



Peace & Justice Update
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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)
AHRC	=	Asian Human Rights Commission (www.ahrchk.net)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
AFX	=	Asian Financial Times (www.indoexchange.com/afx)
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/)
Colombo Page	=	Sri Lankan Online News (www.colombopage.com)
Daily News	=	Sri Lanka Daily News (www.dailynews.lk)
Dawn	=	Pakistan-English Newspaper (www.dawn.com)
Deutsche Presse-Agentur	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.de)
EFE	=	Spanish News Service (www.efenews.com/)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Financial Times	=	Financial Times (www.news.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)
ICJ	=	International Court of Justice (www.icj-cij.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)
IRNA	=	Islam Republic News Agency (www.irna.ir)
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)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News.Com (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
New Kerala	=	NewKerala.Com (www.newkerala.com)
New Vision	=	New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.allafrcia.com)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
TurkishPress	=	Turkish Press (www.turkishpress.com)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.unhcr.ch)
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

Somali women demand greater role in government: Members from 19 Somali non-governmental organizations issued a statement November 27 that called for increased representation by women in the country's new government. According to the Somali interim constitution, women are to constitute at least 12 percent of the members of parliament; however, they currently account for only eight percent of the 275 members. Only one of the 27 ministerial posts appointed by Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Gedi December 1 went to a woman. Somalia's government ceased to function in 1991 when armed groups overthrew the Siad Barre regime, igniting a civil war that resulted in political and economic instability. (AllAfrica, November 29; IRIN, November 29, December 1, 2004)

UUPakistan hosts conference on HIV/AIDS and women: Pakistan hosted a three-day conference that began November 29 in Islamabad, its capital, to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on women in the Asia-Pacific region. This was the first Asia-Pacific conference on the disease, and more than 300 delegates from countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, and Thailand attended. The conference aimed to bring together researchers, community activists, government officials, and those living with the disease from across South Asia as well as the world to share experiences and the best practices for treating and dealing with the disease for women and girls. According to the joint annual report by the UN Program on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization, an estimated two million women are living with the disease throughout South and Southeast Asia; there was a 56 percent increase in the number of women with the disease in East Asia between 2002 and 2003. (BBC Monitoring, IRIN, November 29, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI

Government begins four-year demobilization plan: The government officially launched a four-year disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program November 29 to demobilize approximately 55,000 soldiers and former rebel fighters as a part of the October 2002 peace accord between the government and two main Hutu rebel movements, the Forces for the Defense of Democracy and the National Liberation Forces. According to the World Bank representative in Burundi the program would cost \$84 million. The DDR office, in cooperation with the UN Operation in Burundi, was expecting approximately 2,500 volunteers from both the Hutu rebel groups and the Tutsi-dominated national army to begin their reintegration training December 2 in the village of Muranvya. Each demobilized fighter was to receive 18 months salary upon completion of the training and approximately \$460 additional support for the reintegration period. More than 300,000 people have been killed since the civil war between the Tutsi-dominated government and Hutu rebels began in 1993. The August 2000 Arusha Accord

for Peace and Reconciliation, which ended the conflict, provided for a three-year transitional period starting November 2001, during which the government and main rebel movements FDD and FNL signed cease-fire agreements. ([AFP](#), November 29; [IRIN](#), November 25; [UN News](#), October 26, 2004)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Government plans on sending troops to border: Following reports that Rwandan troops crossed into eastern DRC, a spokesman for President Joseph Kabila confirmed November 30 that more than 6,000 Congolese troops would be deployed in the North Kivu province that borders Rwanda. The government of Rwanda refused to confirm or deny the incursion. As of November 30 there had been no clashes reported between Congolese and Rwandan forces. Rwanda's President Paul Kagame repeated November 25 and 27 a threat to enter DRC to attack Hutu rebel forces, remnants of the former Rwandan Hutu national army and the former Hutu extremist militia, both responsible for the 1994 Rwanda genocide, if DRC's government and the UN Mission in DRC (MONUC) forces failed to disarm them. In response, MONUC asked the government of Rwanda November 27 to abstain from any action that would violate the international law and disrupt the fragile peace between DRC and Rwanda. Rwanda has invaded DRC twice, once in 1996 and again in 1998, both times to fight against DRC-based Hutu rebels. ([AP](#), November 25, 27, 29; [BBC News](#), November 25, 30; [Reuters](#), November 27, 28, 2004)

UGANDA

President extends cease-fire: Despite the Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) cease-fire violations in Northern Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni extended the cease-fire period November 26 by an additional week to enable the LRA forces to gather and discuss their plan to end the 18-year rebellion against the Ugandan government. Betty Bigombe, the former Minister for Pacification of the North, who was mediating negotiations between the government and the LRA, had met one of the LRA leaders, Brigadier Sam Kolo, and had spoken by phone to Joseph Kony, the leader of the LRA, the week of November 21. According to the Ugandan People's Defense Forces' November 24 report, Kony ordered all his commanders to join him in southern Sudan where the rebels were based and asked for a 100-day cease-fire to allow for participation in peace talks. It was not clear if Kony had entered the limited cease-fire region in Northern Uganda. The Ugandan Minister of Information confirmed November 26 that some of the rebel fighters had gathered in the cease-fire areas and that the government was providing them with food and shelter. The 18-year conflict with the LRA, notorious for the abduction of approximately 30,000 children, has displaced more than 1.6 million people in the northern Ugandan Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader provinces. ([AllAfrica](#), November 23; [AP](#), November 26; [Monitor](#), November 23; [New Vision](#), November 23, 24; [Reuters](#), November 29, 2004)

GUATEMALA

UN seeks to eliminate violence against women: The UN Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women awarded November 16 approximately \$1 million in grants to 17 groups addressing gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations in developing countries. In Guatemala, the Trust Fund grant would contribute to research and investigation of gender-based violence that should influence gender-awareness reforms in public policies and legislation. Only one woman, Luz Mendez from the National Union of Guatemalan Women (UNAMG), formally participated at the peace negotiations in 1995 and 1996 that ended the civil war. The Trust Fund established by the UN General Assembly in 1996 is administered by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). UNIFEM has supported Guatemalan women's organizations, among them the UNAMG in promoting women's rights, creating space for the voices of indigenous women, and increasing gender awareness in the peace-building process after the 36-year Guatemalan civil war ended in 1996. (UNIFEM, November 16, 2004)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Myanmar (Burma) releases thousands of prisoners: The government of Myanmar, under military rule since a coup d'etat in 1962, released 9,248 prisoners on November 25 and 26. The military regime had incarcerated more than 100,000 civilians in 43 prisons and 50 labor camps. Out of these, approximately 1,400 were prisoners of conscience. Fewer than 30 political detainees were included in the thousands just released. The most prominent released was Min Ko Naing, the leader of the 1988 student protests for democracy which ended in the massacre of approximately 10,000 demonstrators. Aung San Suu Kyi, who was elected president in 1990, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, and who has been a central spokesperson for democracy, has been sporadically and unlawfully detained by the military since her election and remains under house arrest. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged her release November 30. The release of prisoners came days before the 10th meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), where Myanmar's lack of democracy has become an issue for the organization. Myanmar is scheduled to head the organization in 2006, but only if they have clearly demonstrated a willingness to become a democratic state. In spite of the current releases the military regime continues to repress freedoms of speech and assembly. The country has only two television stations which are both operated by the regime and the possession of an internet modem is punishable by imprisonment. The UN, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International have accused the government of multiple human rights violations including arbitrary executions, torture, forced labor, and the recruitment of children into military ranks. (BBC, November 22; Reuters, November 20; TurkishPress, November 27; UN News Center, November 19, 30; Xinhua, November 28, 2004)

UN War Crimes Courts call for the capture of fugitives: Prosecutors and judges from the UN war crime tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda gave a status report November 23 to the UN Security Council. The tribunals are required to provide a

progress report to the Security Council every six months. Tribunal officials warned that a continual lack of cooperation on the part of certain member states could jeopardize the trials from their mandatory completion in 2008. International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ITFY) prosecutor Carla Del Ponte told the council that 20 fugitives were still at large and that their arrest and transfer of custody was essential to the progress of the trials. She accused the Serbian government of being deliberately uncooperative with the mandate of the court. In a similar statement, the president of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Judge Erik Mose, told the council that the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) also refused to respond to the inquiries regarding fugitives from Rwanda who were hiding in the DRC. Tribunal officials stated that a lack of resources in addition to a hiring freeze has also impeded progress. The courts have lost 80 employees and are prohibited from filling the vacancies. Aware of the obstacles, the Security Council decided not to alter any of the deadlines. Of the 5,908 cases brought before the ITFY prosecutor only 100 have been brought to trial. The ICTR has completed the trials of 23 persons, 25 other cases are in progress, and 15 new cases are being investigated. The ITFY was established in 1993 to investigate and prosecute war crimes committed in the early 1990's in the former Yugoslavia. The ICTR tribunals began in 1997 to try persons accountable for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. (BBC, UN News Center, November 23, 2004)

NEPAL

Maoists decline offer for peace talks: Communist Party of Nepal – Maoists leader Prachanda announced November 27 that his party would not accept Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's deadline of peace talks by January 13, 2005, stating that it was a threatening and conspiratorial offer and that the current atmosphere in the country was not conducive for talks. The government had stated that they were willing to speak on all issues, would guarantee any negotiators' safety, and would remove the terrorist tag on the Maoists if they were to come forward for talks. However, the Maoists remained steadfast in their requests for third-party mediation and an election of a constituent assembly to rewrite the constitution, as opposed to the government's goal of reinstating the dissolved parliament by April 2005 to uphold the current constitution. The Maoists also asked to deal directly with King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, stating that government officials do not adequately represent his wishes or authority over the people of Nepal. The Nepali Cabinet met November 29 to discuss Prachanda's response and announced that they were not ready to abandon the prospect of talks and that the High-Level Peace Committee would also be meeting to further discuss the situation. The Maoists have been fighting to overthrow the constitutional monarchy in favor of a people's communist republic since 1996; the civil war has resulted in more than 9,000 deaths. (BBC Monitoring, November 28, 29; BBC News, November 27; The Hindu, November 29; Kantipur Online, November 30; Kathmandu Post, November 29, 2004)

UNICEF announces alarm over use of children in Maoist rebellion: The Chief of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Nepal, Dr. Suomi Sakai, announced November 29 that she was concerned about reports that the Maoist rebel group was using children to dig

trenches, build bunkers, and lay mines to ambush roads and highways for the rebel group. Maoists countered that they had not forced any of the children to do such acts, and if they had done so they must have volunteered for the job. Dr. Sakai added that she was also concerned by reports of government security forces sexually assaulting women in villages throughout Nepal. The Maoist rebels have been using intimidation and violence against civilians since the war began in 1996; the most recent cease-fire during the religious festival of Dashain in early November fell through when the rebels began attacking civilians and security forces in villages throughout the country. (BBC Monitoring, November 29; Kantipur Online, November 30; Kathmandu Post, November 29, 2004)

PAKISTAN

Pakistan and India to hold second round of talks: Pakistan and India announced November 29 that the foreign secretaries of both countries were to meet December 23-24 in Islamabad, Pakistan for the second round of talks which began in October. Among the topics to be discussed were peace, security, Kashmir, and a schedule for additional talks on topics such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and economic and commercial cooperation. Both foreign secretaries said this meeting would be key to resolving the Kashmir dispute to the satisfaction of Pakistan, India, and the people of Kashmir. Pakistan and India have been locked in a struggle for the area of Kashmir since it was divided between the two countries by the British in 1947. (BBC Monitoring, November 29, 2004)

SIERRA LEONE

Prosecutor attends conference to discuss international justice: David Crane, lead prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), traveled to Tanzania November 25 along with approximately 80 prosecutors and judiciary experts, including lead prosecutors from the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and the International Criminal Court to discuss “Challenges of International Criminal Justice.” The SCSL was cited by ICTR prosecutor Hassan Jallow as being an example of the viability of international justice systems in terms of trying the responsible parties for serious crimes against humanity. He pointed out that national and local courts are often not objective nor operational enough to be sufficient for systematic violations of human rights including genocide. The SCSL was further commended on November 25, when UN Secretary General Kofi Annan referred to it as a positive example of gender sensitivity because it was the first of its kind to formally label “forced marriage” as an indictable crime. The UN-backed SCSL was one of the steps taken by Sierra Leone and the international community in the wake of the 10-year civil war that resulted in more than 50,000 casualties and left the country in political, economic, and psychological disarray. (AllAfrica, November 26; Financial Times, November 25; IRIN, November 29, 2004)

SRI LANKA

Government and Iran strengthen ties: President Chandrika Kumaratunga arrived in Iran November 24 for a five-day visit to discuss relations between the two countries. The discussions resulted in a Preferential Trade Agreement and four memorandums of understanding regarding issues of the environment, commercial business, health, and political cooperation. In particular, the agreements covered the manufacturing of clothing, petroleum, and tea. Sri Lanka has to import 100 percent of its oil. The bilateral agreements were fashioned within the context of the two countries' memberships in the non-aligned movement (NAM). NAM began during the Cold War primarily as a way for African and Asian countries to remain neutral with respect to the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. When the Cold War ended, the 155 members of NAM centered their attention on common economic issues. Between September and November 2004 President Kumaratunga has made Trade Agreements with Pakistan, India, and Iran, all of which are NAM members. (ColomboPage, November 24, 25, 26; IRNA, November 27; Xinhua, November 25, 2004)