

Annex B. Chronology 2005

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For the convenience of the reader, key words are indicated in the right-hand column, opposite each entry. Definitions of the abbreviations can be found on page xviii. The dates are according to local time.

- 3 Jan. The US Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Mine Action, Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr, announces that the USA will terminate its use of any landmines that cannot be located with standard metal detectors, following the US landmine policy announced in Feb. 2004. USA; Mines
- 4 Jan. The Governor of Baghdad, Ali al-Haidri, is killed in a roadside ambush. The violence in Iraq escalates before the parliamentary elections to be held on 30 Jan. Iraq
- 9 Jan. Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, representatives of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) sign the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, providing for a sharing of revenues from natural resources and for partial autonomy for the south of Sudan. Sudan
- 9 Jan. Mahmoud Abbas (also known as Abu Mazen) wins the Palestinian presidential elections, and on 15 Jan. he is inaugurated as the new Palestinian President in Ramallah, the West Bank. Palestinian Authority
- 26 Jan. Israeli officials state that Israel has stopped targeted killings of Palestinian militants, following the announcement made on 25 Jan. by two Palestinian militant groups, the Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad, that they will suspend their attacks on Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon decides to lift a ban on diplomatic contacts with the new Palestinian President. Israel/Palestinians
- 30 Jan. The first multi-party parliamentary elections in Iraq for more than 50 years are held. Iraq
- 31 Jan. Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, the Assembly of the African Union (AU) adopts the African Union Non-aggression and Common Defence Pact, to reinforce cooperation among the AU member states in the areas of defence and security and to strengthen the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution. AU
- 1 Feb. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1584, strengthening the arms embargo imposed on Côte d'Ivoire in Nov. 2004; calling on the warring parties to establish comprehensive lists of the armaments they possess and their locations; and authorizing the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and the French forces supporting it, to monitor the implementation of the embargo. Côte d'Ivoire; UN; Arms embargo

- 8 Feb. Meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announce a mutual ceasefire and a pledge to break the four-year cycle of bloodshed and to restart the peace talks. Israel/Palestinians
- 9 Feb. The second round of Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP) is held in Tokyo, Japan, to discuss strengthened non-proliferation measures. Asia; Non-proliferation
- 10 Feb. The North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement for the first time officially admitting that North Korea has manufactured nuclear weapons 'for self-defence' and stating its refusal to participate, for an indefinite period, in the continuation of the Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA) on its nuclear programme. North Korea; Nuclear weapons
- 10 Feb. The NATO defence ministers decide at an informal meeting in Nice, France, to extend the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) into the western regions of Afghanistan. Afghanistan; NATO
- 14 Feb. Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is killed together with some 15 people, and about 120 more are injured, in a car bomb attack in Beirut, Lebanon. The Lebanese Army is put on high alert after the attack. Syria is blamed for the assassination of Hariri. His death causes massive demonstrations in the streets of Beirut. Lebanon; Syria
- 21–23 Feb. Under the auspices of the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), led by former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, representatives of the Government of Indonesia and the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM, Free Aceh Movement) meet in Helsinki, Finland. Discussions are held on a peaceful comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the Aceh province, including self-government for Aceh. Indonesia/Aceh
- 24 Feb. The Government of Syria announces its decision to redeploy its troops stationed in Lebanon to the eastern Bekaa Valley, closer to the Syrian border. The redeployment will be carried out in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1559 of 2 Sep. 2004. Syria; Lebanon; UN
- 24 Feb. Meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin issue a Joint Statement on Nuclear Security Cooperation, on the enhancement of their bilateral cooperation aimed at combating nuclear terrorism. USA; Russia; Terrorism
- 27 Feb. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon threatens to freeze peace efforts with the Palestinians following a suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv on 25 Feb. The Israeli Cabinet decides to suspend the plan to hand over control of five West Bank towns to the Palestinian Authority and to free 400 more prisoners. Israel/Palestinians
- 28 Feb. Over 125 people are killed and more than 140 are wounded in a massive car bomb attack in Hillah, south of Baghdad. This is the worst single attack in Iraq since the invasion of Mar. 2003. Iraq; Terrorism

- 7 Mar. Meeting in Damascus, Syria, the Lebanese and Syrian presidents, Emile Lahoud and Bashar al-Assad, respectively, sign an agreement formally approving the two-phase redeployment to the Bekaa Valley of Syrian troops stationed on Lebanese territory that was announced by Syria on 24 Feb. Lebanon; Syria
- 8 Mar. The Prime Minister of Kosovo and former commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), Ramush Haradinaj, resigns after being charged with war crimes in the 1998–99 Kosovo conflict by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, the Netherlands. Haradinaj states that he will cooperate fully with the ICTY. Kosovo; ICTY
- 8 Mar. Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov is killed in a raid by Russian Army Special Forces in Tolstoy-Yurt, Chechnya. Russia/
Chechnya
- 15 Mar. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1587, requesting Secretary-General Kofi Annan to re-establish the Monitoring Group to investigate the violations of the 1992 arms embargo in Somalia, including ‘transfers of ammunition, single-use weapons and small arms’. On 11 Apr. the Secretary-General appoints four experts to the group. Somalia; UN;
Arms embargo
- 16 Mar. Israel begins to withdraw its troops from Jericho, the West Bank, following the plan presented in Feb. 2004 by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Israel/
Palestinians
- 20–24 Mar. Following the disputed parliamentary elections in Feb. and in Mar., opposition demonstrators take to the streets in Jalal-Abad and in several other cities in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan. On 24 Mar. pro-government forces clash with several thousand opposition protesters in Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan
- 21 Mar. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan presents the report on UN reforms *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All* to the General Assembly (see 14–16 Sep. and 20 Dec.). UN
- 24 Mar. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1590, establishing the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) for an initial period of six months. The mandate of UNMIS is to liaise and coordinate with the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS); to monitor and verify the ceasefire agreement; to set up a programme for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants; and to promote national reconciliation and human rights. Sudan; UN; AU
- 29 Mar. The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 12–0, with 3 abstentions (Algeria, China and Russia), Resolution 1591, imposing sanctions on individuals committing atrocities in Darfur and strengthening the arms embargo on Sudan. Sudan; UN;
Sanctions
- 31 Mar. The Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction presents its report, offering 74 recommendations for improving the US intelligence community after the failure regarding the judgments about Iraq’s possession of weapons of mass destruction. USA; WMD

- 31 Mar.* The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 11–0, with 4 abstentions (Algeria, Brazil, China and the USA), Resolution 1593, deciding to refer any war crimes suspects from the Darfur region of Sudan to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The withdrawal of the US opposition to sending cases to the ICC represents a significant diplomatic change in the US policy. On 6 Apr. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan hands to the ICC a list of 51 people who are allegedly involved in war crimes in Darfur. Sudan; UN; ICC; USA
- 6 Apr.* Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, under the auspices of the African Union (AU), representatives of the government and the rebel groups of Côte d'Ivoire sign a ceasefire agreement (the Pretoria Accord), agreeing to end hostilities, to start immediate disarmament and to hold elections during 2005. Côte d'Ivoire; AU
- 13 Apr.* The UN General Assembly unanimously adopts the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, criminalizing the possession by non-state actors of nuclear weapons and the threat of use by non-state actors of such weapons; and strengthening the international legal framework against terrorism. The convention will be open for signature at the UN from 14 Sep. 2005 until 31 Dec. 2006 and will enter into force 30 days after the deposit of the 22nd ratification. UN; Terrorism
- 16 Apr.* Meeting in Bouake, army chief Philippe Mangou and the chief of staff of the New Forces rebel group, Soumaila Bakayoko, agree on a provisional timetable for disarmament, to take place between 14 May and 31 July (see also *14 May*). On 15 Apr. two ministers from the rebel groups return to the power-sharing government after a five-month absence. Côte d'Ivoire
- 18 Apr.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1596, condemning the continued illicit flow of weapons into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and widening the existing arms embargo to include, for violators of the embargo, a travel ban and a freeze of assets. DRC; UN; Arms embargo
- 20 Apr.* The Israeli Army begins moving equipment and infrastructure from its bases in the Gaza Strip in preparation for the troop withdrawal from the Palestinian territory (see *13–20 July*). Israel/Palestinians
- 21 Apr.* At the NATO–Russia Council Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov signs the Partnership for Peace Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), providing a legal framework for movements of military personnel and support staff to and from allied countries, partner countries and Russia. The agreement is based on the 1951 NATO Status of Forces Agreement. Russia; NATO

- 22 Apr. Meeting in Chisinau, Moldova, the leaders of the GUAM states—Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova—decide to revitalize the group (established in 1997) and use it as a vehicle for integration with the Euro-Atlantic organizations outside the frameworks of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Russia. Uzbekistan does not participate in the meeting and on 5 May announces its withdrawal from the ‘GUUAM’ group, from which it had suspended its participation since 2002. GUAM; CIS; Russia; Uzbekistan
- 26 Apr. The last of the Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon since the civil war of 1976 are withdrawn. A formal ceremony marking the completion of the Syrian withdrawal is held at the Rayaq Air Base in the eastern Bekaa Valley. A UN mission is sent to Lebanon to verify the withdrawal of troops, military assets and intelligence. On 23 May the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, confirms that the withdrawal is completed. Lebanon; Syria; UN
- 26 Apr. The US Iraq Survey Group (ISG) is officially closed down after publishing an addendum to the Final Report on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction (WMD), issued in Oct. 2004. The Head of the ISG, Charles Duelfer, states that inquiries into WMD in Iraq have ‘gone as far as feasible’. Iraq; USA; WMD
- 30 Apr. The EU Police Mission in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUPOL Kinshasa) is launched. It is the first EU civil crisis management mission in Africa and comes under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). DRC; EU; ESDP
- 2–27 May The seventh Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is held in New York. The conference ends without having adopted any decision or recommendation for future nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. NPT; Nuclear weapons
- 14 May Meeting in Yamoussoukro, representatives from the Côte d’Ivoire national armed forces and the New Forces rebel group sign an agreement on the process of disarmament and demobilization of the belligerents. On 13 June the political leaders of the opposition forces issue a statement that, owing to the lack of political and technical conditions for implementation of the agreement, the disarmament plan cannot proceed as planned. Côte d’Ivoire
- 26 May Taking part in the pledging conference on financial and logistical support for the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the EU and NATO both pledge to support the mission with logistics and training. The conference raises pledges of \$291 million. Sudan; AU; EU; NATO
- 30 May Meeting in Moscow, the foreign ministers of Georgia and Russia, Salome Zurbishvili and Sergei Lavrov, respectively, issue a joint statement on the closure of Russia’s military bases in Akhalkalaki and Batumi, Georgia. The withdrawal of the Russian forces will be completed in 2008. Georgia; Russia; Military bases
- 8 June The EU Advisory and Assistance Mission for DRC Security Sector Reform (EUSEC DR Congo) is launched. DRC; EU

- 18 June* Representatives of the Government of Sudan and the opposition group National Democratic Alliance (NDA) sign, in Cairo, Egypt, a national reconciliation agreement under which the NDA is granted a place in the power-sharing administration set up in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) on 9 Jan. The Cairo Agreement does not include the conflict in the Darfur region (see *5 July*). Sudan
- 18 June* Following the referendums in France and in the Netherlands, which resulted in no-votes to the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, the Brussels European Council adopts the Declaration by the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the European Union on the Ratification of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, agreeing on a period of reflection on the new situation. The ratification process is stalled and will be discussed again in 2006. France; Netherlands; EU
- 5 July* Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, under the auspices of the African Union (AU), the Sudanese Government, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) sign the Declaration of Principles for the Resolution of the Sudanese Conflict in Darfur, including democracy and regional devolution. Further negotiations are held, but no decisive agreements are reached. Sudan; AU
- 6–8 July* The leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) leading industrialized nations, meeting in Gleneagles, UK, issue a statement on non-proliferation, reaffirming that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and international terrorism remain the pre-eminent threats to international peace and security; and agree to provide extra resources for Africa's peacekeeping forces, and that all debts owed by eligible heavily indebted countries should be cancelled. G8; Non-proliferation; WMD; Peacekeeping
- 7 July* In a series of coordinated attacks four bombs explode in the underground network and on a bus in London, killing at least 38 people and wounding 700. On 14 July four suicide bombers are named after the finding in Leeds of explosives similar to those used in other attacks. UK; Terrorism; al-Qaeda
- 9 July* In accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 9 Jan., the Government of National Unity is inaugurated, with former rebel leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), John Garang, as vice-president, and the new Sudanese constitution comes into force. Sudan
- 9 July* Meeting in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, representatives of the Côte d'Ivoire national armed forces and the New Forces rebel group sign an agreement on a new timetable for disarmament, under which 40 500 rebels and 15 000 government troops are due to disarm before the presidential elections scheduled for 30 Oct. (The elections are later postponed by the UN Security Council owing to lack of cooperation from the New Forces and opposition parties, and President Gbagbo remains in office). Côte d'Ivoire

- 11–15 July* The UN Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is held in New York. UN; SALW
- 13–20 July* Ahead of the Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon orders the Gaza Strip closed and forbids entry to non-residents. This also applies to the four West Bank settlements from which Israel is due to withdraw in mid-Aug. Anti-withdrawal activists clash with the police and soldiers at a crossing point for Gaza settlers on the Israeli border. Israel/
Palestinians
- 18 July* Meeting in Washington, DC, US President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announce the US–India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative. Under the agreement India will receive access to US civil nuclear technology; it will place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards; and it will adhere to the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime. USA; India;
Nuclear energy
- 23 July* Three bombs explode in the tourist resort Sharm al-Sheikh, killing at least 80 people and injuring some 200. Several Islamist groups claim responsibility for the bombings. Egypt;
Terrorism
- 26 July–
7 Aug.* The Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA) on the North Korean nuclear programme is reopened in Beijing for the fourth round. On 7 Aug., after 13 days of deadlocked negotiations, the talks go into recess until 13 Sep. North Korea;
Nuclear
weapons
- 28 July* The Irish Republican Army (IRA) issues a statement in which it formally orders an end to its armed campaign and declares that it will pursue its goals exclusively through political means. Northern
Ireland; IRA
- 1 Aug.* The Government of Sudan announces the death of Vice-President John Garang. On 30 July the helicopter he was travelling in when returning to Sudan after attending meetings in Rwakitura, Uganda, had crashed. Riots after the announcement are reported from Khartoum and from southern Sudan. Sudan
- 1 Aug.* The Government of Iran states in a letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it will break the seals on the Esfahan nuclear plant placed there by the IAEA in Nov. 2004 and resume its uranium conversion. On 10 Aug. all seals are removed under the supervision of the IAEA, which also installs equipment to monitor the activities. Iran; IAEA;
Uranium
- 11 Aug.* At an emergency meeting, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopts Resolution GOV/2005/64, calling on Iran to halt its nuclear fuel development. Iran resumed its uranium conversion at Esfahan on 10 Aug. (see *16 Nov.*). Iran; IAEA;
Uranium

- 12 Aug.* The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Lakshman Kadirgamar, is assassinated in a gun attack in Colombo. The government blames the separatist group the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the killing. The LTTE denies involvement. On 17 Aug. the government calls for a review of the 2002 ceasefire agreement. Sri Lanka
- 15 Aug.* Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, representatives of the Government of Indonesia and the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM, Free Aceh Movement) sign a Memorandum of Understanding, confirming the peace agreement agreed on 17 July. Under the agreement the Aceh province is to be governed by a new law; all non-local military and police forces are to be withdrawn; all hostilities are to cease and the GAM is to disarm; amnesty is to be granted to GAM members; a truth and reconciliation commission is to be established; and the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) is to be set up by ASEAN and the EU. Withdrawal of the government troops begins on 22 Aug. (see *29 Dec.*). Indonesia/
Aceh; ASEAN;
EU
- 15–23 Aug.* The deadline for the withdrawal from the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip issued by the Israeli Army on 9 Aug. expires. On 17 Aug. Israeli forces begin an operation to evict settlers resisting the orders. On 23 Aug. the evacuation of settlers from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in line with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan, is completed. Israel/
Palestinians
- 28 Aug.* The draft constitution of Iraq is approved by the Iraqi interim parliament. On 15 Oct. a referendum approves the constitution and on 15 Dec. parliamentary elections are held (see *15 Dec.*). Iraq
- 31 Aug.* More than 600 people are killed in a stampede of Shia pilgrims in Baghdad after mortar rounds are fired into the crowd and rumours spread that suicide bombers are in the crowd. No group claims responsibility for the attack, allegedly intended to foment sectarian tensions. Iraq; Terrorism
- 11 Sep.* Israel declares a formal end to military rule in the Gaza Strip and withdraws the remaining Israeli troops. Israel/
Palestinians
- 14 Sep.* The UN Security Council, meeting at the level of Head of State and Government, unanimously adopts Resolutions 1624 and 1625, calling for strengthened steps against terrorism and for a stronger role for the UN in preventing conflict, particularly in Africa. UN; Terrorism;
Conflict
prevention
- 14 Sep.* Over 150 people are killed and hundreds are injured in a series of bomb attacks and shootings across Iraq in one of the most severe outbreaks of violence since the invasion of Mar. 2003. Iraq; Terrorism
- 14–16 Sep.* The 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the 60th UN General Assembly, is held in New York. The meeting is presented with the reform package drawn up by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report of 21 Mar. The Summit decides to establish a UN Peacebuilding Commission and a Human Rights Council (see *20 Dec.*). On the questions of non-proliferation and disarmament no decisions are taken. UN

- 18 Sep.* The first parliamentary and local elections in more than 30 years are held in Afghanistan. The final results are accepted and published on 15 Nov. Afghanistan
- 19 Sep.* Meeting in Beijing on 13–19 Sep., for the reopened fourth round of the Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA), North Korea agrees to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) at an early date; the USA affirms that it has no intention to attack or invade North Korea. The parties agree to hold the fifth round of the talks in early Nov. (see *9–11 Nov.*) North Korea; Nuclear weapons; NPT
- 20 Sep.* North Korea states that it will not abandon its nuclear programme or return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) unless it is given a light-water nuclear reactor, thereby undermining the agreement of 19 Sep. North Korea; Nuclear weapons; NPT
- 21–23 Sep.* The fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is held at the UN Headquarters, New York. A final declaration is adopted, reaffirming the international community's determination to continue to work towards early entry into force of the treaty. CTBT
- 24 Sep.* Meeting in Vienna, Austria, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors adopts, by a vote of 22 in favour, 1 against and 12 abstentions, Resolution GOV/2005/77 on the implementation of safeguards in Iran, stating that Iran's failures and breaches constitute non-compliance and calling on Iran to return to the negotiation process. Iran; IAEA; Safeguards
- 26 Sep.* The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) announces that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has completed the arms decommissioning initiated in May 2000. Northern Ireland; IRA
- 2 Oct.* Three bomb attacks in the two tourist areas, Kuta and Jimbaran, in Bali, kill at least 26 people and injure over 50. No group claims responsibility for the bombings. The attacks come almost exactly three years after the terrorist bombings of Oct. 2002. Indonesia; Terrorism
- 3 Oct.* Meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, the Indian and Pakistani foreign ministers sign the Agreement on Pre-notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles, aiming to reduce tension between the two countries. India/Pakistan; Missiles
- 4 Oct.* The Eritrean Government imposes a ban on all helicopter flights by the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). On 14 Oct. further restrictions are imposed on the activities of UNMEE through limitations on night patrols. Eritrea/Ethiopia; UN

- 8 Oct. The peace process between India and Pakistan is accelerated by the devastating earthquake that strikes the Kashmir region in Pakistan and results in a humanitarian catastrophe, killing over 55 000 people and making 3 million people homeless. After a formal request from the Government of Pakistan, on 11 Oct. NATO launches its second disaster relief operation. Pakistan/India; NATO
- 13 Oct. At least 86 people are killed in a rebel attack targeting police stations and military installations in the city of Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria. On 17 Oct. Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev claims responsibility for the attack. Russia/Chechnya; Terrorism
- 19 Oct. The trial against former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and seven other defendants opens at the Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST) in Baghdad. Hussein and his co-defendants plead not guilty to the charges of ordering the killing of 148 Shia men in Dujail in 1982. Iraq; IST
- 26 Oct. The US Director of National Intelligence releases the National Intelligence Strategy of the United States of America, establishing the strategic objectives for the US intelligence community. USA
- 27 Oct. The UN Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC), chaired by Paul A. Volcker, releases its final Report on the Manipulation of the Oil-for-Food Programme (the Volcker Report), finding instances of 'illicit, unethical and corrupt' behaviour and blaming UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan for mismanagement. UN; Iraq
- 29 Oct. Three explosions occurring in near succession in New Delhi kill over 60 people. The previously little-known group Inqilabi claims that it carried out the attacks. India; Terrorism
- 9 Nov. Three near-simultaneous suicide bomb attacks on foreign-owned hotels in Amman kill at least 56 people and injure about 100. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda Organization in Mesopotamia, claims responsibility for the attacks. Jordan; Terrorism; al-Qaeda
- 9–11 Nov. The fifth round of the Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA) is held in Beijing. The meeting ends with no other progress than the reaffirmation of the parties' commitment to implement the agreement reached on 19 Sep. North Korea; Nuclear weapons
- 10 Nov. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appoints former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari as the Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo, to lead the political process to determine the future status of Kosovo in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). Ahtisaari visits the region on 21–27 Nov. UN; Kosovo
- 14 Nov. Meeting in Brussels, the Council of the EU adopts Common Position 2005/792/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Uzbekistan, including an arms embargo. Uzbekistan; EU; Arms embargo
- 16 Nov. Iran starts a second round of uranium conversion at the Esfahan plant despite heavy pressure from the USA and the E3 (France, Germany and the UK) to cease all its nuclear activity. Iran; Uranium; USA; E3

- 23 Nov. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1640, demanding that both Ethiopia and Eritrea return to the 16 Dec. 2004 level of troop deployment; demanding that Ethiopia accept fully and without further delay the final and binding decision of the Eritrea–Ethiopia Boundary Commission; and demanding that Eritrea reverse its decisions from Oct. on the restrictions imposed on the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). Eritrea/
Ethiopia; UN
- 25 Nov. The Rafah crossing on the Gaza Strip border with Egypt is reopened under Palestinian control and under the supervision of the EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing (EU BAM Rafah). The border station was closed by Israel on 7 Sep., shortly after withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, after holding it for almost 40 years. Israel/
Palestinians;
EU
- 6 Dec. The Government of Eritrea requests members of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) who are nationals of the USA, Canada and Europe, including Russia, to leave the country within 10 days, without giving any reason. The UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, condemn the decision. Eritrea/
Ethiopia; UN
- 7 Dec. Former Croatian General Ante Gotovina is arrested on Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. He is brought to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), The Hague, the Netherlands, on 10 Dec., indicted for the death of about 150 Serb civilians during a Croatian offensive in the Krajina region in 1995. Croatia; ICTY
- 11 Dec. North Korea announces that the Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA) on its nuclear programme are suspended ‘for an indefinite period’ unless the USA lifts the financial sanctions it has imposed on North Korea. North Korea;
Nuclear
weapons;
Sanctions
- 15 Dec. The EU Police Advisory Team in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (EUPAT) replaces the EU Police Mission in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (EUPOL PROXIMA), launched in Dec. 2003. EU; FYROM
- 15 Dec. The first full-term parliamentary elections to the National Assembly since the invasion of Mar. 2003 are held in Iraq. Election officials report a high turnout of all the ethnic groups. The voting takes place amid a massive security operation with around 150 000 Iraqi soldiers and police, backed by US forces. Iraq
- 20 Dec. The UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly unanimously adopt Resolutions 1645 and 1646, and Resolution A/RES/60/180, establishing the Peacebuilding Commission originally proposed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report of 21 Mar. and decided by the 14–16 Sep. World Summit. The commission is to be an inter-governmental advisory body to help stabilize and rebuild countries emerging from war and prevent them from relapsing into conflict. UN

29 Dec. In Lhokseumawe, Aceh, a ceremony takes place marking the final withdrawal of the Indonesian armed forces from Aceh. On 19 Dec. the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM, Free Aceh Movement) decommissioned the last of the 840 weapons referred to in the peace agreement reached between GAM and the Indonesian Government on 15 Aug. Indonesia/Aceh