

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1635 Feb 17, 2008.

Deadline e-mail next issue: 0900 SNT, March 3, 2008.

Så var det dags igen att sätta sig vid tangentbordet. För första gången denna vinter har det varit kallt, 7 minus, men som vanligt bara för en dag. Idag är vi tillbaka till det vanliga, runt 5 plus och blåst.

Här nere märks det också att naturen är i olag. Snödropparna blommar och nyponhäcken har stora knoppar. Den planerade nerklippningen får väl vänta till hösten ser det ut som.

Till detta nummer har det kommit en hel del tips vilket vi tackar för. Tyvärr ser det ut som att det bara är några få som är aktiva på kortvågen och som hör av sig ytterst sporadiskt.

På SWB:s sajt finns en sida med medlemsuppgifter. Det är nog dags att för en översyn av uppgifterna. Skall något läggas till eller ev. tas bort?

Ge mig besked så ändras uppgifterna omgående.

Keep on

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SWB-info

SWB online på HCDX: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb>

Dateline Bogotá: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/Dateline.htm>

SWB hot stuff: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/> (på denna sajt ligger alltid senaste SWB).

SWB member information: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/member.htm>

Jubileumstidskriften: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/> (html- + pdf-version).

MEDLEMSAVGIFT 2008 (membership fee 2008):

Medlemsavgiften för 2008 är SEK 75:- för internetbulle och SEK 250:- för pappersbulle. För utländsk medlem, som betalar direkt via postgirot, tillkommer SEK 30:- för att täcka den avgift postgirot tar ut. Betalning till Bengt Dalhammar, postgirokonto 51 84 47 - 8. Medlemsavgifterna skall vara betalda senast 31/1 2008.

Membership fee 2008 is SEK 75:- Payment to postal account 51 84 47- 8. Add SEK 30:- to cover postal costs. Payment before Jan 31, 2008. (Foreign members please contact the editor regarding other ways to pay.) / Bengt Dalhammar.

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Christer Brunström: Radio Free Asia 11540 med kort. Jag rapporterade en sändning på kinesiska. Sändarorten anges som "Asia", tydligen är det en av de forna sovjetrepublikerna men vilken? **Family Radio** via Armavir 7490 med kort, flera dekaler, "Family Radio News" + diverse broschyrer.

10/2: Vi lyssnade lördagen den 9 februari i stugan på Kaneberget. Vi började tidigt och målet var att logga TWB Benin på 1566 kHz. Detta misslyckades totalt. I stället hördes den för mig nya HLAZ i Korea på samma frekvens. I övrigt vara konditionerna inte så dåliga.

Jan Edh: Jag gjorde en avstickare till kortvågen också senast när jag var ute i Fredriksfors (7/2). Bolivianerna på tropikbandet gick ganska hyfsat, sämre fart på Peru och tveksamt även med brassarna. Rent generellt tycker jag det är väldigt dålig fart på signalerna också på de stationer som trots allt hörs.

Den här natten inleddes för övrigt med att det gick några brassar på MV - de första jag hört på hela säsongen!

Björn Fransson: Jag får väl försöka "samla ihop mig" efter en månads bortovaro från SWB, varav 8 dagar tillbringades på vandrande fötter i Spanien.

Några QSL har faktiskt införlivats i samlingen: **Radio Kahuzi, Congo DR-6210** var en riktigt rolig sak. Först email-QSL direkt från Richard & Kathy McDonald på plats i Congo och sedan ett härligt brev från USA med QSL-kort och julkort med motivet gjort av bananträdsbark!

Monaco Radio-8728 är väderstationen som spelade Monacos nationalsång. Frédéric Ferroua svarade med e-mail. Den hör kanske inte hemma i SWB, men jag tyckte att det var en kul sak. **The Mighty KBC-6265** sänder legalt via Sitkunai. Svarade med ett snyggt QSL-kort.

IRF 510-6210 är en tysk pirat, som sände ett speciellt program under Halloween 2006. Den tas med här för att den svarade med ett snyggt QSL-kort + en variant av infoblad, där man hade fyllt i en av tre olika alternativ. Jag fick en bock i "Thank you for your nice, detailed report and the personal comments." Tredje alternativet var: "Your standard report was correct, although useless. The "DX-er" is the dead of pirate radio. Collect stamps instead of QSL-cards or put more afford in your reports". Så nu vet ni det, alla DX-are! OBS! De engelska skrivfelen är stationens egna...

Leif Råhäll: Den 10.2 var det fina styrkor på signalerna från Indonesien bl.a.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

2485			VL8K Katherine NT 1040 to 1045 noted with orchestral music and very strong signal while the other two Northern Territory frequencies were at threshold level 14 February; same 15 February [Wilkner-FL]
2850 3172.7v	12.2	1520	Pyongyang med trad. sång och musik px. 2 LRH Radio Municipal , Panoa - 11 February noted at 0920; Off the air 2300 on the 11th and 12 February. At 0930 tune in om with "...escuchando... Radio Municipal..." ID, with stronger than usual signal on 14 February. Heard 1030 and 2353 on 15 February. [Wilkner-FL]
3230	4.2	1915	Family Radio , South Africa, rel. talks EE, good GB
3259,66 3290	4.2	1925	Greek Pirate , folk mx, H from MW fair GB Radio Central , Boroko 1130 instrumental music, 1131 om in language, slow vocal duet om and yl till 1134, 1136 back to om briefly, 1140 to 1145 one song, 1145 Island music, 1152 back to om, 1159 orchestral music then lost signal. 14 February. Other 90 meter band PNGs present. This was by far the strongest. [Wilkner-FL]
3325 3329.71	5.2	1535	Palangkarya med lagu populer, 1600 Song of the Cocconut Islands, sen nx 3-4 LRH Ondas del Huallaga , Huánuco 1100 ; 1110 to 1120 weak with om as conditions to Latin America have deteriorated in the last few days. 12 Feb [Wilkner-FL]
3900	15.2	2130	Hulun Buir PBS , Hailar, Nei Menggu ID-ade faktiskt något liknande efter litet musik. S 2-3. BEFF
3934.95	15.2	2255	OID pirat med The Beatles. S 2, bara, mest p g a urusla konditioner. BEFF
4025 4045	15.2	2245	Laser Hots Hits ID-ade och pratade utifrån sin "guest book". S 3. BEFF usb Crooked Island , Bahamas, 1153-1156 with comments on travel plans 9 February [Wilkner-FL]
4363	5.2	1828	Monaco Radio , maritime, ids, mx, meteo & info in FF, good GB
4604.8	9.2	2138	RRI Serui med talprogram. 1-2 CB
4605	10.2	2103	Serui med pop. Mx 4 LRH
4699.3	15.2	2230	Radio San Miguel , Bolivia ID-ade mitt i sina "atenciones". S 2-3. BEFF
4699,32	6.2	2315	R San Miguel , Riberalta hade faktiskt sportkommentar. QSA 3. JE
4732,01	6.2	2319	Radio Universitario , Cobaja in med korta snuttar i pauser i RTTY-trafiken. Jonosond stör också. Det gäller att ha tur att pricka någon "användbart" i id-väg. QSA 2. JE
4739,7	10.2	1350	Son La hörs fortfarande med sin bergsmusik 2 LRH
4746.9	15.2	2305	OID , men helt säkert Radio Dos Mil, Peru på sin litet sneda frekvens. Hemsk puls-QRM. BEFF
4760	5.2	1912	ELWA , Liberia, religious talks in EE, fair-good GB
4780	4.2	1934	Radio Djibouti , songs, really good signal GB
4780	10.2	2105	Fak Fak med tk och sen musik 3-4 LRH
4781,52	6.2	2325	Radio Tacaná , Tumpasa med meddelanden. QSA 3. JE
4790.2	10.2	0020	Radio Visión med andinsk musik. 2 CB
4790,78	6.2	2300	Radio Manantial , Huancayo "nästan" läsbar men inte rapporterbar. QSA 1-2. JE
4799.816			Radio Buenas Nuevas, drifting , per M. Schiefelbein log in Cumbre. Noted from 1230 to 1305, same yl as before, marimbas on the hour, om ID after the hour. [Wilkner FL]
4799.828			Radio Buenas Nuevas 0040 to 0100 ID and R B N with nothing on 4800. 13 February [Wilkner-FL]
4800			XERTA 0820 to 0830 with weak signal, Latin American music. 11 February [Wilkner-FL]
4814.93			Radio El Buen Pastor 1110 to 1115 "...en las constitution ..mucho mas directo y la grande .." two men in rapid Spanish...strong signal. 12 Feb [Wilkner-FL]
4825	9.2	2305	Rádio Educadora de Bragança med stort ID. 3 CB
4835	9.2	2135	VL8A Alice Springs med nyheter. 3 CB
4845.2	9.2	2115	Rádio Cultura Ondas Tropicais med fotboll. Tydligt en relä från en "Difusora". Senare Cultura-ID när man gick över till romantisk musik. Radio Mauritanie tycks vara off. 3 CB
4863,12	5.2	1918	Greek Pirate , 3xH from MW, music poor GB
4869,9	10.2	1357	Wamena hördes hyfsat innan den slutade 1359 2 LRH
4880	4.2	1820	SW Radio Africa & AIR Lucknow , mixed, EE talks & Indian mx GB
4905			Radio Chad with a great signal on Saturday 9 morning, here in Milan, at 0520, in French with nice Afro songs and news at 0530. Very strong signal. Id "Radio Chad". According to many reports the radio is back broadcasting from a temporary office, in private building. GB
4905	8.2	2115	Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne åter hörd efter oroligheterna i N'Djamena. Arabiska nu vid denna tid. Mycket stark signal. CB
4905	5.2	1930	RDN Chad , OFF AIR, civil war GB

4910	4.2	1730	AIR Jaipur , India, EE news, good s.off 1740 GB
4950	9.2	2110	Rádio Nacional de Angola med tidsangivelse och musik. 2 CB
4950	4.2	1939	RN Angola , reports, fair, low modulation GB
4960	6.2	0715	VOA Sao Tomé , talks African lang. good GB
4965	5.2	1925	Christian Voice , Lusaka, Zambia, talks in EE, ids, music, good GB
5005.9			Radio LTC Juliaca. Reject my previous tentative log of this, per Dan Sheedy " <i>makes me wonder about Nepal off-freq</i> ". I would agree as no reports of the OA station in quite a while. Thanks Dan! [Sheedy- CA]
5010	5.2	1742	Radio Madagascar , nice mx & talks, lower side of signal with low modulation! So better in USB or upper AMs, good GB
5015	16.2	1620	AIR Delhi med "A Date With You", ett önskeprogram på engelska. Tydligt regionalt för New Delhi. 3 CB
5019.93			SIBC , Honiara 1100 to 1120 hearing what I believe to be the SIBC with local Cuba on 5025 jamming up the signal. 11 & 12 Feb [Wilkner-FL]
5025	5.2	1750	Radio Benin , Parakou, nat. prg id "Radio Benin", nice mx and news at 1800, Later regional program with id "Radio Parakou" with local news around 1820, FF, good GB
5816	16.2	1530	Belaruskaje Radyjo Racyja startade sin sändning. S 2-3 och massor av splash. BEFF
5910	9.2	2320	Márfil Estéreo annonserade "Ondas de Paz". 3 CB
5952.5	9.2	2255	Radio Pío XII med snackprogram. 2-3 CB
5954.15	9.2	2315	OID Costa Rica med non-stop musik. Enligt DXare i Costa Rica är sändaren på 40 kW och finns i Guápiles, Provincia de Limón. Förr i tiden fanns Radio Casino på denna frekvens. Syftet med den nya sändaren är okänt. 3 CB
6230U			VMW 1004 weather information by om, thanks Terry Krueger Log 15 February [Wilkner-FL]
6300	9.2	2310	Radio Nacional Saharauí med nyheter på spanska. 3 CB
6335	10.2	1627	The Voice of Kurdistan med ID på engelska vid denna tid. Kraftigt störd. CB
7099.96			Eritrea, VOBME 0359 to 0420 horn of Africa music, rather energetic, ARO interference 12 Feb [Wilkner-FL]
7250			Bangladesh Betar 1227 stronger signal today, IS, time pips; three then a fourth higher and louder. 1230 om with opening announcement, yl "...service of Bangladesh..." yl with news items, "India" mentioned once. 1237 East Indian music for ten seconds, yl "...and now realizing that...", 1241 chorus then back to om. 12 Feb. Don Jensen once told me that a Drake R7 "would flush out any signal eventually" and this morning proved him correct with Bangladesh. The hum on the signal and poor audio quality still seem to prevent hearing much of the news in English. The signal seems to be improving each day. [Wilkner-FL]
9561	16.2	1730	La Voix de l'Ethiopie med nyheter på franska. 3 CB
9565	16.2	2302	Rádio Tupí de Curitiba med program från Igreja Pentecostal Deus é Amor. De har varit borta ett tag. 3 CB
9599.26	10.2	0820	XEYU Radio UNAM hördes märkligt nog hemma i min bostad trots bruset. Ni andra som inte har brus måste ha haft strålande mottagning. Klassisk musik och mycket korta annonseringar. 2 CB
9599.29	6.2	2350	Radio UNAM , Mexico, talks in SS, Id, classical music after 0000, fair, nice signal, in LSB to avoid QRM on 6900 kHz. GB
11710	15.2	0858	RAE med sin paussignal i väntan på japanskt program kl. 0900. Hygglig mottagning. 3 CB
11854,9v	5.2	1140	BSKSA 2 Saudi Arabia, mx & talks AA, fading, fair GB
11975	6.2	0720	West Africa Democracy Radio , EE, reports and great afro mx, ids, at 0732 talks about women rights, good GB
12085	8.2	1505	Voice of Mongolia med program på japanska. Lagom till att det engelska programmet skulle börja klockan 1530 hade signalen från Mongoliet helt försvunnit. 3-0 CB
12095	5.2	1135	FEBC , Philippinas, music and slow talks, fair-good GB
12140	5.2	0850	Radio Free Afghanistan , via Kuwait, mx, phone talks, good GB
13840	5.2	1108	R New Zealand , reports in EE, good GB
15345	11.2	1930	RAE med Journal på franska. 2-3. CB
15410	15.2	1800	Radio CVC hade ett DX-program av en brasiliansk DX-klubb, men det hördes mycket dåligt, S 2. Hördes bättre kl 1530 en annan dag. BEFF.
15690	5.2	1130	Radio Farda , via Sri Lanka, reports, ids, very good GB
15780,92v	5.2	1120	Galei Zahal , talks, H, very good GB
21705	5.2	1145	BSKSA 1 Saudi Arabia, Talks AA, very good GB

DX South Florida, 4 February 2008, Time 1030 to 1245 GMT 70 degrees F

River DXpedition. Three cups of java from thermos, xyl work me up at 1000 GMT as requested, tnx. Humidity was very low and conditions to Asia seemed to hold in.

Receiver is a Dallas Lankford modified SONY 2010XA [beta test]. Paid close attention to the the synchro lock in upper

and lower. With the exception of VL8K and North Korea, the lock was strong and did not break. Tuning SONY 2010XA ssb can zero beat with the RIT.

Wide Synchro a bit noisy so used narrow. On next occasion will use audio filters, as river site number one does have remote power supply. Power lines are buried. rlcw

- 2485 **Australia, VL8K** Katherine NT 1108 weak signal but strongest of the three NT Australians. [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 2850 **North Korea** 1133 y1, weak; good band indicator. ssb log [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 3279.6 **Ecuador, La Voz del Napo** Tena "atencion.. Sra Lopez" 1100 to 1110 [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 3329.53 **Peru, Ondas del Huallaga** Huánuco 1043; 1050 with music [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 3340 Honduras, Radio Misiones Internacionales Comayagüela 1040 "religious message Gracias Senor Por su Amor..." [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 4604.8 **Indonesia, RRI Serui** strong signal 1115 to 1120 [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
4732. **Bolivia Radio Universitaria**, Cobija, Pando *1100 to 1110 with music, good signal; no ID slogan heard. [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 4760 **Andaman Islands**, Port Blair 1140 fade in with subcontinental music, y1 at 1157 and 1217. Providing a steady signal [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 5039.2 **Peru, Radio Libertad**, Junin with om and music at 1115, good lock in lower synchro [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 5040.6 **Burma, Radio Myanmar** 1140; 1220 to 1230 y1 and music [Wilkner-River DXPedition]
- 7250 **Bangladesh Betar** 1227 carrier on, followed by 1229 time pip, brief East Asian music then into news by y1 till 1238 then om news. Hum on the signal and occasional ARO. Switched between synchro upper and lower. [Wilkner-River DXPedition]

Stationsnyheter

TCHAD: BBC World Service has spokesman for the Chad rebels stating "*We have secured the national radio...*" 2140 GMT. [Wilkner-FL]

VENEZUELA: Media Network, by Andy Sennitt, February 14, 2008

A new shortwave transmitting station is now under construction for the International Service of **Radio Nacional de Venezuela, Antena Internacional***. The new installation will include a 50 kW transmitter to be operated on the 60 metre Tropical Band, and five 100 KW shortwave transmitters to be operated with several antenna arrays.

The new transmitting station is located in the State of Guárico, and the antenna systems will include several high gain curtain arrays and also quadrant type omnidirectional antennas for short and medium range coverage. The new transmitters are of the pulse step modulation type, and very efficient from the point of view of energy conversion, that is that they are capable of producing a 100 percent modulated signal with much less electricity than what is required for a high level plated modulated transmitter.

The Radio Nacional de Venezuela engineering department is in charge of the project and it is expected that the first transmitter may be on the air pretty soon. The new Venezuelan international broadcasting facility is going to be one of the most modern and energy efficient installations in the Americas, and its antenna systems were designed with coverage of the Americas as the prime target area, but as expected, it may be heard around the world when propagation conditions are good.

(Source: Arnie Coro, RHC DXers Unlimited via DX Listening Digest)

* Antena Internacional (also known as Canal Internacional) currently leases shortwave airtime from Radio Habana, Cuba.

<http://blogs.rnw.nl/medianetwork/new-sw-station-for-venezuelas-antena-internacional>

(Mike Terry via HCDX)

Övriga radionyheter

Mosquito Coast DX News 10 February 2008

Radio Buenas Nuevas 4999.9 was off the air 1100 this morning 10 February. Mexico was off 4800, same time.

-Video-

Viva Mi Patria Bolivia-another version, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmo3_xmaBog

National Anthem of Bolivia, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sbGblbZSYY&feature=related>

Bolivia Seeks Aid to Battle Floods Friday February 8, 2008 6:31 AM

-The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,-7292626,00.html>

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) - Bolivia's foreign minister said Thursday that the world has an obligation to send aid to flood-ravaged areas of Bolivia, linking a disaster that has killed 49 people to global climate change.

As Bolivia faces a second straight year of devastating floods, David Choquehuanca argued that developed nations who produce most of the world's greenhouse gases are morally obligated to pitch in when the negative effects of climate change strike poorer countries.

"The international community has the obligation to help to Bolivia because these are the consequences" of global warming, he told media.

A rainy season aggravated by La Nina - a periodic cooling of waters in the Pacific Ocean - has hit hard all across the country. In the capital La Paz, high in the Andes, hundreds of thousands of residents are living under severe water rationing after rain-fed landslides last month ruptured water mains throughout the city.....

Journalist closes radio station and flees amid FARC attempts to force media to relay its propaganda

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=25564

Reporters Without Borders condemns the threats that forced José Joaquín Chávez, the manager of Acción Estéreo community radio and a reporter for the Voz del Tolima daily, to abandon his home in the western department of Tolima and suspend the station's operations on 3 February. The threats were allegedly made by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and they come amid an increase in attempts by the guerrillas to intimidate the news media.

"Chávez is the second Colombian journalist to be forced to abandon the region where he lives and works since the start of the year," the press freedom organisation said. "Like the paramilitaries, the FARC are true to their reputation as media predators, with the difference that they want the media to put out their propaganda."

Reporters Without Borders added: "Local journalists are the ones that suffer most as they are the most exposed to the civil war. Investigations into these threats are unlikely to lead to those responsible being punished, but protection of the media must be reinforced."

Chávez received a phone call at the radio station on 16 January ordering him to not broadcast any more army appeals to the guerrillas to demobilize. Several threatening messages followed when he refused to comply. During a phone-in programme the next day, a caller identifying himself as John addressed greetings to "the FARC's Jacobo Prías Alape column." On 1 February, an anonymous caller told Chávez he would die if he did not close down the station within one hour. Chávez left Anzoátegui, where he lives, and shut down the station two days later.

Two other cases of FARC intimidation have been reported in the past two weeks. Luis Suárez, the head of programming of local TV station Telemar Canal 2 in the western city of Buenaventura, received a "summons" on 25 January to meet with Erminson "Mincho" Gutiérrez, the commander of the FARC's Bloc 30. Suárez told the Peru-based Press and Society Institute (IPYS) that two days later, guerrillas took him to see a man in his 60s who identified himself as Mincho and ordered him to broadcast a message about the FARC's plans for 2008.

Suárez told this story on the air and played his audio recording of the interview. The Buenaventura police announced on 5 February that they planned to analyse the recording of Mincho's voice as it had been assumed until then that he had died in combat. The TV station said the voice in the recording matched that of previous recordings of Mincho.

Juan Gossaín, the news director of the privately-owned national radio station RCN in the northern city of Cartagena, was warned on 4 February, the day of an international anti-FARC march, that he and all of RCN's branches would be the target of bombings if RCN attended the march. RCN nonetheless did take part in the march and Gossaín let it be known that he would not leave the country. Gossaín has in the past also been ordered to stop covering alleged corruption involving the city's administrations.

In Guatemala, violence is always near –Reuters, Fri Feb 8, 2008 12:58pm GMT. By Mica Rosenberg

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/reutersEdge/idUKNOA44088820080208>

GUATEMALA CITY (Reuters) - The last time I saw Arnulfo Andrade, I was crouched behind his driver's seat on a smoky city bus, interviewing him about the dangers he faced on his route in one of Guatemala's most violent neighborhoods.

"You go to work scared all the time," he told me over the engine's roar, "but you gotta keep working."

He looked younger than his 30 years with his baseball cap on backwards and a wispy mustache, an easygoing man joking with his young assistant collecting the 13 cent (7 pence) fare.

Arnulfo was just doing his job, and for that he was murdered, shot in the head and stomach and left to die behind the wheel. His 17-year-old helper took a bullet in the arm.

He was the 43rd bus driver to be killed in Guatemala last year; most were executed for failing to pay "war taxes" to violent street gangs controlling certain districts in the sprawling Central American capital.

The gangs pull in millions of dollars extorting daily or weekly fees from terrified shop owners, factory workers, teachers, deliverymen and families under threat of kidnapping, rape or death.

Much of the money goes to pay off corrupt cops who do little to protect innocent victims like Arnulfo.

Guatemala is one of the most violent countries in the Americas, with almost 6,000 people murdered here last year. That is 46 victims per 100,000 people, a rate eight times higher than in the United States.

Bodies are thrown in gutters, stuffed in trunks, chopped up and packed in suitcases. Many are victims of the gangs while

vigilantes like to target street kids and prostitutes, sometimes helped by police. But with 98 percent of murders left unsolved, no one really bothers to find out why.

At 26, and after brief stints reporting in Mexico, Colombia and New York, I had never seen a dead person before arriving in Guatemala two years ago.

At the first crime scene I saw soon after arriving, there were seven. All were gang members, younger than me, killed by vigilantes. Two were women in their 20s, splayed on the ground, clothes ripped off and exposed to the leering crowd.

LIVING WITH VIOLENCE

Two months after I met Arnulfo, I found myself wandering a city cemetery looking for his grave. It was a cold and drizzly day and I got lost shuffling my way through weeping, umbrella covered groups huddled over coffins in narrow pathways. The sprawling cemetery is, like Guatemala City, segregated by class. The wealthy have elaborate tombs surrounded by iron fences while the poor are stacked on top of each other in moss-covered shelves overlooking the city dump.

When families are unable to pay grave maintenance fees, workers dig up the dead and throw them over the fence into the garbage.

After 36 years of civil war that claimed close to a quarter million lives and a decade of peace wracked with violent crime, Guatemalans seem used to the chaos.

I have seen children strike up a soccer game in an empty lot near a crime scene, the ball rolling under the yellow police line. It's a way of dealing with death here -- you ignore it and move on until it catches up with you.

Recently, I have felt it moving closer. Armed robbers beat up a teacher, slashed the arm of a little girl and stole a school bus soon after it dropped off the 6-year old son of the Reuters photographer here.

A local journalist, distraught by a failed relationship, shot himself on the lawn in front of the house of the Reuters cameraman.

Two blocks from my office someone gunned down the secretary of the leading presidential candidate, Otto Perez Molina, who had served me coffee as I waited for an interview on a plush leather couch. And then I heard about Arnulfo.

I am an outsider and these events have brushed only the edges of my life, but they reveal something about the depth of trauma many people here live with.

"Guatemala is where friends can die under any circumstance at any moment," one close friend wrote in an email when I told him about Arnulfo's murder. "Welcome to my reality."

[Wilkner FL]

Fierce battle for Chad's capital February 4, 2008 - 6:33AM

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/world/fierce-battle-for-chads-capital/2008/02/04/1201973773851.html>

Fierce fighting with tanks and helicopter strikes rocked Chad's capital Ndjamena for a second day today as rebels surrounded President Idriss Deby in his palace and hundreds of foreigners fled the country.

With international aid organisations reporting bodies in the streets and hundreds of people wounded, anti-tank and automatic weapons fire was heard around the presidential palace, where Deby has been holed up since Friday.

French Defence Minister Herve Morin said the new fighting could be "crucial" in the battle for control of the former French colony in Central Africa.

The offensive by three rebel commanders has opened up a new conflict next to Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region, and the deployment of a European peacekeeping mission in Chad and Central African Republic has been suspended, Morin said in Paris.

Chadian army helicopters attacked a rebel column near the national radio station headquarters in the capital. They also fired at other rebel vehicles in the city.

An army tank defending the entrance to the national radio station fired at anyone who showed themselves on the street, a witness told AFP.

"We did not take the airport so as not to hinder the evacuation of foreign nationals and now the French army is letting these helicopters take off and attack us," a rebel spokesman, Abderaman Khoulamallah, told AFP.

[Wilkner-FL]

Historical Sounds in MP3 Format

This collection of audio files is intended to archive the greatest speeches in recorded history. Most of the files are from the 20th century, but there are a few exceptions, such as the Edison recordings. Feel free to download, distribute, and learn from these audio files! You might be interested in visiting our animal sounds and entertainment sounds collections as well.

<http://www.freeinfosociety.com/site.php?postnum=460&phpMyAdmin=af0f6b4465fe3f904426eae3dc0e3fa>

(via Horacio Nigro, Montevideo, Uruguay)