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Thursday 18 January 2007

1. Thousands of Papuans Displaced
2. China and Taiwan in the South Pacific
3. Over 34,000 Civilians Killed in Iraq in 2006, says UN Report
4. Australian Soldiers Fired On in Baghdad
5. Transforming the US Military: Implications for the Asia-Pacific
6. Australia and Japan near Deal on Security
7. Asia Steps Up Bird Flu Fight

1. Thousands of Papuans Displaced, Say Clergy, Jennifer Macey, ABC, 2007-01-17
   [transcript]Church leaders in Indonesia's Papua Province are reporting that 5,000 people have been driven from their villages by Indonesian security forces. Reverend Benny Giay, of the Kingmi Protestant church says Indonesian security forces have occupied about 20 villages.
   - West Papua: Trouble in the Highlands, Matthew Jamieson, New Matilda, 2007-01-10
2.
3. China and Taiwan in the South Pacific: Diplomatic Chess Versus Political Rugby, Graeme Dobell,

Policy Brief, Lowy Institute, January 2007The competition for diplomatic recognition between China and Taiwan is destabilising Island states in the South Pacific, making Pacific politics more corrupt and violent, and undermining Australia's interests in the region.

4. Over 34,000 Civilians Killed in Iraq in 2006, says UN Report on Rights Violations, UN News Centre, 2006-01-16Nearly 6,400 Iraqi civilians were killed in the November-December period, slightly less than in the preceding two months, as rampant and indiscriminate killings, sectarian violence, extra-judicial executions - and impunity for the perpetrators - continued virtually unchecked, according to the latest United Nations rights report.
   - Human Rights Report 1 November - 31 December 2006, UNAMI, January 2007
   - Iraq Body Count [site updated frequently]
   - Mortality after the 2003 Invasion of Iraq: a Cross-Sectional Cluster Sample Survey, Gilbert Burnham, Riyadh Lafta, Shannon Doocy, Les Roberts, Johns Hopkins, The Lancet, 2006-10-11 [PDF]
5.
6. Australian Soldiers Fired On in Baghdad, Defence Media CPA 011/07, Defence Department, 2007-01-17An Australian patrol was fired on with rifles and machine guns while conducting a routine patrol in Baghdad. The patrol included three Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV) and personnel from the Australian Security Detachment (SECDET). Australian personnel returned fire with machine guns and Steyr rifles. There are no reports of ACF casualties or injuries to bystanders.
7. Transforming the US Military: Implications for the Asia-Pacific, ASPI*, 2006-12-12US defence transformation will affect a number of critical regional security concerns, such as alliance relationships and interoperability, regional competition and cooperation, and local force modernisation activities. US forces in the Asia-Pacific region are undergoing significant changes in terms of force structure, roles and missions and operating concepts, and the like. These are developments that countries like Australia should continue to monitor closely and to which they should react cautiously.
   * Subscription required.
8. Australia and Japan near Deal on Security, John Kerin, AFR* 2007-01-17Australia and Japan are close to finalising a historic agreement on counter-terrorism and energy security co-operation, which could be unveiled as early as March. Australian government sources have confirmed that the agreement will cover areas such as counter- terrorism co-operation, military exercises and energy and food security, but will not be a full-blown treaty.
   * Subscription required.
9. Asia Steps Up Bird Flu Fight, Al Jazeera, 2007-01-16South-East Asian officials have stepped up their fight against the deadly bird flu virus, as the disease spreads across the region. Indonesia will soon ban the raising of non-commercial fowl in residential areas to battle the H5N1 virus, which killed four people last week.
   - Bird Flu Virus Infects Chickens in Yogyakarta, Jakarta Post, 2007-01-18
   - Bird Flu Has Been Reported in a Seventh Province in Southern Vietnam, ABC, 2006-01-15
   - World Death Toll of a Flu Pandemic Would Be 62 Million, David Brown, Washington Post, 2006-12-22
   - Avian Influenza, Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response (EPR), WHO [updated regularly]
   - Avian Influenza, Latest News, CIDRAP, University of Minnesota [updated regularly]

10.

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