

# WORLD AGENDA

## AUGUST 2010

**1 Aug 31, Iraq:** The official end of U.S. combat operations sees the withdrawal of 27,000 troops, leaving 50,000 involved in "stability operations", despite continued violence in northern provinces. Full military departure is planned by 2012

**2 Mid-August, Gulf of Mexico:** The date by which BP says a permanent seal will fix the ruptured wellhead that has spewed oil into the sea since an explosion in April. Urgency over the cleanup of the environmental disaster intensifies as the hurricane season looms

**3 Aug 1, U.S.:** The deployment of 1,200 National Guard troops along the border with Mexico begins. President *Barack Obama* announced the \$500m, year-long crackdown on immigrants and smugglers in May

**4 Aug 7, Bogota:** Pragmatist *Juan Manuel Santos* is sworn in as Colombia's new president amid escalating tensions with Caracas over accusations by outgoing president *Alvaro Uribe* that Venezuela is harbouring Colombian rebels

**7 Aug 1, Ukraine:** Domestic gas prices rise by 50% as part of the country's attempts to cut its budget deficit. The move comes as Kiev sheds Soviet-era subsidies in an effort to secure a \$14.9 billion loan from the IMF

**5 Aug 9, Kigali:** Controversy surrounds presidential elections in Rwanda after one opponent was murdered and others were barred from standing. President *Paul Kagame* (below), credited with restoring stability after the 1994 genocide, is seen as showing increasing signs of repression

**6 Aug 4, Nairobi:** Kenyans are likely to vote yes in a referendum on a new constitution designed to address political corruption, seen as key to investor confidence in east Africa's largest economy

**8 Aug 11, Anchorage:** Environmentalists say caribou, wolves and waterfowl are threatened by a lease sale offering oil and gas exploration rights to 1.8 million acres of land in northern Alaska



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Pictures: AP, Getty Images

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