



Peace & Justice Update
October 22, 2004
(Volume 10, Number 5)

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 peacebuilding that pertain to gender and human rights.

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.

Update subscriptions: Electronic subscriptions to the Peace & Justice Updates are free; simply send an email to updates@sandiego.edu and include the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

The Peace & Justice updates are written by the Fall 2004 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Bree Del Sordo (University of California, Santa Cruz), Leslie Gabrielson (University of Southern California), Joanna Haszek (The Poznan University of Economics, Poland), Joshua D. Kipper (University of California, Los Angeles), and Amy Super (University of California, Berkeley).

UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
Balkan News	=	Balkan News (www.balkannews.net)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/)
BCG	=	Balkan Crisis Group (www.iwpr.net)
Deutsche Presse-Agentur	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.de)
EFE News	=	EFE News Services (www.efenews.com)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk/)
Hindu	=	The Hindu (www.thehindu.com)
Hindustan Times	=	The Hindustan Times (www.hindustantimes.com)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
ICBL	=	International Campaign to Ban Landmines (www.icbl.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)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IPS	=	Inter Press Service (www.ips.org)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
IWPR	=	Institute for War and Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Kantipur Online	=	Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Monitor	=	The Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News.Com (www.nepalnews.com)
New Kerala	=	NewKerala.Com (www.newkerala.com)
New Vision	=	The New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
Pakistan Daily Times	=	The Pakistan Daily Times (www.dailytimes.com.pk)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
PNG Post-Courier	=	Papa New Guinea Post-Courier (www.postcourier.com)
Relief Web	=	Relief Web (www.reliefweb.int)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
Sri Lanka Daily News	=	The Sri Lanka Daily News (www.dailynews.lk)
Tamil Net	=	Tamil Net (www.tamilnet.com)
UNHCR	=	UN High Commissioner for Refugees (www.unhcr.ch)
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UN Radio	=	UN Radio Broadcast News (www.un.org/radio/news)
U.S. Dept. of State	=	U.S. Department of State (www.state.gov)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
Washington Post	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

UPDATE SUMMARY

BALKANS

SERBIA

Kosovar Serbs protest election

GENDER AND PEACE

African conference adopts gender equality statement; Women ask for funds to mark peace anniversary

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI

Electoral commission releases new timetable

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

President makes first trip to former rebel-controlled eastern DRC

UGANDA

Army claims 15 rebels killed

RWANDA

UN ensures progress of genocide trials

GUATEMALA

Government condemns police action

HORN OF AFRICA

SOMALIA

New president enters office

SUDAN

Government may grant partial autonomy to Darfur

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

World leaders are expected in Nairobi; Zimbabwe government politicizes food, breaching human rights

NEPAL

Maoists declare temporary cease-fire; Maoist clashes continue

PAKISTAN

India, Pakistan agree on steps to stop border crime

SIERRA LEONE

World Food Programme and EU contribute to recovery; NGO director speaks about gender crimes

SRI LANKA

Breakaway faction leader announces new political party; UN recognizes anniversary of citizenship law

BALKANS

SERBIA

Kosovar Serbs protest election: Approximately 2,000 Kosovar Serbs protested a parliamentary election October 20 to be held in the UN-run province October 23. They threatened to boycott the elections because of security concerns following ethnic Albanian attacks on Kosovar Serbs in March 2004. The elections were part of an international effort to create cooperation between the province's divided ethnic Albanian majority and Serb minority and to establish a functional multiethnic society. The October 23 election were to be the second general election for Kosovo since the province came under UN and NATO rule in 1999, following a NATO air strike to end former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic repression against Albanians who are seeking province's independence. Kosovo has a 90 percent ethnic Albanian population and remains part of Serbia-Montenegro, but its final status is to be decided through negotiations hosted by the UN and expected to start in 2005. (AFP, AP, BBC, Reuters, October 20, 2004)

GENDER AND PEACE

African conference adopts gender equality statement: The Seventh Ministerial Session of the African Regional Conference ended October 14 with the adoption of a series of recommendations designed to help overcome the "daunting challenges" facing African women. The conference was attended by 900 participants including ministers, government officials, youth, and activist groups from several countries in Africa. The group wrote and unanimously adopted the "Renewed Commitment to Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Development Agenda." It discussed the challenges women in Africa faced, including limited access to land, credit, education, health, and gainful employment, increased sexual violence, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The statement also urged full participation of women in the African Union, and in conflict resolution and peace building processes. The conference was initially designed to review positive changes for women in Africa since the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, which drew attention to the numerous struggles faced by African women. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur, October 14, 2004)

Women ask for funds to mark peace anniversary: The Bougainville Women, Peace and Security Board in Papua New Guinea asked for money from the government October 13 to sponsor activities commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Day scheduled for late October. The Board included members from the Leitana Neihan Women's Development Agency, the Bougainville Provincial Council of Women, the Bougainville Inter-Church Women's Forum, the United Church Women's Fellowship, and the Bougainville Catholic Women's Association of Buka, all national organizations in Papua New Guinea. The anniversary was scheduled to take place over a three-day period and was to bring women's leadership programs to a central location to focus on preparations for future reconciliation programs in post-conflict situations in

Papa New Guinea. The Women, Peace, and Security Day was inspired by the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2000, which called for the full participation of women in conflict resolution and peace processes. (PNG Post-Courier, October 13, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI

Electoral commission releases new timetable: Burundi's first democratic elections since 1993 were officially delayed October 16 because of the boycott of the new constitution by Tutsi-dominated political parties. The elections were due to be held by October 31, 2004 under the August 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement aimed at ending a decade of ethnic conflict between Hutu and Tutsi that resulted in approximately 300,000 casualties. The National Independent Electoral Commission endorsed a new timetable for polls at the summit of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi October 16 in Uganda. The new schedule proposed local and communal elections in February, parliamentary elections by March, and the vote for the president by April 2005. Burundi had been led by a Tutsi-led government since gaining independence from Belgium in 1962. The Tutsi-dominated government agreed to hold an open presidential election for the first time and to form a power-sharing government between the Hutu majority and Tutsi minority in 1993. The elections were won by a Hutu party, but the Tutsi soldiers assassinated the first Hutu president Melchior Ndadaye after four months in office, launching the 1993 to 2003 ethnic war between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi. (AFP, October 18; BBC Monitoring, October 16; Reuters, October 16, 18, 2004)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

President makes first trip to former rebel-controlled eastern DRC: DRC President Joseph Kabila arrived October 16 for his first visit to the city of Kisangani in the country's northeast Orientale Region, formerly held by rebels. The President's spokesman Kudura Kasongo stated Kabila's visit symbolized national reunification, the end of hostilities, and an economic revival for eastern DRC. President Kabila called on the residents of Kisangani to ensure elections would take place as scheduled in July 2005 and warned that his government would not accept any further "aggression" from neighboring countries. Eastern DRC was invaded twice in 1996 and 1998, both times by Rwanda and Uganda to fight the DRC-based Hutu rebels. Kabila came to power in January 2001 following his father Laurent Kabila's assassination, in the midst of war that claimed approximately 2.5 million lives. The violence in eastern DRC continues 18 months after the war was formally ended in April 2003. (AFP, AP, October 16, 17, 18; IRIN, October 18; Reuters, Washington Post, October 17, 2004)

UGANDA

Army claims 15 rebels killed: Eight Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels were killed October 17 when the Ugandan military deployed air and ground forces in the northern Uganda Gulu district. The group of rebels were commanded by LRA's deputy chief Vincent Otti who escaped the attack. The Ugandan army also claimed October 16 that it had killed seven LRA fighters in the northern Kitgum district. The LRA has been fighting in northern Uganda since 1988 to replace President Yoweri Museveni's government with one based on the biblical Ten Commandments. The LRA has abducted approximately 30,000 children to serve as fighters or sex slaves and displaced approximately 1.6 million people. (AFP, IRIN, October 18, 2004)

RWANDA

UN ensures progress of genocide trials: The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) set up a fourth courtroom October 16 to facilitate its trials of the Rwandan genocide perpetrators in Arusha, Tanzania. ICTR President Erik Mose stated that a fourth courtroom would guarantee the steady progress of several trials that had been given a completion deadline of 2008. The arrival of five new judges appointed September 17 enabled the Tribunal to begin new trials at the beginning of October 2004. The ICTR was established in November 1994 for the prosecution of persons responsible for genocide and violations of international humanitarian law committed during the Rwandan genocide in 1994 when extremist Hutus killed approximately 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 100 days. As of September 2004, the ICTR has handed down 17 judgments finding 23 people guilty. Another 25 people are currently on trial. Among those sentenced to life in prison are the former Rwandan prime minister and the former ministers of education and information. (ICTR, September 17; Xinhua, October 16, 2004)

GUATEMALA

Government condemns police action: Guatemala's Special Prosecutor for Human Rights accused the police October 13 of having executed at least five peasants during a mass eviction of citizens from a private farm. The report accused the police of torture, abuse of authority, and destruction of property, as well as attacking journalists and stealing their equipment. The August 31 clash at the farm southeast of Guatemala City left 11 dead, including four police officers. Officials were trying to clear the private farm of approximately 600 peasants who were attempting to pressure authorities to investigate the disappearance of one of their leaders. The struggle for land in Guatemala entered a new phase when campesino (peasant) organizations began to seize lands in 2000 which were allocated to them in the 1996 Peace Accords. The peace accords ended 36 years of conflict in which approximately 200,000 people died, many in massacres of Mayan Indians by state security forces. (AP, EFE News, October 13, 2004)

HORN OF AFRICA

SOMALIA

New president enters office: President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed was sworn into office October 14 in Nairobi, Kenya. Yusuf was elected President October 10 by a transitional federal parliament operating in Nairobi; he received two-thirds of the votes cast by the 275 members of the Somali members of Parliament. The former president, Abdulkassim Salad Hassan, who was appointed president in 2000 by clan elders and senior officials, failed to establish control of the country, and exercised authority of Somalia's transitional government only nominally. Since the Siad Barre regime was ousted in 1991, Somalia has not had a functional government and has been plagued by incessant warfare and factional fighting. (AllAfrica, October 14, 15; BBC Monitoring, Reuters, Xinhua, October 14, 2004)

SUDAN

Government may grant partial autonomy to Darfur: Sudanese Ministers reported October 19 that the government was considering granting Darfur limited autonomy in order to bring peace to the region. The plan, initially proposed by UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers, would grant citizens of Darfur the right to elect their own governor and parliament and control regional internal affairs. The announcement came during an October 17 meeting between the presidents of Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Egypt, and Sudan, hosted in Tripoli by Libyan head of state Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. The leaders of these neighboring countries rejected any notion of western intervention but insisted that Sudan comply with UN resolutions and disarm the Janjaweed militias responsible for killing, rape, and plunder in Darfur. Janjaweed atrocities coupled with government offensives have resulted in an estimated 70,000 deaths and the displacement of approximately 1.5 million people in western Sudan. (Independent, October 19; NYT, October 18, 2004)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

World leaders are expected in Nairobi: The midpoint review of the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World was to be held in Kenya November 29 to December 3 to address the progress of the Mine Ban Treaty by member countries. The Mine Ban Treaty was established in 1997 and was brought into force March 1, 1999. Currently there are 143 ratified members. The treaty prohibited using, stockpiling, manufacturing, or purchasing landmines. Each state party has a 10-year period from their date of ratification to clear their country of all landmines. Dignitaries from around the world will be attending the summit: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan will speak during the high level portion of the meeting, Queen Noor of Jordan will convene the "Survivors Summit" where victims can tell their stories to government officials, and Pope John Paul II will address the

summit via live video telecast. As of October 2004 42 countries, including China, Russia, and the U.S., have yet to sign the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. (ICBL, October 1, 4, 5; Reuters, October 12; UN Radio, October 13, 2004)

Zimbabwe government politicizes food, breaching human rights: Amnesty International (AI) released a report October 15 that accused the government of Zimbabwe of having violated international human rights law by denying citizens access to food. According to the report approximately 700,000 people in southern Zimbabwe had gone hungry and were unable to feed themselves because of discriminating and corrupt practices by President Mugabe. The Grain Marketing Board, which was responsible for the country's primary food staple, maize, had been allowing only Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) members access to food. Mugabe is president of the ZANU-PF and had also been accused of withholding food to voters unless they voted for the ZANU-PF. With elections to be held in 2005 AI feared that the problem will only worsen. The UN and the World Food Program (WFP) were advised by the government that this year's harvest was "bountiful" and that their help was no longer needed. The AI report challenged the government's claim that they had ample supply to meet the country's needs. Despite appeals by the citizenry, the WFP stated that they would not return unless directly asked to do so by the government. (AI, October 15, AllAfrica, October 16, 17; Guardian, October 18, 2004)

NEPAL

Maoists declare temporary cease-fire: In response to a Maoist request for a truce during the approaching nine-day Dashain festival in Nepal, the government stated October 18 that it would take no offensive action toward the Maoist rebels during that period. Government spokesperson Mohammed Moshin stated that it was a fundamental right of the people of Nepal to be able to move about freely during the religious festival, but that troops would remain on high alert in defensive positions. All members of the coalition of political parties have been reported to be on board with the cease-fire, with some asking that the government remove the governmental Terrorist Tag and Interpol Red Corner Notice on the group in order to convince Maoists to participate in peace talks. These labels have been contentious for the rebel group because they have been branded international criminals and isolated from domestic civil society. The Maoists have been waging an eight-year civil war to overthrow the constitutional monarchy and install a people's communist republic. The last major cease-fire ended August 2003 when the parties failed to come to an agreement during peace talks. (BBC Monitoring, Deutsche-Press-Agentur, October 18; Kantipur Online, October 16, 17, 18; Kathmandu Post, October 17, 2004)

Maoist clashes continue: Several incidents of violence and intimidation on the part of Maoist rebels were reported the week of October 18. In the Phidim district in East Nepal it was reported October 17 that Maoist threats demanding the resignation of employees of

the District Development Committee were significantly affecting social work in the area. Employees feared being “cleansed” by the Maoists on the one hand or labeled part of a terrorist group on the other. Maoists also attacked a People’s Front Nepal rally October 17 and 18 in Nishi of Baglung and abducted two teenage students from secondary schools in Dang. In retaliation, Maoists have been attacked by security forces October 17 and 18 in five separate regions of the country. A candle-light vigil was held October 17 in Kathmandu to remember the 118 lives taken in the Maoist conflict in the previous month, thus beginning a monthly tradition in which Kathmanduties would honor those lost each month to the conflict. The first of such vigils, organized by Campaign Against Violence, was held one month earlier and was in memory of the more than 10,000 lives lost to date in the eight-year civil war in Nepal. (BBC Monitoring, October 18; Kathmandu Post, October 17, 2004)

PAKISTAN

India and Pakistan agree on steps to stop border crime: India and Pakistan signed a nine-point agreement October 14 to enhance cooperation between border forces, including joint efforts to check border crimes by strengthening patrols and surveillance to stop illegal crossing across the Kashmiri border between Pakistan and India. The agreement was signed at the conclusion of four-day talks between India’s Border Security Force and Pakistan’s Rangers. The two sides agreed to increase efforts aimed to prevent drug smuggling, and to exchange lists of smugglers. They also agreed to return stray cattle crossing the border. These confidence building measures have helped to facilitate constructive dialogue between the two countries who have been locked in an almost 60-year long struggle concerning the region of Kashmir. (BBC Monitoring, Xinhua, October 14, 2004)

SIERRA LEONE

World Food Programme and EU contribute to recovery: The World Food Programme (WFP) opened a new office in Magburuka, Sierra Leone October 12 after the closing of their Bo office in August. The WFP has described its programs in the country as fighting a crisis and approved \$24 million for the country during their recent executive meeting in Rome. WFP Deputy Country Director Felix Gomez described the new office location as a strategic one from which new locations can be opened to serve Koinadudgu and other parts of the Northern province. The European Union (EU) was conducting a workshop for civilians in Sierra Leone geared toward addressing post-conflict challenges like retaining the peaceful maintenance of refugee camps, relieving tension between refugees and their host country, and upholding peace and stability in the region. The fulfillment of these goals has been pursued through essential skills training and Peace Study programs in cooperation with local organizations like the National Commission for Social Action, the Sierra Leone Industrialization Centre, and the Forum for Africa Women Educationalists. These programs are designed to keep the country from slipping back into violence and poverty in the wake of a 10-year civil war which ended in 2002 and

took the lives of more than 50,000 people. (AllAfrica, October 15, 18, Concord Times, October 18, 2004)

NGO director speaks about gender crimes: Ann Marie Caulker, director of Katanya Women's Development Association in Sierra Leone, returned home from Nairobi, Kenya the week of October 14 after speaking at a conference hosted by the non-governmental organization (NGO) No Peace Without Justice. At the conference she discussed "traditional harmful practices" in Sierra Leone such as female circumcision and sexual exploitation, as well as the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Caulker cited persistent economic poverty in the region and asked for the support of the international community. Sierra Leone is currently making strides toward recovery, political balance, and the reconstruction of infrastructure since its 10-year civil war ended in 2002 with the help of a West African regional peacekeeping force and the UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone. (AllAfrica, October 14, 2004)

SRI LANKA

Breakaway faction leader announces new political party: Venayagamoorthy Muralitharan, a.k.a. Karuna, a former senior commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), registered for a new political party called the Tamil Eelam Peoples' Liberation Tigers (TEPLT), which would represent the 6,000 Tamils that broke away from the LTTE in March 2004 because of corrupt practices. However, the Sri Lanka election commission stated they were unable to recognize a new political party during an election period, as local elections in the northeast of the country had already been scheduled. The Secretary General of the TEPLT stated October 12 that the new party's purpose was to challenge the LTTE's current leader, Prabhakaran, in a peaceful and democratically principled manner, while seeking to give power to the Tamil people. The Secretary General of the TEPLT stated that the war of liberation started out against the government of Sri Lanka, but the Tamil people have now realized that peace and justice lies in liberation from Prabhakaran and the LTTE. He noted that the Tamil people need international support, but instead they had been labeled as terrorists along with the LTTE. The LTTE have been the primary rebel group in a two-decade war with the government of Sri Lanka. (Daily News, Hindu, October 14; Hindustan Times, October 13; New Kerala, October 12, 2004)

UN recognizes anniversary of citizenship law: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Senior Officer for Statelessness commended the Sri Lankan government October 7 on the one-year anniversary of the "Grant for Citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin Act," which addressed a 200 year old problem. Between 1820 and 1840 British colonizers brought Tamils from India's Tamil Nadu area to work the coffee and tea plantations in Sri Lanka. Known as "Up-country" or "Hill" Tamils, the majority still work on tea-plantations in the southern and central part of the country. When Sri Lanka gained its independence from British rule in 1948, the Up-country Tamils were disqualified as citizens. They had been denied the rights of property, working for the government, holding a national identity card, obtaining a passport, traveling abroad, and the right to

vote. It was not until the Sri Lankan government unanimously passed the “Grant of Citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin Act” October 2003 that 300,000 stateless Tamils had their first chance at citizenship. However approximately 30,000 Up-country Tamils were taking refuge in India, and because they were outside the country they were not covered under the new Act and remained stateless and displaced. Over a 450-year period Sri Lanka was colonized by three different European countries: Portugal, the Netherlands, and Great Britain. ([Relief Web](#), September 15; [Tamil Net](#) October 7, December 3, 2003; [UNHCR](#), October 7, 2004)