

Annex C. Chronology 2007

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This chronology lists the significant events in 2007 related to armaments, disarmament and international security. The dates are according to local time. Keywords are indicated in the right-hand column. Definitions of the abbreviations can be found on pages xxi–xxiv.

- 1 Jan.* Bulgaria and Romania become new members of the European Union (EU). EU
- 10 Jan.* US President George W. Bush outlines his new strategy for US policy in Iraq and in the fight against terrorism. The USA will deploy more than 20 000 additional troops in Iraq; improve Iraqi security forces' capacity to protect the civilian population; and set political benchmarks for the Iraqi Government. USA; Iraq
- 11 Jan.* China launches, from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre, a medium-range ballistic missile to destroy a Chinese weather satellite. This is the first known satellite intercept launch for more than 20 years and is regarded as a demonstration of China's weapons capabilities. The destruction of the satellite causes heavy pollution of space. China; ASAT
- 15 Jan.* Former Maoist rebels take their seats in the interim Nepalese Parliament under the comprehensive peace agreement signed on 21 Nov. 2006, ending a 10-year rebel insurgency. Nepal
- 19 Jan.* Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) decides to organize the deployment of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for a period of six months. (See also *20 Feb.*) AU; Somalia; Peacekeeping
- 2 Feb.* The UN Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, presents, in Belgrade, Serbia, and in Pristina, Kosovo, a plan for resolving the question of Kosovo's status. Under the plan Kosovo would be allowed its own national symbols, including flag and anthem, and to apply for membership of international organizations such as the UN and the IMF; and EU and NATO forces would remain in military and policing roles. (See also *26 Mar.*) UN; Kosovo
- 6 Feb.* US President George W. Bush announces the creation of Africa Command (AFRICOM), the sixth unified combatant command, to strengthen the USA's security cooperation with Africa. USA; Africa

- 7–9 Feb.* Meeting in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, leaders of the Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas hold talks on solving the crisis that threatens to ignite a civil war in the Palestinian territories. On 9 Feb. an agreement is reached to form a national unity government. The agreement contains no explicit recognition of Israel. Palestinians
- 8–13 Feb.* The fifth round of the Six-Party Talks on North Korea—between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA—is held in Beijing, China. On 13 Feb. a Denuclearization Action Plan is agreed to implement the Sep. 2005 agreement, under which North Korea has agreed to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes. North Korea; Nuclear programme
- 10 Feb.* At the annual Munich Conference on Security Policy, Russian President Vladimir Putin accuses the USA of provoking a new arms race, in particular by developing ballistic missile defences. Russia/USA
- 15 Feb.* Twenty-nine suspects go on trial in Madrid, Spain, over the 11 Mar. 2004 bomb attacks on trains that killed 191 people. It is the biggest trial of alleged Islamic militants in Europe. Spain; Terrorism
- 15 Feb.* General Yury Baluyevsky, Chief of the General Staff of Russia, threatens Russia's unilateral withdrawal from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty unless the USA changes its plans to install parts of its missile defence shield in Central Europe. Russia; INF Treaty
- 20 Feb.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1744, authorizing the AU to establish the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for a period of six months. AMISOM is authorized to support dialogue and reconciliation in Somalia; to protect the Transitional Federal Institution (TFIs) and help them to carry out their government functions; and to provide security for key infrastructure. AMISOM replaces the IGAD Peace Support Mission to Somalia (IGASOM), authorized by Resolution 1725 (2006). UN; AU; Somalia
- 22–23 Feb.* At the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions, a declaration is adopted calling for governments to 'conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that will . . . prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians'. The final declaration is signed by 46 states. Among the states not attending the conference are Australia, China, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia and the USA. Japan, Poland and Romania attend but refuse to endorse the declaration. Arms control; Cluster munitions
- 26 Feb.* The International Court of Justice (ICJ) finds that Serbia has violated its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention, with respect to the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Serbia; ICJ

- 4 Mar.* Meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo and the leader of the rebel group Forces Nouvelles de Côte d'Ivoire (FNCI, New Forces), Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, sign a peace agreement. Under the agreement a power-sharing government will be formed, a joint army command will be set up and the North–South buffer zone will be removed. A timetable for disarmament, voter registration and elections is set. Côte d'Ivoire
- 5 Mar.* The trial of Ramush Haradinaj, former prime minister of Kosovo and a former commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), who is charged with war crimes in the 1998–99 Kosovo conflict, starts at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, Netherlands. Haradinaj resigned as prime minister and surrendered to the ICTY in Mar. 2005. Kosovo; ICTY
- 6 Mar.* At the request of the Afghan Government, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Afghan National Security Force launch Operation Achilles, the largest joint operation against the Taliban in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan. The operation involves more than 4500 NATO troops and nearly 1000 Afghan soldiers. NATO; ISAF; Afghanistan
- 10 Mar.* At a conference held in Baghdad aiming at restoring stability in Iraq, representatives from Iran, Syria and the USA are brought together for the first time in years. Also attending the conference are representatives of the UN Security Council, the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). (The first time ministerial-level meeting involving Iran and Syria is held on 3–4 May.) Iraq
- 15 Mar.* The US Department of Defense states that the suspected planner of the 11 Sep. 2001 attacks on the USA, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, in a hearing at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, has confessed responsibility for the 2001 attacks and for 30 other terror plots, including the 2002 attack in Bali, Indonesia. Terrorism
- 19–22 Mar.* The sixth round of the Six-Party Talks—between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA—is held in Beijing, China. The talks are suspended on 22 Mar. without an agreement after North Korea refuses to continue negotiations until its frozen assets in a Macau bank are transferred to a bank in China. North Korea; Nuclear programme
- 22 Mar.* Heavy fighting breaks out in Mogadishu, Somalia, between Somali Government and Ethiopian forces and forces of the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC). The International Committee of the Red Cross says that the fighting is the heaviest in Mogadishu since the overthrow of Siad Barre in 1991. Somalia; Ethiopia

- 24 Mar. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1747, reaffirming that Iran should without further delay take the steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors in its Resolution GOV/2006/14 and in UN Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006). The resolutions require that Iran does not supply, sell or transfer directly or indirectly any arms or related material and that all states prohibit the procurement of such items from Iran by their nationals. UN; Iran; Sanctions
- 26 Mar. The UN Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, presents the Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement to the UN Security Council. Under the proposal the only viable option for Kosovo is independence, with an initial period of 120 days of supervision by the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). An International Civilian Representative will be appointed to work with the Kosovo Assembly. UN; Kosovo
- 28 Mar. Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the members of the Arab League decide to relaunch the Middle East peace plan adopted in 2002, the Beirut Declaration. Under the plan the Arab states would recognize Israel if it withdraws from land occupied in the 1967 war. Arab League; Israel
- 11 Apr. Two suicide bombs in Algiers, Algeria, kill at least 33 people and injure over 200. Responsibility for the attacks is claimed by the al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb rebel group. Algeria
- 16 Apr. After months of international pressure the Sudanese Foreign Minister, Lam Akol, states that Sudan fully accepts the entire 'heavy support package' of troops, police officers, civilian staff and equipment which the UN will provide in support of the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS). UN; AU; Sudan
- 18 Apr. After a routine inspection mission to the nuclear facility at Natanz, Iran, the IAEA confirms that Iran has assembled 1300 centrifuges and has begun the uranium enrichment process. IAEA; Iran; Nuclear programme
- 18 Apr. Nearly 200 people are killed and hundreds are injured in terrorist bomb attacks across Baghdad, mostly in Shia areas, on the deadliest day in Iraq since the US-led invasion in Mar. 2003. Iraq; Terrorism
- 23 Apr. The Council of the European Union agrees to impose additional sanctions on Iran, including a total arms embargo. The EU sanctions go further than those already agreed by UN Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007). EU; Iran; Sanctions
- 26 Apr. In his annual address to the Russian Parliament, President Vladimir Putin states that Russia will suspend its implementation of the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) until all member states of NATO have ratified the 1999 Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty. (See also 13 July and 12 Dec.) Russia; CFE Treaty

- 3–4 May* Meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, ministers from the EU, Iraq the G8 and Iraq’s neighbouring states, including Iran and Syria, hold talks on Iraqi security. On 3 May the International Compact for Iraq is endorsed, under which Iraq will institute reforms promoting national reconciliation and will receive financial assistance.
- 20 May–2 Sep.* Following an attack by Lebanese security forces on a building in Tripoli, Lebanon, fighting erupts in the Palestinian refugee camp at Nahr al-Bared between Islamist militants from the Fatah al-Islam group and the Lebanese armed forces. The fighting is the bloodiest internal fighting since the civil war in Lebanon ended in 1990. Nearly 400 people are killed. Lebanon
- 23 May* The IAEA Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei, releases his report on the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions in Iran. The report states that Iran has not suspended its uranium enrichment-related activities or agreed to any of the required transparency measures. IAEA; Iran
- 23–25 May* As a follow-up to the Feb. Oslo Conference, the Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions is held in Lima, Peru. A draft treaty text, largely modelled on the 1997 Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) Convention, is discussed. Arms control; Cluster munitions
- 11–15 June* An Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) is held in Vienna, Austria, at the request of Russia. The participants fail to agree on a joint statement. CFE Treaty
- 14 June* Following a week of factional fighting between Fatah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, leaving more than 100 people dead, Hamas claims to have full control over the Gaza Strip after seizing the headquarters of Fatah’s Preventative Security Force and the presidential compound in Gaza City. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas dismisses the Hamas-led government and declares a state of emergency. Gaza Strip; Palestinians
- 17 June* A new emergency Palestinian Government, excluding Hamas, is sworn in by President Abbas, and a decree is issued enabling the new prime minister, Salam Fayyad, to rule without parliamentary approval and outlawing all of Hamas’s armed forces. Hamas claims that the new government is illegal. Palestinians
- 17 June* After meeting with a delegation of the UN Security Council in Khartoum, Sudan, the Sudanese Government agrees unconditionally to the deployment of a 19 000-strong joint UN–AU peacekeeping force in Darfur. UN; AU; Sudan
- 19 June* US and Iraqi troops launch Operation Arrowhead Ripper, a major offensive against al-Qaeda networks in Baqubah and its surroundings. At least 75 people are killed and another 130 are injured in a car bomb attack near the al-Khilani Shia mosque in Baghdad. Iraq

- 19 June Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, the leaders of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development–GUAM issue a joint declaration agreeing to form a peacekeeping force of 500 personnel and pledging to improve global energy security. GUAM
- 20 June In its first judgement, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, based in Freetown, convicts three former leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council of war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone's 1991–2002 civil war. Sierra Leone; Special Court for Sierra Leone; War crimes
- 24 June Ali Hassan al-Majid ('Chemical Ali') and two other defendants are sentenced to death by an Iraqi court for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during the 1988 Anfal Campaign, in which up to 180 000 civilian Kurds were killed. Iraq
- 25 June The North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirms that it has received the funds that had been frozen in a Macau bank and announces that the negotiations on the shutdown of the Yongbyon reactor are to start with the IAEA team of inspectors. The inspectors arrive in Pyongyang on 26 June, the first such visit since 2002. Following the statement, South Korea announces that it will resume its food aid to North Korea. North Korea; Nuclear programme; IAEA; South Korea
- 29 June The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 14–0, with Russia abstaining, Resolution 1762, immediately terminating the mandates of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the IAEA Iraq Nuclear Verification Office. It also requests the UN Secretary-General to ensure that UNMOVIC's archives are kept under strict control and to transfer to the Iraqi Government all remaining unencumbered funds. UN; Iraq; UNMOVIC
- 10 July–8 Aug Following clashes since 3 July between Pakistani security forces and radical Islamist students occupying the Lal Masjid (Red Mosque) in Islamabad, the security forces storm the mosque. More than 100 people are killed in the heavy fighting. Following the events in Islamabad, violence escalates in North and South Waziristan, killing more than 200 people. The ceasefire between government forces and pro-Taliban militants breaks down. Pakistan
- 11 July The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) confirms the destruction of the entire chemical weapon stockpile in Albania. Albania is the first country to completely and verifiably destroy its chemical weapons under the obligations of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Albania; CWC
- 13 July Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a decree on the suspension of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), under which Russia will no longer permit inspections or exchange data on its deployments. The suspension will take effect 150 days after the notification date. (See also 12 Dec.) Russia; CFE Treaty

- 18–20 July* The sixth round of the Six-Party Talks—between China, North Korea; Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA—continues in Beijing, China. North Korea offers to declare all its nuclear weapons programmes and to disable them by the end of 2007, in return for energy aid. On 18 July IAEA inspectors confirm that all five nuclear facilities at the Yongbyon complex have been shut down, the first steps taken under the Feb. 2007 Action Plan. Nuclear programme
- 27 July* India and the USA conclude the negotiations on the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (123 Agreement). This draft agreement, required under the provisions of the US Atomic Energy Act of 1954, specifies the terms governing the resumption of the trade between them in nuclear material and technology envisaged in the Indian–US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative signed in Mar. 2006. India; USA; Nuclear energy
- 30 July* Following meetings during July between officials from the Iranian Government and representatives of the IAEA, a team of IAEA inspectors visits the nuclear reactor in Arak, Iran. IAEA; Iran
- 31 July* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1769, establishing a joint AU–UN operation in Darfur, Sudan. The AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) will consist of 19 000 military personnel and should be deployed in Dec. 2007 at the latest. UN; Sudan; Peacekeeping
- 6 Aug.* Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili accuses Russia of carrying out an air raid on Georgian territory, firing a missile near the village of Tselubani. The missile has not exploded. Russia denies violations of Georgia’s borders. The EU condemns the incident on 10 Aug. On 18 Aug. the OSCE Presidency initiates an inconclusive investigation to clarify the circumstances behind the incident. Russia; Georgia
- 14 Aug.* At least 175 people are killed and several hundred are injured in a series of suicide bomb attacks near Mosul, Iraq. The attacks are targeted at a Kurdish religious minority, the Yezidi sect. Iraq; Terrorism
- 20 Aug.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1772, extending the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for a period of six months, and calling on the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, to continue planning for a possible deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation to replace AMISOM. UN; AU; Somalia
- 21 Aug.* Meeting in Tehran, representatives of the Iranian Government and the IAEA agree on a work plan to resolve all outstanding safeguards compliance issues in Iran. IAEA; Iran; Nuclear programme

- 6 Sep.* The USA's Independent Commission on the Security Forces of Iraq, headed by General James L. Jones, releases its report stating that, despite measurable progress, the Iraqi Army will be unable to take over internal security from US forces in the next 12–18 months; that the Iraq Interior Ministry is 'dys-functional'; and that the national police force should be disbanded. The Commission's report is one of several progress reports ordered by the US Congress. Iraq
- 6 Sep.* Israeli aircraft carry out an air strike inside Syria on what is alleged to be a nuclear-related facility that North Korea is helping to equip. North Korea denies the allegations. Israel; North Korea; Syria
- 6–8 Sep.* More than 50 people are killed in two suicide attacks in Algeria. The al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb claims responsibility for the attacks. Algeria
- 10 Sep.* The US military commander in Iraq, General David H. Petraeus, gives testimony before the US House of Representatives Armed Services and Foreign Affairs committees, stating that the military objectives of the US military surge are in large measure being met and that 30 000 troops can be withdrawn from Iraq. On 13 Sep. US President George W. Bush announces plans for a withdrawal of around 30 000 US troops from Iraq by mid-2008 and the next phase of the US Iraq strategy that will start in Dec. 2008, with troops moving towards a support role for the Iraq Army. Iraq; USA
- 16 Sep.* When escorting a diplomatic convoy in Baghdad, Iraq, employees from the US security firm Blackwater open fire, killing 17 Iraqi civilians and causing a major public scandal. The incident leads to the US Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, ordering a review of the way private security firms operate in Iraq. Iraq; USA
- 25 Sep.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1778 establishing a UN-mandated 'multidimensional presence' in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR), to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian aid to people affected by the conflict in Darfur, Sudan. The UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) will include military forces from EU members. UN; CAR; Chad; Sudan
- 27 Sep.* Security forces in Myanmar (Burma) raid six monasteries and arrest hundreds of monks in an attempt to stem the protests against the military regime in Yangon and other cities. The protests have started after a rise in fuel prices in Aug., and the injuring by troops of monks at a demonstration in Pakokku on 5 Sep. Since 17 Sep. there have been daily protest marches by the monks. On 26 Sep. riot police attacked the demonstrators at the Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon, killing at least five people. Myanmar (Burma)

- 27–30 Sep. The sixth round of the Six-Party Talks—between China, North Korea; Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA—is concluded in Beijing, China. The participants discuss a ‘road map’ for when and how North Korea will disclose and dismantle all its nuclear facilities. Nuclear programme
- 28 Sep. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1779, extending until 15 Oct. 2008 the mandate of the four-member Panel of Experts appointed to monitor the arms embargo on Darfur, and requesting the panel to coordinate its activities with the AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The panel was originally appointed pursuant to Resolution 1591 (2005). UN; Sudan; Darfur; Arms embargoes
- 2–4 Oct. North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun meet in Pyongyang, North Korea, for what is only the second summit meeting between the two countries’ leaders in more than 50 years. On 4 Oct. a joint declaration is signed calling for a permanent peace deal to replace the armistice that ended the 1950–53 Korean War. North Korea; South Korea
- 3 Oct. Following the Six-Party Talks—between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA—held on 27–30 Sep., in Beijing, China, the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, Wu Dawei, announces that North Korea has agreed to disable its main nuclear reactor at Yongbyon and to give a full account of its nuclear programme by 31 Dec. 2007. North Korea; Nuclear programme
- 15 Oct. The Council of the European Union adopts Joint Action 2007/677/CFSP on the EU military operation in Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA) in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1778 of 25 Sep. (The operation is finally approved on 28 Jan. 2008.) EU; CAR; Chad; Sudan
- 17 Oct. The Turkish Parliament backs, by a vote of 507–19, a motion by Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan permitting the government to launch military operations in northern Iraq to target Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebel bases there. Turkey; Iraq
- 18 Oct. More than 140 people are killed when two bombs explode among crowds in Karachi, Pakistan, celebrating the return of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Several Islamist groups have threatened to attack Bhutto when she returns to Pakistan. Pakistan; Terrorism
- 3 Nov. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf declares a state of emergency, claiming it is needed because of a crisis caused by militant violence and unruly judiciary. Hundreds of people protesting against the emergency rule are arrested as police crack down on demonstrations in Karachi. The state of emergency is lifted on 15 Dec. Pakistan
- 5 Nov. The defence ministers of China and the USA, Cao Gangchuan and Robert Gates, announce the establishment of a military hotline between their defence ministries in an effort to ease tensions between the two countries. China; USA

- 6 Nov. A suicide attack in Baghlan province, northern Afghanistan, kills at least 40 people and wounds many more. The attack is one of the worst since the ousting of the Taliban in 2001. A Taliban spokesman denies its involvement in the attack. Afghanistan; Terrorism
- 15 Nov. The last of the Russian troops withdraw from the military base in Batumi, Georgia. The military base at Gaduata, Abkhazia, remains disputed. Russia; Georgia; Military bases
- 22 Nov. Following the failure of Pakistan to fulfil its obligations in accordance with Commonwealth principles by lifting emergency rule and fully restoring the constitution, the Commonwealth of Nations suspends Pakistan from the councils of the organization. Pakistan; Commonwealth of Nations
- 27–28 Nov. Meeting in Annapolis, Maryland, USA, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas agree to start negotiations on a treaty ‘resolving all outstanding issues’, including the future of Jerusalem, borders, water refugees and settlements. Under the agreement the negotiations will take place every second week, starting 12 Dec. Israel/Palestinians
- 28 Nov. Following strong international and internal pressure, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf resigns as Chief of Army Staff, but remains as President for a third term. Pakistan
- 28 Nov. At the last round of negotiations on the final status of Kosovo between Serbia and Kosovo, under the auspices of UN mediators, in Baden, Austria, the parties fail to reach an agreement. (Kosovo unilaterally declares its independence on 17 Feb. 2008.) UN; Kosovo
- 3 Dec. The US Director of National Intelligence releases ‘Iran: nuclear intentions and capabilities’, an assessment of the status of Iran’s nuclear programme which concludes that Iran halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003. Iran; USA
- 5–7 Dec. The third meeting of the Oslo Process, the Vienna Conference on Cluster Munitions, with 138 states represented, ends with a consensus on the inclusion in the draft treaty banning cluster munitions, of victim assistance, clearance, stockpile destruction, and international cooperation and assistance. (The next meeting will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, in Feb. 2008.) Arms control; Cluster munitions
- 12 Dec. Russian officially suspends participation in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty). Under the suspension, inspections and other transparency measures intended to strengthen mutual military trust between Russia and NATO will not take place. Russia; CFE Treaty
- 13 Dec. Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, the heads of state or government of the EU member states sign the Treaty of Lisbon, which amends the current treaties and gives the EU a new legal framework. If ratified by all member states, it will come into force in 2009. EU

- 16 Dec.* The Turkish military carries out air strikes on PKK rebel Turkey; Iraq; bases deep inside northern Iraq, targeting areas in the Kandil Kurds Mountains and in Zap, Hakurk and Avasin. Iraqi officials claim that bombs hit several villages, killing civilians. The USA denies giving its permission for the attacks.
- 27 Dec.* Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is assassinated at an Pakistan election campaign rally in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The assassination is followed by widespread violence throughout Pakistan.
- 27 Dec.* Following the national elections and with President Mwai Kenya Kibaki declared as the winner, allegations of election fraud are made by the opposition and heavy ethnic violence erupts throughout Kenya. Large crowds of demonstrators fight with heavy armoured soldiers and police in several cities across the country, and several people are killed.
- 31 Dec.* North Korea fails to meet the deadline to submit to the other North Korea; parties a 'complete and correct' declaration of its nuclear Nuclear programmes, as it promised to do under the agreement reached programme on 3 Oct. at the Six-Party Talks held in Beijing, China.