



Peace & Justice Update
September 22, 2006
(Volume 14, Number 01)

The countries for the Peace & Justice Updates have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute.

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ADNKI	=	ADNKI (www.adnki.com)
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africafocus.org)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allafrica.com)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
B92	=	B92 Net (www.b92.net)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Kantipur Online	=	The Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times (www.khaleejtimes.com)
Jurist	=	The Jurist (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Makfax	=	Macedonian Independent News Agency (www.makfax.com)
Monitor	=	The Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
New Vision	=	New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
New Zealand Herald	=	The New Zealand Herald (www.nzherald.co.nz)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain (www.oxfam.org.uk)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières (www.rsf.org)
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance (www.seapabkk.org)
SERBIANNA	=	Serbianna.com (www.serbianna.com)
SMH	=	Sydney Morning Herald (www.smh.com)
ST	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (www.unesco.org)
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.unhcr.ch)
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women (www.unifem.org)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english)
WP	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Web India	=	Web India (www.webindia123.com)

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AFGHANISTAN

Suicide bombings continue as NATO launches new strike: On September 18, three separate suicide bombs injured over 30 people and killed at least 16. The first attack, in southern Afghanistan, killed four Canadian North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops. Another attack targeted a marketplace in eastern Kabul and killed at least one Afghan police officer. The third attack, in the western city of Herat, killed 11 people, and sent 18 to the hospital with injuries. The bomber targeted soldiers and children as the soldiers distributed notebooks and pens to the children. At least 24 children were injured by the blast. The faction of the Taliban responsible for the bombing of a governor's funeral last week claimed it was behind this series of attacks as well. There had been reports of a growing divide within the Taliban, with not all representatives of the Taliban wanting to associate themselves with the suicide attacks. The series of bombings came after the NATO-led coalition launched Operation Mountain Fury in the central and eastern provinces of Ghazni, Khost, Lowgar, Paktika, and Paktiya. The number of Taliban attacks also increased in the western districts of Farah and Nimroz. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, September 16, 18, 19, 2006)

Number of honor killings increases as Karzai expresses worries over religious extremism: On Tuesday, September 19, President Karzai highlighted the concerns he planned to express to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on September 20. Karzai stated he was worried by the lack of institutional capacity— especially within law enforcement— to stop problems like opium farming, the preaching of hate in some mosques, and the threat posed by fighters taking refuge in Pakistan. Furthermore, he feared the rise in “religious extremism” could lead to more terrorism. His speech followed the release of findings from the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) September 15 that showed honor killings were on the rise. The AIHRC said a weak judiciary, the lack of law enforcement, and commonly occurring discriminatory practices increased the number of women killed by their families. The women's deaths were usually associated with problems of arranged marriages or having had relationships deemed inappropriate by their families. The interior ministry spokesman said Afghanistan was committed to promoting human rights, but the fight against entrenched tradition was a long term project. (IRIN, September 15; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, September 19, 2006)

KOSOVO

War crimes court convicts ex-KLA member: On September 18, the Special War Crimes Chamber of the Belgrade District Court sentenced Anton Lekaj, an ex-member of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), to 13 years in jail. Lekaj was sentenced for his part in the killing of an ethnic Roma, the torture of ten individuals, and the rape of an under-age girl. The crimes for which Lekaj was sentenced were committed during the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-enforced withdrawal of Serbian forces from Kosovo in June 1999. During this time, Lekaj was under the command of ex-Kosovo prime minister Ramush Haradinaj, who is currently awaiting trial at The Hague for murder, rape, and the deportation of Serbian civilians. Lekaj was the first ethnic Albanian sentenced by the special court for crimes related to Kosovo. The

Special War Crimes Chamber of the Belgrade District Court was set up in 2003 with the approval of The Hague tribunal, and has pledged to prosecute lower-level perpetrators. (New Zealand Herald, Washington Post, September 19, 2006; Washington Post, December 13, 2005;

Serbian family of four injured after blast in Kosovo: Late on September 19, an explosive device was thrown into the house of Serbian Milorad Palović in the town of Klina in western Kosovo. Four members of the Palović family were injured, one seriously, while the other three sustained moderate injuries. The Palovići were among the first of approximately forty Serbian families to return to Klina. Three suspects were detained early September 20, but no details were available concerning their affiliation or level of involvement in the attack. The attack occurred hours after Kosovo parliament speaker Kole Berisha warned, “If our aim of independence is not realized then citizens’ revolts are expected in Kosovo. We don’t want revolts, but we cannot exclude them if our aim is not realized.” The violent act was condemned by leaders, including UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s Principal Deputy Special Representative Steven Shook and Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica. Shook said, “Violence cannot be a means to achieve an end. It serves no purpose and it certainly is not in the interests of Kosovo.” Koštunica stated, “The international community must immediately stop violence or on the contrary it will become an accomplice in the crimes against Serbs.” The bombing, one of a series in recent days, occurred while talks were in their final stages concerning the status of Kosovo. The Kosovar Albanians desire independence from Serbia, while the Serbs do not see independence as an option. (B92, Makfax, Reuters, September 20, 2006)

NEPAL

Peace talks between government and Maoist rebels to begin: After meeting with Nepal’s Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Maoist rebels agreed to resume peace talks that began after the ceasefire in May. Over the past five years, the Maoists have pulled out of peace talks twice, and during the past three months speculation existed that the talks would not resume. Tension between the Maoists and the new government existed since the ceasefire, as both sides accused each other of breaking the eight-point agreement reached in June. The Maoists claimed the government had failed to create an interim government in which the Maoists would be represented. The government claimed the Maoists had neglected to lay down arms. More than 13,000 people have died since the Maoist insurgency began in 1996. A ceasefire began after King Gyanendra restored parliament and conceded absolute rule in April in response to nationwide strikes and protests. Key issues in the eight-point agreement include forming a new government and constitution; Maoist disarmament; and abiding by the 25-point ceasefire agreement signed in May and the 12-point understanding signed by the Maoists and a seven-party alliance in November 2005. The current round of peace talks was scheduled to resume before Dashain, the beginning of Nepal’s longest and most important festival; Dashain means “a day of victory over demons.” (BBC News, September 18, 2006, June 16)

Nepali Congress-Democratic may unite with Nepali Congress: Prime Minister and President of the Nepali Congress (NC) Girija Prasad Koirala and President of the Nepali Congress-Democratic (NC-D) and former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba expressed desires to unite the two parties. On December 19, Deuba asked Koirala to finalize details about the proposed merger as soon as possible so that the decision on unification could take place within a month.

The unification of the two parties would occur from the national level all the way down to village levels, he stated in a press meeting in Biratnagar, Nepal is second largest city. Koirala commented September 14, "Whether it is the peace talks with the Maoists or putting forward the country's issues to the international arena, a consolidated congress will be able to move ahead with strength and purpose." The Seven Party Alliance (SPA) currently holds 194 of the 205 seats in the Nepalese House of Representatives. The SPA was formed in May 2005 in response to the state of emergency February 1, 2005 when King Gyanendra declared absolute power and shut down parliament. Great disparity exists in size and strength of the various parties within the SPA. (eKantipur.com September 14, 19, Nepalnews.com, September 19)

SERBIA

Serbian leaders push for timely passage of constitution: In a statement released by the government, Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica and Serbian Radical Party leader Tomislav Nikolić once again confirmed that Parliament needs to pass the new constitution as soon as possible. State institutions and parliamentary parties have been reminded that Parliament's decision last week to include language, according to which Kosovo is to remain "an integral part of Serbia", in the new constitution should not only impel governing institutions and parties but that it also "obligates them to increase efforts" to complete and agree upon the constitution's text. The urgency behind such statements and the push for necessary efforts is that it would enable Serbia to provide a "timely response" to any "possible imposing of a solution for the Kosovo status question." Since February, the United Nations has led negotiations but with little progress. United States and European Union officials are pressing for a resolution by the end of the year but the much hoped-for negotiated resolution does not appear likely as time runs out and UN mediators grasp at some form of common ground. ([B92](#), September 18, 2006, [Voice of America](#), September 19, 2006)

Catholic and Orthodox officials meet in Belgrade: On September 18, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic officials declared a renewed purpose and dignitaries from the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches made an effort to reopen dialogues between them. Sixty delegates – 30 representatives from each sect – convened in Belgrade for a week-long gathering. A long-standing history of rivalry between the two dates back to the 11th century and the estrangement caused by the historic schism of 1054 when Catholic Cardinals Humbert and Frederick excommunicated Patriarch Michael Cerularius of Constantinople, who in response, excommunicated both of the Pope's representatives. The gathering's location itself seemed significant to the event, a symbolism noted by Orthodox Metropolitan John Zizioula, who greeted delegates by saying, "[w]e have gathered in a country... recovering from great difficulties, a country... trying to resurrect itself." Serbia, with its own legacy of religious and ethnic conflict, is itself working towards lasting reconciliation. The last theological dialogue took place six years ago in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Due to a subsequent deterioration of talks, a draft document examining contested issues such as the extent of papal authority and alleged infringement on Orthodox territory was never brought forward for formal discussion. Present representatives were encouraged to maintain open minds and an adherence to faith-based principles. "As Christians, we ask our Lord to give us strength to put behind the past," said Zizioulas. Catholic Cardinal Walter Kasper extolled "forgiveness, [and] purification of our

memory of bad things, from both sides.” (Serbianna, September 18; Fox News, September 19, 2006),

SUDAN

Sudanese paramilitaries rally to declare opposition to UN peacekeepers: In Khartoum on September 16, more than a thousand members of Sudan’s Popular Defense Forces (PDF) rallied against the threat of United Nations peacekeeping forces entering the country. The PDF is a paramilitary force comprised of volunteer fighters and used to reinforce the armed forces during times of war. Presidential advisor Ahmed Bilal Osman told the crowd, “We consider any army that enters Sudan as an invading army, even if the order was from the United Nations.” President Omar-al Bashir received direct encouragement from the UN, the United States, Cambodia, France, Sudanese Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, and Minni Minawi from the Sudan Liberation Movement to allow UN peacekeepers in the region. The rally came after a meeting at the Nonaligned Movement Summit in Havana, Cuba with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who again urged Bashir to accept UN peacekeeping troops into the Darfur region after the African Union (AU) troops pull out. Bashir repeatedly rejected offers of UN troops, holding that UN troops in Sudan are a violation to Sudanese sovereignty. On September 20, the AU announced it would extend the deadline for the expiration of its mandate, from September 30 to December 31, leaving 7,000 troops in place until then. The Darfur region has been in a state of conflict since 2003; according to the International Rescue Committee, more than two million people have been displaced, over 200,000 people have died, and more than 200 sexual assaults occurred solely in a five-week period between July and August of this year. (ST, September 17, 18, 20, 2006)

Lack of funding may lead to end refugee resettlement: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the Africa region was intended to repatriate 350,000 southern Sudanese refugees living in surrounding countries and return four million internally displaced people (IDPs) to their villages in southern Sudan. As of December 2005, however, only 12,000 people had been returned to their homes; because less than half of the \$65.9 million requested had been supplied for program costs, according to the director of the Africa Bureau of the UNHCR Marjon Kamara, it appeared programs in some southern Sudan sites would be cut. If these programs were cut, the refugees would have to remain in the camps, said Kamara, and some would try to return home on their own, as others have. Currently funding exists to continue the program through September, but after that, in order for the program to continue, \$5.2 million must be raised per month to meet costs. Program implementation been costly due to a lack of roads, as much of the operation is conducted via air. The repatriation program began after the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), which ended the twenty-year long fight for greater independence in southern Sudan. (IRIN, September 19, 2006)

UGANDA

Ceasefire is reviewed amid conflicting reports that Kony has come out of the bush: The government of Uganda said it plans to continue to respect the August 28 ceasefire that officially ended on Tuesday, September 19, and hoped the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels would do

the same. It seemed both parties saw the ceasefire as a successful venture and it was expected that the ceasefire would be renewed after talks in Juba, Sudan resumed by the end of the week of September 18. The government said it hoped to improve monitoring of the camps so it could confirm how many LRA rebels had left the bush, and who those people were. Despite the threat of International Criminal Court (ICC) indictments, LRA leader Joseph Kony, and Vincent Otti, his second in command, were both reportedly seen at the Ri-Kwangba meeting point in southern Sudan on Monday, September 18. Confirmation of their arrival continued to be disputed all week, however the Chairperson of the independent Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team, Major General Wilson Deng, announced September 21 that Kony and Otti were at Ri-Kwangba. (BBC, September 18, 19; IRIN, September 18, 19; Monitor, September 22; New Vision, September 19, 2006)

Power shortage could worsen: The water level in Lake Victoria, the source of a vast majority of the country's electrical power, has reached its lowest point since 1923 and experts said it could become lower still. In February, the hydropower levels were recorded at 135 megawatts (MW). Since February, the lake has barely risen, which means the power supply is severely jeopardized, with hydropower levels dropping to 120 MW. The Energy Ministry estimated the levels could drop as low as 80-90 MW in the next three months. As the Water Ministry tried to control water with the dam in Jinja, the Energy ministry worked on building thermal power plants. This process slowed with allegations of corruption when the job was contracted out. Since then, the government asked the World Bank to help distribute the contracts fairly. New hydroelectric power plants had been planned to be built by 2010, but that would not help in the present. The government has also started to address the problems of illegal power connections, but without a quick solution to the problem, the government could lose popularity due to the electricity shortage. (East Africa, September 19, 2006)

