



Peace & Justice Update
October 21, 2005
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The countries for the **Peace & Justice Update** have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute. The International Human Rights section is intended to focus on aspects of international law. For information on specific cases of human rights abuses, please visit www.hrw.org or www.amnesty.org. The Gender and Peace section highlights events in peace-building that pertain to gender and human rights. This week's **Update** additionally includes a special section entitled War and Peace.

Source information: Information presented in this update is condensed from wire and newspaper reports from Lexis/Nexis and from electronic sites on the World Wide Web. Complete bibliographical information is unavailable from these services, but every attempt has been made to properly cite information and give credit to source materials. This update is intended for use by IPJ staff and associates for informational purposes only. As the material in this update is condensed, and does not directly quote the primary source, information from the update should not be quoted.

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

Africast	=	Africast (http://news.africast.com)
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africafocus.org)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allafrica.com)
Angola Press	=	Angola Press (www.angolapress-angop.ao)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk/)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk)
Cambodia Daily	=	The Cambodia Daily (www.cambodiadaily.com)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
Colombo Page	=	Sri Lankan Online News (www.colombopage.com)
Daily News	=	Sri Lanka Daily News (www.dailynews.lk)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Ghana News Today	=	Ghana News Today (www.ghananewstoday.com)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
ICTR	=	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (www.ictr.org)
IFEX	=	International Freedom of Expression Exchange (www.ifex.org)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times (www.khaleejtimes.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
Khmer Intelligence	=	Khmer Intelligence (www.khmerintelligence.org)
Jurist	=	The Jurist (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Lanka Web	=	Lanka Web (www.lankaweb.com)
Mindanews	=	Mindanews (www.mindanews.com)
Monitor	=	The Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
MONUC	=	MONUC (www.monuc.org)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
New Vision	=	New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
News Blaze	=	News Blaze (www.newsblaze.com)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain (www.oxfam.org.uk)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières (www.rsf.org)
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance (www.seapabkk.org)
SMH	=	Sydney Morning Herald (www.smh.com)

ST	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (www.unesco.org)
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.unhcr.ch)
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women (www.unifem.org)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english)
WP	=	Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Web India	=	Web India (www.webindia123.com)

UPDATE SUMMARY

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Former south Sudan rebels free 173 detainees; Darfur rebels call unity meeting to mend splits; Returning IDPs may face hardship, rights abuses; United Nations set to evacuate staff from Darfur

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International court unseals arrest warrants of five rebel commanders; Arrest warrants draw widespread praise, concern; Rebels engage Ugandan, Sudanese forces; Former President Obote to be buried October 24

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MDC divided over proposed boycott of election; IMF and World Bank paint a grim picture; Mugabe compares Blair and Bush to Hitler and Mussolini at UN event; United States ambassador detained

WAR AND PEACE

Human Security Report claims a decrease in number of wars since 1990s

BURUNDI

UN and Burundi will start preparatory talks for Truth Commission: United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said October 13 that the UN mission in Burundi (UNOB) is set to begin preparatory talks for a Security Council-backed Truth Commission. “These discussions will focus on the nature of the Truth Commission and the Special Chamber proposed in the assessment mission report and on the negotiation and national consultations processes,” he wrote in a letter to the Security Council. President Pierre Nkrunziza and Minister of Justice Clotilde Niragira said that they would nominate a committee to work with UNOB to expedite the creation of the Commission, which would be modeled after the international war tribunals, including the one established in neighboring Rwanda to investigate crimes against humanity in the 1994 genocide. The statements from Annan follow a Security Council resolution in June 2005 for the creation of a court to consolidate peace and reconciliation in Burundi as it emerges from a 12-year civil war. The Security Council intends for the court to “deter future crimes of this nature, and to bring an end to the climate of impunity, in Burundi and in the region of the Great Lakes of Africa as a whole.” (UN News, October 14, 2005)

ACCORD awards 2005 Africa Peace Award to Burundi: The African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) will award Burundi the 2005 Africa Peace Award (APA), Executive Director of ACCORD Vasu Gounden said October 17. “The APA was awarded to the people of Burundi in recognition of their peace efforts to end a 12-year civil war in a peaceful and democratic manner,” said Gounden. “In this, we are also celebrating a successful African led peace process.” The award was established in 1993 to celebrate the achievements of individuals, institutions, and entire communities that have worked for peaceful solutions to conflict in Africa. Previous recipients of the award include former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela in 1995, Mozambique in 1997, and the children of Africa in 2003. (Africast, October 17, 2005)

CAMBODIA

Journalist arrested for criticizing new border treaty: Former opposition leader and owner of Cambodia’s independent Beehive Radio, Mam Sonando, was jailed October 12 after Prime Minister Hun Sen called for his arrest. Hun accused Sonando of criticizing the recently signed border treaty with Vietnam. The Committee to Protect Journalists condemned Sonando’s arrest stating, “It is outrageous for a political leader to jail a journalist who airs criticism of his policies.” The former King Norodom Sihanouk also criticized the prime minister’s action. Sonando, who has been arrested before for broadcasting false news, could face up to one year in jail if convicted of the charges. (IFEX, October 13, Khmer Intelligence, October 13, 2005)

Prime Minister says Cambodian arms have benefited Asian militant groups: Prime Minister Hun Sen stated October 14 that Cambodian arms used in the 1970’s Khmer Rouge genocide have been circulated to various Asian rebel factions through the illegal arms trade. Among the recipient groups are the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) of the southern Philippines, and the Karens of Myanmar. Though Hun took no personal responsibility for the sale of illegal weapons to militant groups, he did state that he has documents proving the transactions. Hun said he believes the arms smuggling has continued due to a lack of scanning equipment at border crossings, and urged foreign investors and donors to establish a more effective means of controlling supplies and people leaving Cambodia. (Reuters, October 14, 2005)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Rebel group releases hostages in disarmament dispute: A standoff between local Mai Mai militia and the United Nations Mission to the Congo (MONUC) over the fate of 43 disarmament officers taken as hostages came to a peaceful end October 19. More than 500 members of the Mai Mai militia near Luvungi disarmament camp, near the eastern town of Bukavu, rioted late October 18 when they discovered they would not be immediately paid for disarming. The rioting militia members took hostages and threatened to burn them alive unless paid the \$110 per gun promised by officials. "They thought the money they are owed had been stolen but I contacted one of them and explained that this is was not true," said Mbo Wassa, a senior disarmament commission official. MONUC immediately interceded in negotiations and was able to dissuade the Mai Mai from any further violence after having pledged the money would arrive by the weekend. The standoff between the militia and Congolese or UN forces is one of several in the past year as officials attempt to disarm the dozens of rebel groups still in the DRC in preparation for elections set for June 2006. (MONUC, Reuters, October 19, 2005)

First group of refugees living in Tanzania return home: Repatriation of the more than 150,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) living in neighboring Tanzania got underway October 13. Officials from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) accompanied the initial group of 282 refugees from western Tanzania to Baraka in South Kivu province. The convoy also included Tanzanian officials, staff from several nongovernmental organizations, and a group of 15 representatives from the refugee camps charged with monitoring the repatriation. "These representatives will remain in DRC for one week and [then] return to Tanzania to inform their colleagues about the conditions at home," the UNHCR said. If the repatriation of the first group runs smoothly, officials are set to begin moving the remaining refugees immediately. The UNHCR has provided past returnees with food, household items, and transport. One UNHCR official said, "In total more than 14,000 Congolese refugees have come back with their own means to South Kivu, mainly from Tanzania, but also from Burundi and Rwanda, since October 2004." The refugees had fled the DRC during the war from 1997 to 2003 that ravaged the eastern provinces of the country. (IRIN, Reuters, October 13, 2005).

Officials refuse re-entry to guardsmen of former dictator: Officials from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of the Congo (ROC) collaborated October 18 to halt a ship carrying 189 guardsmen of the DRC's former Presidential Guards Division. The ship was bound for Kinshasa, DRC from Brazzaville, ROC where the guardsmen of the late dictator Mobutu Sese Seko hoped to repatriate. Although Refugee Victims International, a nongovernmental organization (NGO), was to have helped the guardsmen secure all necessary documentation in preparation for their return, both governments claimed not to have been informed. "You cannot cross the border without a guarantee," an immigration official in Brazzaville said. "Congo and DRC have agreements. There are laws and rules you have to respect." A number of NGOs supported the efforts for re-entry, stating that such a move would be a strong step towards reconciliation and that the guardsmen should be integrated into the National Defense Forces. The DRC's Minister of Defense, Adolphe Onusumba, agreed with the plans for army integration, but warned against such steps being taken without the consent of the government. "The return of these guardsmen is not the business of an NGO, we must know where they are going to live and who is going to take care of them," Onusumba said. Members of

the Presidential Guards Division had fled the country in 1997 after Laurent Kabila's advancing forces toppled the government in Kinshasa. (IRIN, UNHCR, October 18, 2005)

GENDER AND PEACE

Namibian women's rights groups condemn rise in gender-based violence: After recent murders of sex workers and children, Namibian women's rights groups were adamant that authorities take action against the drastic increase in gender-based violence. Subsequent to demonstrations held in the capital city of Windhoek, Prime Minister Nahas Angula stated October 14 the need for new laws distinctively outlawing violence towards women. While Angula believes gender-based violence has reached a "crisis point," women's rights groups are now pushing for new legislation that protects women. The Women's Action for Development and the Namibian Media Women's Association said that gender based violence in Namibia is a result of male dominance and continues because of the failure of prior laws to protect women from this cultural norm. (IRIN, October 14, 2005)

African delegates discuss gender issues at Dakar conference: An international meeting between more than 30 African ministers of gender was held October 19 in Dakar, Senegal. Representatives of the Economic Commission of Africa's Committee on Women and Development (CWD) and the African Union (AU) were to have discussed the issue of decreasing gender-based inequality and violence by advocating more gender-sensitive policies in African countries. The CWD and AU were also set to discuss methods of implementing the Outcome and Way Forward document, which various governments adopted at the African regional Conference on Women (Beijing plus10) in January 2005. In addition to attempting to resolve these goals, the Dakar meeting provided the opportunity for members to review the progress of the ECA's gender division. (Ghana News Today, October 13, 2005)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights situation in Haiti prompts UN and EU to action: A United Nations official in Haiti called the human rights situation in the country "catastrophic" in a report October 14. Thierry Fagart, the UN human rights chief in Haiti, cited numerous and grave abuses by police and private citizens. While Fagart's team of 30 human rights monitors have not been able to put an exact figure on the number of politically related deaths in the last year, they estimate over 1,500 have been tortured to death or shot in such violence. Fagart noted that it is not just outright violence that worries his team. "The state of the judiciary is so bad that people have lost all hope in it," he said, stating he thought this partly explained the repeated cases of mob killings over the past few months. In response to Fagart's comments and a recent UN World Food Program report claiming that 38,000 children between the ages of 0 and 5 – roughly one in three – die in Haiti each year from hunger, the European Union has lifted a ban on aid to Haiti. The EU ended an \$87 million freeze on aid to the Western hemisphere's poorest nation that it had imposed in 2001 following elections it called "flawed." The UN and EU are attempting to help prepare Haiti for presidential elections that have twice been postponed, but are now tentatively scheduled for December. (AP, October 14, 17; UN News, October 13, 2005)

Organization of American States human rights panel hears case of torture by Chicago police: Representatives of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States (OAS) heard from community activists, alleged victims, lawyers, and representatives from human rights organizations at a hearing October 14. Victims

and advocates presented their case against law enforcement and government officials in Chicago, Illinois in what they claim was nearly two decades of “systematic torture” of African-Americans by police. The Midwest Coalition for Human Rights claimed that Chicago police practiced “extreme discrimination and racism” in torturing 135 African-Americans without charging any officers during a 19-year period ending in 1991. “We have officials in Chicago who could deal with it but they don’t want to deal with it,” said David Bates, who stated he was tortured by when he was 18 years old. “It’s a shame we have to come to Washington, D.C. to get people from different countries to deal with it.” Victims and advocates made accusations against numerous individuals, including former police Lieutenant Jon Burge, who was fired in 1991 for suspect mistreatment, and Mayor Richard Daley, who served as Cook County’s state attorney while 55 of the alleged tortures occurred. Criminal charges were not an option because the United States is not a signatory to international court proceedings; therefore, IACHR Commission Chairperson Clare Roberts suggested a formal case be brought to expose Chicago officials to public embarrassment. (CBC, October 15, 2005)

Pakistan, India set aside differences in response to quake: On October 17 Pakistan made an unexpected plea to its embittered neighbor India for help, following the October 8 earthquake that has thus far caused the deaths of over 42,000 people in the disputed Kashmir region. Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf made the dramatic appeal to India for help in reaching quake survivors and in delivering aid. “We will allow every Kashmiri to come across the Line of Control and assist in the reconstruction effort,” Musharraf said. India replied immediately with a statement declaring its willingness to help address the mounting human rights situation there. “We welcome the offer,” read a statement from New Delhi. “This is in line with India’s advocacy of greater movement across the [Line of Control] for relief work and closer people-to-people contacts.” The move to cooperate surprised analysts, but was welcomed by people in Kashmir, who had accused the two governments of putting politics ahead of humanitarian relief. Despite the magnitude of the catastrophe, financial help has been slow in coming. The United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs said it had only received five percent of the \$272 million it had requested, while the International Red Cross had received only 25 percent of the \$57 million it had requested. Kashmir has been the cause of two of the three wars fought between the two nations and has one of the most tightly patrolled borders in the world according to the UN. (Reuters, October 18, 2005)

LIBYA

Libyans protest against U.S. President’s call to release Bulgarian nurses: Hundreds of Libyans demonstrated October 19 in Tripoli against the call of U.S. President George W. Bush to release the five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor sentenced to death in 2004 on charges of deliberately infecting over 400 Libyan children with HIV in a hospital in 1998. The families of the infected children, of whom 50 have died, handed a protest declaration to a local United Nations representative in which they called the medics terrorists and accused the U.S. President of siding with them. The parents of the victims demanded “all links to the U.S.A. and the American government to be immediately terminated until the latter ... apologize in public and change their stand on this crime against humanity.” The Libyan Supreme Court will convene November 15 to review the demand of the defendants’ lawyers against the death sentences. In September 2005, Libya declared that Bulgaria should negotiate a payment to the victims’ families, and ask for dismissal of the court case, a procedure permitted under Islamic law. The figure requested by Libya, \$10 million for each child parallels the \$10 million Libya agreed to

pay each of the families of the 270 people killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. This would amount to 25 percent of the gross domestic product of Bulgaria, which claimed the medics were innocent, and rejected the idea of “blood money.” (FOCUS, October 16; Jana, October 19; Reuters, October 17; Sofia News Agency, October 14; International Herald Tribune, October 14, 2005)

UK and Libya sign deportation deal: British Ambassador to Libya Anthony Layden and Libyan Acting Secretary for European Affairs Abdulati Ibrahim al-Obidi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) October 18, saying that any foreign nationals deported back to that country would not be mistreated. Home Secretary Charles Clark described the MOU as an example of “effective international cooperation that we need in order to confront and defeat the type of terrorism we now face.” The Home Secretary has the power to deport foreign nationals whose presence he considers a threat to national security. However, the European Convention of Human Rights prohibits the government from sending people back to countries where they might face torture or the death penalty – such as Libya. The first deportees following the MOU could be five Libyan nationals detained by British authorities on October 3, whose presence in Britain allegedly threatens national security. However, Amnesty International (AI) United Kingdom Director Kate Allen dismissed the agreement, insisting that AI has been receiving reports on torture and suspicious deaths in custody in Libya. Human Rights Watch added that the MOU has no mechanism for accountability and fails to protect against torture. (AI, BBC News, DeHavilland, Reuters AlertNet, October 18, 2005)

NEPAL

Press ordinance reaches Supreme Court: The Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) filed a petition October 18 at the Supreme Court against the “Ordinance Amending some of the Nepal Acts Related to Media” promulgated October 9. The speaker of the dissolved House of Representatives, Taranath Ranabhat, said that the Supreme Court can revoke the ordinance if it contradicts the 1990 Constitution. The FNJ also scheduled a nationwide protest for October 21. In an October 16 press statement, the Association of World Citizens (AWC’s) Nepal chapter strongly criticized the “draconian” press ordinance and demanded its immediate withdrawal. Media Services International on behalf of International Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression Mission to Nepal called the authorities to reconsider the ordinance; urged the international community to support the independent media; and reaffirmed its support of the Nepalese media. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director General Koichiro Matsuura said that the media ordinance would harm the process of holding free elections in Nepal. However, Minister of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs Nirajan Thapa argued that the ordinance had been misinterpreted and was not intended to ban free press, but rather to “discipline” it. Thapa also said that the government has been working on a mechanism to monitor FM radios. According to the Worldwide Press Freedom Index 2005 released on October 20 by Reporters Sans Frontiers, Nepal is in 160th position out of 167 countries in media freedom. Although Nepal’s rank has not changed from last year regarding media freedom, its position has slipped to 117th, down by 27 places in the Corruption Perceptions Index of Transparency International 2005. (Kantipur Online, October 16, 17, 18; 20 Kathmandu Post, October 15, 16, 17, 18, 2005)

Government considers party-less elections: The government is determined to hold party-less elections if local parties boycott the upcoming polls, said Minister for Education and Sports

Radha Krishna Mainali October 15. Mainali also commented on India's reaction over a newly released media ordinance, stating that press law is Nepal's internal affair and that "it is not appropriate for India to intervene on such a small issue." At a traditional Nepali Congress (NC) tea reception October 16, NC President Girija Prasad Koirala said that the call for elections was unconstitutional and the polls would only widen the gap between the King and the people. Koirala also stated that there was no possibility of reconciliation between the King and the mainstream parties, and ruled out cooperation with the Maoists unless they disarmed. However, People's Front Nepal leader Amik Sherchan said that the seven-party alliance was planning to hold formal dialogue with the Maoists in the near future. Meanwhile, Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) Central Committee Member Surya Bahadur K.C. warned that he would quit if his party took part in the elections. ([Kantipur Online](#), October 16; [Kathmandu Post](#), October 15, 17, 2005)

Security forces kill four Maoists, start campaign for public support in Eastern districts: The Eastern Divisional Headquarters of the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) claimed that four Maoists were shot after they tried to hurl grenades at a security patrol October 15. However, a civilian eyewitness claimed that the victims were unarmed. The same day security forces – the RNA, the Nepal Police, and the Armed Police Force – re-started the Unified Public Security Campaign in all 16 Eastern districts which had been halted after the February 1 royal takeover. The aim of the campaign was to isolate the Maoists and "to tell the people – who fear the soldiers – that the army is for them," a security source said. Divisional Headquarters Chief Om Bahadur Pun said that during the campaign the armed forces distributed citizenship certificates, passports, identity cards, old age allowances, free health treatment, and other services. ([Kantipur Online](#), October 15; [Kathmandu Post](#), October 15, 16, 2005)

PHILIPPINES

Reconciliation initiative to take place in Sulu: Plans have begun on the island of Sulu, situated off the south western coast of Mindanao, to commemorate in March 2006 the centennial of a massacre which took place while the Philippines were under U.S. rule. Groups such as Mindanao People's Peace Movement (MPPM) and Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), are leading plans for a process of reconciliation. Priests are collecting data on the descendants of the victims in the hope of bringing people together to start a grassroots process of dialogue between different clans and families in the island. The purpose of the centennial commemoration is to raise awareness nationally and internationally while contributing to increased involvement of civil society in attempts to bringing peace to the island, which is engaged in a modern-day conflict between the military and civilians. On March 1906, a group of between 600 and 900 Moro men, women and children sought refuge in the crater of the extinct Bud Dajo volcano as a sign of their refusal to submit to U.S. law and taxes. As a consequence, under the order of Gen Leonard Wood to "kill or capture those savages," a U.S. troop numbering at least 790 men opened fire on the group killing all, while only 18 U.S. soldiers were killed and 52 wounded. To this day, the U.S. has not reached a conclusion as to the exact number of Moro victims and whether a massacre took. As part of the process of reconciliation, United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Executive Director, Eugene Martin said he would discuss with U.S. State Department officials the possibility of the U.S. apologizing for the massacre. ([Mindanews](#), October 16 and October 17, 2005)

Security tightened as communist rebels plan attacks: Central Mindanao police director Danilo Mangila confirmed October 17 he had received information about possible attacks on police

stations planned by the rebel groups New People's Army (NAP) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Consequently, Mangila announced that he was retraining all personnel of any police station under Central Mindanao Police command that may be running the risk of being attacked. Intelligence information stated these possible attacks would be "tactical offensives to avenge the capture of their largest camp" during the week of October 10 in which there was no fierce fighting, but during which communist rebels were forced to abandon a number of military, literature and pharmaceutical items on site. (Sun Star, October 18, 2005)

RWANDA

Rwanda and Burundi agree to repatriation of thousands of refugees: The ministers of the interior from both Great Lakes nations met October 18 to discuss the more than 3,000 refugees that had fled Rwanda for northern Burundi between April and June 2005. The refugees apparently fled residual violence and prosecution by local Gacaca courts in Rwanda, set up to expedite the backlog of genocide-related cases. Officials from both nations agreed in June that the refugees would be labeled "illegal immigrants," and thus not receive aid from transit or asylum camps. Many were forced to return to Rwanda, but later fled back to Burundi and claimed asylum. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had granted the refugees asylum-seeker status, effectively disallowing either nation from forcibly expelling the refugees. However, under the October 18 agreement, the two governments decided to work with the refugees to find practical and appropriate methods for repatriation. Rwandan Minister of the Interior Protais Musoni stressed the importance of quickly closing the transit camps as numerous rebels from the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) and the the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) were in the camps. "They agree they collaborate and are mandated to recruit among the Rwandan asylum seekers and take them to rebel training centers," he said. The FNL and FDLR have been active in attempting to undermine the peace processes in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, respectively. (IRIN, Reuters, October 18, 2005)

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Another Srebrenica mass grave discovered: A forensic team has found in the village of Liplje, the remains of 482 Muslims killed by Bosnian Serb forces. There is evidence that the bodies had been moved by bulldozers in an effort to hide them. It was only the latest of a total five mass grave sites so far discovered in the area around the city of Srebrenica, close to 8,000 Muslims were killed there by Bosnian Serbs in 1995. The Bosnian Serb leaders at the time of the massacre, Radovan Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic, are still at large and at the top of the United Nations International Court Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia most wanted list. (BBC, October 18, 2005)

Montenegro's Prime Minister says no to delay in vote for independence: Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic stated October 14 he would not postpone a referendum on independence from Serbia. This came in response to heavy pressure from the European Union (EU) to delay independence out of fear it would disrupt regional stability. The EU has stated it would prefer a vote take place in autumn of 2006, if not later, hoping that by that time, NATO forces would have determined a long-term solution for the political situation in Kosovo. However, Djukanovic and his ruling coalition were determined to have the vote for independence as early as this February. Currently Montenegro forms a loose political union with Serbia. The state of Serbia

and Montenegro is the last remnant of the multiethnic union that was Yugoslavia. (Reuters, October 14, 2005)

U.S. State Department official visits Belgrade: United States Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns made a trip to Belgrade the week of October 10 and stated October 14 that Serbia and Montenegro still faced some major challenges. Chief among these according to Burns is the extraditing war crimes suspects, particularly Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. At a press conference held at the U.S. embassy in Belgrade, Burns stated that the U.S. government was very disappointed these two most wanted criminals were still at large. He went on to say that Serbia's government would be assessed and judged on the basis of its actions regarding the capture of these two men. Another major topic of conversation was the future status of Kosovo, which remains a part of Serbia yet is secured by NATO forces. An overwhelming majority of Kosovars want to be independent from Serbia, while the government in Belgrade expects Kosovo to remain a province of the country. Burns then stated he expected the talks to start soon and that the United States would play a major role but not take sides. Burns said that neither side would have the right to a veto in the negotiations. (Xinhua, October 15, 2005)

SRI LANKA

UN ambassador for Sri Lanka calls for increased sanctions against children's rights violators: During the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York October 17, Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam demanded that efforts in halting children's rights violations be reinforced by targeted sanctions against offending parties. He pointed out that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as national and international human rights organizations have widely reported a sharp increase in recruitment of children in armed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Kariyawasam recalled the killing of two school principals in Jaffna following their refusal to cooperate with recruitment activities in their schools. He also recalled a recent incident in which Sri Lanka police officers were taken hostage in Mannar by the LTTE while on a mission to apprehend a convicted pedophile from the UK who had taken shelter in the area. "With regards to acts of sexual violence against children, LTTE seems to follow a policy of connivance and support to offenders," declared Kariyawasam. Finally, in the wake of UN resolution 1612 ensuring the protection of children exposed to armed conflict adopted July 2005, the ambassador brought attention to four grave violations of the resolution by the LTTE: "attacks against schools and civilian centers; abduction of children; denial of humanitarian access for children; and use of children in armed conflict". (Colombo Page, October 18, 2005)

Norwegian peace envoy holds little hope for imminent peace between the two parties: During the week of October 10, the former head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), Maj. Gen. Trond Furuhoide, met separately with the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to discuss the stalled peace talks. As a result of those meetings, Furuhoide gave a speech in Colombo October 14 qualifying the present situation as a "subversive war," and declaring that "both parties are involved" in a situation which is dangerous for the cease-fire and the country. He emphasized that if the parties involved did not show "restraint" the fragile 2002 truce would come to an end. The LTTE has been fighting for a separate nation for the minority Tamils in the north and east since 1983. Despite a truce signed February 2002, violence and killings have increased in recent months putting the cease-fire under strain. (BBC News, October 15, 2005)

Presidential candidate promises to achieve peace through national consensus: The ruling party presidential candidate and current Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapakse, unveiled his presidential manifesto October 18, affirming that he “strongly [believes] in achieving peace without going to war.” He presented his intention of achieving peace via the initiative of a cross-section of people among whom he was hoping to be able to include the rebels. While vowing to protect the country’s “unity, sovereignty and security,” he reiterated his intention to reject the rebels’ demand for self-government as well as his belief that Norway’s role in peace negotiations will be revised. The latter point was confirmed in a statement from the prime minister's spokesman, Mangala Samaraweera, who affirmed that “[everyone knows] that the facilitators and the monitors are not doing the job they are supposed to be doing.” Sri Lankan analysts believe that the stand taken by the two candidates will play an important role in the November 17 presidential elections. (BBC News; Colombo Page, October 18, 2005)

SUDAN

Former south Sudan rebels free 173 detainees: On October 17, 173 prisoners of war were released by former southern Sudanese rebels in accordance with the signing January 9 of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which ended more than two decades of civil war in the country. The former rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) formed a new coalition government in September under the deal and said that these were the last prisoners they had held in their areas in the east. “There were 173 in total. They are soldiers, some of them officers, who were captured on the battlefield in eastern Sudan between 1998 and 2001,” said SPLM spokesman Walid Hamid, further asserting that those released were both Popular Defense Force members and formerly conscripted mujahideen or holy warriors. He could not say how many prisoners the SPLM had released to date, nor could he confirm how many were left in the areas they controlled in the south. The spokesman went on to say that the SPLM had been releasing detainees since 1994, unlike the government, who he claimed had killed them all. “It’s a very black mark in the national army’s history that they don’t respect the Geneva Convention,” he said. “They don’t spare their lives.” Sudan’s interior minister has said the government had no prisoners to release as it had released them all many years ago. The Islamist government in Khartoum enlisted thousands of mujahideen to fight alongside regular forces against the mainly animist and Christian South during more than two decades of North-South conflict. (AFP, October 18; Reuters, October 17, 2005)

Darfur rebels call unity meeting to mend splits: Field commanders from Darfur’s main rebel group said October 17 they have called a unity meeting to resolve differences within the movement, that are hampering peace efforts. Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim, head of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army’s (SLM/A) conference organizing committee, said all SLM/A leaders had been invited to the October 25 conference but there were those on the ground who remained doubtful that all of the leadership would attend. African Union-mediated peace negotiations in the Nigerian capital of Abuja have faltered because of splits in the rebel ranks and renewed fighting on the ground, despite a cease-fire signed in April 2004. Ibrahim said the conference’s aim is to decide a joint policy of advancement for the movement. SLM/A President Abdel Wahed Mohamed el-Nur has differed with Secretary-General Minni Arcua Minnawi on key issues, including mediation and control of the troops on the ground. (Reuters, October 17, 2005)

Returning IDPs may face hardship, rights abuses: Many of the four million internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled civil war in southern Sudan are willing to return to their homes but instability in the region may expose them to abuse, a UN envoy warned October 13. “Thousands have already started going back on a voluntary basis, [but] lack of resources and infrastructure in the south and the volatile security situation and the absence of solid state structures pose serious threats to the human rights of returnees,” said Walter Kälin, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s representative on the human rights of IDPs. The premature return might have serious humanitarian implications despite the return of peace to the region. “In many areas returnees fear for their safety due to militia activities, armed civilians, and landmines,” observed Kälin. “Some returnees are illegally taxed and looted during their long journeys back home.” The statement came just one day after UN special emergencies advisor Dennis McNamara advised the southern Sudanese government and aid agencies to accelerate efforts in the region given the spontaneous return of thousands of IDPs. “You may get this very undesirable premature return, moving back to nothing in the south,” he said following a recent visit to the region. “There aren’t even the basic services. There isn’t shelter, there isn’t water... there isn’t education.” Southern Sudan has been torn by decades of civil war, leaving its infrastructure completely undeveloped. (IRIN, October 13; Reuters, October 12, 2005)

United Nations set to evacuate staff from Darfur: The United Nations planned to evacuate staff from Sudan’s West Darfur state because of an increase in violence and the deteriorating security situation in the region, UN spokeswoman Radhia Achouri said October 13. Achouri did not expand on the exact numbers of people who would initially be evacuated but said only a core staff would remain in the main town of el-Geneina. “It’s a precautionary measure because of the violence,” she said. The announcement followed a UN statement October 12 which said the violence had hindered aid access to 650,000 refugees in South and West Darfur states. (Reuters, October 13, 2005)

UGANDA

International court unseals arrest warrants of five rebel commanders: The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague unsealed its first arrest warrants October 14 targeting five leaders of Uganda’s rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The ICC confirmed LRA leader Joseph Kony was one of five people wanted on war crimes charges and further confirmed the list of indictees – Vincent Otti, Okot Odiambo, Dominic Ongwen, and Raska Lukwiya – whose names had already been announced by the Ugandan government October 7. Kony was indicted on 12 counts of crimes against humanity, including murder, enslavement, sexual enslavement, and rape. A further 21 counts of war crimes, which include murder, cruel treatment of civilians, and intentionally directing an attack against a civilian population were leveled against Kony. Other crimes included pillaging, inducing rape, and forcefully enlisting children into the rebel ranks. “The warrants of arrest were issued under seal... on 8 July 2005 to ensure safety or physical or psychological well-being and to prevent the disclosure of the identity or whereabouts of any victims, potential witnesses, and their families,” the ICC said. The indictment charges Kony with ordering LRA forces to begin a campaign of attacks against civilians in Uganda. It is alleged that during the last quarter of 2003 he issued orders to kill, loot, and abduct civilian populations, including those living in camps for internally displaced persons, the court said. The indictment covers crimes committed since the ICC came into force in June 2002 to present. The investigation and subsequent indictment of the LRA leaders followed President Yoweri

Museveni's referral of the situation in northern Uganda to the court in December 2003. (ICC, October 14; Monitor, October 15; Reuters, October 14, 2005)

Arrest warrants draw widespread praise, concern: United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan October 17 called on the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to end its 19-year rebellion following the International Criminal Court (ICC) move October 14 to unseal the arrest warrants indicting five of the group's leaders. "The warrants should send a powerful signal around the world that those responsible for such crimes will be held accountable for their actions," Annan said. "All eligible LRA combatants should take advantage of existing disarmament and reintegration programs." However, concerns were raised in Uganda that the indictment threatened to derail peace efforts involving the rebels and would instead trigger an escalation in violence. "This [the issuance of the indictments] is like a blow to the peace process. The process of confidence-building has been moving well, but now the LRA will look at whoever gets in contact with them as an agent of the ICC," said Archbishop John Baptist Odama of northern Uganda's Gulu Roman Catholic Archdiocese. Peace negotiator Betty Bigombe, who for months has tried to persuade both sides in the conflict to end the war, stated the arrest warrants had shattered any hopes of achieving a peaceful resolution but that the door was still open for talks with the rebels. "I have got assurance from the government that I should continue with my efforts. I have also heard from the ICC and they say I can continue. My door for a peaceful solution is still open to those not indicted by the ICC," she said October 15. Meanwhile, both Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International welcomed the move, but expressed disappointment that the ICC had not moved aggressively against Ugandan government officials and military officers who they said had committed terrible abuses in the region but benefited from an amnesty law passed by parliament. (AllAfrica, October 17; BBC, October 18; HRW, October 14; Monitor; Reuters, October 17, 2005)

Rebels engage Ugandan, Sudanese forces: The Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) launched a joint operation after the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels ambushed a UPDF convoy on the Yei-Maridi road October 14. The hunt for about 40 LRA rebels intensified October 17 following reports that LRA deputy chief Vincent Otti commanded the ambush on the convoy of the UPDF 79th Battalion commanding officer, Lt.-Col. John Byoma. The army had originally reported two fatalities; however Ugandan daily The New Vision reported October 18 that a highly-placed source said two SPLA and four UPDF soldiers were killed in what was the first attack on the hundreds of UPDF troops recently deployed in southern Sudan. The deployment followed reports that Otti and some 400 rebels had crossed into the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) September 18 but had since returned to southern Sudan under pressure from DRC forces in conjunction with the UN mission in the country, MONUC. (AllAfrica, October 17; Monitor, New Vision, October 18, 2005)

Former President Obote to be buried October 24: The body of the first leader of independent Uganda and founder of the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), Apollo Milton Obote, arrived at Entebbe International Airport October 18. Hundreds of people gathered to watch the return of the two-time president who died October 10 of kidney failure, aged 80. Obote's body was to lie in state in parliament before a national memorial service October 21 and burial October 24. Many Ugandans were surprised by the government decision to accord Obote a state funeral, a decision over which the cabinet was reportedly split. Regional leaders may have played a role in

persuading the government to honor Obote because of the support he offered during the 1960s to exiled South Africans fighting against white minority rule. An estimated 300,000 civilians died between 1980 and 1985 as current President Museveni's National Resistance Army fought Obote's government forces, the Uganda National Liberation Army. Obote's rule was marred by repression and he was accused of torturing political opponents. ([BBC](#), October 18, 2005)

ZIMBABWE

MDC divided over proposed boycott of election: The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC)'s president Morgan Tsvangirai announced October 12 that the MDC planned to boycott Senate elections, due to take place next month. However, MDC spokesman Paul Themba Nyathi October 13 stated that the majority of the party leadership had voted in favor of participation in the elections. This has led to a major rift within the party, William Banga, who is Tsvangirai's personal spokesperson, called this current rift "the most serious crisis the party has faced internally." Elections were called after a constitutional change reintroduced an upper house into parliament. Zimbabwe has had a single-chamber parliament since 1987. The MDC and other government critics have argued that violence and fraud made previous elections worthless. Many also believe that the introduction of an upper house in parliament is motivated purely by a desire to further strengthen President Robert Mugabe's grip on power. ([Reuters](#), October 12; [BBC](#) October 13, 2005)

IMF and World Bank paint a grim picture: Zimbabwe is a hopeless economic case, and the consequences stretch well beyond its own borders and now threaten its regional neighbors, according to separate reports issued this past week by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz stated that the organization might withhold financial aid to Zimbabwe, arguing that allocating money to President Mugabe's government would amount to a "terrible waste of funds." In a different report, the IMF stated that Zimbabwe's economic troubles had reached such a depth that they were "putting a bit of a cloud over the rest of the region." The report stated that the economic crisis combined with political instability had scared away many international investors not only from the country, but from southern Africa. Michael Nowak, deputy director of the IMF's Africa department went on to say that the situation in Zimbabwe has been approaching a point where even if policy action were taken, the loss of physical capital would mean that "Zimbabwe would never be able to recover to the level it was before." Throughout the economic crisis, the international community has blamed gross government mismanagement by President Robert Mugabe. Mugabe has denied this instead blaming what he has called unfair and unjustified economic sanctions placed on Zimbabwe by several western powers. ([ReliefWeb](#), October 12, [Reuters](#), October 13, 2005)

Mugabe compares Blair and Bush to Hitler and Mussolini at UN event: At a United Nations conference held in Rome, marking the 60th anniversary of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), President Robert Mugabe described United States President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair as "the two unholy men of our millennium, who in the same way as Hitler and Mussolini formed an unholy alliance..." U.S. ambassador to the FAO Tony Hall said he was very disappointed that leaders such as President Mugabe had chosen to "politicize an event that was meant to be about feeding the hungry people of the world." European Union spokesman Amadeu Altafaj called Mugabe's comments "unconstructive" and said that Mugabe's actions only confirmed the decisions the EU had taken with regard to Zimbabwe in terms of travel bans and economic sanctions. There were some delegates at the

conference that applauded Mugabe's comments during his speech. Hall went on to say it was "disheartening" that President Mugabe would even be allowed to speak at such an event, stating, "It is a mockery of the poor when a man like this comes to an event like this. He should not have been invited." Mugabe has been prohibited from traveling to the EU unless for official UN business, which the event was. ([Reuters](#), October 16, [BBC](#), October 17, 2005)

United States ambassador detained: The United States' ambassador to Zimbabwe, Christopher Dell, was briefly detained by authorities after trespassing near President Robert Mugabe's official residence. The embassy released a statement explaining that Dell had inadvertently trespassed into a poorly marked military area while walking in Harare's National Botanical Gardens. The Foreign Ministry took a different view of the incident, which it called "a flagrant disregard" for Zimbabwe's security laws. The presidential spokesman went further, stating, "The American ambassador must consider himself very lucky that he is dealing with a professional army that the Zimbabwean national army is... elsewhere, and definitely in America, he would have been a dead man." The American Embassy released a statement saying that it had received an apology and regardless of comments made after the incident, it considered it a misunderstanding, the matter closed. ([AP](#), October 13, [BBC](#), October 14, 2005)

WAR AND PEACE

Human Security Report claims a decrease in number of wars since 1990s: The Human Security Center recently released its 2005 report, the first in what was to be an annual series, stating that there had been a decrease in the number of armed conflicts since 1992. The report concludes the decline of conflict over the course of the 20th century could be attributed to the construction of the United Nations, along with the end of colonialism and the Cold War. It reported that in the past 13 years alone, armed conflict has dropped by approximately 40 percent. In addition, the report claimed that high statistics of civilian deaths and women's victimization were inflated, resulting in false assumptions about the cruelty of war. Such statements have prompted both praise and criticism from a variety of organizations. The director of the Center for International Co-operation and Security, Owen Greene, was pleased with the report's findings, but believed the Human Security Center gave too much credit to the United Nations for having prevented large-scale conflict. Critics however believe the report was not conclusive as it failed to include casualty statistics from the Iraq war and the Darfur conflict. Among the governments funding the Human Security Report were Canada, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. ([BBC](#), October 18, 2005)