



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

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The Peace & Justice Updates are written by the Fall 2006 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Morgan Cosby (Point Loma Nazarene University), Jennifer Rhodes (University of San Diego), Marilyn Shapley (University of California, San Diego), and Michelle Takagishi-Almeida (University of California, Irvine).

ADNKI	=	ADNKI (www.adnki.com)
AU	=	African Union (www.africa-union.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/eng/)
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)
eKantipur	=	eKantipur.com (www.eKantipur.com)
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)
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross (www.icrc.org)
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune (www.iht.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)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times (www.khaleejtimes.com)
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)
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)
Sunday Times	=	The Sunday Times (www.timesonline.co.uk)
ST	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
UN News Service	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNHCR	=	The UN Refugee Agency (www.unhcr.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)
Zee News	=	ZeeNews.com (www.zeenews.com)

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AFGHANISTAN

UN Security Council delegation visits: The Joint Coordinating and Monitoring Board (JCMB), comprised of representatives from the government, as well as from the United Nations and other key foreign backers, released its biannual report November 12 stating that the insurgency had killed four times more people in 2006 than in 2005. In 2005, an average of 130 insurgent or terrorist-related incidents occurred per month. This number had increased to 300 per month in March of 2006 and more than 600 by the end of September 2006. The report cited increasing violence as the main cause of stagnating development efforts in the country. Other problems included the record breaking opium crop, corruption, inefficiency, and poor governance. The JCMB meeting was also attended by a UN Security Council delegation visiting in honor of the five-year anniversary of the Taliban government's retreat from Kabul. The head of the visiting delegation, Japanese ambassador Kenzo Oshima, said the Taliban insurgency was the most important challenge to the country. Meanwhile, North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops continued to conduct security operations in the south. One operation November 12 resulted in at least 60 casualties in Bermel district in Paktia province. (AFP, November 12; BBC, November 13; UN News Service, November 12, 2006)

Conference on women's self-immolation begins: Medica Mondiale, a German rights organization focusing on violence against women, organized a conference November 14 in Kabul on the prevalence of self-immolation among women in South Asia. Delegates to the three-day conference from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Iraq, India, Uzbekistan, and Sri Lanka discussed self-immolation's prevalence among girls trapped in abusive relationships by marriage and other social obligations. A survey conducted by Medica Mondiale in the three Afghan provinces of Herat, Kabul, and Wardak found qualitative evidence that this form of suicide exists in Afghanistan on a "significant scale". Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission chief Sima Simar said, "[Self-immolation] is the final decision for women who don't have any other way to solve their problems." The practice is common in Iran, and may have spread from Iran to Afghanistan. Illiteracy and inept justice systems contribute to self-immolation since women believe they have no other solution to their problem. A Human Rights Watch (HRW) report released in July expressed concern that gains in women's rights since the fall of the Taliban were being reversed. (BBC, November 15; HRW, July 18; RFERL, November 14, 2006)

KOSOVO

UN postpones final decision on Kosovo: On November 10, the United Nations decided to delay its final report on Kosovo's status until after Serbia holds national elections January 21, 2007. The extremist Radical party in Serbia was expected to emerge as the strongest party after the election, and many observers argued that delivering a final decision that included any form of independence for Kosovo would increase Serb support for the Radical party. Not all commentators agreed. The International Crisis Group (ICG) released a report recommending that the UN present a final settlement package without delay to ensure stability. Kosovo leaders were disappointed by the decision to delay the report. Some sources reported Kosovo's Prime

Minister Agim Ceku's statement that independence might be declared unilaterally if a UN-sponsored settlement fell short of granting statehood soon. Ceku said, "I'm not threatening the UN Security Council. We see [declaring independence] as a possibility," adding, "How we declare independence will not be a rash decision, but one taken in accordance with our friends and strategic partners." Despite his hints at possible unilateral action, Ceku and other Kosovo leaders urged citizens to remain calm. Kosovo has been under United Nations administration since the end of ethnic fighting between Serbs and Albanians in 1999. (B92, November 9,11,13,15; Guardian, ICG, November 10, 2006)

Amnesty International USA releases report critical of UNMIK: During the week of November 13, the human rights group Amnesty International (AI) issued a report critical of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The report stated that UNMIK was mandated by the UN to promote and protect the rights of all people in the province, but had failed to do so. The document highlighted areas of criticism, including UNMIK's failure to combat torture, trafficking, and violence against minorities and women. The report recommended that UNMIK "intensify efforts to ensure safe conditions for the sustainable return of displaced people, in particular those belonging to minorities, as well as ensuring that they recover their property." As a final decision on the status of Kosovo neared, the European Union was preparing to take over aspects of the UN's role in Kosovo. (AI, November; B92, November 13, 2006)

NEPAL

The United States keeps Maoists on the terror list: The United States, one of Nepal's principal aid donors, said November 13 that it would keep the Maoists on its list of terror organizations even if they joined the Nepali government. The U.S. would remove the group from the list only if they ceased all violence and gave up their arms. U.S. Embassy spokesman Robert Hugins said, "It is immaterial whether [the Maoists] are in the government – Maoist behavior is the key." The group was to remain on the list, but the U.S. State Department would continue to give clearance for U.S. agencies to conduct their work in the country. The Maoists have been on the Other Selected Terrorist Organizations list, which is a second list to the Foreign Terrorist Organizations list, since 2003. On November 8, the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and the Maoists reached a historic peace agreement, giving the Maoists a position in the interim government. (eKantipur, November 13; Zee News, November 14, 2006)

Recruitment of Maoist rebel forces increases despite peace agreement: Over a period of three days, Maoist insurgents reportedly forced the recruitment of at least 400 youths from the Surkhet and Dailekh districts of western Nepal. Young men and boys, some as young as 15 years old, were taken from their villages by Maoists and forced to join the rebel army. The government response stated that such actions violated a code of conduct signed in May 2006 and disregarded the peace agreement reached November 8. Under that agreement, and with the promise that the Nepalese army would be similarly restrained, the Maoists were to confine weapons and rebel forces to seven cantonments in the districts of Kailali, Surkhet, Rolpa, Palpa, Kavre, Sindhuli, and Ilam in exchange for representation in the interim government. A joint tripartite government-Maoist-United Nations team inspected the final cantonment site in Surket on November 14; at press time, the team's conclusions had not yet been released. (eKantipur, November 14; Reuters, November 15, 2006)

SERBIA

War crimes trial of former Serb commandos begins: The trial of Sreten Popovic and Milos Stojanovic, both former commandos of an elite Serb police unit, began at Serbia's war crimes court November 13. Popovic and Stojanovic were charged with aiding the 1999 murder of three Albanian-American brothers captured while fighting as volunteers in what was known as the "Atlantic Brigade" – a unit of 400 Albanian-Americans fighting with Kosovo rebels during the conflict of the late 1990s. In 2001, the bodies of Illy, Mehmet, and Agron Bytyqi were discovered in a mass grave in eastern Serbia along with the bodies of 70 other Kosovar Albanians. The brothers' remains, found with bound hands and gunshot wounds to the head, were identified by an FBI forensics team. Because the three brothers were American citizens, the United States government has pressured Serbian authorities to bring to justice all parties responsible for the deaths, including those who issued execution orders. Former police general Vlastmir Djordjevic was believed to have given the execution orders and was being sought by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTFY). The two policemen, Popovic and Stojanovic, were charged with handing the brothers over to other unidentified Serb paramilitaries who then shot and killed them. Popovic and Stojanovic have pleaded not guilty, and face up to 20 years in jail if convicted. (AP, IHT, November 13, 2006)

Parliamentary elections announced: On November 10, President Boris Tadić announced parliamentary elections for January 21, 2007. The early elections were an expected necessity since parliament formally adopted a new Serbian constitution November 8. Tadić previously stated that he would insist on early elections to be held in December, along with early presidential elections, but conceded that he had had to accept a compromise. The election was expected to pit nationalists against moderates and hard-liners against reformers as Serbia continued to struggle with economic troubles, corruption, and the Kosovo issue. Nearly all of Serbia's political parties have courted voter and citizen support by pledging to keep Kosovo within Serbia's borders, but nationalist parties have benefited the most from the issue. The elections could also bring an end to the conservative government led by Prime Minister Koštunica whose coalition had been falling apart amid resignations and an increasingly polarized political scene. The upcoming January 2007 elections will be Serbia's first since the secession of the republic of Montenegro and the adoption of the new constitution. (AP, November 10, 2006)

SUDAN

Efforts to bring peace to Darfur continue: As part of continuing United Nations efforts to resolve the conflict in Darfur, the UN Security Council planned to send a mission to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to attend a November 13 meeting organized by the African Union (AU) to address the ongoing troubles in Darfur. However, the UN Security Council delegation was unable to take part in the meeting November 13 because of internal disagreements over the group's composition and mandate. Despite the Security Council's absence, the UN announced at the meeting it would give up to \$77 million to support the AU peace mission to Darfur. The government of Sudan also agreed to the funding. In a related development, France announced it planned to increase funding to the AU peacekeeping mission by \$1.28 million and to support Egyptian efforts to use Arab and Muslim countries to bolster the AU peacekeeping forces in Darfur. Four days later, at the AU's November 16 Consultative Meeting on the Situation in Darfur at the AU Headquarters, the government of Sudan announced it "agreed in principle" to

the deployment of UN peacekeepers alongside African Union Forces. The government stated it agreed to a “hybrid operation” pending “clarification of the size of the force.” The communiqué released at the end of the meeting also made it clear the operations should remain firmly under AU control. In response to the news, the human rights group Amnesty International (AI) urged “all parties... to ensure that effective protection of the civilian population is at the center of any peacekeeping operation in Darfur,” and stressed “the accountability of a hybrid force needs to be ensured through clearly defined and transparent command and control structures between the UN and AU forces.” Meanwhile, the violence in Darfur has continued to escalate. The National Redemption Front (NRF), a coalition of Darfur rebel groups, reported November 11 that an estimated 300 Janjaweed militiamen raided the West Darfur town of Sirba, killing 32 people and injuring 18. AU peacekeepers said they were investigating the reports which followed warnings by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour November 10 of more large-scale attacks taking place in West Darfur. (AI, November 17; AU, November 13, 16; IRIN, November 17; ST, November 12, 13; UNHCR, November 9; UN News Service, November 10, 2006)

Southern Sudan urges refugees to return as it tries to rebuild: A delegation of the government of South Sudan was sent to Uganda to convince Sudanese refugees living there to return to their homeland. The team spoke with the refugee communities in Yumbe, Arua, and Masindi districts November 11-14. The refugees were encouraged to return quickly to take part in the planned November 2007 general census, the first step to participation in the secession referendum provided for in the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Employment, education, and social infrastructure were offered as further incentives to return. The leader of the team, Commissioner for Magwi county in Eastern Equatoria State Emilio Igga Alimas, assured refugees their concerns about insecurity in their homeland were unfounded since Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers were effectively deployed throughout the region, and explosives left over from the civil war had been successfully removed. Refugees were however cautioned against having high expectations. The region has struggled with reconstruction since the CPA went into effect, as demonstrated by the findings of a two day governors’ conference to review the implementation of the CPA held November 3-5 in Juba, Southern Sudan. The talks were attended by top government representatives, MPs, donors, civil society representatives, and human rights groups. The slow recovery in Southern Sudan was blamed on corruption, ignored donor pledges, and the Khartoum government’s hoarding of oil money. (Monitor, ST, November 13, 2006)

UGANDA

Rebel leader meets with UN official: Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), met with Jan Egeland, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator November 12 at Ri-Kwangba, the designated assembly point near the border between Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Egeland had hoped to secure the release of women, children, and injured fighters held in captivity by the LRA. Despite the LRA’s notorious record of kidnapping children to fight as soldiers and serve as sex slaves, Kony told Egeland, “We don’t have any children in our movement, there is [sic] only combatants.” Kony and his second-in-command Vincent Otti both told Egeland the International Criminal Court (ICC) warrants for their arrest were a major obstacle to the ongoing peace talks in Juba, Sudan. The ICC

indictments were just one problem the peace process faced in the past few weeks. The other designated assembly point at Owiny-Ki-Bul remained a point of contention. Otti said the area was not safe for LRA troops as long as the Ugandan People's Defense Force (UPDF) troops remained nearby, and that the Ugandan army's presence could indicate President Yoweri Museveni's preference for a military solution to conflict. UPDF spokesman Major Felix Kulayigye said the UPDF would continue to comply with the Cessation of Hostilities agreement signed November 1, and he wished the LRA would do the same. Egeland also announced the UN planned to provide observers and logistical support to the cease-fire's monitoring team. (IRIN, Monitor, November 12; IRIN, November 14, 2006)

Karamajong MPs threaten walkout: Karamajong members of Parliament presented a criticism of the Ugandan People's Defense Force (UPDF) activities in the Kotido district, a part of the Karamoja sub-region. The presentation was based on the findings of an investigation commissioned by the Uganda Human Rights Commission which showed the UPDF's disarmament of the Karamajong, a pastoral group with an estimated 40,000 guns, had led to a number of human rights violations. The UPDF two-pronged strategy, which combined "cordon and search" methods with forceful disarmament, had led to reports of soldiers raping, torturing, looting, and destroying property. The UPDF denied these allegations, but said it planned to investigate further. Defense state minister Ruth Nankanjira defended the UPDF's actions saying the Karamajong warriors who have clashed with the UPDF were committing theft and rape, and have formed "collaborative insecurity committees with the Turkana of Kenya." The Karamajong MPs want the disarmament to continue, but in what they consider a more constructive manner. They have demanded parliament reconvene for a special session to address the problems in the Karamoja region and have threatened to stage a walkout if their demands are not met. (IRIN, November 13; Monitor, November 14; New Vision, November 12, 15)