The Witch's Brew, the Fears Within and the Regional Security:
Implications for India

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ABSTRACT. This paper is about the fears within India (K.P.S. Gill, Daily News and
Analysis, Mumbai, August 23, 2007) because of

(a) the criminalization of politics, the irrationality and irresponsibility of political
responses over extended periods of time, the continuous degeneration of the
policing and internal security apparatus, the failure to maintain and create
policing capacities in proportion to the country's needs, and the collapse of the
entire justice system, and

(b) the growing insurgencies within India, particularly because of communal
problems, and the left wing extremism (of the Maoists) and their links with
countries in the neighbourhood (Bangladesh, Thailand, for example).

India itself is deeply susceptible to destabilization because of disorder and non-
governance plaguing large parts of the country. But of course India has had a long and
continuous experience in the management of internal security crises, starting in the
massive and bloody upheavals of Partition from the early 1950s and a succession of
insurgencies and terrorist movements, starting with the Naga rebellion in 1952. It is also
the case that the country has, in many instances, been able to successfully tackle,
contain or neutralize such movements whenever a determined political leadership and
consensus has backed coordinated action by the security forces. There is yet a range of
other internal security challenges, including communal polarisation and rioting,
organized and trans-national crime, criminal politics and political crime, afflicting
different parts of the country from time to time, and they have been countered with
mixed success within a broad context of almost continuous decline in the country's
administrative, security and justice systems (Nihar Nayak, Faultlines 17, February 15,
2006: 126-151; ). This paper is a quick summary of all these problems, towards an
understanding of the regional security and the implications for India.

The paper is closely looking at the country's counter insurgency experiences taking
select case studies and analyses the deeper reasons and proposes strategies to overcome
and / or eliminate the insurgency and security problems in the country and the South
Asian Region.

Key words: Insurgency, Regional Security, Criminalization, Communalization,
Counter Insurgency, South Asia and India.

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