



DEVELOPMENT

RECONSTRUCTION : The risks of rebuilding in war zones

The International Conference for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan was held at the end of July in Kabul. The meeting brought together representatives of more than 70 countries who announced that they would allow the Afghan government to control more than 50 % of the financial aid coming to the country. Since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001, only 20 % of the 40 billion dollars in aid is channeled through the government, which is crippled with endemic corruption. In Iraq, international aid is also substantial, amounting to roughly double the aid accorded to Afghanistan. The Iraqi reconstruction market is estimated at 400 billion dollars and business opportunities abound, though they remain for the moment the

prerogative of American firms.

Market entry pioneers

Over the last two decades, reconstruction projects in countries emerging from armed conflict have proven to differ greatly one from another. The most difficult situations remain Iraq and of course Afghanistan, where, despite the regime change, the forces of insurrection remain strong. Even though in Iraq levels of violence do not compare with the violence seen at the beginning of the invasion of the coalition forces, the situation in Afghanistan remains explosive. The traditional problems of market entry is complicated by the levels of corruption and an economy left in tatters by years of dictatorship and embargo. Added to this difficult scenario,

are the multiple assassinations, kidnappings, acts of sabotage and racketeering. Security expenditure represent for the first companies to enter the country an added cost of between 30 and 40 % of their contracts. There is also fierce competition between companies seeking to gain an advantage from the hostile environment to the detriment of rival firms more recently arrived in-country. A similar situation occurred in Bosnia, where French firms were only able to obtain 5 % of the contracts, although the French government had funded 17% of the reconstruction effort. There are many instances in Iraq where contracts signed by European firms are then rescinded and awarded to American firms.

EDITORIAL BY OLIVIER ROUVIÈRE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT

Major reconstruction projects lead companies to operate under exceptional circumstances. They must deal with operational constraints that are far more restrictive than those usually encountered. It is especially important for these companies to accurately assess the risks prior to project launch. They must also integrate security requirements as realistically as possible during the budgeting phase, and analyse the possibilities but also the limits provided by the local economic tissue with regard to subcontractors and local engineering skills. An understanding of the environment and the legal structures required, as well as the hiring of capable and qualified technicians, after a review of the working and living conditions of personnel mobilised in-country, are also essential. Geos, drawing from its longstanding experience in hostile business environments, has established a Technical Assistance and Project Support Department to deliver customised solutions for these type of issues. In this way, we provide operational support to clients on a daily basis in zones such as Afghanistan or Iraq where we have operated now for several years; We have the support of our local networks and we draw from the professionalism of our personnel, who have long experience working on long term missions in high-risk locations abroad.

EVENT GEOS AT 75 YEARS OF SPHP

GEOS will take part in the event to celebrate the 75 years of the Service de Protection des Hautes Personnalités on September 15 at Bourget Airport and will present the security services of the Group.

INTERNET NEW GEOS WEBSITE ONLINE

The GEOS Group has revamped its website. Please take a look at our brand new platform at fr.groupegeos.com www.groupegeos.com sp.groupegeos.com

TRAINING EUROPEAN COMMISSION PERSONNEL

The next HEAT-standard safety security training session (Hostile Environment Awareness Training) for the European Commission's ECHO personnel will take place in Jordan at the end of September.

RECRUITMENT GEOS HEADQUARTERS & AMLAT

M.-H. Laspeyres has been appointed Head of Corporate Resources. She will coordinate recruitment policy and manage security experts. Amlat subsidiary has appointed T. Clair as Director of Operations South Zone.

SAUDI ARABIA ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST EXPATRIATES RISE

▶ A report published by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the US State Department warns of increased security risk in the Kingdom. The report lists the many cases of purse-snatching and robberies at private parking lots owned by foreign nationals, in particular in Riyadh and Jeddah. In the southwest, illegal checkpoints manned by militants in Army uniforms were also reported.

AFGHANISTAN MOLLAH OMAR CALLS FOR ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS

▶ According to a message intercepted by the NATO forces, the mollah Mohammad Omar has ordered his troops to increase the number of murders and abductions of Afgan civilians who work for the Kabul government and the coalition. In the message intercepted at the end of June, the Islamist rebel leader also called on his



commanders to recruit intelligence sources among the Afghan nationals working at NATO bases. Other objectives targeted by the militants, the capture of foreign soldiers and the obtention of military hardware missing from their arsenal to carry out large-scale attacks.

KENYA BOMB SCARE AT MINISTRY

▶ The counterterrorist units of the Kenyan police searched the office of the Minister of Education, William Ruto. He is highly exposed politically since he became leader of the no vote to the referendum on the reform of the constitution to be held in August. Following the bomb scare, the authorities decided to ratchet up security at ministerial buildings.

UGANDA PAKISTANI ARRESTED AFTER BOMBINGS

▶ The Ugandan police have arrested twenty suspects, mostly Pakistani nationals, as part of the investigation into the dual bomb attack that killed 73 people in the capital Kampala on July 11 last. According to the Ugandan police, the men arrested were responsible for the logistics of the attack. Three Kenyan nationals were also arrested by Interpol.

NIGERIA ATTEMPTED ARSON AT NNPC

▶ A man attempted to burn down the offices of the NNPC (Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation) in the capital Abuja. He was arrested at the last moment by security guards at the building, as he made his way inside the high-rise tower that houses the headquarters of the NNPC. The man, from the Delta region, sought to set fire to the building's electricity generators.

MONGOLIA VIOLENT CLASHES WITH MINERS

▶ Security guards of a Mongolian mining company clashed with some 200 illegal miners and inhabitants of Omnogovi. The security guards used tear gas as they awaited backup from the police. Several people were injured during the clashes and 17 miners arrested.

NIGER AREVA STEPS UP SECURITY AT FACILITIES

▶ French nuclear consortium Areva has announced that it is to step up security for its personnel and facilities after the assassination of a French humanitarian worker by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Staff at Areva are to receive additional security training.

SECURITY

Curfew lifted in several Thai provinces

Despite bombings, government attempts to defuse tensions

After the extremely violent incidents that opposed the "red shirts" who support former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and the government forces last Spring, Bangkok has decided to start lifting the curfew in effect nationwide, beginning with three, then six provinces. They are : Ayutthaya, Chaiyaphum, Chonburi, Maha Sarakham, Mukdahan and Nong Bua Lam Phu, located in the centre and north-east of the country. Ten others, as well as Bangkok, are still under curfew. This relaxing of martial law has not lessened the vigilance of security actors. The Minister of Defence, General Prawit Wongsuwan, believes even that the situation may get worse over the coming weeks. On July 30 last, he held an emergency meeting on

the subject with other national security and intelligence agency chiefs. *"Certain people do not want a return to peace and stability, but the government is workign night and day to ensure law and order"* he declared at the end of the meeting. Parliamentary elections went ahead satisfactorily despite a bomb attack in downtown Bangkok. The blast occurred at a bus stop, just after polling booths closed, injuring a dozen people. A homemade grenade also exploded not far from the Victory Monument in the capital but no one was hurt. ***The government has emerged in a stronger position after the conflict with the "red shirts", and won 54% of the vote in the parliamentary elections. It is still on high alert, however.***

Deadly war on drug cartels continues

The Mexican Army has scored a new victory in the ongoing and murderous war against the drug cartels. The Army succeeded in killing Ignacio "Nacho" Coronel, one of the leaders of the cartel of Sinaloa and right hand man of the most wanted man in the country, namely Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the head of the drug cartel. Another success of the Mexican security forces was the release, on July 31 last, of two cameramen kidnapped by drug traffickers or indeed the arrest on July 29 of Rogelio Segovia Hernandez, one of the leaders of the gang of La Linea that operates on behalf of the cartel of Juarez. However, Alfonso Pena Pena, senator of the State of Durango, and member of the National Action Party was kidnapped along with three of his bodyguards. Moreover, certain

towns are under siege, such as Ciudad Juarez to the north of the country where the American consular authorities decided to close their facilities indefinitely. The Army launched "Operation Barrido" in the town. The operation has mobilised 250 soldiers, reinforcements from the Federal Police, dog handler units and helicopter air support. The operation was launched after a car bomb exploded in front of a police station, killing two officers. ***The war on the drug cartels has already caused the death of 7,000 people this year. Drug traffickers have plunged the country into a climate of terror, attacking the local population blindly in an attempt to keep control of the border region with the United States, their main export market.***

UNITED STATES AT & T CLIENT EMAILS STOLEN

▶ The telco operator has admitted to the loss of 114,000 email addresses belonging to clients using the new Apple iPad 3G in a cyber attack. The attack is a serious affair, as many celebrities, as the first clients of the new product of the Cupertino firm, are concerned. The FBI has opened an investigation.

LEBANON POLICE RELEASE GERMAN ENGINEER

▶ Having lived for twelve years in the country, where he worked for a dairy produce firm, he is suspected of being an Israeli secret service agent. Since 2009, over a hundred people have been arrested on similar charges in Lebanon. Two of them were charged with spying. They are two telco engineers employed by state-owned firm, Alfa. Espionage carries the death penalty.



GERMANY SIEMENS DETECTS A NEW TYPE OF VIRUS

▶ The Siemens Group has detected a new and particularly intelligent virus that identifies the computers that manage industrial control systems at plants. The objective is to extract strategic information.

UNITED STATES MORE FAKE IDENTITIES ON FACEBOOK

▶ Following a campaign conducted by Hezbollah, a US security consultant became the "friend" of some 300 influential people in the security business, both public and private, including the heads of NRO (satellite intelligence), of Lockheed Martin of Northrop. He created the moniker "Robin Sage" to obtain sensitive information.

ITALY COUNTERFEIT GOODS COST ECONOMY 18 BILLION EURO

▶ This is the latest figure put forward by Confindustria, the Italian bosses confederation. According to the organisation, the problem impedes the creation of 130,000 jobs each year in the country. Counterfeit goods are a 7 billion euro a year market in Italy, and despite the record seizures (1.15 billion euros of merchandise in 2009) constantly growing.

Rare sentencing for industrial espionage Engineer sentenced for theft of trade secrets

Kexue Huang, a 45-year-old engineer has been found guilty on twelve charges of industrial espionage. He acted on behalf of a foreign government, the federal court at Worcester found. He thus became a member of a closed club of those indicted on for this category of charges since the introduction of the Economic Espionage Act by the United States, with only six cases filed since 1996. He is also accused of five other crimes related to the transportation of stolen goods abroad. The accusations go back to 2003 when Mr. Huang worked for the insecticide manufacturer Dow Chemicals, based in the state of Indiana. From 2003 to February 2008, when he left the company, he stole information on the know-how of Dow Chemicals, either by down-

loading data to a hard drive or by sending it by email. This strategic data was sent to the Chinese University Hunan Normal University in Changsha where he travelled many times between 2003 and 2008. According to the plaintiff's law suit, the theft of this data represents damages estimated at at least 100 billion dollars for Dow Chemicals. ***The American Law dated 1996 on economic espionage transformed the misdemeanour that was already sanctioned by law into a federal crime carrying far heavier punishment. The law concerns trade secrets, and does not cover classified or secret defence information. The law allows for prison sentences of up to 15 years and fines up to 500,000 dollars.***

Espionage at General Motors

A couple, both engineers having worked for General Motors, have been indicted for conspiracy and fraud with a view to stealing trade secrets. Shanshan Du and Yu Qin are suspected of collecting information belonging to General Motors (GM) concerning technology for hybrid vehicles. Ms. Du was hired by GM in 2000 and had requested to be moved to the hybrid vehicle R&D unit in 2003. She began copying data on the R&D program in 2005. Du and her companion Qin set up a new company, Millenium Technology International, to exploit the information gathered. According to the file presented by General Motors to investigators at the FBI, Du and Qin tried to sell off their information to the main Chinese competitor of GM in the sector, Chery Auto-

mobile. The couple were under surveillance by the Feds since 2006, when they were involved in a case of destroyed documents. In the latest affair, GM estimates the damages at 40 million dollars. If the couple are found guilty, they face a twenty-year prison sentence. The spokesperson of Chery has denied any involvement of the company in the case. ***GM is the second largest foreign car manufacturer in China. It set up a research centre on alternative vehicles and fuels in China as well. The international headquarters of the group is moreover based in Shanghai. The struggle for position in the Chinese market makes this case all the more noteworthy in the war for green energy.***

UNITED ARAB STATES FRESH BAN FOR BLACKBERRY ?

▶ The U.A.E., taking its lead from Saudi Arabia will suspend, in August and October respectively, the main applications of the smartphone. The encryption software is behind the ban by both governments, concerned that only the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom have control over the software.

UNITED STATES MOTOROLA FILES LAWUIT AGAINST HUAWEI

▶ The American telephone giant has filed a lawsuit against its competitor in a strange case that resembles more state espionage than a case of traditional industrial espionage. Motorola believes that it has uncovered inside the firm a network of spies made up of a dozen members that has been active for over ten years. The group's "case officer" is apparently a former employee of the US firm, Shao Wei Pan. He set up his own business in the same town as Motorola, Schaumburg in the state of Illinois. He reported the information collected in person to the founder and chairman of t Huawei Technologies, the charismatic and powerful Ren Zhengfei.



Security Engineering

Context

Drawing from the longstanding experience of the GEOS Group in emerging economies and hostile business environments, **we deliver customised, transparent and trusted services to the Defence Industry, IT systems integrators, telecommunications operators, the mining industry, Oil & Gas, the construction industry, transportation operators and the Homeland Security sector. We provide responsive and discreet operational support for the entire duration of the project life cycle.**

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GEOS Solutions



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- » **Civil engineering:** assistance and supervision for the construction of buildings and facilities, deployable sites, pylons, transportation infrastructure

- » **Logistics:** secure transportation in hostile environments, management of logistics hubs
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GEOS Leading the Industry

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