



Peace & Justice Update
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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 or 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.

The Peace & Justice updates are written by the Fall 2003 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Lara Cunanan (University of Arizona), Kimberly Edmunds (Emory University), Mercedee Goates (University of San Diego), Michael James (University of California, San Diego), and Vanessa Lucas (University of San Diego).

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Lack of progress could delay elections: The committee charged with overseeing the transitional process of the interim government in the DRC announced that the prospect of holding elections within the next 24 months did not appear to be promising. The International Committee to Accompany the Transition (CIAT), comprised of ambassadors to the DRC and under the direction of its President William Swing, expressed concerns that delays in the creation and implementation of various post-conflict programs would ultimately result in the delay of elections. Specifically, CIAT cited delays in the implementation of a national government administration, formation of a unified national army, and the absence of a national disarmament, demobilization, and reinsertion (DDR) program. CIAT recommended that provincial governments and administrative staff be appointed, military officers be dispatched to their posts, and a national coordination body for DDR be established, in order to put the DRC on track for elections in the coming years. From 1998 to 2000, the DRC was engaged in a civil war that killed more than 3 million people. In 1999, the Lusaka Peace Accords were signed officially ending the conflict; however, violence has continued in the DRC. (IRIN, October 21, 2003)

DRC calls for removal of Rwandan rebel groups: Mulegwa Zihindula, the spokesman for President Joseph Kabila, announced October 16 that the DRC would no longer allow members of the Rwandan former army and Rwandan Hutu former militias to take refuge in the DRC. The United Nations Mission in the DRC estimated that approximately 14,000 Rwandan ex-combatants were residing in the country. This announcement came days before the visit of Rwandan Foreign Minister Charles Muligande to the DRC October 20. Mr. Muligande had been exerting pressure on the DRC to be more proactive in its efforts to resolve the problem with the ex-combatants. The Rwandan former army and militia members were suspected of having participated in the 1994 genocide of thousands of people in Rwanda. In addition to addressing the issue of the ex-combatants, the two leaders agreed to reopen embassies in each other's countries and to consider holding a regional conference on security, development, and democracy in the near future. (AllAfrica, October 17, 21; BBC, October 21, 2003)

ERITREA/ETHIOPIA

A struggling peace process: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Representative Legwaila Joseph Legwaila stated that the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia was "experiencing severe stress." Mr. Legwaila criticized journalists from both countries for using language that evoked thoughts or concerns about an eminent war. He stressed that rhetoric about war was never helpful and appealed to the public and the press to remain calm. Tensions regarding border demarcation have heightened in recent months with Ethiopia's refusal to accept the ruling of the independent Boundary Commission. Despite the dispute regarding border demarcation, the border between the two states remains militarily stable and there appear to be no signs of a forthcoming war. In 2000, both parties signed the Algiers Agreement in which they agreed to accept the Boundary Commission's ruling as final and binding. Since the release of the Commission's ruling in 2002, demarcation of the border has been delayed twice. (AllAfrica, October 17; IRIN, October 16, 2003)

U.S. legislation may limit funding: The House of Africa Subcommittee, chaired by Congressman Ed Royce, passed House Resolution 2760 October 16, proposing a limitation in funding from the U.S. to both Eritrea and Ethiopia. The bill “Resolution of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Border Dispute Act of 2003,” would suspend U.S. economic assistance to either country if they failed to implement the border ruling of the Boundary Commission. Although the bill would limit economic aid, it would not suspend food or medical assistance, peacekeeping funding, counter-terrorism initiatives, human rights or HIV/AIDS funding. After demarcation was completed, an added amendment would offer developmental aid to help the economic recovery of the disputed area in the form of agricultural projects, compensation for displaced families, and support for local peace efforts. The bill would act as an incentive for cooperation from the two sides in resolving the dispute expeditiously. If the bill was passed by the House International Relations Committee it would then be passed to the House of Representatives for a vote. (AllAfrica, October 16, 17, 2003)

GENDER AND PEACE

Women’s political role resolution is submitted to the UN: The U.S. submitted a resolution to the General Assembly October 17 aimed at increasing the political participation of women around the world. The proposed resolution focused on the role of civil society and the private sector in working with governments to encourage involvement of women in the political process by eliminating discriminatory laws and regulations. The resolution also encouraged political parties to seek and train women candidates, and proposed initiatives to train women in voting, governing and advocating effectively. U.S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women Ellen Sauerbrey pointed out attempts in some countries to “quiet the voice of women.” She said women were successful campaigners, organizers and mobilizers but rarely ran for public office, which was one reason why so few women served in elected offices at all government levels. Sauerbrey said many women, especially in poor countries, did not know how to overcome barriers to participation in the political process. Negotiations on the language of the proposition continued through the week. (Peacewomen.org, October 17, 2003)

Great Britain will fund Iraq women’s council: Great Britain’s Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt and International Development Secretary Hillary Benn said Great Britain would be prepared to provide \$2.01 million to fund an Iraqi women’s higher council. Detailed plans for the council would be put forward during a two-day donor conference in Madrid next week, when Great Britain would pledge \$911 million for Iraq’s reconstruction. The aim of the council would be to increase the number of women in public positions, improve their health provision and enrollment for education, and advise on setting up businesses. The idea for the council was conceived at an Iraqi women’s conference in the town of Hilla earlier this month, and could be established by early 2004. Patricia Hewitt met with Raja Habib al-Khuzai, one of the two women out of 25 members on Iraq’s governing council, and said the proposed council was about building a new civil society and ensuring that women had a voice in Iraq. (Peacewomen.org, October 17, 2003).

GUATEMALA

Oscar Berger's supporters die in ambush: Elder Moran and Veronica Colindres, opposition candidates promoting the election campaign of presidential candidate Oscar Berger, were ambushed and shot dead October 14. The couple was inside their vehicle carrying campaign materials for Grand National Alliance Party's candidate Oscar Berger. Berger was the favorite to win the November 9 elections in recent polls. The deaths came amid controversy of the elections framed by Efraim Rios Montt's candidacy. Rios Montt is a former coup leader whose 1982-1983 dictatorship was considered the most brutal of the 36-year civil war. (Xinhua News Agency, October 16, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights abuses in Burma: Human Rights Watch stated that the leaders of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) nations must pressure the Burmese military government to respect human rights and return Burma to civilian rule. Burma's pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, was arrested May 30 during an attack on National League of Security (NLD) supporters. The United Nations, United States, and European Union pressured the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Burma's military government, to engage in political negotiations with the political opposition. The SPDC had used violence, forced displacement, and forced labor against the people of Burma, forcing many to leave the country. Burma's government received private international investment and military aid from several Asian countries, particularly China. (HRW, October 18, 2003)

U.S. Marines charged with negligent homicide: Eight U.S. Marines were charged with mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners of war. Two of the men were charged with negligent homicide in connection with the death of Nagem Sadoon Hatab, a captured Iraqi, in early June. Nagem Sadoon Hatab died at Camp Whitehorse in early June, following a beating by U.S. guards. Two other Iraqi prisoners from the camp insisted that they were beaten by Marines, but did not suffer serious injury. The Marines were taken into custody at Camp Pendleton, and were undergoing pre-trial hearings. A lawyer representing one of the men said that the reservists had no training at all in running a detention camp and had received only 30 minutes of training on the Geneva Convention. (BBC, September 20, 2003)

Traffickers in sex trade pursued: There was a crackdown on the trafficking of women for sex commerce in 12 southeastern European countries last month. Law enforcement authorities detected 831 suspected traffickers, and identified 696 victims of trafficking. The crackdown included checking 20,629 places such as border crossings, nightclubs, and bars. 194 of the suspects were arrested. The International Organization for Migration estimated that 700,000 women were trafficked for the sex trade annually worldwide. 200,000 of these women came from southeastern Europe. The countries that took part in the operations, conducted from September 1-5 and September 15-19 were Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, and Ukraine. (NYT, October 18, 2003)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Five Israeli air attacks on Gaza strip: Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships struck Gaza five times October 20. Although reports differed, it appeared at least 11 were killed and 90 injured. It was not clear how many of the casualties were militants and how many bystanders. In the deadliest attack, seven were killed when a helicopter fired two missiles at a car near the Nuseirat refugee camp. The Israeli army described the attacks as a part of the war against terrorism. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon promised to speed up work on the security fence in the West Bank and renewed his threat to expel Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat. The Palestinian Authority condemned the strikes and renewed calls for a cease-fire. These attacks brought speculation that violence has been taken to an unprecedented level in a conflict that has escalated, since the second intifada began September 2000. (BBC, New York Times, October 21, 2003)

KOREAN PENINSULA

North Korean nuclear issue dominates APEC summit: At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok, Thailand October 19, President George W. Bush presented a plan to Chinese President Hu Jintao to offer North Korea a five-nation security guarantee if North Korea dismantled its nuclear weapons program. This announcement followed U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement last week that the U.S. was considering offering North Korea a "security assurance." U.S. administration officials said the decision to present the plan to China first was intended to persuade the Chinese to take the lead in convincing its ally North Korea to accept the proposal. President George W. Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun also called for a new round of talks on North Korea's nuclear program. Officials said the announcement of Bush's proposal for a security guarantee was designed to encourage North Korea, which had given mixed signals about future talks, back to the negotiating table. Bush said he was willing to commit to a written guarantee, but emphasized that he would not offer North Korea a non-aggression treaty that would legally bind the U.S. from any sort of pre-emptive strike, as North Korea demanded. (BBC, October 19; New York Times, Washington Post, October 20, 2003)

North Korea launches missiles into Sea of Japan: The South Korean and Japanese governments reported that North Korea launched two short-range missiles from the Korean coast into the Sea of Japan October 20-21. The Japanese government believed the missiles to be anti-ship missiles, which flew about 100 kilometers before dropping into the sea. The missile tests came in the middle of the APEC summit in Bangkok, where the U.S. and five other Asian nations met to discuss free trade and economic cooperation. The launches were believed to be demonstrative to grab attention. The two launched missiles followed statements by South Korean and U.S. officials that North Korea has already reprocessed a third of its 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods – approximately 2,500 spent fuel rods. Last week U.S. officials also stated that there was evidence, although no absolute proof, that North Korea had already made two nuclear bombs. North Korea fired two missiles earlier this year in February and March immediately following the interception of an American spy plane by North Korean fighters March 2. (BBC, October 20; Korea Herald, TASS, October 21, 2003)

KYRGYZSTAN

Radical Islamic organization faces internal split: There were indications that the radical Islamic organization Hizb ut-Tahrir was facing internal divisions due to conflict over strategy and tactics, which could create violent splinter groups. The Hizb ut-Tahrir advocated the overthrow of the Kyrgyz government, as well as other Central Asian governments, but through non-violent means. There was evidence that leaders in the organization were growing dissatisfied with the non-violent tactics of the Hizb ut-Tahrir. Two groups, though largely peaceful, splintered off from Hizb ut-Tahrir: Hizb-an-Nusra in 1999 and Akramiya in 1996, both operating in Uzbekistan. The Hizb ut-Tahrir movement has been growing across Central Asia, especially in Kyrgyzstan since September 11, 2001, in spite of its being banned in Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries. The National Security Service (NSB) said there were about 2,000 members of the Hizb ut-Tahrir movement in Kyrgyzstan, who operated in 5 member cells throughout the country. The NSB also said most of the activity was in the southern Kyrgyzstan, especially the Osh province, but activity was spreading to the north around Bishkek, the capital. Many members were arrested for distributing leaflets in public areas, and most were sentenced for several years of imprisonment. As of June 2003, law enforcement officials had 193 open cases against Hizb ut-Tahrir members, and 19 were arrested in the northern provinces in the past six months. The Kyrgyz Ombudsman, Tursanbai Bakir uulu, said recently that there was no solid legal basis for the ban on the group, which the government used to crack down on the movement. After making inquiries at the NSB, the Ministry of Interior Affairs, and other government agencies Bakir uulu was unable to find any law, statement, or presidential decree related to any limitation on Hizb ut-Tahrir's activities. He also stated that the Kyrgyz government should consider giving the movement a legal status, in order to make the extremist elements of the organization more identifiable. Other Kyrgyz officials argued for tougher legislation and sweeping arrests of those suspected of engaging in radical Islamic activity as done in Uzbekistan. (Eurasia.net, October 18, 21, 2003).

MACEDONIA

Macedonia to protect American citizens from ICC: The Macedonian Parliament ratified an agreement with the United States to protect U.S. citizens in Macedonia from prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC). A member of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) said partnership with the U.S. was in Macedonia's interest. Macedonia expected continued U.S. support for its bids to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a result of the bilateral agreement. Under U.S. law, Washington D.C. must suspend military assistance to most ICC member nations that have not signed such agreements. Brussels voiced its opposition to bilateral agreements that would undermine the ICC's ability to prosecute war criminals. (Agence France Presse, October 16, 2003)

NEPAL

British official safe after kidnapping: A British army official and six Nepali nationals returned safely after having been kidnapped by Maoist rebels October 19. The group was trekking in the western region of Baglung region on a mission to recruit Gurkhas.

Approximately 250 Gurkhas have been recruited each year from Nepal and have served in various British military operations. Maoists have been opposed to the recruitment of Gurkhas by the British and Indian armies and have been involved in several violent attacks in recent weeks aimed at disrupting the recruitment process. Maoist rebels approached the group and asked them to meet a rebel commander several hours away and kept the captives overnight. They were released after rescuers reached the area. Fighting between the government and rebels escalated since the rebels pulled out of the peace talks in August. At least 7,500 people have been killed since the Maoist insurgency began in 1996. ([BBC](#), October 21; [The Guardian](#), October 20, 2003)

SOMALIA

Three found dead near Nairobi: The body of Shaykh Ibrahim Ali Abdulle, Somali delegate to the peace talks in Kenya, was found dead along with Hassan Abdurahman Mohammed, a prominent Kenyan businessman, and their driver Mohammed Eley. They were found October 20 in the Ololua forest near Nairobi. All three were shot in the head, just above the right ear, which caused speculation that they were executed. Abdulle was a close ally of the Transitional National Government (TNG) President Abdiqassim Salad Hassan. TNG cabinet member Abdallah Boss Ahmed said that Abdulle was a key figure in negotiations and played an important role in the peace talks. The peace talks began in October 2002 to bring stability to Somalia. Somalia has been without a central government, since the ousting of Siad Barre's regime in 1991. ([IRIN](#), [The Nation](#), October 20, 2003)

Unidentified gunman kills British teachers: Two British nationals who worked for an NGO in the self-declared republic of Somaliland were found shot dead in their home October 21. Their home was located in the same compound as the Sheikh secondary school where they taught. The school, which opened in January 2003, was closed. The investigation of the shooting was supported by President of Somaliland Dahir Riale Kahin and began immediately. The motive remained unclear. ([IRIN](#), October 21, 2003)

SUDAN

Powell arrives in Kenya to support peace talks: Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in Kenya October 21 to push for a conclusion of the peace talks between the Sudanese government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). Both sides reported progress in the talks aimed at ending the 20-year civil war between the Muslim north and the mostly Christian and Animist south that has claimed more than 2 million lives. Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail predicted that the rebels and the government would sign a peace accord by the end of the year. The key issues that have remained unresolved include the distribution of Sudan's oil wealth and the fate of the contested areas of Southern Blue Nile, Abyei, and the Nuba mountains. ([AllAfrica.com](#), October 20; [BBC](#), October 21; [DPA](#), October 20; [IRIN](#), October 17, 2003)

Rebels accuse government of violating truce: Rebels in the western Sudanese region of Darfur complained that the government violated the cease-fire agreement more than 47 times since it took effect six weeks ago. The head of the Sudan Liberation Movement

(SLM), Mani Arkoi Minawi said that the government's violations caused more than 200 deaths and the SLM worried whether the agreement would be renewed. The 45-day cease-fire was signed in Chad September 3 and took effect September 6. Minawi reported that government helicopters bombed SLM targets in the state of North Darfur October 17-18, killing one rebel and wounding another. Minawi also accused the government of not complying with the agreements of prisoner exchange and said that the government had not freed any of the 71 SLM prisoners, while the SLM released 79 government prisoners. The minister for presidential affairs, Al-Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammed Khair, said SLM prisoners were released at the beginning of September. The conflict between the rebel SLM and the government in the Darfur region left approximately 3,000 dead and 400,000 displaced since it began in February. (AFP, October 19, 2003)

UGANDA

Another LRA attack: The rebel group Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacked a village in Soroti. Three people were killed and 14 huts were burned. Ugandan army spokesman Maj Shaban Bantariza said that the rebel group who attacked were under the command of Charles Tabuley, an LRA commander. The rebels left a letter stating they wanted peace talks with President Museveni. A security operative also said that the rebels wanted the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) to agree to a cease-fire before they would talk with the government. The civil war between the government of Uganda and the LRA, led by Joseph Kony, has continued for 17 years. The aim of the LRA has been to replace the existing government with one based on the Biblical Ten Commandments. (The Monitor, October 21, 2003)