

**PEACE  
OPERATIONS  
WORKING  
GROUP**



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**POWG**

The Peace Operations Working Group (POWG) is a project of Peacebuild - The Canadian Peacebuilding Network. It seeks to provide a focus for in-depth research and civil society-Government dialogue on peace operations and related Canadian and international policy issues.

Visit: [www.peacebuild.ca](http://www.peacebuild.ca)

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**NEWS AND ARTICLES**

This edition of the POWG Newsletter includes articles sorted by peacekeeping context:

Georgia – Sudan – Kosovo  
DR Congo – Somalia –  
Chad & CAR - Timor-Leste  
Haiti – Guinea-Bissau

In addition, this section includes miscellaneous news on peace operations.



A US cargo plane arrives in Tbilisi, Georgia with humanitarian supplies (Source: Reuters)

**ACTIVITIES**

CDA: Roundtable on role of Afghanistan & Pakistan on Global Jihad (Sept 9)

ACNU Grand Montreal: John Trent: La Transformation de l'ONU à l'ère de la mondialisation (Sept 10)

CSDS: Scott Taylor on Afghanistan (Sept 11)



Alain Le Roy, New UN Peacekeeping Chief, (Source: un.org/dpko)

## IN THE NEWS

### GEORGIA

Following months of simmering tension, relations between Georgia and Russia escalated into a full-blown military conflict on August 7 after Georgian troops mounted an attack on separatist forces in South Ossetia. Russia claimed its citizens were under attack and sent thousands of troops into South Ossetia to defend them as well Russian peacekeepers stationed in the breakaway region. It also launched bombing raids on targets in other parts of Georgia. Russian troops advanced deeper into Georgian territory. After more than a week of hostilities, the two sides signed a French-brokered peace agreement. Russia withdrew most of its combat troops, but said it would still maintain forces in a buffer zone around Abkhazia and South Ossetia. However, days after the signing of the ceasefire, gunfire could still be heard in the town of Gori, prompting the EU and the United States to call on Russia to abide by the terms of the ceasefire. On August 26 Russia announced that it would officially recognize Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states, drawing further protests from the West and Georgia. [According to the UN](#), there are approximately 4,200 IDPs currently residing in Gori, including approximately 1,200 in a tented camp, 1,000 in host families and 2,000 in collective centers.

The conflict in Georgia kept the Security Council busy for much of August; from August 7-12, the Security Council had five separate meetings to discuss the Georgian conflict. In the August 7 emergency meeting requested by Russia, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon expressed concern about the increased violence in the region. On the 11th, a French-drafted resolution referencing a peace plan for the Georgia/Russia conflict was circulated throughout the Council. While Georgia and Russia signed the agreement, different parties took issue with different parts of the resolution and a second draft was circulated on August 19. The second draft affirmed Georgian sovereignty and demanded troop withdrawal. On August 22, the draft was submitted to the Security Council but was rejected by the United States on the grounds that it did not acknowledge Georgia's "territorial integrity".

Options for the Security Council in September are either to continue negotiations with Russia, vote on the submitted resolution or do nothing for the moment. A major issue facing the Council is not only how this will affect the UN's Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) but also how to adopt this resolution while addressing Russia's recognition of South Ossetia's and Abkhazia's independence.

### SUDAN

On July 14, the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor sought the issue of an arrest warrant for President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on suspicion of crimes against humanity. Bashir is accused of a campaign of genocide that killed 35,000 people outright, at least another 100,000 through "slow death" and forced 2.5 million to flee their homes in Sudan's western Darfur region. An ICC decision is expected in October/November. Sudan, China and South Africa expressed concern that a formal indictment of Bashir could damage the stalled peace process aimed at ending the 5 year conflict in Darfur.

Peacekeeping officials and national diplomats [fear](#) that an arrest warrant against Bashir could prompt a wave of violence against the joint U.N.- African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) or even prompt Khartoum to order all international peacekeepers in Sudan out of the country.

The [Security Council](#) unanimously condemned the July 8 attack against UNAMID, in which well-organized militia men killed seven peacekeepers and wounded more than 20, calling it an "unacceptable act of violence." One U.N. official said on condition of anonymity that the attackers used sophisticated weaponry not yet seen in Darfur, including recoilless rifles, which are lightweight weapons that can fire heavier projectiles than normal light arms.

On 31 July, with less than two hours left before the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) expired, the Security Council voted to extend its mandate for a further 12 months. The Council adopted resolution [1828](#) (2008) by 14 votes in favour, with the United States abstaining. While welcoming and expressing strong support for the mandate extension, the representative of the United States said he had abstained because the language of the resolution would send the wrong message to President Omer al-Bashir of Sudan and undermine efforts to bring him and others to justice.

## KOSOVO

In light of developments since Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in February, the United Nations mission there is unable to perform its usual functions and must [adjust to the new reality](#) on the ground, says Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The ability of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to carry out its tasks has been "fundamentally challenged owing to actions taken by both the authorities in Pristina and the Kosovo Serbs," Mr. Ban wrote in his July report to the Security Council. "These events have contributed to creating a profoundly new reality in which UNMIK can no longer perform as effectively as in the past the vast majority of its tasks as an interim administration," says the Secretary-General. Therefore, Mr. Ban says he has decided to move forward with the [reconfiguration](#) of the structure and profile of UNMIK, as proposed in the plan he presented to the Council last month. He adds that UNMIK will continue to support Kosovo in its effort to consolidate democratic governance institutions, advance economic growth and move towards a future in Europe as part of the western Balkans.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

On August 28, clashes erupted between fighters loyal to rebel leader Laurent Nkunda and the army, 50km (31 miles) north of the city of Goma, according to the UN. Both sides blamed each other for starting the fighting, which lasted several hours. "They are mutually claiming the other side started it. At the moment it's very difficult to confirm who has started it," UN mission spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Paul Dietrich told the BBC. Lt-Col Dietrich said the UN believed that Mr Nkunda - a renegade general - was trying to expand the rebels' zone of influence.

It is the heaviest fighting in the east since a peace deal was signed in Goma in January between the government and a variety of groups. The agreement was supposed to have seen the disarmament of groups and their integration into the army. US and European Union diplomats had warned several

weeks earlier that the situation in eastern DR Congo was becoming increasingly tense and that all sides were rearming. Human rights groups said that tens of thousands of people were fleeing as the situation in the area deteriorated.

## SOMALIA

After months of on-off talks in Djibouti, representatives of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government and a faction of an Eritrea-based opposition alliance finally signed an [agreement](#) on August 19 to cease hostilities. The Djibouti peace deal was finally signed after the delegations initiated it on 9 June. Both sides have expressed optimism about the agreement.

At the same time, the United Nations Security Council [extended](#) the mandate of the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), for six months. AMISOM has about 1,600 troops from Uganda and Burundi. Extending the peacekeeping mission, the Security Council urged AU member states to help AMISOM "facilitate the full withdrawal of other foreign forces from Somalia and help create the conditions for lasting peace and stability there". While welcoming the decision, both the government and opposition leaders called for the deployment of a much bigger force under the UN.

## CHAD & CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Security Council is waiting for a response to its June request for advice on the situation in the Central African Republic. The Secretary General's September report on EUFOR in Chad and the Central African Republic is expected to include recommendations regarding the future of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) which will expire on September 25, 2008.

The United Nations estimates that approximately 1 million people are affected by violence in the Central African Republic and the recent surge in banditry. According to a Security Council report, the northeast Central African Republic is for the moment at peace thanks to a peace deal signed in June.

On July 12 The Multinational Force Central African Republic (FOMUC) was renamed the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace (MICOPAX). The mission will not only have combat troops but also have a civilian branch dedicated to inciting political dialogue in the Central African Republic.

## TIMOR-LESTE

According to a report issued by the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on 21 August, Timor-Leste is at a human rights crossroads and can either choose to build on progress achieved or turn back towards a more violent past.

Entitled [Report on Human Rights Development in Timor-Leste: The Security Sector and Access to Justice 1 September 2007 - 30 June 2008](#), it said there had been a "notable increase in the number of cases of ill-treatment by security forces", especially during the state of siege period 11 February - 8 May 2008 imposed after the shooting of President Jose Ramos Horta in February 2008.

## HAITI

30 July - Dozens of ex-soldiers emerged from a former military headquarters in northern Haiti on July 30 in a peaceful end to a 24-hour standoff with police and U.N. peacekeepers, officials said. The former soldiers seized onetime army buildings in Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second largest city, and in Ouanaminthe, a town on the border with the Dominican Republic, to demand the reinstatement of the disbanded army and 14 years of back pay. Police said the men ended their occupation in Cap-Haitien just over 24 hours after it started and were loaded into buses for transport to police headquarters .

## GUINEA - BISSAU

Recent political instability including the early August dissolution of government could delay long-awaited plans to [reform](#) Guinea-Bissau's swollen security sector which could impact the country's long-term security says the president of the country's National Defence Institute, Baciro Dja. "Installing a new government could demotivate the [security sector reform] process. If we say we'll reform and then nothing happens that will be very dangerous," said Dja.

Guinea-Bissau's army currently has 4,800 registered members, a significant proportion of them generals. Just six members of the army are under 20 years-old according to a recent Reuters report. "Guinea-Bissau has more generals than [Africa's most populous nation] Nigeria," confirmed Shola Omoregie head of the UN peacebuilding office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS). According to Dja, the hope is to create a smaller, more efficient "modernised" army, reducing the overall tally to 2,500, according to Dja, whose members can live in dignified conditions, be well-trained, and have adequate equipment.

## MISCELLANEOUS

On June 30, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon [appointed](#) Alain Le Roy of France as the new head of United Nations peacekeeping, tasked with overseeing almost 110,000 personnel serving in 20 peace operations around the world. Mr. Le Roy, 55, replaces Jean-Marie Guéhenno of France, who has held the post since October 2000. Prior to his departure, Mr. Guehenno, in an interview with the BBC, warned of the dangers of overstressing the UN's [peacekeeping capacity](#). Many commentators have noted that Mr. Le Roy will face many [challenges](#) in his new role.

On August 25, the heads of United Nations peacekeeping missions in West Africa started a two-day meeting in Guinea-Bissau aimed at reviewing regional and national challenges to the success of their mandates. During the two days of discussion, the Special Representatives – from UN Missions in Liberia (UNMIL) and Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the UN Office in West Africa (UNOWA) and the UN Office for the Consolidation and Peace in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) – examined the latest developments in the sub-region since their June meeting in Dakar. The agenda also included a briefing on the recommendations made at a recent meeting of Force Commanders on UN peacekeeping missions in West Africa, held in Monrovia, and a presentation from the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas of Ghana.

## REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

Fergus Watt (WFM-Canada) and Ernie Regher (Project Ploughshares) recently released a paper entitled, "***The New United Nations Peacebuilding Commission: Prospects for Effective Civil Society Contributions***". The paper offers a detailed review of the PBC's origins and structure; a comparative overview of civil society contributions to multilateral processes; and an assessment of the PBC's first 18 months of operation. A concluding chapter on modalities for effective civil society contributions to the PBC includes recommendations to the PBC and civil society on improving engagement. To view the paper, click [here](#).

An article by Peter Langille on the United Nations Emergency Peace Service was published in *The London Free Press* (Canada) on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Titled "UN needs mobile peace force", Langille makes the case for the establishment of a UN Emergency Peace Service, noting that "we can send people into space and genetically engineer most life, but it appears we're incapable of stopping organized mass murder and gross violations of human rights. A United Nations Emergency Peace Service would help with each challenge, saving millions of lives and billions of dollars. It would complement existing arrangements by providing a critical first responder or lead service, ready to deploy immediately upon authorization of the Security Council. As an integrated service, UNEPS would also extend to initiating quick-impact and long-term projects to counter the structural violence of exploitation and repression, as well as stemming cultural violence. Conflict-prone areas would have services that helped to avoid a relapse into more violence." The article can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Gareth Evans, President and CEO of International Crisis Group, will publish a new **book "The Responsibility to Protect: Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and for All"**. R2P was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly at the 2005 World Summit. However, many misunderstandings persist about its scope and limits. And much remains to be done to solidify political support and to build institutional capacity. As a leading authority on the Responsibility to Protect, Evans shows how this new international norm can once and for all prevent a return to the killing fields. Published by Brookings Institution Press, the book will be available in September. For further details, click [here](#).

## MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### PEARSON PEACEKEEPING CENTRE

As part of its Occasional Paper series, the PPC has published a paper entitled "DDR: A Shifting Paradigm and the Scholar/Practitioner Gap". While scholarly input, both pre-mission and in examining the results of programs is critical for the development of effective DDR programs in dynamic environments, a significant communications gap exists between the DDR practitioner and scholar for various reasons. This gap must be bridged to realize necessary synergy through integration between the practitioner and the scholar, which may be the difference between success and failure in peacekeeping and peacebuilding interventions. Click [here](#) to read the paper.

### CANADEM

August was a busy month at CANADEM. The Canadian Governance Support Office (CGSO) is officially up and running in Kabul, with CGSO Director Grant Brown coordinating the arrival of Canadian Technical Advisors. These governance capacity building experts will work within different Afghan ministries, responding to the specific needs of their Ministry in order to build self-sufficient capacity. The Advisors will be identified and deployed by CANADEM, with funding from CIDA. The first Technical Advisor, Mr. Yusuf Rahmanzai, arrived in Kabul in August, and has begun working within the Ministry of Electricity and Water. More information about the CGSO and CANADEM's other work in Afghanistan can be found on our website at: [www.canadem.ca/cgso](http://www.canadem.ca/cgso).

Also in August, CANADEM, on behalf of the Government of Canada, deployed four long term election observers to Belarus. They will join the OSCE to monitor the September 28, 2008 Parliamentary election. CANADEM will also be deploying five short term observers to join this mission in September. A long term Observer is set to be deployed by CANADEM, on behalf of the Government of Canada, to Azerbaijan to join the OSCE mission to monitor the mid-October Presidential Election.

Finally, CANADEM, with CIDA funding, deployed an Emergency Program Coordinator to Georgia to join UNICEF's emergency response in crisis-affected areas. For more information about CANADEM, or any of the projects listed above, please visit: [www.canadem.ca](http://www.canadem.ca) or contact [canadem@canadem.ca](mailto:canadem@canadem.ca).

### CENTRE FOR MILITARY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

CMSS is hosting a conference 'Preparing for the Next Century of Canadian Sea Power'. **Date:** September 7-10. **Venue:** Palliser Hotel, Calgary. Background: In 2010, the Canadian Navy celebrates its 100th anniversary. Traditionally over-tasked and under-funded, our naval forces have a long and proud tradition. However, the world continues to develop in confounding and confusing ways. Traditional understandings of Canadian Sea Power may not be adequate to prepare for the future. In order to improve our understanding of the future needs and shape of Canadian Sea Power, this conference has three objectives: (1) To start a discussion of the future of Canadian Sea Power; (2) To

produce an academic publication that will carry this discussion into the public sphere; (3) To launch a national study into the requirements of sea power in the 21st century. For Information contact: Nancy Pearson Mackie, 403-220-4030, [njmackie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:njmackie@ucalgary.ca).

## WORLD FEDERALIST MOVEMENT-CANADA (WFM-C)

On the occasion of Peacekeepers' Day in Canada on August 9, WFM-C issued a press release asking "Where have all the Canadian peacekeepers gone?" UN peacekeeping is now at an all-time high with 77,000 troops deployed worldwide. Yet Canada's contribution is only 62 soldiers. "For decades, Canada was the world's number one peacekeeper. Until 1996, we were in the top 10. Now we're 53rd," says Prof. Walter Dorn of the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. "The answer to the question 'where have all the peacekeepers gone?' is, of course, Afghanistan where they are certainly not doing peacekeeping." Dorn recommends a renewed Canadian peacekeeping role: "Canada could balance its military commitments by providing several hundred troops directly for UN Operations, including the current mission in Darfur. It could also support the UN in many other ways through the provision of communications and reconnaissance technology, specialized training and joint exercises."

Peter Langille, a defence analyst at the University of Western Ontario, says that "Canada could make an invaluable contribution by backing the creation of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service that could deploy rapidly as a 'first responder' to prevent genocides and crimes against humanity. Millions of as yet unknown innocent victims could be saved by this essential addition to the UN's capacity to end these most heinous crimes that have plagued humanity." To read the press release click [here](#).

## ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LES NATIONS UNIES – GRAND MONTREAL (ACNU-MONTREAL)

L'ACNU-Grand Montréal en collaboration avec l'Observatoire sur les missions de paix de la Chaire Raoul-Dandurand en études stratégiques et diplomatiques et le Conseil des relations internationales de Montréal (CORIM) vous invite à sa première conférence de la saison. La transformation de l'ONU à l'ère de la mondialisation. Conférence de John Trent, chercheur au Centre d'études sur la Gouvernance à l'Université d'Ottawa Mercredi le 10 septembre à 18h30 Salle DR-200, Pavillon Athanase-David, UQAM, 1430 rue St-Denis, Métro Berri-UQAM.

Ancien directeur du Département de science politique de l'Université d'Ottawa, le professeur John Trent est maintenant chercheur au Centre d'études sur la Gouvernance à l'Université d'Ottawa. Ses recherches sont centrées sur la gouvernance mondiale, les minorités ethniques et le développement de la science politique. Il fut secrétaire de l'Association internationale de science politique de 1976 à 1988, président de la Société québécoise de science politique en 1995-1996 et vice-président fondateur du Conseil universitaire sur l'ONU (1988-91). Il est membre de l'Office québécois de la langue française. Il vient de publier un nouveau livre sur la réforme de la gouvernance globale intitulé : « Modernization of the United Nations System : Civil Society's Role in Moving from International Relations to Global Governance » (Barbara Budrich Verlag, 2007).



La conférence sera donnée en français. John Trent répondra aux questions en anglais et en français.  
Entrée libre / Inscription obligatoire: ACNU-Grand Montréal / (514) 987-3000 poste 7621 / [acnu@uqam.ca](mailto:acnu@uqam.ca)

## NON-MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### CENTRE FOR SECURITY AND DEFENCE STUDIES, NPSIA

As part of the CSDS Speaker Series Scott Taylor of Esprit de Corps magazine will give a public lecture on "The Afghanistan Conflict: An Unembedded Reporter's View". **Date:** Thursday, 11 September 2008; **Time:** 11:30am - 1:30pm; **Place:** Room 2017, Dunton Tower, Carleton University.

"International troops will not succeed in pacifying Afghan resistance if they continue on their present course." This is the surprising theme Scott Taylor has heard re-iterated by widely disparate agencies he has surveyed across that country. Since January 2007, Scott Taylor has made three unembedded trips into Afghanistan. In the course of those visits he has interviewed former warlords, Taliban leaders, senior members of the Karzai administration, civilian aid workers, foreign contractors, ex-Special Forces troops and top NATO officials. His travels included a road trip from Kabul to the northern cities of Sheberghan and Mazar-i-Sharif, and civilian flights south into Kandahar. Outside of the NATO base in Kandahar, Taylor visited the infamous Afghan detention center and travelled with the Senlis Council during their survey of civilians in local refugee camps.

Scott Taylor, a former professional soldier, is editor and publisher of Esprit de Corps, an Ottawa-based magazine. Taylor regularly appears in the Canadian media as a military analyst and has a syndicated weekly column.

Complementary light lunch will be provided. Space is limited. RSVP is required by Monday, 8 September to [csdsevents@carleton.ca](mailto:csdsevents@carleton.ca) or by calling 613.520.2600 ext. 6671

### CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE

The Conference of Defence Associations Institute is pleased to announce the next roundtable in its series of events on important security and defence issues. CDA will host Major Scott Taylor, Deputy Director of the Combating Terrorism Center at United States Military Academy, who will speak on the importance of Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Global Jihad. The session will be chaired by General (ret'd) Paul Manson, past president of the CDA Institute, and will be conducted under a version of the Chatham House Rule (not for attribution). A sandwich lunch will be provided.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2008; **Time:** 10:30am – 1:00pm; **Place:** Fleishman-Hillard boardroom, 13th floor 100 Queen Street, Ottawa (provided courtesy of Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Richard Evraire, Chairman of the CDA). An RSVP is required, and space is expected to be at a premium. To reserve a spot, please contact Arnav Manchanda by email [projectofficer@cda-cdai.ca](mailto:projectofficer@cda-cdai.ca) or phone (613) 236-9903. First-come, first-served.

# JOBS

## DATABASE OFFICER – SUDAN

UNICEF Sudan is seeking a Database Officer to maintain its data base on vulnerable children, provide support to all field office, and prepare monthly reports. The Officer will also develop new database systems for child protection. The staff member will work in consultation with the UNICEF child protection team in Khartoum and the field. The work includes also travel to the field to install the data base in the field offices and provide training and technical assistance to staff. For further information contact [sudanhrvacancies@unicef.org](mailto:sudanhrvacancies@unicef.org) Reference Code: RW\_7HWCLM-28.

## DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR) PROGRAMME SPECIALIST – NEW YORK

UNDP's Conflict Team in the Technical Advisory Services Cluster is responsible for providing technical support to country offices in the areas of DDR, small arms control, mine action, justice and security sector reform. The DDR Program Specialist will provide support to the DDR team in the implementation of DDR policy and program activities in order to achieve the outcomes of the BCPR strategy. Specifically, the Programme Specialist will lead research, analysis and documentation of relevant DDR policy and programmatic issues; contribute to the development of UNDP policies and strategies that address DDR issues; support the DDR team in integrating DDR strategies and activities with broader UNDP strategies; ensure policy and programme linkages with other UN agencies and other stakeholders; provide support to the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR; provide technical support to the IAWG (DDR) Secretariat. For further information on this position, click [here](#). Closing date for applications **September 10**.

For more information on vacancies visit:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/doc212?OpenForm>

<http://www.developmentex.org/index.jsp>

<http://www.charityvillage.com/cv/main.asp>

<http://www.unjobs.org/>

[IGLOO Governance Village Job List](#)