



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.

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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)

The DRC and Uganda establishing diplomatic relations: Government officials from the DRC and Uganda met in Kampala, Uganda to discuss the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Ugandan Foreign Affairs Minister James Wapakhabulo and Congolese Regional Cooperation Minister Mbusa Nyamwisi agreed to tighten security within the two countries and to prevent rebel groups from waging war on their respective lands. The Ministers also stated that diplomatic relations would be enhanced through the exchange of ambassadors, which was scheduled to take place in the near future. The officials outlined a mechanism for deepening bilateral trade which included streamlining civil aviation communication and re-establishing the Permanent Joint Commission for Improved Relations. The relationship between the DRC and Uganda has been strained since 1998 with the beginning of violent conflict in the DRC. Between 1998 and 2000, the DRC was involved in a civil war which claimed the lives of more than 3 million people. During the conflict involvement from foreign states, including Uganda, aided in the fueling of violence. (AllAfrica, October 29, 30, 2003)

The UN panel reviews plundering of the DRC minerals: The UN Security Council received the final report from the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the DRC. The panel was responsible for examining the role of international mining companies and specific individuals in perpetuating the conflict in the DRC through the illegal extraction and sale of natural resources. In total, the panel implicated that 125 companies and individuals were guilty of illegally exploiting the natural resources and funding rebel groups operating in the DRC. In the final report, the panel made recommendations for improving the behavior of international companies in the DRC. These recommendations included establishing a full disclosure policy of business transactions, or a “publish what you pay” policy, deconstructing various state-owned mineral resources companies, and creating a natural resources fund. While the report did publicly name those guilty of contributing to the perpetuation of conflict in the DRC, the UN diplomats stated that prosecution of those individuals and corporations was unlikely. (AllAfrica, October 28, 30, 31; BBC, October 30, 2003)

ERITREA/ETHIOPIA

Violence between Ethiopian and Eritrean troops: One Eritrean militia member was killed during a shooting between an Eritrean militia and a group of Ethiopians. The shooting occurred while the Eritrean militia was inside the demilitarized zone that ran parallel to the disputed border between the two countries. It appeared that the Ethiopian group initiated the shooting, although the Ethiopian Defense Ministry denied involvement by their troops. Recently, tensions have been high between the two states due to the delays in border demarcation. From 1998 to 2000 the nations fought a border war which killed more than 77,000 people. (BBC, November 3, 2003)

Postponement of Border Demarcation: The independent Boundary Commission for Eritrea and Ethiopia (BCEE) was to have begun delineation of the disputed border in October. Due to objections by the Ethiopian government, demarcation has been delayed indefinitely. The BCEE stated that demarcation would begin, “when conditions permit.”

This delay in border demarcation was the third since the BCEE presented their ruling on the border issue in April of 2002. Ethiopia strongly objected to the BCEE's ruling that the town of Badme should be awarded to Eritrea. In recent weeks, the Ethiopian government requested that a new mechanism for ruling on the disputed border be utilized. However, the United Nations rejected all appeals for a new body to rule on and oversee the demarcation of the border. ([AllAfrica](#), October 24; [BBC](#), October 30, 2003)

GENDER AND PEACE

African women discuss their role in the peace process: The Third African Women's Peace Table Seminar on the Role and Responsibility of South African Women in Furtherance of AU-Nepad Peace and Security Agenda in the Continent and Internationally took place October 28, in Pretoria, South Africa. Keynote speaker, Deputy Minister for Defense Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge emphasized the importance of the role that women play in the peacemaking process. Minister Routledge stated that women played a key role in maintaining peace and stability on the continent of Africa and that an increased involvement of women in peacemaking activities would also lead to improvements in their role within the decision-making process. The conference was attended by more than 200 women from a variety of African countries from defense and safety agencies as well as civil society organizations. ([AllAfrica](#), October 28, 2003)

GUATEMALA

Government abolishes EMP: As called for by the 1996 Peace Accords, the Estado Mayor Presidencial (EMP) was abolished. The EMP served as a military intelligence agency and was responsible for human rights abuses in recent years and during Guatemala's 36-year civil war. The abolition came after seven years of national and international pressure. Shortly after announcement of the abolition, Amnesty International urged the government to ensure that the abolition of the EMP and new structural changes in intelligence agencies serve to reinforce accountability and end the impunity, which allowed them to carry out human rights abuses in the past. ([Amnesty International](#), November 4, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Protesters arrested in Saudi Arabia: Police in Saudi Arabia detained hundreds of peaceful protesters during a demonstration the opening day of a human rights conference. The Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia (MIRA), a London-based political opposition group, called for the demonstration. The protesters were advocating political reform and the release of political prisoners. Prince Nayef said the government will not tolerate public demonstrations and promised "deterrent punishment" in the courts. An Interior Ministry spokesman denounced the group because it "does not reflect the reality of Saudi society" and "is not compatible with Islamic values." Saudi Arabia's bill of rights fails to provide for freedom of peaceful assembly. ([HRW](#), October 29, 2003)

Problems in creating Afghan constitution: Human Rights Watch called on Afghan President Hamid Karzai to take action to minimize the number of warlords and their proxies attending the constitutional convention in Afghanistan. Elections to select delegates for the constitutional grand council began this month. Many grand council

candidates received death threats from warlords in order to deter them from participating in the elections, and some warlords even nominated themselves. Human Rights Watch also urged the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to expand protection of vulnerable candidates by increasing the number of human rights monitors working around the country and establishing closer contact with persons and groups likely to face threats. (HRW, October 29, 2003)

Poor prison conditions in the DRC: Prison directors in the Democratic Republic of Congo urged the government to improve the conditions of incarceration nationwide. Prisoners often slept in very close proximity to each other on pieces of cardboard, resulting in the rapid spread of illness. Also, malnutrition was an issue. Several prisons were destroyed during years of civil war in the country, forcing prisoners to be relocated to police facilities inadequate to handle them. The directors called for, among other demands, the rehabilitation of existing prisons, the construction of an additional one, and the establishment of correction centers for youths. (IRIN, November 4, 2003)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Hamas rules out renewal of truce: The Hamas, a Palestinian militant group, ruled out renewing the unilateral truce with Israel, which collapsed shortly after it was declared in June. Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantissi, a Hamas leader, said that they may consider stopping attacks on Israeli citizens. The Hamas position was stated, because of speculation that Palestinian leaders want to discuss a truce with militants. To date, the Palestinian Authority has not met Israeli and U.S. demands to disarm Hamas, fearing provocation of a civil war among Palestinians. In the three-year-old intifada Palestinian militants have killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings, while Israeli security forces have killed more than 2,000 Palestinians. (BBC, November 3, 4, 2003)

KOREAN PENINSULA

North Korea agrees to future talks: North Korea announced October 30 that it agreed to continue with another round of six-party talks. The announcement came as a result of pressure from China, one of North Korea's only allies, to resume the talks. The head of China's parliament and second in the Communist government's hierarchy, Wu Bangguo, held talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and other senior leaders. He urged that talks were the only avenue to resolve the crisis over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. North Korean radio said North Korea would only take part in the talks if they aimed for a solution based on "the principle of simultaneous actions," or that the demands of both sides were met. Initially, North Korea demanded a guarantee that the U.S. would not attack, as well as economic aid and the opening of a formal diplomatic relationship. Later, unconfirmed Japanese media reports said North Korea offered to settle for a letter of assurance on its security from U.S. President George W. Bush. Negotiations over a second round of six-party talks have been ongoing since the first round ended inconclusively in August. (BBC, October 30, 2003).

Human rights abuses in North Korea: The U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea released a report October 29, which exposed the numerous abuses political prisoners suffered in labor camps in North Korea. The report used testimony from 30 ex-

prisoners and guards and satellite pictures were used to pinpoint prisons, where an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners were held. The Committee reported that people were starved, tortured, and worked to death as slaves in the camps, the existence of which the North Korean government repeatedly denied. Escapees and dissenters were tortured and executed. Senator Sam Brownback called the hearing of a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee to examine the abuses exposed by the report. Representative from several human rights organizations testified at the hearings, which began November 5. A spokesman from Amnesty International said that according to the UN statistics two million people died from starvation in North Korea, and that almost 50 percent of the population was malnourished. ([CNN](#), October 31, November 5; [Los Angeles Times](#), October 23, 2003).

Increased South Korean opposition to sending more troops to Iraq: Civic groups critical of the South Korean government's commitment to send troops to Iraq stepped up protests recently. The string of recent bomb explosions and missile attacks have sparked more opposition in South Korea. A massive rally of more than 4,000 activists was held October 25-26 in Daehangno, central Seoul, and similar protests were held in 30 areas across the nation. Police detained and sought an arrest warrant for the General Secretary of the civic coalition People's Action in Opposition of Troop Dispatch, Kim Joing-il, on the charge of staging illegal rallies without reporting them to the authorities. These protests built on the considerable opposition to South Korea's decision to comply with the U.S. request to commit troops to Iraq. ([The Korea Herald](#), October 29, 2003).

KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan attends council on border issues: The ninth session of the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC) council on border issues was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 5. Delegations led by the heads of the border guard departments of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan attended the session to discuss a number of border cooperation and collaboration issues. The participants planned to draft agreements on collaboration among the EAEC border departments in crisis situations on external borders. The most recent incidents that raised tensions along the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border were protests by Uzbek citizens against the return of a Kyrgyz border checkpoint, Boz-Adyr. Approximately 80-100 Uzbek residents of the Sharhabad village in the Sokh district of Uzbekistan piled rocks on the Batken-Osh highway to prevent the placement of the checkpoint. More recently, stones, bottles, and Molotov cocktails were thrown the night of November 2 by an unknown group of people at a Kyrgyz border checkpoint in the Nookan district in Dzahal-Abad Region. The Uzbek military has opened fire on civilians at the border on several occasions, killing one Kyrgyz citizen July 16 and injuring another and killing two Uzbek civilians October 13. Kyrgyz and Uzbek NGOs recently began a project to reduce border tensions in the Dzahal-Abad region, which is supported by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development. ([BBC Monitoring](#), October 16, November 5; [Eurasianet.org](#), October 29; [WPS](#), October 17, 2003).

International conference on landmines held in Kyrgyzstan: Representatives from fourteen countries and several international organizations began a conference in Bishkek

November 5 on the use of antipersonnel mines in Central Asia and other former Soviet states. The conference was initiated by the International Campaign to Ban Antipersonnel Mines and the Kyrgyz committee Doctors for Preventing Nuclear War. The main aim was to discuss the humanitarian and social issues involved in the use of antipersonnel mines and to discuss banning their use. Representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the UN, the Red Cross, Central Asian states, and other countries like Australia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, and Russia will attend. Bishkek was chosen specifically to host the conference, since over the past three years eight people were killed by landmines along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border. Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Loshchinin said October 24 that Russia was ready to send Russian sappers to help clear mines along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border as well as provide practical assistance in the consultations between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan on the landmine issue. ([BBC Monitoring](#), November 5; [Eurasianet.org](#), October 29, 2003).

MACEDONIA

ICG makes recommendations to Macedonian Government: The International Crisis Group (ICG) analyzed the current situation in Macedonia and recommended several measures the country could take to improve security, including education, and ethnic Albanian representation. The group stated that Macedonia could not safely continue without the presence of an international security force, and should not exaggerate the safety of the country for fear of derailing its bid for NATO membership. Macedonia should also give priority to educating Albanians, and helping them attend higher educational facilities. They said the government needs to prioritize Albanian presence in the key sectors of the army and the special police. According to a survey by the United Nations, two-thirds of Macedonians and Albanians expected more conflict amid growing concerns over a stagnant economy. The ICG strongly recommended that Macedonia take these steps for improvement seriously in order to deter conflict. ([International Crisis Group](#), October 23, 2003)

NEPAL

U.S. freezes rebel assets: The U.S. confirmed that it declared the Communist Party of Nepal a national threat to the U.S. and imposed financial sanctions on the organization, including freezing the assets of the Maoists. The U.S. embassy stated that the sanctions were imposed on the Maoists because of their acts of terrorism committed during the past eight years as well as for threatening the stability of a U.S.-friendly government. The embassy warned U.S. citizens traveling in Nepal to keep a low profile and exercise caution. The Maoists responded by saying that Americans not helping Nepal's army would be safe. The Maoists are not known to have harmed any Americans during their seven-year insurgency. Their goal has been to replace the current monarchy with a communist republic. More than 1,000 people have been killed in Nepal since the Maoist rebels pulled out of the peace talks in August. ([AFP](#), November 2; [BBC](#), October 30, November 3; [Nepalnews.com](#), November 2, 2003)

SOMALIA

UN Report links al-Qaeda attacks to Somalia: A panel, appointed by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to investigate violations of a 1992 arms embargo imposed on

Somalia, prepared a draft report. The report concluded that al-Qaeda terrorist who attacked a Kenyan resort hotel and an Israeli-owned airliner last year, plotted the attacks and obtained weapons from Somalia. Further, the terrorists were able to hide in Somalia after the attacks and at least four still remained there. The report also detailed smuggling of weapons on boats and planes with a key route leading from Yemen. A UN sanctions committee will review the report and then it is expected to go to the Security Council for review. Somalia has been without a government for over a decade and remains in the hands of rival warlords and clans. The U.S. has singled it out as a target in its war on terror. (AP, BBC, November 4, 2003)

SUDAN

U.S. extends sanctions another year: The U.S. continued its sanctions against the Sudanese government for another year. The U.S. said that there still remained a threat to national security by the Sudanese government's policies. Sudan has been on a U.S. list of countries accused of supporting international terrorism since 1993. However, the Sudanese foreign ministry official Dr. Mutrif Siddiq stated that the extension was illogical and broke a promise to lift sanctions when a peace deal was brokered with the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). Both the Sudanese government and the SPLM/A said they hoped to conclude peace negotiations by the end of December to end Sudan's 20-year civil war. The U.S. government agency, USAID, pledged \$40 million to assist in post-war recovery, but added that the aid was conditional upon the implementation of the peace deal. The civil war between the mostly Christian and Animist south against the Muslim north has left more than two million people dead and four million displaced. (BBC, October 21, 2003)

UGANDA

Army kills rebel commander: The Ugandan army announced that a top commander of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was killed October 29. Charles Taubley was the second in command of the LRA and was shot while fighting in northern Uganda. The rebels had not yet confirmed the killing. Ugandan army Lieutenant Chris Magezi said that Taubley was killed "during running battles" and the army stated that it intercepted rebels' radio communications confirming Taubley's death. The interceptions also included an order from LRA leader Joseph Kony that Taubley's body should be taken to Sudan. The Ugandan army reported that they rescued more than 120 children that had been abducted by the LRA from three northern Ugandan districts. Approximately 20,000 children were abducted by the LRA over the past five years. They were trained as child soldiers to fight for the LRA, while girls were forced to become sex slaves. The LRA has been fighting mainly in northern Uganda against the government to replace the current government with one based on the Biblical Ten Commandments. (BBC, November 2, 2003)

U.S. gives aid to Uganda: The U.S. embassy confirmed its intention to offer military aid to Uganda to help in the fight against the LRA insurgency in the northern districts of the country. The U.S. agreed to give Uganda approximately \$100,000 with the majority to be used for training soldiers in tactics and teaching soldiers how to treat civilians and respect human rights. Uganda's withdrawal from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(DRC) allowed the money to be released to the Ugandan government and upon condition that Ugandan troops remain outside the DRC. (IRIN, November 3, 2003)