

WORLD AGENDA

AUGUST 2012

1 Aug 29, London: The *Paralympic Games* opens in the UK capital. The event has its origins in the 1948 London Olympics when *Dr Ludwig Guttman* hosted a simultaneous sports competition for disabled World War II veterans at Stoke Mandeville Hospital

2 August, Niamey: A European Union mission gets underway to train security forces in Niger to fight al-Qaeda. The move signals the depth of EU concern over growing Islamic militancy in central and west Africa

3 Aug 22, Guantanamo Bay: A preliminary hearing for five men accused in the 9/11 attacks in the U.S. in 2001 takes place. Confessed mastermind *Khalid Sheikh Mohammed* and four others were formally charged with murder and terrorism in May

4 Aug 20, Mogadishu: Somalia's first elected government in over 20 years is due to replace UN-backed transitional rule. The nation, wracked by fighting since 1991, is one of the world's poorest and most violent states

5 Aug 6, Cape Canaveral: NASA's new Mars rover is due to land in *Gale Crater*, near the planet's equator, to assess conditions for life

6 Aug 16, Kiev: Ukraine's high court hears former prime minister *Yulia Tymoshenko's* appeal against conviction for abuse of office. The Orange Revolution heroine, suffering mysterious back pains since her incarceration, is refusing treatment by Ukrainian doctors for fear of contamination

7 Aug 1, Jerusalem: A controversial ruling, ending the exemption from military service for ultra-Orthodox men, is due to come into force. Heated debate in the Knesset continues as politicians attempt to agree a replacement for the *Tal Law*, deemed unconstitutional in February

8 Aug 31, Angola: President *Jose Eduardo dos Santos*, Africa's second longest ruler after 32 years in power, looks set to win another term. The elections will be only the second since the end of a 27-year civil war in 2002

Research:
Kate Edgley

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