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Monday 11 December 2006

1. Iraq: Australian Role to Be Reassessed
2. Clash Leaves Two Dead in Indonesia's Papua Province
3. Fiji Troops Pursue Crackdown on Opposition
4. Election Aceh's First Step towards Freer Future
5. Security Ignored in Half-Baked Effort on Warming
6. Australia Hides a 'Failed State'

1. Australian Role to Be Reassessed, Tony Walker, AFR*, 2006-12-11The US is expected to renew pressure on Australia to increase its troop commitment in support of Iraqi security forces when US and Australian officials hold the annual AUSMIN talks in Washington. The national security committee of cabinet has rejected the notion of Australians embedded in front-line positions, but this does not preclude additional troops in specialist training and support roles.
   * Subscription required.
   - PM Admits Iraq Failures, John Kerin, AFR*, 2006-12-09
     * Subscription required.

2.
3. Clash Leaves Two Dead in Indonesia's Papua Province, RNZI, 2006-12-10An Indonesian military official says two people including an Indonesian military officer were killed in a clash between security forces and separatists in the remote eastern province of Papua. The clash happened after the officer and some residents tried to enter a separatist camp southwest of Jayapura, the capital of Indonesia's Papua province.
4. Fiji Troops Pursue Crackdown on Opposition, Reuters, Age, 2006-12-11Fijians were warned that if they spoke out against the military they would be taken to Queen Elizabeth Barracks. Several prominent Fijians have already been taken to the capital's barracks and ordered not to make further comments. Fiji's human rights commission said it was investigating reports of "inhumane treatment" of one person detained. Fiji has had its Commonwealth membership suspended.
   - Extraordinary Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on the Harare declaration (CMAG), Republic of Fiji Islands, CMAG, 2006-12-08
   - Transcript of Voreqe Bainimarama's Coup Press Statement, Fiji Times, 2006-12-05 [PDF]
5.

1. Election Aceh's First Step towards Freer Future, Mark Forbes and Karuni Rompies, SMH, 2006-12-11Today, for the first time, more than 2 million Acehnese will elect their own governor, after the tsunami's destruction provided the impetus to end a bloody three-decade-long independence struggle that claimed 15,000 civilian lives. The vote is a crucial test for the peace deal and will shape the future of one of the world's most beleaguered regions.
   - Aceh Monitoring Mission [Updated regularly]
   - Aceh's Local Elections: The Role of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), Asia Briefing No 57, ICG, 2006-11-29
   - Aceh, Wikipedia [Updated regularly]
   - Oxfam International Tsunami Fund, Second Year Report, Oxfam, December 2006
   - The Tsunami Two Years On: Land Rights in Aceh, Briefing Note, Oxfam, 2006-11-30 [PDF]
2.
3. Security Ignored in Half-Baked Effort on Warming, Andrew Wilkie, SMH, 2006-12-11Security, in particular, needs to be central to both the discussion and the policy response to climate change. In 2004 the Pentagon reportedly found that, over 20 years, the wars and natural disasters caused by climate change could cost millions of lives. Australia needs to act urgently to rein in emissions and to prepare for the significant associated security risks.
4. Australia Hides a 'Failed State', Michelle Grattan, Age, 2006-12-08Indigenous Australia is a "failed state" within the nation Neil Westbury and Michael Dillon conclude in a scathing critique of Aboriginal affairs. Just as Australia tells Pacific countries they should reform, so Australia "must itself get serious * if indigenous disadvantage is not to continue to worsen and adversely affect our national reputation and self-confidence" they say.

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