



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 peacebuilding that pertain to gender and human rights.

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africafocus.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
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)
Colombo Page	=	Sri Lankan Online News (www.colombopage.com)
Daily News	=	Sri Lanka Daily News (www.dailynews.lk)
Daily Telegraph	=	The Daily Telegraph (dailytelegraph.news.com.au)
Deutsche Presse-Agentur	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.de)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
EuroNews	=	European News (www.euronews.net)
Financial Times	=	Financial Times (www.ft.com)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk/)
Gulf News	=	Gulf News (www.gulf-news.com)
Hindu	=	The Hindu (www.thehindu.com)
Hindustan Times	=	The Hindustan Times (www.hindustantimes.com)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch News (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)
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IPS	=	Inter Press Service (www.ips.org)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
Kantipur Online	=	Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Miftah	=	The Palestinian Initiative (www.miftah.org)
Monitor	=	The Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News.Com (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
New Kerala	=	NewKerala.Com (www.newkerala.com)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
Pakistan Press International	=	Pakistan Press Internationals (www.pakistanipress.com)
PCHR	=	Palestine Centre for Human Rights (www.pchrgaza.org)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
Sri Lanka Daily News	=	The Sri Lanka Daily News (www.dailynews.lk)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNHCR	=	UN High Commissioner for Refugees (www.unhcr.ch)
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)
U.S. Dept. of State	=	U.S. Department of State (www.state.gov)
Washington Post	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Washington Times	=	The Washington Times (www.washtimes.com)
WHO	=	The World Health Organization (www.who.int/en)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency(www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

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BALKANS

Milosevic resumes self-defense: Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic regained the right to self-defense November 1 at his trial for genocide and war crimes at The Hague. An appeals court at The Hague ruled that as long as Milosevic was physically capable he should take the lead in conducting his own defense, meaning he could choose and question witnesses, argue motions, make a closing statement, and handle strategic decisions regarding the case. Milosevic's right to self-defense was revoked by the court September 2, 2004 due to his poor health, which consistently delayed proceedings. In a campaign against that decision, Milosevic refused to speak to the two defense lawyers assigned to him and convinced a large majority of his witnesses to follow suit. Milosevic, who came to power in 1989 and presided over the Balkan wars of the 1990s, has refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and has maintained that the charges against him are false. (Financial Times, November 2; Independent, November 2; Washington Times, November 1, 2004)

GENDER AND PEACE

UN urges increasing efforts to protect women from violence: The UN Security Council urged the UN General Assembly October 28 to take more action to end the increasing and continuous violence against women in conflict situations and to give women a stronger voice during post-conflict peace processes. After a panel discussion with experts on women, peace, and security, the Council wrote a statement requesting Secretary-General Kofi Annan create a plan by October 2005 to show how the UN could achieve these goals. The Council requested a detailed timetable for the implementation of plans to eliminate gender-based violence and increase the participation of women in peace processes. Despite the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000, which called for the protection of women in war and their inclusion in peace negotiations, gender-based violence has continued to increase in politically unstable countries such as Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and the former Yugoslavia. (AllAfrica, October 28; Pakistan Press International, October 29, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI

Tutsi parties accept new constitution: Political parties from the Tutsi minority, who previously boycotted a parliamentary session September 20 to vote on the new constitution, announced their endorsement November 1 for Burundi's new interim constitution. The largest Tutsi party, Union for National Progress, announced September 31 that they recognized the new constitution as a legal reality but demanded negotiations on the distribution of power between the Hutus and Tutsis before the November 26 national referendum on the new constitution. The Tutsi-led parties wanted constitutional guarantees that the Tutsis' share in government would go to their parties, and not to Tutsi

members of the Hutu-dominated parties. They claimed the new constitution favored Hutus by allocating 60 percent of seats in the government and parliament to Hutus and only 40 percent to Tutsis. The Tutsis, who comprise approximately 15 percent of Burundi's population, have traditionally dominated the country's government and army since its independence from Belgium in 1962. Tutsi domination in the political sphere was the major cause of the 10-year civil war that erupted in 1993 and resulted in approximately 300,000 casualties. (AFP, BBC Monitoring, IRIN, November 1; Reuters, October 31, 2004)

UGANDA

LRA calls for peace talks: Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) spokesperson Brigadier Sam Kolo announced, on behalf of LRA leader Joseph Kony, November 2 that the LRA was ready to officially start peace talks with the Ugandan government and was waiting for a response from the government. As of November 4 there was no official statement from the Ugandan government. Despite negotiation attempts in the past, peace talks between the LRA and the government have never officially gotten underway. The government's commitment to a peaceful solution to the conflict was manifested by the amnesty program for the LRA in 2000 and the offer of cease-fire zones for holding peace talks in October 2002 and April 2004. As of April 2004, approximately 6,500 LRA rebels emerged from the bush to join the amnesty program while approximately 500 others continued to loot villages and abduct children and civilians in Northern Uganda. The 18-year war between the LRA and the Ugandan government has resulted in the displacement of more than 1.6 million people in Northern Uganda's Gulu, Kitgum and Pader provinces. (BBC News, Reuters, November 2, 2004)

ICC appoints lawyer for Kony's case: The International Criminal Court (ICC) appointed Sierra Leonean prosecutor Gloria Atiba-Davies November 1 to conduct investigations of rebel leader Joseph Kony of the LRA. Atiba-Davies was to investigate Kony and the LRA main commanders' possible crimes against humanity, including child abductions, executions, torture, rape, and sexual assault. The ICC announced the launch of a formal investigation into war crimes and human rights atrocities committed by the LRA in Northern Uganda in July 2004, following an appeal to the ICC by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in December 2003. The ICC was also to issue arrest warrants for Joseph Kony and seven of his commanders. Approximately 20,000 children have been kidnapped and more than 100,000 people have been killed during the last two decades of LRA attacks. As of October 2004 there are approximately 40,000 "night commuters," children and families who flee their houses by night to avoid LRA raids. (IRIN, August 26; Monitor, November 1; New Vision, November 3; Reuters, November 1, 2004)

GUATEMALA

Activists celebrate anniversary of dictator's overthrow: Approximately 4,000 students, women's and human rights activists, and indigenous people marched in Guatemala City October 20 to remember the 60th anniversary of the overthrow of dictator Jorge Ubico. Ubico's 13-year dictatorship ended in 1944 and was followed by the democratic election of President Juan Jose Arevalo. The anniversary march has been held every year to also

commemorate the revolutionary governments of Arevalo and his successor Jacobo Arbenz. President Arbenz introduced a land distribution law in 1952, reformed social security, and increased the autonomy of government institutions. In 1954 he was ousted by a U.S. supported coup that installed a military dictatorship. The ensuing civil war that erupted in 1960 resulted in approximately 200,000 casualties and formally ended with the signing of the 1996 Peace Accords. (UUAP, October 20; BBC News, September 24, 2004)

HORN OF AFRICA

SOMALIA

Fighting breaks out between rivals: Clashes between the forces of rival northern territories Puntland and Somaliland erupted October 29 in Addi-Addeye after weeks of regional strife caused by the October 10 election of former Puntland warlord Abdullahi Yusuf as president of Somalia. Somaliland Minister of Information Abdillahi Du'ale claimed that more than 100 people had been killed in the fighting. While it was not known what triggered hostilities, relations between the two regions had been strained since Puntland seized control in December 2003 of Las Anod, a town in which both Puntland and Somaliland previously had official representation. Somaliland, a self-declared independent republic, has a functional political system and governmental institutions, a police force and its own currency; but, it is not recognized by any international authority. It has refused to recognize Somali President Yusuf and has vowed to fight any governing body that attempts to subjugate it. Somaliland declared independence in 1991 following the overthrow of Somalia's military dictator Siad Barre. Since that time, Somaliland has maintained stable and generally peaceful conditions within its territory while Somalia proper has failed to establish a functional permanent government. (IRIN, November 1; LA Times, October 31; NYT, October 30, 2004)

SUDAN

Refugees forced from camp in Darfur: Sudanese security forces drove thousands of people out of the El Greer refugee camp in southern Sudan and into the nearby Sherif camp November 2 in what UN envoy to Sudan Jan Pronk labeled a "flagrant violation" of international law. The Sudanese government told refugees their transfer was being conducted in close consultation with the UN, which it was not. Pronk demanded that the refugees be returned to the El Greer camp and that the policy of refugee removal cease immediately. It remained unclear whether the refugee camp raid was ordered directly by the government or was the volition of its allied militias. Hostilities flared up in Darfur in late October and several groups, including the Janjaweed militias, Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), and the Khartoum government, launched attacks in the region. Open warfare erupted in Darfur in February 2003 when loosely allied rebel groups SLA and Justice and Equality Movement attacked Sudanese military installments. The retaliatory actions of the government and its allied Janjaweed militias, which have included murder, rape and plunder, have resulted in more than 70,000 deaths and the displacement of approximately 1.5 million people (All Africa, November 2; AP, November 3; CNN, November 2; Independent, November 3, 2004).

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Israel votes to pull out of the Gaza Strip: By a ballot of 67 to 45, the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, voted October 26 to begin the relocation of all 21 Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip and four additional settlements from the West Bank to areas within the established state of Israel. Sharon overcame a call by members of his own Likud Party for a public referendum on the issue by creating a coalition with Shimon Peres' Labor Party. The parliamentary vote ratified the June 6 U.S.-backed Disengagement Plan, which required the withdrawal of the homesteads, as well as military personnel deployed in the areas for their protection. Israel would maintain military control of the borders, shoreline, airspace of the Gaza Strip, and would continue to control the water supply and electricity. Throughout the occupied territories of Gaza, West Bank, Golan Heights, and East Jerusalem there are an estimated 400,000 settlers living among 3,500,000 Palestinians. Only 8,000 settlers were to be immediately relocated; the total withdrawal was to be completed by the end of 2005. Thousands of settlers and their supporters protested the vote, although opinion polls as of October 27 showed 65 percent of the Israeli population endorsing the withdrawal. The removal of settlers is a step towards ending the four-year long uprising of Palestinian forces against the Israeli government. (BBC, Independent, October 27; Reuters, October 29, 2004)

European Union accepts constitution: Leaders from the 25 countries which make up the European Union (EU) signed a treaty October 29 which established a constitution replacing all previous treaties among the parties going back to the 1957 Treaty of Rome. However, the constitution would not replace the individual constitutions of each member state. The "Charter for Fundamental Rights" would be a major part of the constitution, creating a framework for human rights under common law. This charter surpasses the Convention on Human Rights adopted in 1950 to include the rights to strike as well as obtain unemployment benefits. The constitution includes a Court of Justice made up of one judge from each member state that is to rule on matters involving only the EU. A permanent president will be elected for a two and one half year term and there will be an EU Foreign Minister. The EU Constitutional Treaty requires ratification by all members before it can take effect in 2006. Many of the countries have required a public referendum for ratification. If the constitution is ratified, its Human Rights Charter could apply to the 450 million people residing in EU countries. (AP, EU, EuroNews, October 29; IHT, LA Times, October 30, 2004)

NEPAL

Maoists threaten villagers and force them to flee: In the district headquarters of Mugu in Gamghadi November 1, Maoists forced villagers to either join their ranks or flee, continuing to use intimidation of civilians as a tactic in their fight against the government. Although there were no reports of civilian casualties in this most recent campaign, it was reported that Maoist forces set off bombs in the area and set eight government offices on fire. In addition, Maoists threatened to kill civilians if one member from each family in the district did not join Maoists forces. Several government offices were affected, such as the District Police Office, District Forest Office, Revenue

Office, District Post Office, District Development Committee, and Telecommunication Office. In addition, Maoists looted 35 sets of solar panels worth US \$13,500.00 from a neighboring district and two Maoists were reported dead the same day in nearby districts in a related incident. Reports of violence contradicted recent talks of a nine-day cease-fire in honor of the Dashain religious festival; the most recent attempt at cease-fire failed in 2003 when both sides failed to come to a consensus in peace talks. (Kantipur Online, November 1; Kathmandu Post, October 31, 2004)

Youth wing protests TADA ordinance: The youth wing of the Communist Party Nepal-United Marxists Leninists staged a protest November 3 against a new ordinance of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA) originally passed in 2001. Ordinance 2061 of the act, passed the week of November 1, extended the length of time which a suspect could be held under house arrest without trial from 90 days to one year. The ordinance has been widely criticized as being more oppressive than the despotic Panchayat regime which ruled the country for 30 years with no political parties. Spokesmen for the political parties in Nepal spoke out against the ordinance, saying that for an appointed cabinet to change a law which was originally enacted by an elected Parliament was unacceptable and went against any progress toward democracy. Even former Home Minister Kamal Thapa, who had served under the Panchayat regime, did not condone the changes. Supporters of the ordinance defended it by claiming it was created to apprehend terrorists. The terrorist group the law was allegedly intended to control is the Maoist rebel group who has been fighting since 1996 to overthrow the constitutional monarchy in favor of a people's communist republic. More than 10,000 people have been killed as a result of Maoist violence and intimidation tactics. (BBC Monitoring, October 19, November 2; Kantipur Online, November 3, 2004)

PAKISTAN

President remains firm on the issue of Kashmir: President Pervez Musharraf stated November 1 to a group of intellectuals and journalists in a press conference that while Pakistan supported a peaceful settlement of the dispute over Kashmir to the satisfaction of all parties, he would remain firm on his position and not allow India to take more of Kashmir than what was rightfully theirs. Musharraf also encouraged the people of Kashmir to be active participants in the dialogue process towards a solution. He further stated that the people of India, Kashmir, and Pakistan realize that a peaceful settlement of the dispute would lead to economic development of the region for the benefit of all involved. Pakistan and India have been in conflict over the region of Kashmir for more than 50 years and have fought two wars over it since the region was divided between both countries in 1947. (BBC Monitoring, November 1; Xinhua, November 2, 2004)

SIERRA LEONE

TRC releases final report: The final report of the Sierra Leonean Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was issued October 30 at the UN Headquarters in New York at a meeting attended by top UN and African officials. The Presidents of the

UN General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council jointly chaired the meeting which introduced the 1,500 page document and the 3,500 page annex detailing the atrocities committed during the 10-year civil war and recommendations for reconciliation and a peaceful future. In addition, the report included an unprecedented section designated specifically for children, describing the role children were forced to take in the conflict. The report included testimonies from children and an explanation specifically written so that children could understand the conflict. Sierra Leone's Deputy Foreign Minister commented that while the report exposed the brutal facts of the country's past, it also brought with it a semblance of hope in focusing on what can now be done to move forward. Recommendations of the Commission included financial reparations to wounded persons, amputees, widows, orphans, and sexually violated persons, both as a path to economic recovery as well as a method of restoring dignity. Sierra Leone's civil war ended in 2002, but the country has remained mired in devastating poverty, corruption, and political instabilities; atrocities were deliberately directed toward children and the recruitment of child soldiers was a widespread and common practice during the war. ([AfricaFocus](#), October 31; [UNICEF](#), October 17, [UN News Center](#), October 28, 2004.)

SRI LANKA

[Denmark seizes records from Liberation Tigers](#): With a court order, Danish police raided the Copenhagen office of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), where they confiscated computers, data files, and documents. The raid was a response to the capture and torture of two Danish Tamil citizens visiting Jaffna, Sri Lanka, whose identities and itineraries were illegally gathered and disclosed by the LTTE office in Denmark. Radio of Denmark, a government-controlled broadcast station, reported that expatriate Sri Lankan Tamils, who had become citizens of Denmark, were being spied upon and their movements relayed to the LTTE in Sri Lanka. The Denmark Minister of Foreign Affairs said that the government would proceed to expel the LTTE from Denmark and place the organization on its foreign terrorist list, which would conform with Australia, Canada, England, and the U.S., where the LTTE has already been listed. Denmark also made a formal request that the LTTE organization be included on the European Union's terrorist list. The LTTE was the main rebel group involved in the two-decade long civil war with the government of Sri Lanka that ended in 2002 with a cease-fire agreement. ([Asian Tribune](#), October 28, 30; [Colombo Page](#), October 30, November 1, 2004)

[President lures opposition party members](#): President Chandrika Kumaratunga recruited four members of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) to join her United Peoples' Freedom Alliance (UPFA) party. This had the effect of increasing her slim majority in the parliament to 118 of the 225 member body. In response to the actions of the president, SLMC Leader Rauff Hakeem referred to the defectors as traitors and blamed President Kumaratunga of splitting up the SLMC which represents the 7 percent minority Muslim population, or approximately 1.5 million people. The SLMC further accused the president of "buying" her majority, saying her real purpose was to assure her own presidency after her current term ended, not to strengthen the Muslim voice. The SLMC has vowed to challenge the UPFA majority and will launch public campaigns to advise the public of the "recruitment conspiracy." President Kumaratunga's UPFA party

brought together nine different parties on a peace platform in 1994 and defeated the United National Party in that year's election. ([AFP](#), [BBC](#), [Colombo Page](#), [Hindu](#), November 1; [Xinhua](#), October 30, 2004)