

~~Secret~~

EO 12958 1.4(c)<25Yrs
EO 12958 1.4(d)<25Yrs
EO 12958 6.2(c)



APPROVED FOR RE
DATE: OCT 2006



The DCI Strategic Warning Committee's Atrocities Watchlist



October 1999



• **Afghanistan:** *The Taliban may be engaging in a deliberate program to eliminate potential opponents. (page 3)*

• **Angola:** *Increased fighting puts population at risk. (page 4)*



• **Burundi:** *The security situation is declining rapidly. (page 4)*

• **DROC:** *The power vacuum creates an environment conducive to atrocities. (page 5)*



• **Iraq:** *The government continues to systematically repress large segments of the Iraqi populace. (page 5)*

• **Liberia:** *Increased insurgency threatens ethnic-based retaliation. (page 6)*

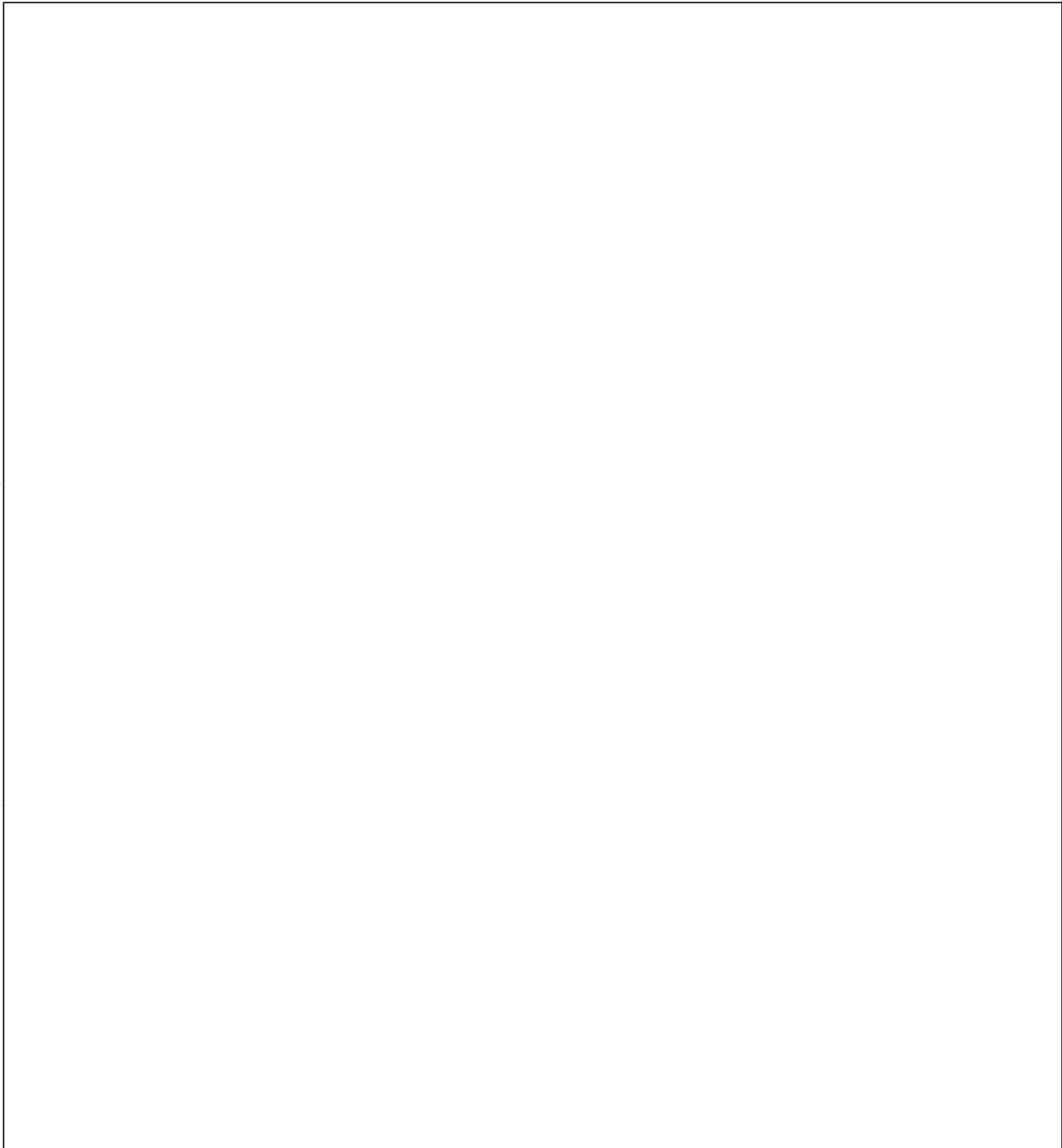
FROM: National Intelligence Officer for Warning



~~Secret~~

AL 99-002
October 1999

0144



The DCI Strategic Warning Committee,¹ in conjunction with the National Intelligence Officer for Economics and Global Issues, is issuing the third quarterly Atrocities Watchlist. (S)

Atrocities Watchlist²

Watchlist includes countries where there is evidence of or the potential for significant political repression or systematic human rights abuses that could lead to a deliberate pattern of widespread atrocities or a major humanitarian emergency over the next 12 months. "Atrocities" include killings, maiming, or forced expulsions of the population. The list also includes countries in which ongoing violence could escalate and lead to a deliberate pattern of atrocities against unarmed civilians.

Current Level of Concern

- (As compared to the DCI Strategic Warning Committee's Atrocities Watchlist, May 1999)

Immediate Concern

Afghanistan:* The Taliban may be engaging in a deliberate program to eliminate potential opponents. Taliban forces conducted a "scorched earth" operation—damaging or destroying thousands of homes and buildings north of Kabul in early August. Press reports indicate that over 100,000 people have been displaced as a result of Taliban actions. The forced evacuations may have specifically targeted ethnic Tajiks, presumed to be loyal to opposition leader

¹ The DCI Strategic Warning Committee is chaired by the National Intelligence Officer for Warning and is composed of representatives of the Directors of the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency; the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research; and the Deputy Director for Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency. Comments and inquiries may be directed to the National Intelligence Officer for Warning on

² A humanitarian emergency caused by a natural disaster or even a conflict where only incidental or random human rights abuses occur is not included on this list. (S)

* New to Watchlist (S)

Masood. Last year, the Taliban were similarly accused of committing atrocities against the Shiite Muslim Hazaras. In addition, Taliban forces did kill large numbers of POWs following the capture of Mazar-e-Sharif.

- *Taliban forces have launched a second offensive to cut Masood line of supplies and reportedly are assembling tractors and other heavy vehicles to support another "scorched earth" campaign.*

↑ **Angola:** The government's offensive against UNITA base areas has caused the additional displacement of noncombatants, severely hampered humanitarian relief efforts, and further disrupted the country's commercial and agricultural systems. Major military operations are likely to continue for several weeks as the government tries to press its early advantage in this round of fighting to improve its position in possible peace talks, while UNITA is almost certain to counterattack for the same reason.

- *The fighting has forced tens of thousands of Angolans to flee the central highlands and other areas, some to neighboring countries. Although neither side has made a policy of targeting civilians in this longstanding civil war, relief supplies to civilians have been disrupted or cut off, and relief workers have been threatened and killed.*

↑ **Burundi:** President Buyoya's government has taken steps to better protect Bujumbura's predominantly Tutsi population from Burundi Hutu rebels by rearming Tutsi militias, giving the Army free rein in conducting counterinsurgency operations, and beginning a campaign that has forced some 270,000 residents into 30 regroupment sites south of Bujumbura. Although ethnic violence is not yet on the same scale as 1995-96—when Hutu rebels shelled the capital indiscriminately—the humanitarian and security situation could worsen if large numbers of well armed Rwandan Hutu insurgents return from the DROC and the government fails to restrain Tutsi extremists from torpedoing the peace process by killing Hutu politicians and increasing the frequency of discriminate attacks on Hutu civilians.

- *A severe lack of food, water, shelter, and medical care have been reported in these sites. Up to 800,000 have been displaced in Burundi over the course of the six-year civil war.*

↓ **DROC:** The power vacuum that currently exist throughout most of the country creates an environment conducive to atrocities by rebel forces, pro-Kabila troops, and armed groups beholden to neither side. Rumors of atrocities, however, may proliferate as rival sides accuse each other of genocide.

- *Despite the shaky cease-fire, reporting from multiple sources indicates that it is likely to be short-lived. The government and the rebels view it primarily as a hiatus to be used for preparing for the next round of hostilities. Also, the factors that led to the raping, torturing, and killing of noncombatants and members of rival ethnic groups over the past year have not been resolved. Lawlessness, ethnic hatreds, and poor troop discipline are likely to remain serious problems for months to come, regardless of whether the fighting resumes, or the cease-fire holds and protracted negotiations soon follow.*

[Redacted]

[Large Redacted Area]

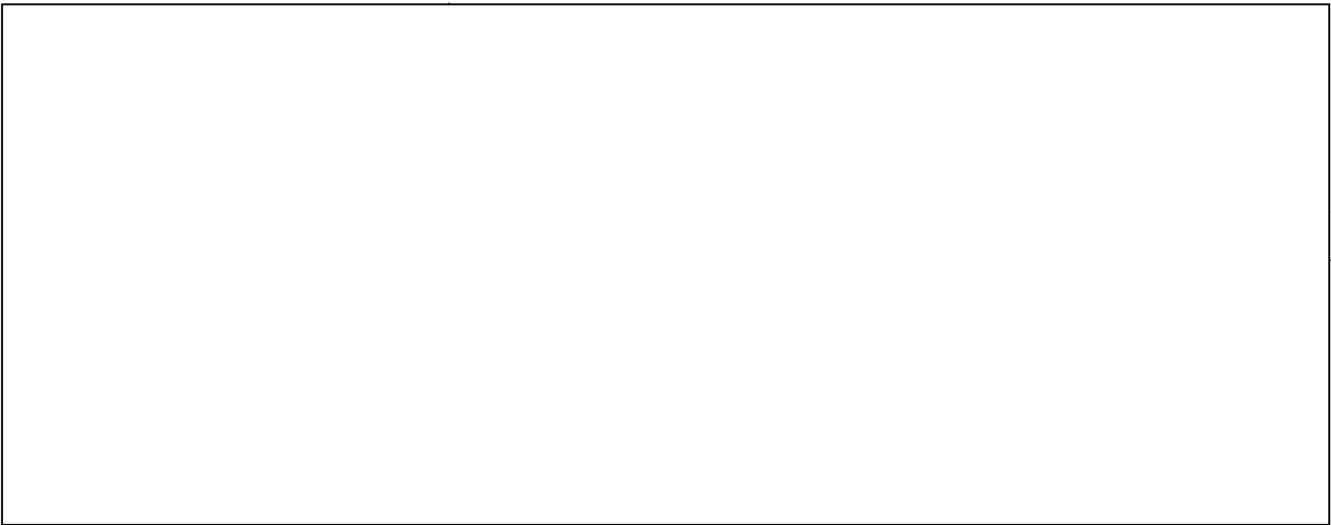
** Previously on the *Watchlist* as Indonesia-East Timor. (U)

⇒ **Iraq:** Baghdad continues to repress large segments of the Iraqi populace as part of its efforts to reestablish total control and stifle the activities of Western or Iranian-supported political opposition groups.

- *Baghdad has recently emphasized a policy of collective punishment for combating unrest, intended to coerce local tribal leaders into supporting the regime. Tribal leaders have been threatened with the destruction of their homes, villages, and fields if they fail to control antiregime forces operating in tribal areas, and numerous villages have been razed in recent months*
- *Opposition sources in recent months have accused Baghdad of mass executions in response to continued unrest.*
- *UNICEF reporting on Iraq's increased child mortality rates has led to charges that Baghdad is purposefully denying resources to the Iraqi people to use their plight as a propaganda weapon against sanctions.*

⇒ **Liberia:** The risk of atrocities against civilians, especially civic leaders and ethnic minorities, is growing as President Charles Taylor and his security responds to a more active insurgent threat. Although the security situation in the northwest of the country has been stabilized, ethnic violence in Liberia over the past several months reached its most serious level since 1997. Moreover, the rebels continue to recruit and train as they prepare for further attacks. Renewed unrest would threaten to plunge Liberia into another civil war and could also sink the fragile cease-fire in Sierra Leone and spill over into Guinea, where Taylor has launched attacks against suspected insurgent bases. The violence could easily escalate, creating a sudden humanitarian crisis.

- *Most of the security forces are underpaid, undisciplined, and prone to over-react. They would target unarmed civilians if social order broke down.*



Colombia:* Colombia's internal security situation has deteriorated substantially during the past several years as the insurgency and the rival paramilitary groups grew in size and strength. The increasing lawlessness and declining ability of government to maintain order have created an atmosphere conducive to major human rights abuses. In particular, paramilitary expansion throughout the country has substantially increased the number of displaced persons, and clashes between paramilitaries and insurgents have taken their toll on civilians.

- *Insurgents have impressed boys and young men from rural areas and the paramilitaries respond by killing those who are suspected of supporting FARC and ELN. The cycle of forced recruitment by insurgents and reprisal killings by paramilitaries is causing many to flee areas being contested.*

↓ **FRY-Kosovo:** The arrival of KFOR has ended for now the ethnic cleansing and other atrocities against Albanian Kosovars. However, the ethnic-based hatred and strong tradition of vendettas lurk just below the surface; revenge killings can be expected from both camps. The situation would likely deteriorate should KFOR be reduced or withdraw from Kosovo.

- *Other minorities elsewhere in the FRY—ethnic Albanians in Montenegro, Slavic Muslims in the Sandjak, and the ethnic Magyars in the Vojvodina—could suffer human rights abuses at the hands of the increasingly isolated and hostile Serb majority.*

* New to Watchlist (U)

⇔ **North Korea:** Although the food situation has improved somewhat in recent months because of foreign aid, large pockets of the population continue to face starvation conditions. This situation will not improve as the regime adamantly refuses to reform its “chuche” system of self-reliance. The North, therefore, will remain dependent on outside assistance to feed its people indefinitely. It will continue to experience cyclical shortages, especially in the spring and summer, that result in widespread malnutrition and, in some areas, starvation. Any hard currency P’yongyang obtains from the easing of US sanctions or South Korean investments in the North may alleviate these conditions but will not change them fundamentally.

Moreover, the Community has initiated a study of the North’s penal system that defectors and escapees claim is a “gulag” reminiscent of the Soviet model. Thus far, intelligence reporting appears to corroborate their claims that, if accurate, indicate P’yongyang has for many years engaged in a deliberate pattern of widespread atrocities. Further investigation is required, however, to determine the number of camps involved, how they are administered, and the number of prisoners incarcerated in them.

⇓ **Sierra Leone:** Renegade fighters continue to attack civilians, abduct foreigners, and clash with each other despite a peace agreement between rebel leader Foday Sankoh and President Kabbah. Numerous sources report cases of rape and impressement of civilians, and major parts of the country are inaccessible to the government and international observers. Forces on both sides remain armed and the Nigerian peacekeepers are planning to pull out over the next several months, although they may be replaced by or resubordinated to UN forces.

- *Civilians—especially hundreds of thousands of displaced persons—receiving humanitarian aid are potential targets for atrocities by undisciplined ex-combatants.*

* New to Watchlist (U) ~~(S)~~

Also Watching

↓ **Macedonia:** FYROM's political and economic health continues to deteriorate and ethnic Slav and Albanian communities maintain an uneasy coexistence with the Albanian community continuing to press for expanded rights. A collapsing economy and growing concern about Albanian nationalism could prompt Slavs and pro-Serbian groups in Macedonia to turn against the local Albanian minority.

- *Slavs are increasingly fearful that Macedonian Albanians ultimately want to become part of a greater Albanian state. Although ethnic Albanians currently are not clamoring for a greater Albania, this view eventually could change, particularly if Albania establishes a greater degree of stability and Kosovo becomes a viable independent entity.*

Russia–North Caucasus:* Russian military operations against Chechen-based Islamic rebels have created a humanitarian crisis in the region. Russian bombing has killed civilians and caused over 150,000 civilians to flee, most going to Ingushetia. With a population of just 300,000, Ingushetia and other neighboring republics are among Russia's poorest areas and cannot support the influx. Refugees risk becoming a problem not only for adjoining Russian regions but for neighboring Georgia and Azerbaijan. Aid is only trickling into the region and as winter sets in the situation will get worse. Moreover, continued fighting will complicate relief efforts. Experience from the first war in Chechnya indicates that Russian forces may indiscriminately persecute local residents in the guise of cracking down on terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism.

* New to Watchlist (U) ~~(S)~~