



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**October 10, 2003**  
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The countries for the Peace and 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](http://www.hrw.org) or [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org). The Gender and Peace section highlights events in peace building and human rights that pertain to gender.

**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 SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP	=	Associated Press ( <a href="http://www.ap.org">www.ap.org</a> )
AFP	=	Agence France Presse ( <a href="http://www.afp.com">www.afp.com</a> )
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media ( <a href="http://www.allAfrica.com">www.allAfrica.com</a> )
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation ( <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk">http://news.bbc.co.uk</a> )
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports ( <a href="http://www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/">www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/</a> )
CDC News	=	Center for Disease Control News ( <a href="http://www.thebody.com">www.thebody.com</a> )
CNN	=	Cable News Network ( <a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a> )
CPJ	=	Committee to Protect Journalists ( <a href="http://www.cpj.org">www.cpj.org</a> )
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur ( <a href="http://www.dpa.com">www.dpa.com</a> )
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News ( <a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a> )
IWPR	=	Institute for War and Peace Reporting ( <a href="http://www.iwpr.net">www.iwpr.net</a> )
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network ( <a href="http://www.irinnews.org">www.irinnews.org</a> ) (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: ( <a href="http://www.unog.ch">www.unog.ch</a> ))
NCN	=	New Congo Net ( <a href="http://www.marekinc.com/NCN.html">www.marekinc.com/NCN.html</a> )
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency ( <a href="http://www.panapress.com">www.panapress.com</a> )
RSF	=	Reporters Sans Frontieres ( <a href="http://www.rsf.org">www.rsf.org</a> ).
TASS	=	ITAR-TASS News Agency ( <a href="http://www.itar-tass.com/english/">www.itar-tass.com/english/</a> )
UPI	=	United Press International ( <a href="http://www.upi.com">www.upi.com</a> )
VOA	=	Voice of America ( <a href="http://www.voanews.com">www.voanews.com</a> )
WPS	=	What the Papers Say ( <a href="http://www.wps.ru:8101">www.wps.ru:8101</a> )
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency ( <a href="http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm">www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm</a> )

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**

New killings in Ituri District: At least 55 people were killed in the Katshelli area of the Ituri District in the northeastern region of the DRC. The killings took place October 6 and the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC) began its investigation into the murders October 7. MONUC dispatched a verification team to the region to investigate the circumstances of the killings and to identify those responsible. This incident was the first mass murder since MONUC began patrolling the Ituri District in August. The Ituri District has been an extremely violent region. In the last year, more than 50,000 people were killed and more than 500,000 were displaced in Ituri. The DRC has been in turmoil since the outbreak of civil war in 1998. During the course of the conflict, more than 3.3 million people were killed. ([AllAfrica](#), October 7; [BBC](#), October 7; [New York Times](#), October 6, 2003)

Rebel forces sign peace accord: Representatives from the rebel group Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD-Goma) and members of the Mayi-Mayi Militia signed a peace accord October 1 in the town of Shabunda. The accord called for an immediate cease-fire, the free movement of people and goods, and the creation of a follow-up committee with three members from both sides to monitor the implementation of the agreement. The area affected by the accord included the town of Shabunda in the South Kivu Province as well as its surrounding areas. ([IRIN](#), [New York Times](#), October 3, 2003)

## **ERITREA/ETHIOPIA**

Boundary Commission's ruling stands: In response to a request from Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to establish a new boundary commission, the UN Security Council stated that the decision made in April 2002 by the original boundary commission was "final and binding." The Security Council noted that under the Algiers Agreement, signed by both Eritrea and Ethiopia in December 2000, both parties agreed to abide by any decision that the independent boundary commission issued. Although Ethiopia's appeal for a new ruling was rejected, the Security Council encouraged the disputing countries to resolve this conflict peacefully through a dialogue. After the decision was rendered, Ethiopia made a plea to Secretary-General Kofi Annan to personally intervene in the situation. In 1998, the border dispute between the two countries erupted into a war which cost 77,000 people their lives over the course of two years. Despite acceptance of the Algiers Agreement, Ethiopia delayed border demarcation twice due to the contested town of Badme which was awarded to Eritrea. Border demarcation was supposed to have begun this month; however, it could be possible that there would be further delays. ([BBC](#), October 3; [IRIN](#), October 3; [IRIN](#), October 6, 2003)

## **GENDER AND PEACE**

Women's rights gain support in Ghana: Two non-governmental organizations, Actionaid Ghana and ABANTU for Development, organized an effort to increase the role of women in decision-making as well as heighten the protection of women's rights. In September, the organizations sponsored a seminar for women from the District Assembly. The seminar produced a request for 15 to 30 percent of the Parliament's seats to be reserved for women. The idea for a women's manifesto was also a product of that seminar. At the

seminar, women developed several ideas for clauses that should be included in the document. Since the September seminar, the two organizations and women throughout the country have collected more ideas for the manifesto as well as lobbying support for the document. The goal of the manifesto was to provide women with a common platform for addressing their concerns as well as to give them a platform to become involved in political decision-making. No date for the release of the manifesto was established. (AllAfrica, September 5, October 5, 2003)

Special representative of the UN Secretary-General speaks on role of women: Elisabeth Rehn, former Finnish defense minister and current member of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Review Board, spoke at the National Press Club October 1 of the need for women to have a role in developing nations. She stated “women in the developing world will never have their concerns addressed adequately until they share equally in the political lives of their nations.” Rehn pointed out some promising results in women’s political involvement, such as in Congo and Somalia, where in the latter 25 parliament seats are guaranteed for women. She also stated that although many NGOs were quick to rush in and teach domestic skills, computer skills and knowledge of modern technology were necessary as well. She said the UN and European Union could do their part by appointing more women to higher positions within their organizations, speaking of herself as a role model. (AllAfrica.com, October 4, 2003)

## **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Egypt cracks down on homosexual men: Dozens of men accused of being homosexuals were rounded up this year in Egypt. Police in Cairo used police wagons to block both ends of a Nile bridge reputed to be a meeting place for homosexual men, and arrested those along the bridge. Police also entrapped gay men by soliciting them on the Internet. The men held in prison were charged with “habitual practice of debauchery” and faced up to three years’ imprisonment if found guilty during trials scheduled for October and November. The men suffered isolation and verbal abuse in prison. The Director of Human Rights Watch’s Middle East and North Africa division stated that the arrests were part of a two-year official campaign against homosexual conduct. (HRW, October 7, 2003)

Media Institute of Southern Africa lobbies for greater press freedom: The Southern African Development Community (SADC) was urged by the Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA) to take action on threats to press freedom in the region. A particular concern was Zimbabwe’s government shutdown of the printing of the country’s only independent newspaper due to the journalists’ failure to comply with the country’s licensing laws. The MISA stated that Zimbabwe should be a rallying call for countries in the region and that the situation in Zimbabwe was an indicator of how governments are moving to restrict the freedom of the press. (IRIN, October 6, 2003)

Property rights for women violated in Kenya: Women’s property rights in Kenya have been unequal to those of men. The customs and laws of property in Kenya were based on the belief that women did not deserve or were incapable of owning property. The result was that many women were left homeless and in poverty. Women constituted 80% of the

agricultural work force yet owned only 5% of the land. Women who were divorced or separated from their husbands were allowed to keep nothing as the husbands took control of all property. Widows were often evicted from their homes. Human Rights Watch urged U.S. President George W. Bush to discuss with Kenyan President Kibaki legislative and constitutional provisions that would prohibit gender-based discrimination and promote women's equal property rights. (HRW, October 6, 2003)

### **ISRAEL/PALESTINE**

Israel and Palestine react to suicide bombings: Nineteen people were killed in a suicide bombing in Haifa October 4. Israel responded by conducting an air strike on an alleged Palestinian militant training camp in Syria. Syria denied that the target was a training camp and asked the UN Security Council to condemn the attack as "military aggression." This was Israel's first attack against Syria in 30 years. The new Palestinian emergency cabinet was sworn in October 7 at Yasser Arafat's compound. Arafat installed the government by decree October 5 so it could deal with the suicide bombing. The new prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, had been trying to form the government for nearly a month. Qurei said he would try to arrange a truce with militant Islamic groups. Israel suggested it would deal with Qurei if he first acts against the militants. However, Palestinian leaders commented that acting against militants would risk civil war among Palestinians. (BBC, New York Times, October 7, 2003)

### **KOREAN PENINSULA**

North Korea claims ability to make nuclear bombs: North Korea announced October 2 that it was making atomic bombs from plutonium reprocessed from 8,000 spent fuel rods. Nuclear experts calculated that the processed rods could create enough plutonium for 20 bombs. The U.S. stated that it could not verify North Korea's claim. An official of the Foreign Ministry of South Korea said that North Korea should not have been able to finish the reprocessing so soon. There was speculation from both South Korean and U.S. officials that North Korea's announcement was a negotiating tactic for the upcoming six-party talks with North Korea scheduled for early November. Other remarks made by North Korea were also viewed as more tactical than truthful, including such as its referral to future talks as "useless" and that it would not tolerate Japan's inclusion in the talks because it had "selfish objectives." U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell pointed out that this was the third time North Korea had announced it was reprocessing fuel rods. The crisis over North Korea's nuclear program has been ongoing since North Korea announced last winter that it was building its nuclear program. North Korea referred to its program as a "nuclear deterrent," citing the hostile stance of the U.S. towards North Korea. (New York Times, Washington Post, October 3; New York Times, October 7; Xinhua, October 2, 2003;)

South Korean embassy in Beijing closes: South Korea's embassy in Beijing halted consular operations October 6 due to the large number of North Korean refugees taking refuge inside. A sign posted outside the embassy said it was closed due to "an internal adjustment." The South Korean news agency Yonhap said the 120-130 North Koreans were taking refuge in the consular section, which can only house 60 people temporarily, disrupting the regular operations of the embassy workers. North Korean defectors

frequently flee to China, where they must hide before moving on to a third country since China has a pact with North Korea to return any defectors. Many try to defect to South Korea, or even Japan or the U.S., but very few are able to make it through to South Korea, usually only with the help of missionaries in China or professional smugglers. Defectors flee due to repression and famine, and families of defectors left behind are tortured, imprisoned, and denied food rations. The number of refugees to South Korea has doubled each year since 1998, more than 1,141 in 2002. ([BBC](#), [New York Times](#), October 6, 2003; [Washington Post](#), October 4)

## **KYRGYZSTAN**

Human Rights Watch sends letter to President Akaev: Human Rights Watch (HRW) sent a letter to President Askar Akaev October 7, commending the government's re-registration of the Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society, a Kyrgyz non-governmental organization (NGO), but expressed concern over the shaky grounds of previous rejections. The Coalition has been active in monitoring referenda and elections since 1998, and was able to organize 2,500 monitors for the 2000 presidential election. The organization was one of the harshest critics of the Kyrgyz government and its application for re-registration was rejected three times by the Ministry of Justice on grounds that the group's charter violated Article 8 of the Constitution. Article 8 prohibits "Activities of foreign political parties, non-governmental and religious organizations, including their representative offices and branches, which pursue political goals." The re-registration of the Coalition came after an international outcry over its previous rejections. The letter from HRW also expressed concern over the Ministry of Justice's re-registration of the Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights (KCHR), another NGO, under the leadership of former members. Former members of the KCHR held a meeting and declared themselves the new leadership August 25. The Ministry of Justice then granted them registration, effectively replacing the original KCHR leadership. The KCHR faced the same tactic in April 1999, and their registration was revoked in 1998. ([Eurasianet.org](#), [HRW](#), October 7, 2003)

Muslim extremist movement activist sentenced: Akzhol Karagulov, a 24-year-old businessman, was convicted October 1 of distributing leaflets for the banned Muslim movement Hizb ut-Tahrir. The National Security Service (NSB) also accused him of founding a cell of the Hizb ut-Tahrir in Bishkek. Karagulov was sentenced to nine months in a low security colony and fined the equivalent of \$100 after pleading guilty to charges of inciting religious hatred and seeking to overthrow the constitutional system. Those charges are the usual charges brought against activists of the banned Hizb ut-Tahrir movement. The NSB estimates that there are 2,000 movement members throughout Kyrgyzstan and 18 activists of the movement were arrested in the three northern oblasts of the country in the first half of 2003. The arrests caused law enforcement officials to worry that the movement was growing in the north. ([Eurasianet.org](#), October 2, 2003)

## **MACEDONIA**

Protests halt school desegregation plans: Macedonia's attempts to desegregate two schools were stopped by protests of Macedonian students and their parents. In a school in Bitola, in the southern region of Macedonia, there were plans to hold an Albanian language class; however, hundreds of Macedonian students took to the streets stating that they would never allow an Albanian class in their city. At a high school in Skopje, parents and students rallied against the decision to allow seven Albanian students in the same building. Students in both cities were told that the government had stopped plans for desegregation, and then they returned to their school. The desegregation was supposed to be an act of goodwill by the governing ethnic Macedonian parties towards their Albanian partners. For more than a decade, Macedonian and Albanian students have been strictly segregated, and previous attempts to unite the two have failed. (IWPR, October 3, 2003)

## **NEPAL**

Rebels begin nine-day truce: Maoist rebels began a self-imposed nine-day cease-fire from October 2-10, to coincide with Nepal's biggest Hindu festival, Dashain. The rebels stated that they could extend the truce if the government took their demands seriously. However, the government forces went on the offensive and said they had killed approximately 300 rebels in the past month. The Maoists denied army reports of mass casualties. The government continued aggressive actions against the rebels despite the truce. The government claimed that the rebels had been set back considerably in recent weeks and the army continued to send forces into Maoist strongholds in western Nepal. More than 8,000 people have died since 1996 when the rebels began their insurgency to establish a communist republic. Presently, there has been no prospect of renewed peace talks since the rebels withdrew from talks in August. (BBC, October 2, 2003)

Violence continues despite cease-fire: Government troops have killed seven Maoist rebels since the guerrillas began a nine-day cease-fire scheduled to last from October 2-10. A defense ministry official said that the Maoists were killed in gunbattles in six districts in Nepal. The army searched houses in Kathmandu looking for explosives; a pile of arms and explosives were said to have been discovered in a raid on a Maoist hideout near the capital. Separately, rebels bombed a tower of Nepal's state telecommunications authority in western Nepal October 3 that disrupted telephone service in the area. (BBC, October 2; AFP, October 4, 2003)

## **SOMALIA**

ILO project underway: The International Labor Organization (ILO) said that a project underway in Somalia was restoring dignity to the people through work. The ILO's Promotion of Economic Recovery Project in Somalia (PERPS) began in April 2002 in Hargeysa, the capital of the self-declared republic of Somaliland. It has since spread to areas of Puntland and the capital Mogadishu. In Mogadishu, 600 of the city's poorest people were hired to remove trash from the streets. There has been no garbage collection for 12 years. Joe Connolly, PERPS chief technical adviser, said that it was not only about employment, but also about empowering local communities to restore hope and dignity. (IRIN, October 6, 2003)

Gunman kills aid worker: Annalena Tonelli, an Italian aid worker, was killed October 5. Tonelli had dedicated 33 years of her life to helping Somalis. Earlier this year, she won the UN refugee agency's (UNHCR) highest award in recognition of her work. She was killed while leaving the hospital in Borama that she had founded to treat tuberculosis patients. The motive for the killing was unknown and no suspects were detained. UNHCR High Commissioner Ruud Lubbers, on behalf of the organization, expressed their devastation over Tonelli's death. (AP, IRIN, October 6, 2003)

## **SUDAN**

Peace talks are scheduled to resume: Peace talks between the Sudanese government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) rebel leader, John Garang, were scheduled to resume in Kenya October 6. The talks followed three weeks of discussions that took place last month between the two parties resulting in a breakthrough agreement on security. The agreement included an integrated army of 39,000, including both government and rebel forces. Also discussed was the sharing of the country's oil wealth. The peace talks planned for October 6 were to discuss the details of the proposed deal. The 20-year conflict between the north and south has claimed more than two million lives. (BBC, October 6, 2003)

## **UGANDA**

Uganda and Sudan meet to sign peace and security deal: The Ugandan government planned to sign a protocol on peace and security with Sudan during the tenth International Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) summit in Kampala October 24-25. The governments said they would discuss issues such as the Somali peace process as well as a report on the IGAD-sponsored Sudan peace process. Uganda and Sudan have had a strained relationship recently due to Uganda's allegations that the Sudanese government has restarted support of the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA has been fighting since 1988 to replace the Ugandan government with one based on the Biblical Ten Commandments. (The Monitor, October 6, 2003)