

**Conflict Update**  
**Countries of Focus for the Institute's Dedicatory Conference**  
**July 19, 2001**  
*(Volume 1, Number 6)*

**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**

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### **NEPAL**

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## UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AP</b>	=	Associated Press
<b>AFP</b>	=	Agence France Presse
<b>BBC</b>	=	British Broadcasting Corporation
<b>CNN</b>	=	Cable News Network
<b>EFE</b>	=	Agencia EFE (Spanish New 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)**

Rwandan army captures rebel commander: Security forces captured the Interahamwe militia's chief-of-staff Peter Habiman in the northern Rwandan province of Ruhengeri July 15. Since May 20 the militia group has been trying to reenter Rwanda in an effort to avoid the disarmament mandated under the 1999 Lusaka peace accords. The Rwandan army has engaged in numerous clashes with Interahamwe units along the border, resulting in heavy losses for the militia forces. "I entered Rwanda at the beginning of this month, I had come to see what happened to my force," said Habiman. Rwandan army chief-of-staff Brigadier General James Kabarebe said the security forces were tipped off by a civilian who gave Habiman shelter in his house and then sent a child to tell soldiers he was there. The Interahamwe, an extremist Hutu militia responsible for the 1994 Rwandan genocide, fled to the DRC where it has fought in support of President Laurent Kabila and his successor Joseph Kabila. (BBC, July 16; IRIN, July 16; The Monitor, July 15, 2001)

Masire urges meeting to facilitate troop withdrawal: Ketumile Masire, facilitator of the planned inter-Congolese dialogue, called for an urgent meeting of presidents who had signed the Lusaka accords in order to work out a strategy for the withdrawal of foreign troops. Masire noted that continued mass movements of Congolese refugees and displaced persons was an indication of the instability in DRC. Implementation of the accords has been hindered by accusations from both sides over the continued presence of armed forces in violation of mandated cease-fires. DRC's UN representative Ileka Atoki issued a protest to the Security Council regarding the alleged failure of the rebel Front pour la liberation du Congo (FLC) and the Uganda People's Defense Force to fulfill withdrawal commitments. Atoki addressed "... the public and frequently reiterated refusal of the RCD-Goma and Rwandan authorities to demilitarize the city of Kisingani and the multiple and unacceptable pressures" they exert on UN Mission in the DRC. Kabila has also recently been accused of maintaining his forces in positions that violate the accords. The Joint Military Commission (JMC), a multi-national body set up to monitor the peace process in the DRC, has urged Kinshasa to withdraw troops stationed behind rebel lines in violation of accords. In a letter dated July 9, General Njuki Mwaniki, the Kenyan chairman of the JMC, warned the commander of DRC government forces that the "occupation" by his troops of these places "constituted a serious and flagrant violation of the Lusaka accord." Since the outbreak of war in 1998 armed forces of Namibia, Angola, and Zimbabwe have fought alongside DRC forces in an effort to expel the rebel forces supported by Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi. (IRIN, July 11, 16, 17; The Monitor, July 16; PANA, July 11, 2001)

## **GUATEMALA**

Mob kills alleged criminals: A mob of more than 2,000 peasants burned to death eight men accused of highway robbery in the Secoyola township, located about 450 kilometers northeast of Guatemala City. The alleged robbers were hunted down after one member of the group was captured and forced to name his accomplices before he was tortured to death. The murder of the eight alleged criminals is regarded as one of the most gruesome

acts of vigilante violence since the signing of the 1996 peace accords. Since the end of the civil war, vigilante violence increased dramatically in isolated Maya Indian areas of Guatemala, which bore the brunt of violence during the war and where there is little faith in the police force's ability to enforce law and order. (AFP, July 17; EFE, Seattle Times, July 18, 2001)

## **MACEDONIA**

Peace talks in jeopardy but continue: Talks aimed to resolve the conflict between Macedonian Slavs and ethnic Albanians continued despite intense turmoil in recent days. On July 12, envoys from the European Union and the United States reported that a political solution was in sight. But the talks suffered a setback July 17 when Slav political leaders rejected two key ethnic Albanian demands, including a provision to make Albanian an official language and the establishment of a local, more demographically representative police force. A spokesman for the Slav ruling party criticized the draft reforms as "shocking and unacceptable" due to the threat they present to the "unity and integrity of Macedonia." In total, fourteen amendments to the 1991 Macedonian constitution are on the negotiating table with the Albanian language issue the main sticking point. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary General George Robertson and European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana are due to arrive in Macedonia July 19 to further boost the productivity of the peace talks. The July 5 NATO-brokered cease-fire continued to hold despite flare-ups between Macedonian troops and the ethnic Albanian National Liberation Army (NLA) on July 11 and 17. Since the ethnic Albanian insurgency began in February, dozens have been killed and approximately 100,000 refugees have fled the turmoil. Ethnic Albanians comprise approximately two-thirds of Macedonia's population of two million. (AFP, July 18; BBC, July 14; CNN, July 12, 19, 2001)

Macedonians protest leniency toward ethnic Albanians: Hundreds of Macedonians marched July 16 through the streets of Macedonia's capital Skopje to protest the concessions expected to be handed to ethnic Albanians in peace talks. The demonstrators marched past the offices of NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Union while chanting such phrases as "Macedonia for Macedonians" and "No changes to our constitution." The protestors were reacting to potential changes to the constitution including the inclusion of Albanian as a national language, devolution of power to ethnic Albanian leaders, and funding for Albanian-language education. Protest organizer Tomislav Stojanovski declared his desire to meet with United States and European Union envoys so he could "tell the people who dictate terms of peace that we need protection from those who started the war." Though peace talks continue, international diplomats have warned that the hostilities in Macedonia could explode into civil war with little more provocation. However, if the rival sides agree on a peace plan, some 3,000 NATO troops would deploy to oversee the disarmament of the Albanian rebels known as the National Liberation Army (NLA), who number between 4,000 and 6,000. (AP, CNN, July 16, 2001)

## NEPAL

Nepali army in standoff with rebels: About 1,500 soldiers surrounded the Nuwa Village in Ropla district 250 miles west of the capital Kathmandu July 11 to free 71 policemen who had been abducted by rebels July 10. The Nepalese authorities want the rebels to hand over the captured policemen and weapons looted in the rebel attack on the police post. The rebels are demanding that their jailed activists be released in exchange for the police captives. Government officials have rejected rebel terms. The Nepali soldiers have been ordered to exercise extreme restraint and to free hostages without bloodshed. A seven-member team of human rights activists arrived in Ropla July 17 to mediate between the government and Maoist rebels for the safe release of the abducted policemen and to resolve the present standoff. There have been no casualties confirmed; however, on July 11 rebels shot down an army helicopter injuring three people including the pilot. Nepalese officials have said unless the policemen are released, the soldiers will be forced to close in on the rebel-held area. This is the first time since the Maoist insurgency began in 1996 that the army, which is much better trained and equipped than the police, has been used against the rebels. 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 through what they call the "People's War." ([BBC](#), July 13, 16, 17; [CNN](#), July 15; [Nepalnews.com](#), July 14, 16, 18; [The New York Times](#), July 16, 17, 2001)

Deputy prime minister resigns: Nepal's deputy prime minister Ram Chandra Poudel resigned July 13 over differences with the prime minister on how to contain the upsurge in Maoist violence. Poudel told parliament that the government needs a more focused strategy in dealing with the violent Maoist insurgency as well as more authority and weaponry. He also voiced his opinion that the rebellion cannot be resolved by only the police and the army, but that there must be a political dialogue. Poudel is believed to have been hinting toward the resignation of the Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. Koirala took power early last year, vowing to stamp out the revolt, but has recently been urged by opposition parties as well as by his own Nepali Congress Party, to resign. Opposition lawmakers on July 18 stood up in the meeting of the House of Representatives and accused Koirala of violating his own 14-point agenda, lying to the parliament, failing to solve the country's problems and betraying a nation. Lawmakers of six different parties said they would not allow House proceedings to continue unless Koirala resigned. The meeting was postponed until July 20. Meetings of the National Assembly and Upper House of Parliament were also postponed and boycotted by all opposition lawmakers. ([BBC](#), July 13; [CNN](#), July 13; [Nepalnews.com](#), July 14, 18; [The New York Times](#) July 18, 2001)

Rebels continue violence throughout the country: Rebels killed three policemen and injured two others July 18 in an attack on an outpost at Fidim in Argakhachi district 250 km west of the capital. Rebels also injured three policemen with a booby trap at a village in Tanahu district. That same day, students loyal to Maoists torched two government vehicles in Kathmandu Valley. On July 17 rebels looted over Rs. 200,000 from two banks in Nuwakot district. That night rebels killed Krishna Kuwar, an active member of

the ruling Nepali Congress party, and injured his son. ([Nepalnews.com](http://Nepalnews.com), July 18; [The New York Times](http://TheNewYorkTimes.com), July 18, 2001)