



Peace & Justice Update
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The countries for the Peace & Justice Updates 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.

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

ADNKI	=	ADNKI (www.adnki.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)
Arabicnews	=	Arabicnews (www.arabicnews.com)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
Bangkok Post	=	The Bangkok Post (www.bangkokpost.com)
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)
Cnews	=	Cnews (http://cnews.canoe.ca)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
CNN	=	CNN (www.cnn.com)
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)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
Gulf Times	=	Gulf Times (www.gulf-times.com)
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)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IPS	=	Inter Press Service (www.ips.org)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times (www.khaleejtimes.com)
KI	=	Khmer Intelligence (www.khmerintelligence.org)
Kantipur Online	=	Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
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)
Nepalnews	=	Nepal News (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
New Kerala	=	New Kerala (www.newkerala.com)
New Times	=	The New Times (www.newtimes.co.rw)
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)
Silicon.com	=	Silicon.com (networks.silicon.com)
SMH	=	Sydney Morning Herald (www.smh.com)
Sofia Echo	=	Sofia Echo (www.sofiaecho.com)
ST	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
Sunday Times	=	The Sunday Times (www.timesonline.co.uk)
SunStar	=	Sunstar (www.sunstar.com.ph)
TI	=	Transparency International (www.transparency.org)
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)
WP	=	Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Web India	=	Web India (www.webindia123.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english)

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BURUNDI

Army says Great Lakes rebels have joined together for attack on Burundi, Rwanda: Major Adolphe Manirakiza of the national army revealed October 7 that his forces had captured a Hutu rebel near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The fighter said he was part of a reconnaissance team preparing targets for a massive offensive on Burundi and Rwanda by a coalition of rebel groups. The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a group of Hutus responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and who have been stationed in eastern DRC since, have reportedly joined forces with two smaller groups: the National Liberation Forces (FNL), who have continued to fight in Burundi despite recent elections and repeated invitations to join the government; and the Mai-Mai militia of the DRC. Information leaks of such an attack have been making their way to the army for months as thousands of asylum seekers in northern Burundi claimed rebels from the DRC were attempting to recruit them. While army spokespersons in neighboring Great Lakes nations have been skeptical of such collaboration, the armies remain on high alert for attacks from the combined rebel forces, thought to comprise nearly 30,000 troops. (MONUC, Reuters, November 7, 2005)

Rights groups allege army continues to torture civilian suspects: Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Association for the Protection of Human Rights and the Detained (APRODEH) independently issued reports November 4 on continued abuse of civilians by the Burundian army. HRW's report focused on the specific cases of five civilians that were executed and numerous others who were tortured for suspected collaboration with the rebel National Liberation Forces (FNL). APRODEH reported over 400 civilian arrests during the months of September and October 2005 for suspected connections to the FNL. While both reports concluded that the majority of human rights abuses had been perpetrated by the FNL, they chided the government for its part in illegal arrests and detention without charges. "When the new government took power in August, it promised to protect human rights," Alison Des Forges of HRW said. "But in some parts of the country it is not delivering on that promise." Government spokesman Karenga Ramadhani defended the arrests, saying efforts to cripple the FNL had begun paying off. The FNL, the last rebel group in Burundi, has resisted attempts at peace talks since the new government was inaugurated in August. (HRW, News24, November 4, 2005)

CAMBODIA

Annan appoints UN human rights representative to Cambodia: Following the resignation of UN human rights representative Peter Leuprecht, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Kenyan lawyer Yash Ghai to succeed him. The Cambodian government, which had had previous disagreements with Leuprecht over issues of neutrality, welcomed Ghai as the new human rights envoy. Government spokesman Khieu Kanarith commented on the new appointment, "We hope that he may work more neutral[ly] than Peter Leuprecht." According to the Cambodian government, Leuprecht reportedly neglected to verify comments made by politically active groups before releasing the information to the public. (AFP, November 2; New Kerala, November 3, 2005)

Incarcerated radio host denied bail: Jailed radio host Mam Sonando was denied bail by the Cambodian Appeals Court November 3. Mam's lawyer argued that despite Cambodian law that allows for people to be detained up to six months without trial, detaining his client until his trial

was unjust. However, the judge decided to deny Mam the possibility of bail, stating, “We have decided that the decision was fair and in accordance with the law.” Human rights advocates and a United States embassy representative attended the hearing, but declined to comment. Mam Sonando was arrested and jailed October 11 for alleged defamation after having broadcast criticism of Prime Minister Hun Sen’s controversial border treaty with neighboring Vietnam. If Mam is eventually convicted of the charges, he could spend a maximum of one year in prison and face fines. (Bangkok Post, November 7, 2005)

Opposition leader urges king to reject border treaty: Opposition party leader Sam Rainsy sent a letter to King Norodom Sihamoni November 4 asking him to reject Prime Minister Hun Sen’s controversial border treaty with Vietnam. In the letter, Sam Rainsy urged the king to refuse Hun’s effort to obtain royal approval of the treaty, stating that the king’s signature would otherwise allow politicians to use the monarch “as the supreme ‘legitimizing’ of their dark intentions.” Sam, who currently resides in Paris fearing prosecution in his home country, believes that the king represents national solidarity and therefore has the power to express the Cambodian people’s discontent with the treaty. King Sihamoni has already stated he will not sign the treaty, but his half-brother and National Assembly President, Norodom Ranariddh will most likely sign it in place of the king himself. (KI, November 5; October 27, 2005)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

UN Security Council sends team of ambassadors to galvanize support for transition: A delegation of ambassadors sent by the United Nations Security Council to tour the Great Lakes region made its first stop in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) November 5. The team, led by French Security Council Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sablière, spent three days in the DRC meeting with President Joseph Kabila and other officials to gauge the progress of preparations for elections in 2006. Vice-president Jean-Pierre Bemba, as well as several former militia leaders, expressed concerns that the country would not be prepared to end the electoral process by the June 30, 2006 deadline set by the UN for the transitional period in the DRC to end. While nearly 20 million citizens have been registered to vote, there has been little movement towards creating a constitutional referendum necessary to proceed with presidential elections, according to the vice-presidents. However, de la Sablière attempted to reassure the officials before leaving to visit the eastern provinces. “The Security Council puts a lot of effort into the process so we will be very vigilant for any obstacles that might block it,” he said. The UN mission to Congo, MONUC, is the world’s largest peacekeeping force and has been helping the country prepare for its first democratic elections in over 40 years. (IRIN, November 7; Reuters, November 6, 7, 8; MONUC, November 3, 7; UN News, November 3; Xinhua, November 5, 2005)

President supports UN sanctions and travel bans on eastern rebels: The Security Council approved a proposal November 4 that freezes funds and places travel bans on 15 top officers of rebel groups still operating in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). During the week of October 16, delegates from the so-called Tripartite-1 group, composed of DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi met in Kampala, Uganda and asked the United Nations to levy sanctions against “negative forces” in the DRC. The UN’s decision to combat the rebel groups economically as well as militarily was met with approval by President Joseph Kabila. The UN hopes that such a move will push the groups to honor their agreements to disarm, as well as

encourage groups that had been invited to take part in the transitional government to accept. However, Ignace Murwanashyaka, the head of the largest rebel group, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), released a statement that such sanctions were unprovoked and would lead to less cooperation on his part. “There has been no intimidation of the civilian population by FDLR elements,” said Murwanashyaka, who is among the 15 individuals targeted by the UN for sanctions. “All we want is to go back home, and we have always insisted on a peaceful deal.” Though the FDLR has claimed it has not done anything to pose a threat to the Congolese government, early reports during the week of November 3 indicated that the FDLR was responsible for killing three more villagers in North Kivu province. Additionally, the FDLR was reported by the Burundian army to be working with rebels in the DRC’s eastern neighbor. ([AllAfrica](#), [BBC](#), November 4; [MONUC](#), November 6, 2005)

Army frees electoral agents in battle that leaves 34 dead: A joint operation between the Congolese army and United Nations peacekeepers against the Mai Mai militia freed four electoral officials taken captive in late October. However, during the October 31-November 1 raid of a Mai Mai camp outside the city of Goma in North Kivu province, 32 militia members and two Congolese soldiers were killed. The UN sees the Mai Mai, a collection of tribal militias and local defense forces, as pivotal to the peace process of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Efforts to disarm the group and integrate its soldiers into the national army had been going successfully in recent months, with several leaders and thousands of others joining the national disarmament program. However, slow disarmament payments and lack of confidence in the electoral process prompted the group to raid a local registration camp. The militia members stole telephones and radios in addition to kidnapping the four officials. While UN officials were saddened by the news of bloodshed, they were hopeful that the quick efforts to free the hostages would serve as a warning to other rebel groups in the region that the international community is serious about the peace process. The DRC is emerging from a seven-year war in which nearly four million people died. ([IRIN](#), November 2; [News24](#), November 3, 2005)

GENDER AND PEACE

India appoints policewomen to combat rape: After many recent publicized rape and sexual assault cases in India’s capital city, Delhi, the local police force decided to place 40 women officers on the streets of the city’s north-west side. The area, notorious for gender-based crimes, was to be patrolled by the women officers in an attempt to both educate young women about the dangers of rape, and protect them from it. Northwest Delhi’s Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Sagar Preet Hooda stated November 8 that the campaign would benefit local women because “women don’t feel free talking to male officers, they find it easier to communicate with other women. So, with women constables we have the comparative advantage.” Various nongovernmental organizations, psychologists, and sociologists were also involved in the campaign, and were to work alongside the female officers to help bring local awareness to the causes and effects of rape. Thus far, the campaign has worked to decrease domestic violence and arrest sexual offenders. ([BBC](#), November 8, 2005)

UN Development Fund for Women and European Commission hold conference on gender equality and development: A conference hosted by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the European Commission was to be held November 9-11 in Brussels, Belgium.

The meeting, entitled “Owning Development: Promoting Gender Equality in New Modalities and Partnerships,” was to include gender equality experts, government representatives, and donors, all addressing the issue of incorporating gender equality in development aid. UNIFEM hoped the conference would provide opportunity for a dialogue about the “new aid architecture” and methods for the incorporation of women’s rights initiatives. Various workshops were also to have focused on topics like the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs); HIV/AIDS; and realistic means for achieving gender equality through EU development policy. The head of the human and social development unit for the European Commission’s development directorate-general, Lieve Fransen commented on the importance of the conference, stating, “We believe that gender inequality is the greatest in the countries that the European Commission is trying to help with its development cooperation, but not enough attention has been paid to gender equality so far this year.” (IPS, November 7; UNIFEM, November 3, 2005)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

United Nations investigators decline invitation to tour Guantánamo Bay: Three human rights investigators for the United Nations invited by the United States Department of Defense October 28 to tour the detention facility in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, have declined the invitation, according to the UN. Three days after the invitation was extended by the United States, the investigators, led by UN special investigator on torture Manfred Nowak, informed the U.S. that they would not accept. The UN had sought to send investigators to the U.S. naval base numerous times since it opened in January 2002, but was unhappy at the limitations that would be placed on the proposed visit. Investigators were to be given one day to tour the facilities and speak with naval officials. However, they would not be granted access to any of the 505 detainees, a privilege that would only be given to the International Committee of the Red Cross. A statement from the three investigators said they could not accept the exclusion of private interviews as “this would not only contravene the terms of reference for fact-finding missions . . . but also undermine the purpose of an objective and fair assessment.” The UN expressed its confidence that the U.S. would reassess its offer under pressure from international human rights groups in order to prove what Pentagon spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Mark Ballesteros said was America’s “desire to show we have nothing to hide.” (BBC, October 31; Reuters, October 28)

Possibility of secret CIA jails outrage rights investigators in EU and U.S.: On November 2, the Washington Post reported that the Central Intelligence Agency has been holding al-Qaeda suspects in secret detention centers, which it calls “black sites,” since the United States operations in Afghanistan began four years ago. While news of such a site within the Guantánamo Bay complex had leaked previously, the news that these black sites had been run in friendly eastern European and Asian nations concerned European Union officials. The EU and several human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch, demanded complete exposure of the sites, which were suspected to be locations of interrogations involving torture. The International Committee of the Red Cross, the only group which currently has access to detainees in Guantánamo, insisted on being given immediate access to any prisoners held at the secret sites. However, the White House and Pentagon issued statements to Congress asking that the CIA be exempt from answering questions in open testimony, citing national security concerns. If black sites did exist, they would be in direct violation of U.S. and EU laws forbidding detentions without trial. Additionally, uneasiness about whether prisoners may have been tortured prompted human rights investigators, including former Irish president and UN

High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, to call for an immediate halt in operations at the sites until their practices could be fully reviewed. (AP, November 3, 5, 6; SBPost, November 6; WP, November 2, 2005)

LIBYA

Libya offers “trade” for Lockerbie bomber: Libya stated it was willing to free five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor sentenced to death in 2004 if the United Kingdom handed over former Libyan intelligence officer Abdelmaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi to serve the rest of his life sentence in Tripoli. Megrahi was jailed for his participation in the bombing of the PanAm Flight 747 over Lockerbie and has been serving his sentence in Scotland. The offer was made to British and American officials during secret talks in Libya in November. Meanwhile, Bulgaria nearly agreed November 6 to pay \$1 billion to Libya for the nurses’ release. Under the Libyan Penal Code, November 15 is the final date set for the Libyan court to rule on the death sentences’ appeal. Lawyers acting for the prisoners claimed that the nurses’ confessions were coerced and that they have been repeatedly raped and tortured during their seven years in prison. (Sofia Echo, November 7; Sofia News Agency, November 6; Sunday Times, November 6, 2005)

Libya jails Internet journalist: After more than four months of *incommunicado* detention, a Libyan court charged Internet journalist Abd al-Raziq al-Mansuri October 19 with illegally possessing a handgun, and sentenced him to 18 months in prison. Middle East and North Africa Director of Human Rights Watch (HRW) Sarah Leah Whitson said November 4 that the gun charges were a ruse and that the journalist had been jailed for criticizing the government. The arrest was carried out by the Internal Security Agency (ISA), which deals with “political and security crimes.” ISA Colonel Tuhami Khaled told HRW that al-Masuri was not arrested for his articles but for illegal handgun possession. However, al-Masuri’s family claimed that the pistol was found during a second search that took place after the arrest. (Arabicnews, HRW, November, 4; Silicon.com, November 7, 2005)

MACEDONIA

European Commission approves Macedonia for EU membership: The European Commission recommended that Macedonia become a candidate country for full membership in the European Union (EU). A date was not set for starting entry talks. That decision was to be made during the EU summit in December. Macedonia would be the third state of the former Yugoslavia to gain candidate status, after Slovenia and Croatia. “Only a few years after a major security crisis, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia today is a stable democracy and a functioning multi-ethnic state. This is a remarkable achievement . . . The Commission welcomes this progress and recommends that the Council should grant candidate status to the country,” the commission stated. Macedonia was widely considered to be on the brink of a major civil war in 2001. The threat of war was defused after the EU and NATO helped broker an agreement between ethnic Albanian rebels and the majority Slav population. (BBC, November 9, 2005)

NEPAL

United States expresses concerns about dialogue between seven-party alliance and Maoists: The U.S. Ambassador to Nepal, James R. Moriarty, warned November 5 against a possible alliance of the seven agitating parties and Maoist rebels. Moriarty reminded the parties of their promise not to enter into any formal relationship with the rebels until the latter put their weapons down

and committed to supporting the democratic process. Leaders of the agitating parties were taken aback by Moriarty's statement and believed it was the outcome of a misunderstanding about the objectives of the parties' effort. In a mid-October meeting the seven-party alliance decided to hold talks with the Maoists to try to bring them into mainstream politics. Nepali Congress (NC) leader Narhari Acharya said November 6 that the Maoists had started "behaving politically," and were ready to cooperate with the political cadres of the seven-party alliance. However, the United States believes that the best way to restore democracy in Nepal is to re-establish an effective working environment between the country's legitimate political forces: the political parties and the monarchy. NC spokesman Prasad Sitaula explained that the root cause of the political instability was King Gyanendra's political ambition to hold ultimate power, and stated that there was no atmosphere conducive to holding talks with the king at the moment. ([Kantipur Online](#), November 5, 6, 7, 8; [Kathmandu Post](#), November 6; [Nepalnews](#), November 5, 2005)

Human rights groups criticize new code of conduct: Amnesty International (AI) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) addressed an open letter to Minister for Children, Women, and Social Welfare Mrs. Durga Shrestha, in which they expressed their concern about the proposed code of conduct for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). After studying the draft code of conduct, made available in September, AI and ICJ concluded it contained unjustified restrictions on freedom of expression and association, and posed a serious threat to the role of civil society in Nepal. The rights groups also mentioned that many of the provisions were extremely broad and therefore open to multiple interpretations. According to a Social Welfare Council officer, the new code of conduct was to be made public at the end of the week. In October, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Mission in Nepal expressed deep concerns regarding the code of conduct for NGOs, saying that it was opposed to the human rights treaties ratified by Nepal. ([Nepalnews](#), November 8, 2005)

Hearing continues on media ordinance and Kantipur FM radio case: On November 6, the Supreme Court continued hearings on petitions filed against the October 9 media ordinance and the October 26 equipment seizure of Kantipur FM Radio. Pleading on behalf of Kantipur FM, Subash Nembang challenged the constitutionality of the new media ordinance, and urged the Supreme Court to issue an interim order for the annulment of the media law, considering the lack of legal recourse in the absence of parliament. Meanwhile the Ministry of Information and Communication summoned all the representatives of FM stations to the ministry November 6 to discuss whether or not the station had been airing news-related programs. According to Save Independent Radio Movement (SIRM), none of the representatives showed up. SIRM spokesman Ghamraj Luitel accused the government November 6 of harassing FM radio stations at a time when the legality of the recent media ordinance has been tested at the Supreme Court. ([Kantipur Online](#), November 6, 7; [Kathmandu Post](#), November 6; [Nepalnews](#), November 5, 2005)

PHILIPPINES

Rebels dismantle camp in South Cotabato province: A Malaysian-led monitoring team has urged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) November 2 to dismantle a newly built camp in the province of South Cotabato. The monitoring team reminded the rebel group that the camp represented a violation of the 2003 cease-fire agreement in which the guerrillas committed to not recruit new members or set up new camps in the southern region of Mindanao. Upon request of the South Cotabato governor, Daisy Avance-Fuentes, army Major General Agustin Dema-ala

sent a letter to MILF leaders urging them to leave the area. International Monitoring Team's (IMT) visit to the camp November 5 confirmed that the Muslim separatist rebel group had dismantled the newly built camp. Lieutenant Colonel Franklin del Prado commented, confirming that "the MILF destroyed their trenches and thatched houses" and concluded, "it appears that [the MILF leaders] are sincere in keeping the peace." The MILF and the government have recently reached agreement on the contentious issue of ancestral domain in the island of Mindanao. (Gulf Time, November 3; ReliefWeb, November 2 and 5, 2005)

Adoption of anti-terror bill overshadows the passing of anti-torture bill: Rita Melecio, northern and southern Mindanao coordinator for Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), declared November 4 that government's "clamour" for a quick process to pass an anti-terrorism law is likely to undermine the passing of the anti-torture bill. "Clearly, a ban on torture would have no place once the anti-terrorism bill was passed," said Melecio, noting that human rights groups such as TFDP do not believe the government will limit the movement of its security forces in going after alleged terrorists and other perceived government enemies. TFDP found its suspicions on the basis that despite the consolidation of anti-torture bills by several members of congress in 2004, the bills have not been enacted so far, while the anti-terror bill is moving faster. A bill was already passed October 4 making it illegal "to establish, maintain or serve as contact or link with any person or group of persons or organization(s) who have pursued or are pursuing terrorism." (Mindanews, November 4, 2005)

Six United States Marines accused of raping Filipina in city near naval base: Six U.S. Marines who participated in joint counter terrorism exercises in the Philippines were prevented from boarding their ship November 3 after a witness identified them as the perpetrators of the alleged gang rape of a 22 year-old Filipina. The men were seen approaching the woman in a karaoke bar in Subic Bay, a sprawling commercial hub north of Manila, inviting her to follow them in a rented van. A few hours later, a witness saw them dumping the woman unconscious from a van on a road. Although the six men were successfully prevented from boarding their ship, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) administrator Armand Arreza declared that under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) his office did not have the authority to issue arrest warrants. The VFA is the document detailing the rules on the treatment of U.S. forces visiting the Philippines. It stipulates that the issue of arrest warrants pertains to the authority of the Department of Justice. Two Mindanao groups, together with the Suara Bangsamoro Partylist (a group supporting the Bangsamoro, or Muslim community, in southern Philippines), condemned the rape November 6 and 7 respectively. The groups claimed this was not the first incident involving U.S. forces and people from the Moro communities, and demanded that justice be made as Moro women were starting to fear for their fate. Amirah Ali Lidasan, national vice-chair of Suara Bangsamoro Partylist recalls, "It is still fresh in our memories how in [the joint military exercise] *Balikatan 2002* the U.S. government was able to send away a U.S. soldier accused of shooting a Moro farmer . . ." (INQ7.net, November 4; Mindanews, November 7; SunStar, November 6, 2005)

RWANDA

Former assistant minister surrenders to genocide tribunal: Another member of the government accused of inciting genocide more than a decade ago surrendered November 8 to authorities and was to be brought before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Callixte

Kalimanzira, a former assistant minister in the Cabinet, was charged with genocide, distributing weapons, and giving orders for others to participate in crimes against humanity. The minister was arrested in Arusha, Tanzania after informing Rwandan and Tanzanian authorities of his whereabouts. The arrest was the 72nd by the ICTR, which has convicted 22 people on charges related to the 1994 genocide in which nearly 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. The ICTR, whose mandate is set to expire by 2008, has faced increasing pressure from the United Nations to expedite trials of former government officials under President Juvenal Habyarimana. (Reuters, November 8, 2005)

Rwanda least corrupt Great Lakes nation, says report: The latest Corruption Perception Index (CPI) issued by Transparency International ranked Rwanda as the least corrupt nation in the Great Lakes region and 83 out of 159 surveyed countries. Though it received only a 3.1 score out of 10, Rwanda greeted the news favorably. Finance Minister Mannaseh Nshuti said November 3 that his country's commitment to rebuild following the 1994 genocide had made it possible for it to serve as a leader in the region. Nshuti was concerned about the accuracy of the report, adding that "the incidence of corruption in public institutions is minimal in Rwanda." "Maybe it is because we have been surveyed for the first time," he said, "but the score should have been higher than a mere 3.1." The CPI report takes data from any of 16 applicable polls taken of business and civil society professionals working in a country. According to the report, for a country to be included in the CPI it must feature in at least three polls; as a result, the CPI excludes a number of countries for which there are insufficient data. (New Times, November 3; TI, October 18, 2005)

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Serbia outlines vision for Kosovo: Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic spoke at a news conference November 7 with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, and outlined a broad vision for the future of the Serbian province of Kosovo. Talks to determine Kosovo's final status were due to start later this month, after the United Nations Security Council agreed on the time table. Draskovic declared that Serbia had no intention of trying to force its will on the Kosovo Albanians, but also said that it could not allow an outside force to alter Serbian borders over Serbian objections. It appeared that Russia was of a similar mind. Lavrov stated, "No solution can be imposed. It can only be the result of direct talks between Belgrade and Pristina." Draskovic instead advocated a "far-reaching autonomy but not a separate country." Kosovo has been ruled by the United Nations since 1999 after North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bombing forced then Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic to withdraw from the province. In the years since then, Kosovo's 90 percent Albanian majority has been demanding independence from Serbia and Montenegro. (Reuters, November 8, 2005)

United States hardens stance on Kosovo: The U.S. State Department has announced that it would block any attempt by Serbia to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) if the issue of Kosovo were not fully resolved. Nicholas Burns, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs and the American envoy to the Kosovo talks, said that NATO entry was one of the largest incentives for Serbia to cooperate with the UN- initiated negotiations, due to begin by late December. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Burns labeled the upcoming negotiations "as difficult a set of talks as you can imagine." Also testifying before that same committee was veteran American diplomat Richard Holbrooke, one of the chief architects

of the 1995 Bosnia peace deal in Dayton Ohio. Holbrooke said that the way for Kosovo to move forward was through complete independence. He also tied in possible Serbian membership in the European Union as another major incentive, saying, "In the end, the Serbs in Belgrade will have to choose between Brussels and Kosovo, it's as brutal as that." There was no immediate reaction from Belgrade about the comments made by either Burns or Holbrooke. ([AFP](#), [Reuters](#), November 8, 2005)

SRI LANKA

Found suicide jacket raises concerns over security during elections: Police found a suicide jacket close to government buildings and diplomatic missions November 7. The jacket, packed with C4 explosives, two detonators, two switches, and iron balls, was found after the deputy inspector general of police received an anonymous call. There was no clear evidence that the jacket was the work of the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE). However, shortly after the discovery, a man claiming to be an LTTE suicide bomber surrendered to the U.S. embassy affirming that he wanted to desert the Tigers and needed protection because he feared reprisals. The country has a history of election-related violence, and as low-level violence in the north and east increases, the discovery of the suicide jacket as well as the request of the LTTE suicide bomber for refuge were raising concerns that the LTTE was trying to get people too intimidated to vote. The LTTE recently announced that it was dissatisfied with both candidates and would remain neutral during the elections. ([BBC](#), [cnews](#), [Colombo Page](#), November 8, 2005)

SUDAN

Darfur rebel elections could fuel disunity, say observers: The November 3 election of Minni Arko Minnawi as the new president of Darfur's main rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), could fracture the movement according to observers. SLM/A mediators arrived at a reconciliation meeting October 30 to try to resolve the dispute between its president, Abdel Wahed Mohamed el-Nur, and its secretary-general, Minnawi, in order to present a unified front when the stalled African Union (AU)-sponsored peace talks with the government resume November 21. The conference, attended by thousands of SLM/A members, resulted in further disunity however, as El-Nur refused to attend and Minnawi was elected president in his absence. Although Minnawi had urged El-Nur to attend, the former president declined to participate claiming he was not consulted during the preparations for the conference. El-Nur, whose popularity fell after he spent most of the last two years outside Darfur, claimed he would not recognize the congress' decisions. Minnawi by contrast is a military man and thought to hold much greater support among the group's commanders and troops on the ground. Observers in the region feared that Minnawi's election would lead to a formal split of the rebel group, further complicating the resolution of the region's conflict. The Darfur conflict began in February 2003 when the two main rebel groups, the SLM/A and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), took up arms in retaliation against what they termed the oppression of the region by the Sudanese government. ([BBC](#), November 3; [IRIN](#), November 4, 2005)

First east Sudan peace talks set for December: The Sudanese government and the Eastern Front rebels were to meet for the first time in December to try to end years of conflict in the eastern part of the country. Amna Dirar, the secretary-general of the eastern opposition Beja Congress party, said a British aid agency would train opposition delegates in negotiation skills from November 12 in preparation for the talks. "We'll start the negotiations most probably in the first

week of December,” Dirar said. “We’re still waiting to hear from the mediators as to where, but the mediation will be a collaboration between Libya and Eritrea,” she added. Although government officials declined to immediately comment on the talks, Dirar said the talks and the training had the full support of the United Nations, as well as Britain, the United States, and Norway – the three foreign powers heavily involved in the January 9 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that brought an end to more than two decades of civil war in the south. (Reuters, November 8, 2005)

UGANDA

Suspected LRA rebels kill aid worker in south Sudan: Suspected rebels from the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) shot dead a British aid worker in an ambush near the Ugandan border November 5. An employee of International Aid Services (IAS), Collin Lee, and his three-months-pregnant wife were driving from Uganda to the Sudanese town of Yei when they were attacked about 7 miles from the border. Ugandan Army Spokesman Capt. Paddy Ankunda said “the rebels ambushed their Land Cruiser vehicle setting it ablaze before they abducted Collin and his wife along with their driver... Combined forces of SPLA [Sudan People’s Liberation Army] and our [Ugandan] army pursued them and as we were about to get them, they shot [the abductees],” he added. Lee was shot in the chest and throat and died six hours later in hospital. “His wife is in shock, but she was not hurt,” IAS operations director in southern Sudan Onesimo Yugusuk said. The 12 LRA fighters involved in the ambush fled towards neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo according to the Ugandan army. The attack came just three days after the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) suspended its operations in areas of southern Sudan after the LRA killed two of its de-miners – an Iraqi international team supervisor and his Sudanese colleague. Two Ugandans working for international humanitarian agencies were killed in separate ambushes in northern Uganda October 26 prompting several nongovernmental organizations to suspend work in the region. The latest actions by the LRA came in the wake of indictments issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) October 14 against five of the LRA’s leaders. Some observers and relief agencies believed the action by the international court was likely to lead to an escalation of violence in the region. (BBC, IRIN, Reuters, November 7, 2005)

British tourist shot dead by rebels: Rebels from the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) shot dead a British tourist November 8 in an ambush in a northern Ugandan national park. The incident was yet another example in recent days of the rebel group targeting foreigners in reprisal for the arrest warrants issued for their top five leaders by the International Criminal Court (ICC). “This afternoon in Murchinson Falls Park, two LRA rebels killed a UK citizen,” army spokesman Lt. Chris Magezi said. A New Zealander and a Ugandan national were also abducted in the attack, but later rescued by Ugandan troops. Magezi said three other tourists – including another New Zealander and two other Britons – had fled into the bush but were later found safe by Ugandan soldiers. The deceased, Keith Steve Willis, and his group had set out from the Paraa Safari lodge to help whitewater rafters who had had an accident on the River Nile, which runs through the park. As they returned, they ran into the rebels who sprayed their car with bullets. “Our troops are in hot pursuit of the rebels. Meanwhile, the lieutenant in charge of that area has been arrested for failing to provide security on the road,” Magezi said. Experts on the conflict said the rebels appeared to have changed tactics in response to the ICC arrest warrants which were unsealed October 14. The British Foreign Office November 7 said the LRA might now be targeting “white

people,” referring to a handwritten letter apparently written by the LRA and passed to locals last month. ([CNN](#), [Reuters](#), November 8, 2005)

European Union calls for protection of civilians from rebel attacks: The European Union urged the Ugandan government November 7 to protect its citizens from attacks by the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and to ensure those affected by the conflict continued to receive humanitarian supplies. “A recent upsurge in violent attacks in northern Uganda led to the UN suspending its field missions. This is a matter of grave concern,” the EU General Affairs Council said November 7. Relief agencies working in northern Uganda suspended their operations October 27 following attacks on aid workers October 25 and 26 which left two people dead and a further four injured. Humanitarian operations in northern Uganda resumed November 1 following a review of the security situation, according to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Kampala. The EU reiterated its concern over the continuing conflict in the region and the serious humanitarian consequences suffered by the estimated 1.5 million people displaced there. “The Council calls on the government of Uganda to actively promote the economic and social development of Northern Uganda and the full integration of its people in Uganda’s political process,” read a statement issued by the Council. Additionally, the EU urged the Ugandan government “to take exceptional measures, including a clear and active information campaign, to encourage all members of the LRA not indicted by the ICC or under national jurisdiction to seek amnesty, reconciliation, and reintegration into their communities and to create the conditions to promote such returns.” The call coincided with pleas from nongovernmental organizations working in the region which urged the UN Security Council to pass a resolution to ensure the protection of the approximately 1,000 civilians they asserted die of conflict-related causes every week. ([IRIN](#), November 8, 9, 2005)

ZIMBABWE

Protesters arrested by riot police in Harare: Police arrested demonstrators in Harare November 8 as they were marching to protest against the rising economic crisis. The protest was organized by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), which said that their leader and secretary-general were both among those arrested. The ZCTU called the demonstration “to remind the government and employers that workers are hungry, angry, and tired.” The organizers had intended to present a petition to the labor ministry. Riot police armed with batons blocked the demonstrators from moving along the streets and began forcing them into trucks. The authorities justified this by invoking tougher security laws recently put into place, according to which all political gatherings for any group not aligned with the ruling ZANU-PF are required to have prior police permission. ([BBC](#), [Reuters](#), November 8, 2005)

United States ambassador risks expulsion: Zimbabwean state-controlled media reported November 7 that American ambassador Christopher Dell risked being expelled from the country after his blistering attack against the government of President Robert Mugabe. The Ambassador made his comments at a public lecture at the United Methodist Church-run Africa University. In these attacks, Dell blamed Zimbabwe’s economic crisis on government mismanagement and corrupt rule. The ambassador had criticized the Mugabe regime in the past, but his statements last week were the strongest yet. These statements included saying that the Zimbabwe government was responsible for turning one of Africa’s most promising countries into one of the most economically and politically unstable. The state-controlled [Herald Daily](#) said that Dell

could be expelled from the country for his “undiplomatic behavior” and for meddling in the internal affairs of the country. There was no immediate State Department response to the accusations. The diplomatic tension came weeks after the ambassador was detained by state police after accidentally trespassing into a secure area near Mugabe’s private residence in Harare. ([BBC](#), November 8; [Reuters](#), November 7, 2005)