

**Conflict Update**  
**Countries of Focus for the Institute's Dedicatory Conference**  
**July 13, 2001**  
*(Volume 1, Number 5)*

**Choice of countries for updates:** The countries for the conflict updates are the countries that have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute's dedicatory conference, "Peacemaking with Justice: Policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," December 5-7, 2001.

**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 biographical 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 SUMMARY**

### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**

Security Council urges forces to withdraw; Kabila appeals for stronger peacekeeping force; Rwanda and Uganda pledge to improve relations

### **GUATEMALA**

Mayan villagers bury their dead; U.S. urged to give Guatemalan refugees legal status

### **MACEDONIA**

Envoys push for peace in resumed talks

### **NEPAL**

Maoist Rebels abduct 73 police and kill two; Clashes claim more than 40 lives; Maoists begin nation-wide strike

## **UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>AP</b>	=	Associated Press
<b>BBC</b>	=	British Broadcasting Corporation
<b>CNN</b>	=	Cable News Network
<b>EFE</b>	=	Agencia EFE (Spanish News Agency)
<b>IRIN</b>	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: <a href="http://www.unog.ch">www.unog.ch</a> )

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**

Security Council urges forces to withdraw: The UN Security Council called for the urgent pullback of all armed forces in the DRC July 6 to positions agreed upon in the 1999 Lusaka peace accords. The statement, issued by the president of the Council, Ambassador Wang Yingfan of China, expressed the Council's hope "that all parties to the Lusaka agreement will honor the commitments they have made to each other and the international community." Yingfan said the Council was concerned that the armed forces of the DRC had continued to maintain positions beyond the disengagement line, and that the continued movements of foreign supported armies was hindering the effectiveness of UN activities in the region. The Council, warning that the continued presence and operation of armed forces within the DRC was a serious "threat to the peace process," demanded immediate cessation of armed activity. Since the outbreak of war in August 1998, the governments of Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi have supported rebel forces within the DRC in an effort to overthrow the government of Laurent Kabila, and his successor, Joseph Kabila. The Lusaka Peace accords, signed by all parties to the conflict in May 1999, outlined a program of demobilization and disengagement supervised by a UN peacekeeping force. (IRIN, July 9, 2001)

Kabila appeals for stronger peacekeeping force: DRC President Joseph Kabila requested an increase in the number of UN peacekeepers stationed in his country, following a meeting July 4 with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Referring to the strength of the force of the UN Mission in the DRC, Kabila said "We believe the 3,500 men that have been pledged by the UN is a joke," and that an increased UN presence was an issue which he and Museveni agreed was vital to the success of the peace process and stability in the region. The two leaders were brought together by Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa in an effort to revive the stalled peace process begun by the signing of the Lusaka accords. Uganda's main concern is the protection of its territory from infiltrations by rebel factions fleeing DRC in an effort to avoid compliance with the disarmament mandated under Lusaka. The border security of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi has hindered the complete withdrawal of their forces. (Monitor, July 10; New Vision, July 6; TOMRIC News Agency, July 9, 2001)

Rwanda and Uganda pledge to improve relations: For the second time in less than a week, Museveni and Rwandan president Paul Kagame met in an effort to improve their countries' relations. The latest discussions took place July 10 on the sidelines of the ongoing Organization of African States Conference in Lusaka, Zambia. A joint statement issued after the meeting said that they had agreed to establish a "close working relationship" on international issues in order to "harmonize their positions" on regional peace and stability. The previous meeting, held in the Rwandan border town of Gatunda July 6, was the first of its kind in over a year. A series of clashes between Ugandan and Rwandan armed forces, centered in the DRC town of Kisingani in Spring 2000, brought the two former allies into political and military conflict. Relations between the two countries reached an all time low in March when Uganda declared Rwanda a hostile nation, equating it with Sudan and the DRC. (BBC, July 6; IRIN, July 9, 11, 2001)

## **GUATEMALA**

Mayan villagers bury their dead: Mayan villagers buried the remains of 39 people July 5 allegedly killed by soldiers nearly 20 years ago in Zacualpa, located 125 miles from the nation's capital, Guatemala City. Zacualpa, a village in the Quiche region where most of the inhabitants are indigenous Mayans, was one of the regions most affected by Guatemala's three decades of civil war. More than 200,000 people, mainly Mayan peasants, were killed or disappeared during the nation's civil war, which ended with a peace agreement between the Guatemalan government and the rebels December 1996. (BBC, July 6 EFE, July 7, 2001)

U.S. urged to give Guatemalan refugees legal status: President Alfonso Portillo met with U.S. President George W. Bush July 5 to discuss human rights, peace, drug control, trade, and immigration. Portillo urged Bush to support legislation that would permit more Guatemalan refugees to remain in the United States and later stated that the Bush administration "is going to look into this, and look into the possibility of giving its support." The proposal would expand the 1997 law that gives resident status to refugees from Cuba and Nicaragua who arrived in the U.S. before December 1995 to Guatemalan refugees who fled the nation's 1960-1996 civil war. (LA Times, Miami Herald, July 6; Reuters, July 5, 2001)

## **MACEDONIA**

Envoys push for peace in resumed talks: International envoys reported progress in the peace talks that resumed July 9 between Macedonian officials and ethnic Albanian politicians. The peace talks were mediated by U.S. resident envoy to Macedonia James Pardew, his European Union counterpart, Francois Leotard, and The Netherland's representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Max van der Stoel. The plan under discussion proposed the use of the Albanian language in official business and education, devolution of power to local governments, increased Albanian representation in public service positions, and constitutional changes that would eliminate systematic discrimination against the Albanian minority. Though the ethnic Albanian rebel forces, the National Liberation Army (NLA), were not present at the peace talks, ethnic Albanian politicians' approval of a peace agreement could lead to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led disarmament of the NLA. Commanders of the NLA announced July 9 that they would not end their armed rebellion until the state fully meets their demands, including equal rights for ethnic Albanians. Ethnic Albanians comprise approximately one quarter of the majority Slav nation. The NLA's insurgency began in February 2001, and has caused more than 100,000 people to flee Macedonia. (BBC, July 10; CNN, July 8, 10; New York Times, July 9, 2001)

## **NEPAL**

Maoist Rebels abduct 73 police and kill two: Rebels attacked a police station in northwestern Nepal July 11 abducting 73 and killing two. The rebels have stepped up attacks since June 1, by abducting more than 80 police officers, planting bombs outside

the house of the daughter of the Prime Minister and in and around the capital Kathmandu. Rebels have threatened the Prime Minister's official residence and home as well as targeted companies in which the new King Gyanendra is reported to have major shares. Rebels killed a senior police officer and Senior Superintendent Parameswore Singh Sijapati July 10. Sijapati is the most senior officer to be killed since the rebels launched the "people's war" in 1996. More than 1,700 people have been killed since the rebels began the violent campaign to convert the Himalayan country's constitutional monarchy into a republic. (BBC, CNN, July 12, 2001)

Clashes claim more than 40 lives: Maoist rebels raided seven police stations in three Nepalese districts July 6 during the birthday celebration of King Gyanendra. With as many as 41 policemen killed and 12 missing and presumed dead, and five rebels killed, these clashes are the deadliest since the Maoist campaign began. President Prachanda of the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) claimed responsibility for the killings, declared it as a success, congratulated the militias and urged the nation to rise up against the government. (Kathamndu Post, New York Times, July 7, 2001)

Maoists begin nation-wide strike: The Maoist rebels and the Communist Party called for a nation-wide strike July 12 in protest of the official report that Crown Prince Dipendra was to blame for the June 1 palace massacre that left 10 royal family members dead. Rebels have claimed that the massacre was part of a conspiracy and denounced the new King as a "puppet of neighboring India and America's CIA." Rebels have also protested against new security regulations that give authorities sweeping powers to arrest people on suspicion of a crime. Small groups of supporters of the Nepal Communist Party staged protests the morning of July 12 in various parts of Kathmandu, the capital. (BBC, July 10, 12; CNN, July 12, 2001)