

# NEWS BULLETIN



4 February 2011

## GLOBAL

**FOOD** - The rise in food prices and growing hunger, one of the causes of the popular uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and other countries in the Arab world, is due to financial speculation and not a lack of arable land, says a leader of Brazil's Landless Workers Movement.

**ENVIRONMENT** - A UN report says that forests in China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines have been increasing in size because of a greater emphasis on planting over felling, representing a net gain over the prior decade. Forests were growing, too, in Europe and North America, but suffering losses in parts of Africa and Latin America due to greater demands for food and firewood, according to the UNFAO.

## AFRICA

**COTE D'IVOIRE** - As Côte d'Ivoire's political stalemate drags on, NGOs are becoming increasingly concerned about its effect on the supply of life-prolonging antiretroviral medicines.

**SOMALIA** - As drought threatens Somalia once more, humanitarians are becoming increasingly concerned about how they will reach food insecure communities living in areas controlled by armed groups.

**ZIMBABWE**, imminent danger of floods - Zimbabwe's Civil Protection Unit (CPU) is warning communities, especially in the Midlands, Mashonaland Central and both north and south Matabeleland provinces, that there is a likelihood of flooding.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**CAMBODIA/THAILAND** - Health officials warn that an ongoing border dispute and subsequent military build-up along the Thai-Cambodian frontier could undermine global efforts to contain drug-resistant malaria, citing limited access for surveillance, early diagnosis and treatment.

**MYANMAR** - More than three months after Cyclone Giri struck Myanmar's western Rakhine State, 15,000 families (an estimated 104,000 people) are still homeless, shelter experts say.

**SRI LANKA** - Over 30,000 people have been displaced and more than 300,000 affected by a second wave of flooding in eastern Sri Lanka in less than a month, aid officials say.

## MIDDLE EAST

**EGYPTIAN** troops fired over the heads of protesters in Cairo today as they attempted to break out of barricades. Meanwhile, Egypt's new prime minister apologized for earlier bloody violence between protesters and government supporters in Tahrir Square and blamed an absence of police forces.

**EGYPT** - A global group of hackers united Wednesday to shut down Egyptian government websites in a demonstration of support for anti-government protests. Hundreds of people are supporting the group - Anonymous - in online forums as it use software to enter and shut down sites. Egyptian authorities moved to cut Internet access as the protests erupted in January.

**YEMEN** - Tens of thousands of demonstrators faced off on the streets of Yemen today, with large - but separate - gatherings of pro- and anti-government groups. Anti-government protesters demanded the departure of longtime President Ali Abdullah Saleh, while supporters insisted Saleh is a source of stability for the impoverished country.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**PUERTO RICO** - On January 20th, students from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) started staging almost daily acts of civil disobedience at the Rio Piedras campus as part of their strike against the \$800 dollar annual fee imposed by the administration. The Police has already arrested at least 100 students and assaulted journalists who have been covering the protests.

WFWO's Communications Team