must announce a changing of the dictatorial guard indicates this is a good time for the US to suggest a different and more hopeful course. Instead of passing the torch to a new generation of dictators, Cuba's leaders could commit themselves to hold free and fair elections by the end of this year.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/19/AR2008021902334.html>

MORE BEDTIME READING FOR POLLIES

As if new and old senators and members of parliament didn't have enough to absorb on their first day back to school, the Parliamentary Library has listed for them 100 recent articles and reviews to read to round out their education. We publish only a selection that has either direct or indirect relation to Australia's obligations and responsibilities as a member of the UN. Copies can be obtained through your senators' or member's electorate office – **Ian Mathews**.

EMBRYOS Sherd, Jason. The research involving *Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning Bill 2002*: procedure and practice issues in its passage through the House of Representatives.

Australasian Parliamentary Review, Vol.22, no.1, Autumn 2007: 184-94.

COPYRIGHT Massola, James. Net freedom v the right to sell. *Canberra Times*, 31 December 2007: 10.

ELECTIONS – OVERSEAS Agius, Christine. Sweden's 2006 parliamentary election and after: contesting or consolidating the Swedish model? *Parliamentary Affairs*, vol.60, no.4, 2007: 585-600.

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ELECTORAL REFORM Rodan, Steve. Voting at 16 in the Isle of Man. *The Parliamentarian*, vol.88, issue 2, 2007: 123-5.

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Waterford, Jack. Queensland leads on FOI reform. *Canberra Times*, Section: Informant, 5 February 2008: 13.

White, Nicola. The OIA 25 years on: how has the system matured? *Australasian Parliamentary Review*, vol.22, no.2, Spring 2007: 45-58.

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Steele, Graham. The Sub Judge Convention: what to do when a matter is 'Before the Courts'. *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, vol.30, no.4, Winter 2007: 5-14.

INTERNET

Leston-Bandeira, Cristina. The impact of the Internet on parliaments: a legislative studies framework. *Parliamentary Affairs*, vol.60, no.4, 2007: 655-74.

I. UNity, UN AND UNAA CONTACTS

To access major United Nations websites, go to:

[United Nations](#).

[Secretary-General](#).

[UN News Centre](#).

[Key UN Bodies, Agencies, Funds and Programs](#).

[United Nations Information Centre for Australia](#),

[New Zealand and the Pacific](#), Level 1, 7 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600, Canberra

or PO Box 5366, Kingston ACT 2604, and on 61 (2) 6273 8200.

The World Federation of United Nations is a global network of people linked through [United Nations Associations](#) in over 100 UN member states. Website available at

<http://www.wfuna.org/who/>; newsletter at <http://www.wfuna.org/news/newsletter/index.cfm>.

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UNAA NSW office@unaansw.org.au 02 9212 0998; f 02 9280 0137.
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UNAA Vic info@unaavictoria.org.au on (03) 9670 7878 Website: <http://www.unaavictoria.org.au/>.
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