



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 peacebuilding 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)
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.com)
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
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)
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)

UN troops and protestors clash: United Nations (UN) soldiers fired shots in the air to disperse a crowd of Hema protestors stationed outside UN offices in the northeastern town of Bunia in the Ituri region. Protests against the UN presence in Bunia began September 16 after UN soldiers implemented the *Bunia Without Arms* program. The program called for house-to-house searches and confiscation of all arms. Tensions heightened after UN troops arrested two members of the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC), Chief of Staff Floribert Kisembo and Deputy Security Chief Rafiki Saba. The two men were detained after UN troops discovered 14 AK-47 assault rifles, ammunition, six anti-personnel mines, a rocket launcher, and a hand grenade at the home of UPC leader Thomas Lubanga. The incident between UN troops and Hema protestors left one dead and six injured. The DRC erupted into conflict in 1998; a year later, the Lusaka Peace Accord was signed. In June 2003, a transnational government was instituted in which leaders from the various warring factions were incorporated into cabinet positions. Despite the change in governmental structure, the Ituri region of the DRC has remained particularly volatile with clashes between ethnic Hema, represented by the UPC, and Lendu groups disrupting peace in the region. Shortly after the institution of the new government, a fight between the two ethnic groups resulted in the deaths of 500 people in and around the town of Bunia. (AllAfrica, AP, BBC, September 16, 2003)

Reconciliation begins between Mayi-Mayi and RCD-Goma: Six military officials representing the Mayi-Mayi militia and Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD-Goma) met in the town of Burale in the South Kivu Province of DRC to begin reconciliation efforts. The reconciliation attempts began September 9 and were led by Major-General Sylvian Buki, formerly of RCD-Goma, and General Padiri Bulenda, a former leader of the Mayi-Mayi militia. Attendees were given the task of creating a plan for a police force that would incorporate both RCD-Goma and Mayi-Mayi combatants. (IRIN, September 11, 2003)

Mayi-Mayi appoint new leader: General Padiri Bulenda, a former leader of the Mayi-Mayi militia, was recently appointed to the new transnational government of the DRC. Upon accepting his post as a general in the new national military, Bulenda appointed Marcel Munga to the leadership of the Mayi-Mayi militia. Munga served as a military advisor to Bulenda. During an interview with the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Munga addressed issues concerning the role of child soldiers within the Mayi-Mayi militias. Munga stated that the Mayi-Mayi no longer utilized child soldiers and therefore did not need to participate in demobilization efforts. In addition, he denied accusations that the Mayi-Mayi had been involved in the raping of women and destruction of villages in the Ituri region. (IRIN, September 11, 2003)

ERITREA-ETHIOPIA

Controversy surrounds border demarcation: The demarcation of the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea should have begun in May; however, lack of cooperation from the government of Ethiopia delayed the process until July and then until October. Ethiopia had reservations about the delineation of the border because important towns, such as Badme, would be placed in Eritrea. Recently, Secretary-General of the United Nations

(UN) Kofi Annan appealed to both the Eritrean and Ethiopian governments to cooperate with the Boundary Commission. Annan stressed the importance of ending the “cold peace” between the two states, noting that positive relations could improve the economic situation in both countries. The demarcation process would take six months to complete. Border disputes between the two countries resulted in a two-year war that began in 1999. In December 2000, a peace agreement outlined the role of the UN in supervising the delineation of a common border and the removal of Ethiopian troops from Eritrea. (IRIN, September 11, 2003)

UNMEE mandate extended: The UN Security Council voted unanimously to extend the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for six months, to end March 15, 2004. Demarcation of the border was scheduled to begin in October. The Security Council called on Ethiopia to appoint a field liaison who would assist the Boundary Commission in resolving disputes concerning the central and western sections of the border. UN peacekeeping forces have been stationed in the two countries since a peace agreement was signed in 2000. (AllAfrica, September 12, 15; PANA, September 13, 2003)

GENDER AND PEACE

Afghan women meet to discuss rights: A four-day summit was held for over 30 Afghan women from throughout Afghanistan. The meeting, “Women and the Constitution: Kandahar 2003,” was held in the city of Kandahar and served to educate women about the constitution as well as to share ideas about incorporating women’s rights in the document. Attendees participated in several workshops focusing on the role of constitutions in securing women’s rights, on rights afforded to women in Islam, and on effective strategies for community organizing. Participants drafted a document entitled Afghan Women’s Bill of Rights: Kandahar 2003, calling for the inclusion of women in the judiciary, for equal representation of women in the Loya Jirga, and for the right to vote and run for public office. The Women’s Bill of Rights was to be presented to the national government, the Constitutional Commission, and delegates of the Constitutional Loya Jirga. Prior to December 2001, Afghanistan was ruled by the Taliban government under which women’s rights were severely restricted. The Taliban was ousted from power after the United States and Great Britain began military efforts to eliminate Al Qaeda and the Taliban government that had sheltered them. Afghanistan has established a Constitutional Commission to create a new constitution which was currently being written and was to be finalized in December. (AP, September 9; BBC, September 12, 2003)

Women seek inclusion in Middle East peace process: A group of five women from Israel and Palestine attempted to gain international support for their idea of establishing a “women’s commission” that would be linked to any peace negotiations that occur between the two sides. The women, two Jewish Israelis, two Palestinians from the West Bank, and one Palestinian living in Israel, represented two peace centers actively campaigning for the inclusion of women in the Middle East peace process. The women worked together under an umbrella organization, Jerusalem Link, which included their organizations Bat Shalom and the Jerusalem Centre for Women. The proposed “women’s commission” would consist of Israeli, Palestinian, and international women

peacemakers who would have the right to review any peace documents to assess their impact on women, children, and non-military citizens. The women referred to UN resolution 1325, passed in 2001, which obligated its members to ensure the “equal participation and full involvement” of women in the peace process. Thus far, the women have received international support from the Italian government and Baroness Symons, the British Minister of State at the Foreign Office. (The Guardian, September 15, 2003)

GUATEMALA

Rios Montt rising steadily in polls: Retired General Efraim Rios Montt stepped down as president of Congress to devote his time to campaigning for the presidential elections November 9. The constitutional court found Rios Montt, the former dictator, whose 1982-83 rule marked the most violent period of civil war, eligible to register as the candidate for the ruling Frente Republicano Guatemalteco party. A poll conducted by the private firm Vox Latina between August 27 and September 3 showed Rios Montt in third place with 11.4 percent. Oscar Berger had a clear lead with 37.8 percent, but dropped 6.6 percent while Rios Montt climbed 8.1 percent. Rios Montt may receive more support from rural districts than Berger and could pass Alvaro Colom of the Unidad Nacional de la Esperanza party who was second in the polls at 18.2 percent. This could force a run-off with Rios Montt and Berger. (Latinnews Daily, September 4, 5, 10, 2003)

Archaeologists uncover mass graves: Forensic archaeologists uncovered seven graves and 26 bodies below a now defunct army base in San Juan Comalapa. The mass graves were believed to be the result of army massacres. According to the nation’s Commission for Historical Clarification, an estimated 50,000 Guatemalans disappeared during the 1960-1996 civil war and 150,000 were killed many of them in massacres. It is expected that more bodies will be uncovered. Fredy Peccerelli, executive director of the anthropology foundation, believed that the find was bad publicity for Rios Montt. (Chicago Tribune, September 11, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Youth terrorize villages in Zimbabwe: The government of Zimbabwe made it mandatory for all citizens between the ages of ten and thirty to take part in a six-month military training. Female trainees stated that rape occurred frequently in these camps, by both male trainees and trainers. Trainees were often drugged or intoxicated before sent out to find those suspected of being supporters of opposition groups. So far 50,000 children and young people had gone through the National Youth Service Training. Church leaders in southern Africa spoke out this month against the abuses suffered by children in these government-run camps. The government, led by Robert Mugabe of the African National Union Patriotic Front party since 2002, has been accused of repression and harassment of opposition party members. (Radio Netherlands, September 5, 2003)

Human rights violations on the rise in Afghanistan: The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) stated that human rights violations were on the rise throughout the country. A spokesperson for the AIHRC said their major concerns were continued extra-judicial killings, arbitrary detention, and the presence of unofficial prisons run by warlords. Other concerns include rape, trafficking of women and children,

and widespread destruction of public and private property. According to a report by the United Nations Assistant Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), human rights violations were exacerbated by a lack of adequate national security and law enforcement capacity as well as the weakness of the justice system. The government confirmed that it did not have the resources to enforce law and order, but it started a police training program which was to increase the number of police officers by 25,000 by the end of the year. Afghanistan has been rebuilding its governmental and societal structures since the United States overthrew the Taliban in 2001. (IRIN, September 16, 2003)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Rajoub urges general cease-fire: Jibril Rajoub, security adviser to Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, urged a general cease-fire to help Israel and Palestine return to the currently stalled peace plan. Israel dismissed the cease-fire as inadequate because it lacked Palestinian action against violent factions. Rajoub said a formal proposal for a cease-fire would be presented when Qurei, the newly appointed prime minister, assembled his cabinet and the new Palestinian government was installed. Since the creation of Israel in 1948, Israel and Palestine have been in conflict. Attempts at peaceful resolution have failed and violence has increased markedly since the beginning of the second intifada in September 2000 with 2,800 Palestinians and 830 Israelis killed. (New York Times, September 17, 2003)

UN Security Council votes to stop removal of Arafat: A resolution drafted by Syria demanded that Israel stop threatening to deport Arafat and cease attacks on Palestinian territories. The resolution expressed full support for implementation of the U.S.-backed peace plan referred to as the roadmap. The resolution came after Israel's security cabinet denounced Arafat as an obstacle to the peace process and the Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert suggested killing Arafat was not out of the question. The U.S. was the only country on the UN Security Council to oppose the resolution. Britain, Germany, and Bulgaria abstained from the vote. John Negroponte, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, said the resolution lacked a strong condemnation of Palestinian militant groups. (BBC, September 17, 2003)

KOREAN PENINSULA

U.S. considers whether to complete aid shipment to North Korea:

The United States considered whether to send the remaining 66,000 tons of the promised 110,000 metric tons of food aid to North Korea. The U.S. had already sent 44,000 tons of food to North Korea. Relief agencies complained of restrictions placed on them by the North Korean government in distributing the aid. The UN World Food Program (WFP) had access to only 70 percent of North Korean territory. North Korea had further restricted the WFP's ability to monitor distribution. Some aid agencies, such as British-based Oxfam, pulled out of North Korea because they could not monitor distribution. The U.S. expressed fears that the supplies might be diverted to the military. The North Korean foreign ministry accused the U.S. and Japan of using humanitarian assistance as political leverage. Humanitarian aid has been brought into North Korea since 1998 when the UN provided food to help famine victims. (BBC, September 16; ITAR-TASS, September 15; New York Times, September 16, 2003)

KYRGYZSTAN

Healthcare facilities and prisons suffer from lack of funds:

The ability of mental health facilities to properly handle the increase in cases in Kyrgyzstan suffered from a lack of funding. The state spends just \$0.30 per mental patient per day, and only half of that is given for drugs. Official statistics indicated that the number of mentally ill people in the southern province of Osh rose almost 20 percent last year. The prisons in Osh were similarly in poor condition because of a lack of resources. The cells were overcrowded, with 70-80 inmates in a cell meant only for 50. Both the healthcare and prison systems in Kyrgyzstan have suffered since the end of the Soviet era from lack of funding and aging facilities and equipment. (BBC Monitoring, September 15; IRIN, September 16, 2003)

MACEDONIA

Talk of a Greater Albania re-surfaces: The guerillas of the Albanian National Army (AKSh), declared a terrorist organization by the UN, were trying to promote the creation of a Greater Albania. The group hoped to unite Albanians in Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece, Macedonia, and Albania. In the past month, AKSh have killed several people along Macedonia's border with Kosovo. The AKSh said it wanted to redress the grievances of Macedonia's ethnic Albanians. AKSh's violent actions rattled diplomats and politicians throughout the Balkans. (Economist, September 11, 2003)

Security forces kill several ethnic Albanian militants: Police and military forces hunting for ethnic Albanian militants killed three gunmen and wounded four September 7 in a district close to Brest. The shooting was considered to be one of the most serious incidents to have taken place since the inception of ethnic Albanians' struggle for equal rights in 2001. (BBC News, New York Times September 7, 2003)

Macedonia celebrates 12 years of independence: Twelve years ago, more than 95.5 percent of citizens voted for the independence of the Republic Macedonia from the former Yugoslavia. Macedonia recognizes this day as Independence Day, although Macedonia was not officially recognized until April 8, 1993 with a resolution of the UN General Assembly. In honor of the occasion, the President of the Macedonian Parliament, Nikola Popovski, organized a reception. Addressing the guests, Popovski stated that within the past twelve years the Republic of Macedonia has achieved respect within the world community and was a country critical to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Balkans. (Macedonian Information Agency, September 9, 2003)

NEPAL

Nepali government charges Maoist rebels with murder: The government of Nepal charged 21 Maoist rebels, including their leader Prachanda with murder. The rebels were accused of the assassination of the chief of armed police, Krishna Mohan Shrestha, who was shot in Kathmandu earlier this year, when the rebels declared a cease-fire. If the rebels were convicted, they could be imprisoned for life. The government filed the charges shortly after the rebels encouraged people to participate in a general strike scheduled to begin September 18, aimed at pressuring the government to give in to the

rebels' demand for a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution. This was the same disagreement that led to the breakdown of peace talks between the government and the rebels in August. The rebels believed that a new constitution would help them achieve their aim of replacing the monarchy with a communist republic. The rebels declared their intent to increase violence before the start of the strike. Authorities in Kathmandu stated that at least 12 security personnel, rebels and civilians, have died in the violence since September 15 and more than 150 people have died since the end of the seven-month cease-fire last month. ([BBC](#), September 16, 2003)

Violence escalates in Nepal: Four explosions in the southern Nepali city of Hetauda killed one person and critically injured three, while two others were shot and killed in Kathmandu. The government suspected that Maoist rebels were responsible for both incidents, although no one had claimed responsibility. Hetauda, where the bombs exploded in government offices and a private business, is approximately 100 miles south of Kathmandu. The two who were killed in Kathmandu were shopkeepers in the north-east part of the city. The rebels have increased their violence since the breakdown of peace talks in August. More than 7,000 people died in the seven-year Maoist insurgency. ([BBC](#), September 12, 2003)

SOMALIA

Hassan rejects charter: A Transitional Federal Charter was adopted by delegates at the Somali peace talks in Kenya September 15. However, the president of the Transitional National Government (TNG), Abdiqassim Salad Hassan, rejected the charter. Hassan had returned to the talks September 14 after walking out with a number of faction leaders. Hassan called the adoption of the charter treachery and considered peace talks to have collapsed. The faction leaders who recently returned with Hassan were in agreement to withdraw from the talks. The peace talks sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development began in October 2002 because of a need to unite warring clans and bring stability. President Siad Barre was overthrown by opposing clans in January 1991 and Somalia was without a government until the TNG was formed in August of 2000. ([IRIN](#), September 16, 2003)

SUDAN

Negotiations between Khartoum and SPLA continue: The peace talks between Sudan's Vice-President Taha and the leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), John Garang, continued in Naivasha, Kenya. The aim of the peace talks was to end 20-year civil war between the Muslim government in Khartoum and the mainly Christian or animist SPLA that has led to the deaths of more than 1.5 million people and has displaced another four million. These peace negotiations are seen as critical to the peace process. Taha and Garang agreed to an interim period of six years of self-rule for the south, but still had not decided on security arrangements. The two sides had not agreed upon a deal that provided for a separate army for the south, led by Garang, and the sharing of resources, especially oil. The government argued that a separate army provided an easy way for the south to immediately secede, while the SPLA stated that two armies were needed for the SPLA to continue controlling the south. . ([AFP](#), September 12; [BBC](#), September 11, 2003)

UGANDA

Military agreement between Uganda and Sudan is renewed: Uganda and Sudan agreed to renew, for the eighth time, an agreement which allowed Uganda to enter southern Sudan to carry out operations directed against the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA, led by Joseph Kony, has been fighting the government since 1988 in an attempt to install a government based on the Biblical Ten Commandments. The agreement was signed, despite allegations that Sudan was supplying the LRA with food, weapons and ammunition. Uganda began accessing southern Sudan with the implementation of "Operation Iron Fist" in 2002 with the goal of defeating the LRA. More than 15,000 soldiers with tanks, artillery, and two attack helicopters have been deployed into Sudan since the beginning of Operation Iron Fist, but the LRA continued attacks on Uganda's civilians and an increasing number of children have been kidnapped. At the signing of the agreement, Uganda's Chief of Military Intelligence, Col. Noble Mayombo, stated that the Sudanese government needed to take more action against the LRA to stop them from establishing new camps in southern Sudan. The governments of Uganda and Sudan agreed to meet in October to discuss Uganda's allegations of Sudanese support of the LRA. (IRIN, September 15, 2003)