

# WORLD AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2013

**1** Feb 7-23, Sochi: The Winter Olympics take place amid high security following militant Islamic threats to attack the event. President **Vladimir Putin** is staking his reputation on the success of the event to showcase modern Russia

**2** Feb 19, Toluca: U.S. President **Barack Obama** travels to Mexico for a summit with President **Enrique Peña Nieto** and Canadian Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**. The meeting, to deepen economic ties, comes after Mexico passed a series of major structural reforms including ending the 75-year-old state oil and gas monopoly

**3** Feb 11, Washington: French President **François Hollande** makes a state visit to the U.S. on his own having confirmed his split with longstanding partner **Valérie Trierweiler**. Their relationship ended following exposure of Hollande's affair with actress **Julie Gayet**

**7** Feb 23, Riyadh: Desalination and recycling could help the 780m people without access to drinking water, the **International Water Technology** conference will hear. The UN says that by 2025, 30 countries will face acute shortages, 18 from the Middle East and North Africa

**4** Feb 2, Bangkok: Thailand goes to the polls amid a flare-up of eight years of unrest between the rural majority and middle class minority. The election is expected to return Prime Minister **Yingluck Shinawatra** to power but not resolve the conflict

**8** February, Vatican City: Cardinals worldwide submit recommendations to **Pope Francis** on Vatican reform. The pontiff says the Curia should listen more to ordinary Catholics

**5** Feb 1, Seoul: The U.S. sends 800 soldiers and armoured vehicles to South Korea as tensions rise on the Korean peninsula following the execution of the powerful uncle of North Korean leader **Kim Jong-un** in December

**6** Feb 5, New York: **Amnesty International** attempts to revive the highly successful concerts that 25 years ago featured **U2**, **Bruce Springsteen**, **Sting** and **Lou Reed** to raise awareness of human rights. **Imagine Dragons** and **Laurn Hill** headline the event