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Monday 16 July 2007

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5. Indigenous Australia: Rehousing Work Will Take Years
6. The Pessoptimist in Istanbul: Will Bin Laden Win?
7. Governor 'Led Torture in Timor'

1. Two Australians Killed in Iraq, Brendan Nicholson and Chris Evans, Age, 2007-07-16Two Australian security contractors have been killed and a third injured in a bomb blast in Iraq. The men were driving about eight kilometres south of Baghdad when a roadside bomb destroyed their vehicle. The men, who worked for the Brisbane-based BLP Group of companies, had been training members of the Iraqi police force.
   - Private Security Contractors, Australia in Afghanistan, Nautilus Institute, 2007-05-24
   - U.S. Troops Outnumbered by Contractors, T. Christian Miller, Los Angeles Times, 2007-07-04

2.
3. Initial Benchmark Assessment Report, The White House, 2007-07-12 [Primary source]An assessment of how the Iraqi Government is performing on 18 specified benchmarks, including: Security, Political Reconciliation, Diplomatic Engagement, Economics and Essential Services, and Congressional Benchmarks.
   - Fewer Iraq Battalions Operate on Own: U.S. General, Kristin Roberts, Reuters, 2007-07-13
   - Report: Wars Costing $12 Billion a Month, Andrew Taylor, Guardian, 2007-07-09
4.
5. Haneef Detained after Bail Win, Phillip Coorey and Joel Gibson, SMH, 2007-07-16The Gold Coast doctor charged with recklessly lending a SIM card to terrorists has had his 457 visa revoked and been detained in an immigration detention centre. Dr Haneef is still innocent in the eyes of the law but Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews said he was satisfied the Indian-born doctor had failed the "character test".
   - New Laws to Stop 'Home Grown' Terrorism, AFP, 2007-03-20
   - Fighting Terrorism in Australia, AFP, 2007-03-26
   - National Security and Counter-Terrorism, Attorney-General's Department
   - New Laws Fail First Test - Indefinite Detention by any other Name, Law Council of Australia, 2007-07-12
6.
7. Crown Appeal Sentence in Pine Gap Case, Bush Telegraph, 2007-07-15The Crown have filed the following claims for the appeal against the sentence of the Pine Gap four, including: (1) The judge failed to have regard to the maximum penalties; (2) The judge erred by placing inadequate weight on general deterrence; (8) Having regard to the objective facts and circumstances, the imposition of fines by the judge was manifestly inadequate.
   - Debrief to Webdiary on the Pine Gap 4, Bryan Law, WebDiary, 2007-07-16
8.
9. Rehousing Work Will Take Years, Simon Kearney, Australian, 2007-07-14Major-General David Chalmers, the operational commander of the taskforce in charge of the emergency intervention in indigenous Australia, said, "I don't think that we'll be able to deliver the thousands of houses that will be needed in the Territory in the short term." Major-General Chalmers said, "We're going to need to work for years to change both the cultures and improve the circumstances of people."
   - An Entire Culture Is At Stake, Patrick Dodson, Age, 2007-07-14
10.
11. The Pessoptimist in Istanbul: Will Bin Laden Win? Barnett Rubin, Informed Comment Global Affairs, 2007-07-12It is common enough to observe that globalization has transformed sovereignty, transferring functions of states to larger organizations like the European Union and shattering the weak institutions of others. It is less commonly realized that Bin Laden's vision of the caliphate constitutes a revolutionary response to globalization.
12. Governor 'Led Torture in Timor', Jill Jolliffe, Canberra Times, 2007-07-14Former independence fighters in Baucau, East Timor, accuse Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso of conducting regular torture sessions there in the 1970s. Lieutenant-General Sutiyoso cut short an official visit to Australia in June saying he felt "slighted" by a Glebe Coroners Court request that he testify over allegations he was a commander at the border town of Balibo during a 1975 attack in which five newsmen were killed.

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