



Peace & Justice Update
December 17, 2004
(Volume 10, Number 12)

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.

Announcement: This will be the final update of the Fall 2004 semester. Updates will resume in February of 2005.

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), and Amy Super (University of California, Berkeley).

UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africafocus.org)
AHRC	=	Asian Human Rights Commission (www.ahrchk.net)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
AFX	=	Asian Financial Times (www.indoexchange.com/afx)
AMICC	=	American Coalition for the International Criminal Court (www.amicc.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)
Citizens for Global Solutions	=	Citizens for Global Solutions (www.globalsolutions.org)
CICC	=	Coalition for the International Criminal Court (www.iccnw.org)
Colombo Page	=	Sri Lankan Online News (www.colombopage.com)
Daily News	=	Sri Lanka Daily News (www.dailynews.lk)
Economist	=	The Economist (www.economist.com)
FT	=	Financial Times (www.news.ft.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)
IADP	=	Inter-American Development Bank (www.iadb.org)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
ICTR	=	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (www.icttr.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)
Life Science Weekly	=	Life Science Weekly (www.newsrx.com)
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 (www.newkerala.com)
New Vision	=	Uganda's Leading Website (www.newvision.co.ug)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.allafrcia.com)
Press Trust of India	=	Press Trust of India (ptinews.com)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
South Asia Monitor	=	South Asia Monitor (www.southasiamonitor.org)
Star	=	The Star (www.thestar.com)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women (www.unife.org)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency(www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

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GENDER AND PEACE

Amnesty International releases report on women and war: Amnesty International (AI) released a report December 8 titled “Lives Blown Apart,” which stated that women and girls were being specifically targeted in crimes of war. The report cited rape, murder, sexual mutilation, and slavery as abuses that women and girls had experienced during conflicts and wars. The report also stated that despite treaties and laws, governments around the world have failed to protect the rights of women and girls, particularly in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Colombia, Iraq, Nepal, and Sudan. AI British director Kate Allen said during a press conference December 8 that because national authorities have failed to stop abuses and punish crimes of war against women, such cases of violence need to be a top priority for the International Criminal Court when it begins prosecuting cases in 2005. The scale and nature of the abuses described in the report were uncovered by researchers working in AI’s “Stop Violence Against Women” campaign, which began in 2004 to call attention to widespread violence towards women in conflict. (AP, BBC, December 8, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI

Demobilization of former child soldiers continues: The National Structure for Demobilization and Reintegration of Child Soldiers started the second stage of the program funded by the UN and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) December 7 to demobilize and reintegrate more than 650 former child soldiers back into civil society. UNICEF stated that government leaders and leaders of the former armed movements who were recruiting children during Burundi’s 10-year civil war have signed official engagement letters confirming their involvement in the demobilization of child soldiers. They also agreed to cease recruiting children less than 18 years old. The government, the national demobilization committee, UNICEF, and local non-governmental organizations were to cooperate together in providing education, professional training and income opportunities for the child soldiers after they had been demobilized. According to UNICEF more than 2,000 of the child soldiers who had served with former rebel movements or the government are now unarmed due to the demobilization program that started in January 2004. (AllAfrica, IRIN, December 7; Reuters, December 10, 2004)

President supports new constitution: President Domitien Ndayizeye launched a campaign December 8 supporting the constitution adopted by the parliament in October 2004. The new constitution would replace the country’s three-year-old transitional constitution that expired in November 2004. The twice-postponed referendum on the new constitution, which was to give 60 percent of parliament’s seats to the Hutu majority and 40 percent to Tutsis, was scheduled for December 22. The referendum is required by the 2000 Arusha Accord for Peace and Reconciliation that ended the 10-year civil war between the former Tutsi-dominated government and Hutu majority. The current president, a Hutu, will hand power over to the newly elected government in April 2005. (AP, December 8; Reuters, December 10, 2004)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Survey reveals 31,000 die monthly due to conflict in DRC: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) issued a mortality survey December 9 stating that more than 3.8 million people have died since the Congo War began in 1998, and more than 31,000 civilians continue to die monthly as a result of the conflict in eastern DRC. Most deaths were from treatable illnesses and war-related malnutrition. The IRC confirmed in its study that the situation in DRC is one of the deadliest crises in the world. The four-year war, which left 2.5 million people internally displaced and 3.5 million dead, featured an aligned Rwanda and Uganda fighting against DRC, Angola, and Zimbabwe. Despite the 2002 Pretoria and Luanda peace agreements and withdrawal of troops on both sides of the conflict, the eastern part of the country has recently faced increased fighting between rebel movements and government forces, with a threat of foreign invasion by Rwanda as of December 2004. (AllAfrica, AP, December 9; BBC News, Guardian, December 10, 2004)

UGANDA

Cease-fire extended for an additional week: The Ugandan government announced December 8 the third extension of the current cease-fire with northern Uganda rebels Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) until December 15. However, the cease-fire zone was reduced in size from approximately 300 sq km to 100 sq km near the Uganda-Sudan border, where most of the rebels were based. President Yoweri Museveni stated that the LRA must end their consultations with the Acholi leaders, local tribal leaders from the Acholi region in Northern Uganda where the 18-year insurgency has taken place and where more than 1.6 million people have been internally displaced because of the conflict. The current dialogue between the government of Uganda and the LRA, mediated by the former Minister for Pacification of the North, Betty Bigombe, is an attempt to end the civil war that has killed more than 20,000 people in Uganda. (AllAfrica, New Vision, Reuters, December 8, 2004)

GUATEMALA

International court orders record compensation: The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, based in Costa Rica, ordered Guatemala December 9 to pay approximately \$8 million in compensation to the 317 survivors of the 1982 massacre of approximately 270 Maya Indians in the village of Plan de Sanchez. The massacre, perpetrated by members of the former armed forces of Guatemala, was one of the most vicious attacks by state security forces on the indigenous population for suspected guerilla support during the country's 36-year civil war. Approximately 200,000 people disappeared or were killed during the civil war that ended in 1996 by signing the peace accords between the government and the guerilla movement. (Reuters, December 9, 2004)

Development Bank approves \$100 million loan: The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) approved a \$100 million loan December 2 to support Guatemala's poverty reduction policy. The loan would be disbursed over a period of two years and would contribute to the improvement of social services, particularly primary education and healthcare. With the IADB's resources the government was to implement its "Guate Solidaria" (Guatemala Together) strategy, which sets specific poverty reduction targets for the poorest municipalities in the country. The IADB was established in 1959 as the

regional development institution to help accelerate economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. (IADP, December 2, 2004)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S. immunizes itself from the ICC: President George W. Bush signed the omnibus Appropriations Bill December 7 which included the Nethercutt Amendment, a provision that would penalize member countries to the International Criminal Court (ICC) if they refused to sign Bilateral Immunity Agreements (BIAs) with the U.S. The BIAs prevent the ICC from gaining information on U.S. personnel abroad. However, the U.S. is not a member of the ICC and therefore not subject to the court. The new provision would affect more than 50 countries assisted by the \$2.5 billion Economic Support Fund budget, which provides international aid to combat terrorism, promote democracy, and boost economic growth. In light of the revelations at the Abu Ghraib prison and the accusations of human rights abuses at the Guantanamo Bay detention center, the U.S. is effectively insulating itself from the ICC and forcing its allies to undermine their ability to bring allegations before the ICC. In addition, countries who have ratified the ICC Rome Statute could find themselves in violation of the treaty if they sign BIAs. Former President Bill Clinton signed the ICC Rome Statute, although ratification was unlikely. Nonetheless, the Bush Administration unsigned the treaty, making the U.S. the first country to un-sign an international treaty. (AMICC, Citizens for Global Solutions, December 8; CICC, December 7, 2004)

NEPAL

Civil society launches anti-Maoist campaign: Citizens from several villages on the Surkhet-Dailekh border have begun an organized effort to rid their region of the guerrilla Maoist rebels, utilizing such tactics as peace rallies, memorandums to local administrations, and pressure on the families of the rebels in their area. They have demanded that security forces protect them from the rebels who have been roaming the country unchecked and have claimed to control as much as four-fifths of the geographical territory of Nepal. Leaders from the villages near the Surkhet-Dialekh border have claimed that three of five recently abducted people have been returned as a result of their efforts, and that at least 200 Maoists have surrendered due to local pressure. Stephen Toope, Chief of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, has promised the families of disappeared people throughout the country that he will prevail in discovering the whereabouts and status of the missing persons. A high-level delegation from the European Union (EU) was to arrive December 13 in Nepal to study human rights violations and the increasing political crisis in the country. The Maoist guerrilla insurgency has been fighting since 1996 to overthrow the constitutional monarchy in favor of a people's communist republic; internal government splintering and the absence of an elected parliament have worsened the conflict. To date, the war has resulted in the loss of more than 10,000 lives and countless others have disappeared. (BBC Monitoring, December 13; Economist, December 4; Kantipur Online, December 13; Kathmandu Post, December 12, 2004)

PAKISTAN

Talks falter over bus service: After two days of talks in Delhi, India, December 7 and 8, Pakistan and India were unable to agree on a proposed bus link that would run from Srinagar in Indian-administered Kashmir to Muzaffarabad in Pakistani-administered Kashmir. The bus service formerly existed but was halted after the 1947 war between India and Pakistan, and citizens divided by the Line of Control (LoC), the temporary border, have demanded that it resume. The two countries were unable to agree on the kind of documentation required to travel on the bus-line; India wanted passengers to use passports, while Pakistan wanted less formal documents, as the use of passports or visas would imply recognition of the LoC as a permanent border. India and Pakistan were scheduled to resume talks on the issue at a “mutually convenient date.” India and Pakistan have both claimed ownership of the region of Kashmir since the sub-continent was divided in 1947 and have fought two wars over it. (BBC, Press Trust of India, December 8, 2004)

SIERRA LEONE

German President visits as debut of African tour: German President Horst Kohler became the first leader of a Western country to visit Sierra Leone since the end of its civil war. His visit December 6 was part of an eleven-day tour of Africa that also included Benin, Djibouti, and Ethiopia. In an attempt to win over enough countries to be voted into the UN Security Council after recently proposed reforms of the institution, President Kohler brought with him representatives from various national industries in order to encourage investment in the war-ravaged country, including businessmen, agriculturalists, scientists, farmers, and parliamentarians. President Kohler congratulated the Sierra Leonean Parliament for maintaining peace since the end of the civil war in 2002, and also visited the Special Court for Sierra Leone, stating that it was an important modern international justice mechanism. The First Lady of Germany visited the Freetown branch of the Forum for African Women Educationalists, a national network of schools for the reintegration of women and girls victimized by the war, and spoke with displaced and amputee survivors there. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah hoped to restart German consular service in Sierra Leone as a result of the visit and also announced to President Kohler that Sierra Leone exported a record \$118 million worth of diamonds between January and November, 2004. Sierra Leone is currently recovering economically, politically, and psychosocially from its 10-year civil war. According to the UN, it is currently the least developed and poorest country in the world; its infant mortality rate is the highest in the world. (AllAfrica, December 8, 9; BBC Monitoring, December 7; PANA, December 6, 8, 2004)

SRI LANKA

Muslims excluded from peace talks: Muslim members of several top political parties met December 1 to emphasize the need for their involvement in any future peace talks between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government of Sri Lanka.

They advocated that talks resume quickly, as they have been stalled since April 2003. Members of the Tamil National Alliance, the LTTE proxy party, responded December 13 by denying Muslims the right to be involved in future peace talks. In 1990, seven years after the start of the Sri Lankan civil war, the LTTE began an ethnic cleansing of Tamil Muslims from the north and east of the country, the region known as Eelam. That year the LTTE killed 130 unarmed Muslims praying in a mosque, forced approximately 60,000 Muslims out of the region, and destroyed 60 Muslim mosques. Due to rising tensions throughout November 2004 Muslims fear that if the LTTE officially win over the land of Eelam, it would result in a permanent displacement of their culture. The 7 percent Muslim population of Sri Lanka has been ethnically repressed by the government and religiously victimized by the LTTE. Muslims have warned that peace will not prevail unless they are recognized as a community and are able to attend peace talks between the LTTE and the government. (BBC, December 12; ColomboPage, December 2, 13; Star, December 11, 2004)

Sea Tigers demand naval recognition: A professor of maritime studies urged India to contain the LTTE navy, known as the Sea Tigers. Speaking at the Seminar on Conflict Resolution and Peace Building December 10 in Chennai, India, Professor V. Suriyakumaran of Calicut University advised the Indian government to affirm its rights in the South Asian waters. The LTTE rebel group has appointed itself as a naval force in the region, challenging the authority of both India and Sri Lanka's government. The LTTE Sea Tigers command small, but heavily armed boats and ships. Indian fisherman who cross into the northern and eastern Sri Lankan waters have been attacked by the Sea Tigers. An estimated 200 Indian fishing boats cross over those waters each year, and because of this there have been growing concerns of future attacks. The Sea Tigers have argued for recognition on the seas, with equal status to the navies of India and Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, created to record violations of the 2002 cease-fire agreement between the government and the LTTE, has stated that the transport of arms by the Sea Tigers constitutes a breach of that agreement. The LTTE Sea Tigers currently patrol 70 percent of the Sri Lankan coastline. (South Asia Monitor, December 1; Sri Lanka Daily News, December 14, 2004)