



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**November 14, 2003**  
*(Volume 7, Number 8)*

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)**

The DRC and Uganda agree to settle outside of court: Proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding complaints filed by the DRC against Uganda were postponed November 10. The government of the DRC requested that hearings be delayed until April 2004 to allow the governments of the two countries to work on diplomatic negotiations. While the ICJ agreed to postpone the hearings, it did not guarantee that arguments would resume by April next year. The decision to end the judicial proceedings was made after a meeting between President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and President Joseph Kabila of the DRC last week in Washington D.C. Charges were filed against Uganda in 1999, which included the illegal invasion of the DRC by Uganda in 1998 and the massacre of civilian populations by Ugandan forces. Recently, the governments of the DRC and Uganda have been engaged in efforts to improve relations between the two countries. Relations have been strained since the outbreak of violent conflict in the DRC in 1998. During the two-year civil war in the DRC, Uganda as well as six other countries played a significant role in fueling the violence between warring militia groups. Although the countries involved in the conflict signed the Lusaka Peace Accords in 1999, it was not until recent months that Uganda and the DRC began to mend their damaged relationship. ([AllAfrica](#), November 11; [IRIN](#), November 10, 2003)

WFP reveals the reality of rape in the DRC: The non-governmental organization, World Food Program (WFP), reported that in recent months thousands of women have sought medical treatment for rape in the DRC. WFP stated that the improvement in political conditions within the country allowed the organization to reach regions of the DRC that were previously unavailable to the NGO sector. Spokeswoman for WFP, Christiane Berthiaume said, "We have never come across as many victims of rape in a conflict situation as we have now." In the eastern city of Bukavu doctors have treated 150 new cases of rape a month. Doctors have reported seeing patients as old as 80 and as young as five in their clinics. The high numbers of reported rapes stood in striking contrast to the 48 women who went to medical facilities after being raped in 2001. ([Agence France Presse](#), November 4; [AllAfrica](#), November 4; [BBC](#), November 5, 2003)

## **ERITREA/ETHIOPIA**

Eritrea and Ethiopia agree to work together: The UN Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) stated that the border shooting allegedly between an Eritrean militia and Ethiopian troops was an "isolated incident of criminality." In its investigation of the incident, UNMEE peacekeepers discovered bullet casings and bloodstains; however, they were not shown the body of the Eritrean militia member who was reportedly killed. In response to the shooting, generals from both countries agreed to work together to ensure that another border incident would not occur. The generals made the agreement at a meeting of the Military Coordination Commission (MCC) November 5. The MCC was the only arena in which the two sides had direct communication with one another. The border shooting and the subsequent investigation came at a time of increased tensions between the two countries regarding border demarcation. Demarcation was scheduled to have begun in October; however, Ethiopia refused to comply with the ruling of the border commission. The relationship between the two countries deteriorated in 1998 with the outbreak of violent conflict regarding the disputed border region. ([IRIN](#), November 6, 7, 2003)

## **GENDER AND PEACE**

Peace education for Ugandan women: The British-based non-governmental organization, ISIS Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (WICCE), created a handbook for women leaders in Uganda addressing the crucial role of women in the peacebuilding process. The handbook entitled "Pillars for Peace" was meant to encourage women to become involved in the peace process in Uganda. The booklet included information discussing the various stages of conflict, instructions on how to analyze conflict as well as responses to it, and information regarding skills that women could employ to manage conflict. The organizations also encouraged women to establish development projects within their communities. ISIS WICCE stated that it created the project because women in Uganda lacked skills and understanding of the relationship between peace, human rights, justice, and tolerance. (AllAfrica, November 11, 2003)

Women leaders convene for conference with policymakers: Women Waging Peace, a network of women peacemakers from conflict areas around the world, convened women leaders for the fifth annual Colloquium November 3-7. Women civic leaders, human rights lawyers, scholars, grassroots organizers, and investigative journalists, met with key policymakers from the UN, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, and the World Bank. They discussed negotiating tactics, grassroots actions, and political and legal maneuvers to create social change and promote the peace process. (Women Waging Peace, November 6, 2003)

## **GUATEMALA**

Rios Montt finishes third: Former dictator Efraim Rios Montt was defeated in Sunday's presidential election. Oscar Berger was first with 38 percent of the vote. Alvaro Colom came in second with 28 percent of the vote. No candidate received a majority of the vote, which necessitated a run-off race December 28. Rios Montt received approximately 17 percent of the vote and his party accepted defeat. Analysts said that voters rejected Rios Montt because of his part in the violent civil war and dislike of his party, the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG). Outgoing President Alfonso Portillo, a member of the FRG, had a government plagued with corruption allegations and a rise in organized crime. Rios Montt, a member of Congress, will lose his parliamentary immunity when his term ends in January, which may lead to his being tried for genocide crimes. Rios Montt's dictatorship in 1982-1983 was the bloodiest period of the 36-year civil war. He has been accused of ordering massacres of civilians in Maya Indian villages. (Reuters, November 11, 2003)

## **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Mexico may prosecute former government officials: Mexico's highest court ruled that they might prosecute former government officials for the kidnapping of suspected leftist insurgents. Up to 74 officials may be liable for the disappearances of at least 275 people during the "dirty war" Mexico waged against rebel leftist groups from the 1960's to the 1980's. Until recently, there was no serious investigation or effort to prosecute the people responsible for the kidnappings. Luis Echeverria, president of Mexico from 1970 to 1976, may also be tried by a special prosecutor appointed by President Vicente Fox. In Mexico, no former president has answered under oath for his official acts, much less been prosecuted for them. (NYT, November 6, 2003)

U.S. Supreme Court to intervene at Guantanamo: The Supreme Court decided to hear the appeals of the detainees held at Guantanamo. A group of ex-judges, diplomats, and former military lawyers urged the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene on behalf of the hundreds of men held without trial by the government at Guantanamo. The group stated that it has been nearly two years since the detainees were captured and they should now be afforded more rights, such as access to lawyers. A former judge said that justice had been “totally denied” to the detainees at Guantanamo. The U.S. officials insisted that there were reasons for holding the alleged fighters and they would get a fair legal hearing in due course. (BBC, November 10, 11, 2003)

Global rights defenders to be honored by Human Rights Watch: Human Rights Watch scheduled its annual dinner for November 12 to honor three leading human rights defenders. Dr. Aida Seif El-Dawla was chosen because of her work to combat torture and promote women’s rights and freedom of association in Egypt. Tiawan Gongloe will be honored for defending the rule of law and human rights during Liberia’s violent civil war. The third honoree, Javier Stauring, fought to improve detention conditions for youths tried as adults in the United States. (HRW, November 6, 2003)

## **ISRAEL/PALESTINE**

UN warns of severe humanitarian consequences: A UN report November 10 warned of severe humanitarian consequences due to the building of the Israel security barrier. The report, based on the map of the route approved by Israel, found that 14.5 percent of Palestinian land will be cut off from the rest of the West Bank. The report estimated that the security barrier would directly harm 680,000 Palestinians, which is 30 percent of the Palestinian population in the West Bank. The planned route cuts into the West Bank territory up to 13 miles in some areas to encompass Jewish settlements. About a quarter of the security barrier, planned to stretch 410 miles, has been built. Israel claimed the barrier will keep suicide bombers from its cities. (Reuters, November 10, 2003)

Arafat gets choice on ministry post: Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei announced that his choice for the interior ministry post would not hold the position. Instead, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat loyalist Hakam Balawi was selected for the position that had responsibility over the police, civil defense, and preventative security. The Israeli government already voiced disappointment in the selection. The Israeli government wished to see the control of security to be out of Arafat’s hands. The post of interior minister along with formation of the new government under Qurei was seen as an important attempt to revive the peace process. (AP, November 10, BBC, November 9, 2003)

## **KOREAN PENINSULA**

Police and protestors clash in South Korea: Labor union protests in the South Korean capitol, Seoul, turned violent when demonstrators threw firebombs at riot police November 9. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) organized the protest, which drew approximately 35,000-40,000 trade union workers and hordes of student activists. The protest was in response to labor laws that allowed union leaders to be sued for lost production during strikes, and that were seen as a move to suppress the unions following. The wave of unrest and firebomb attacks followed the suicides of three union leaders in protest to these labor laws.

Police said 44 officers were wounded and according to union leaders 100 workers were hurt, 56 of whom were injured seriously. Most labor strikes were already illegal in South Korea because of severe restrictions on the right to strike. Eleven KCTU leaders were detained by police overnight on charges of obstructing public affairs by assaulting police. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun appealed for calm, stating that it “is not right for the workers to resort to illegal and violent means.” Human rights organizations also took part in the protests, supporting the unions on labor issues while protesting the dispatch of South Korean troops to Iraq. The KCTU vowed to step up the protests with a more powerful strike November 12. ([BBC](#), November 9, 10; [BBC Monitoring](#), [Korea Herald](#), November 11, 2003)

U.S. and Chinese officials optimistic about new talks with North Korea: A senior U.S. State Department official and Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated that prospects were good for a new round of six-party talks by the end of 2003. The first round, which included Russia, China, the U.S., South Korea, Japan, and North Korea that was held in Beijing in August, ended inconclusively. The announcement of future six-party talks followed last week’s tension over the announcement that the Bush administration persuaded its allies to suspend the \$4.6 billion construction of two nuclear power reactors in response to North Korea’s revival of its nuclear weapons program. Officials on the U.S.-led international energy consortium, the Korea Energy Development Organization, said it would suspend the program for a year. In response, North Korea threatened November 6 to prevent the return of any equipment, facilities, materials, and technical documents brought into North Korea to build the reactors. A senior Asian official said that the U.S. and its allies understood that if no substitute agreement was found at the second round of six-party talks, there was no chance this accord would be revived. Under a 1994 accord, North Korea agreed to suspend its nuclear weapons program in exchange for the construction of two light-water nuclear reactors to provide much needed energy to the country. ([BBC Monitoring](#), November 9; [CNN](#), November 10; [New York Times](#), November 5, 10, 11; [Xinhua](#), November 6, 7, 2003)

Inter-Korean agreement to build reunion center: Red Cross officials from South Korea and North Korea concluded three-day talks November 6 with an agreement to build a permanent reunion center in North Korea. The center will be built on Mount Geumgang, the site where thousands of temporary reunions of South Koreans with their families in North Korea have taken place since 2000. The agreement stipulated that the South Korean Red Cross would build the center with labor and materials provided by the North. After the completion of the center, the South side of the Red Cross will manage and operate the center. The talks also resulted in an agreement to hold the ninth round of reunions sometime after Lunar New Year February 2004. ([BBC Monitoring](#), November 10; [Xinhua](#), November 6, 2003)

## **KYRGYZSTAN**

Three terrorist suspects arrested: Three young Kyrgyz nationals were arrested by the Kyrgyz National Security Service (NSB) November 4. They were suspected of planning a terrorist attack on the Ganci airfield base, approximately 60 miles from the capitol, Bishkek. The Ganci airfield base was built in December 2001 as one of the Central Asian bases the U.S. and its allies used to fly missions over Afghanistan. The NSB seized grenades, a sawn-off rifle, ammunition for a Kalshnikov rifle, a large quantity of aluminum powder (used to manufacture homemade explosive devices), and a diagram for making a bomb from the apartment where the suspects

were arrested. None of the suspects denied guilt during interrogations by the NSB. The NSB reported that the three suspects received training in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The NSB also said the suspects were members of the Islamic extremist movement Hizb ut-Tahrir, which advocated overthrowing existing governments to be replaced with Islamic regimes. The NSB officials reported that the movement has been growing throughout Kyrgyzstan, in spite of its ban by the Kyrgyz government. However, despite the fiery rhetoric of the leaflets its members distributed, the group said it only used non-violent tactics. (BBC Monitoring, Eurasianet.org, November 6; IWPR, November 7, 2003)

## **MACEDONIA**

Country begins a weapon collection effort: “Amnesty for Weapons” began November 1 in Macedonia. The goal of this six-week operation was to round up illegally possessed weapons. Citizens could hand over the illegal arms at collection points and would not be asked questions. Estimates showed that there were 100,000-500,000 privately-owned arms in a country with a population of 2 million people. If citizens were found to have illegal arms after the deadline for “Amnesty for Weapons,” they would face harsh punishment. Macedonia was one of the countries plagued by organized weapons smuggling in the Balkans. (RFE/RL Newsline, November 3, 2003)

## **NEPAL**

Rebels shift to attacks on individuals: The Maoist rebels shifted their war strategy from targeting security installations to targeting individuals. Two army personnel were shot at in a crowded location in Kathmandu November 8. The unidentified shooters fled through the busy street. A sub-inspector of the National Investigation Department was attacked with a pistol at a busy road in front of a supermarket. In both instances, witnesses did not make an effort to apprehend or identify those responsible. Nepal’s Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as Prachanda, said that these types of individual attacks or urban guerrilla raids would continue or intensify. The Maoists have had three main goals: engaging government security forces in urban areas, weakening security forces, and convincing its followers that the leadership was still intact. The rebels have been fighting the Nepali government since 1996 with the aim of replacing the monarchy with a communist republic. Their “people’s war” has claimed the lives of more than 1,000 people since the rebels pulled out of the peace talks in August and violence has intensified. (AFP; Kathmandu Post, November 9, 2003)

## **SOMALIA**

Another peace talk delegate dies: Dr. Ahmed Rashid Mohammed died November 7 in Mbagathi, Kenya. Mohammed was a member of the Somali Constitutional Charter Committee. Police were investigating the circumstances of the mysterious death. Mohammed was seen stumbling along a concrete walkway before he fell down, injured himself trying to stand up, developed breathing troubles, and died as they tried to resuscitate him. Most of the delegates to the Somali peace talks believed that people wishing the peace talks to fail perpetrated the death. However, no evidence was given to support these claims. An investigation was launched. The death came just three weeks after another delegate of the peace talks was executed. 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. (The East African Standard, The Nation, November 7, 2003)

## **SUDAN**

Cease-fire is extended another month: The Sudanese government and the rebel group operating in the Darfur region, the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), agreed to extend their cease-fire agreement one more month. Although the agreement was renewed, the two sides still had not resolved key issues. The SLM/A stated that they wanted international observers present at the peace talks and on the ground to monitor the cease-fire, the disarmament of the Arab militias in Darfur, recognition that the SLM/A was a political movement and not a group of “bandits,” and the equitable sharing of Sudan’s resources in all areas, including Darfur. The Sudanese government said that because Chad was mediating the peace talks, there was no need for more international involvement, and called the conflict “a local conflict.” The SLM/A accused the Sudanese government of aerial attacks in Darfur and of supporting Arab militias who attacked civilians, looting and pushing them off their land. Since the conflict began in March, more than 500,000 people were displaced in Darfur and approximately 70,000 fled to Chad. (IRIN, November 5, 2003)

## **UGANDA**

The LRA takes revenge on two villages: The rebel group the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) attacked and killed at least 60 people in the villages of Alanyi and Awayopiny in the Lira district. The Ugandan army believed that the attacks were an act of revenge for the killing of Charles Tabuley, the second-in-command of the LRA. Witnesses reported that rebels had beheaded some victims and burned many grass huts. The LRA rebels have sought to overthrow the current government since 1988 and to replace it with one based on the Biblical Ten Commandments. Thousands of civilians have been killed and more than a million others displaced by the fighting in northern Uganda. The UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian affairs, Jan Egeland, described the situation in Uganda as a “war against children.” The LRA abducted approximately 8,500 children in 2003. (BBC, November 8; UNWire, November 11, 2003)