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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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SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africanfocus.org)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allafrica.com)
American Chronicle	=	American Chronicle(www.americanchronicle.com)
Antara News	=	Indonesian News Portal (www.antara.co.id/en/)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
The Australian	=	The Australian (www.theaustralian.news.com.au/)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
B92	=	B92 Net (www.b92.net/eng/)
B92 News	=	B92 News (www.b92.net/eng/news)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk)
Cape Times	=	The Cape Times (www.capetimes.co.za)
Canberra Times	=	The Canberra Times (http://canberra.yourguide.com.au)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
Civil.ge	=	UNA Georgia Online Magazine (www.civil.ge)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
Concord Times	=	The Concord Times (www.concordtimesl.com)
Crisis Group	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisgroup.org)
The East African	=	The East African (www.nationmedia.com/estafrican/current/)
einnews	=	The Russia News Service – (http://www.einnews.com/kyrgyzstan/)
eng24.kg	=	News Agency 24 (http://eng.24.kg/)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Financial Times	=	Financial Times News (www.ft.com)
FR-online.de	=	Frankfurter Rundschau (www.fr-online.de)
Gazeta	=	Gazeta (www.gazeta.ru/english/)
Georgia Today	=	Georgia Today (www.georgiatoday.ge)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
The Hindu	=	The Hindu Newspaper (www.hinduonnet.com/)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
Herald Tribune	=	Herald Tribune (www.iht.com/)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
ICTY	=	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (www.un.org/icty)
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com/)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
IPS News Agency	=	Inter Press Service News Agency (http://ipsnews.net)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
IRNA	=	Islamic Republic News Agency - http://www2.irna.ir/en/news
ISN	=	International Relations and Security Network (www.isn.ethz.ch/index.cfm)
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
The Jakarta Post	=	The Journal of Indonesia Today (www.thejakartapost.com)

Kantipur Online	=	The Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
KL	=	KosovaLive (www.kosovalive.com)
Jurist	=	The Jurist (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Mehr	=	The Mehr News Agency - http://www.mehrnews.com/en/
The Messenger	=	The Georgian Messenger (www.messenger.com.ge)
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)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
Novosti	=	RIA Novosti (http://en.rian.ru/)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
Palestine Center	=	Palestine Center News (www.thejerusalemfund.org)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Peace Africa	=	Peace Africa (www.allafrica.com/peaceafrica)
PINR	=	Power and Interest News Report (www.pinr.com)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain (www.oxfam.org.uk)
RadioFreeEurope	=	RadioFreeEurope, Radio Liberty (www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/)
ReliefWeb	=	Relief Web (www.reliefweb.int)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières (www.rsf.org)
The Rising Nepal	=	The Rising Nepal (www.gorkhapatra.org)
Russia Today	=	Russia Today (www.russiatoday.ru/)
SDUT	=	San Diego Union Tribune (www.signonsandiego.com)
Scotsman	=	The Scotsman (http://news.scotsman.com)
SC-SL	=	The Special Court for Sierra Leone (www.sc-sl.org)
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance (www.seapabkk.org)
SLCMP	=	Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Program (www.slcmp.org)
The SMH	=	The Sydney Morning Herald (http://www.smh.com.au/)
The Star	=	The Star.com (www.thestar.com/)
TCA	=	Times of Central Asia (www.timesca-europe.com/)
Transparency Int.	=	Transparency International (http://transparency.org/)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (www.unesco.org)
UNFPA	=	United Nations Population Fund (www.unfpa.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)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Web India	=	Web India (www.webindia123.com)
WP	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua (http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-07/08/)

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UPDATES

GEORGIA

Georgian ex-minister's arrest ignites political revolt: An estimated six to seven thousand Georgians gathered in front of parliament Sept. 28, to protest the arrest of ex-defense minister Irakli Okruashvili. Okruashvili was arrested Sept. 27 for extortion charges dating back to 2005, when the minister formed a construction company that allegedly took a \$79 million dollar contract from his own ministry. Okruashvili's attorney, Eka Beselia, has argued, however, that the arrest was politically motivated. Two days prior to his arrest, Okruashvili appeared on Imedi TV's late-night talk show where he publicly implicated President Mikheil Saakashvili in a number of conspiracy plots that included a cover-up of the 2004 death of former prime minister Zurab Zhvania and the attempted assassination of businessman Badri Patarkatsishvili. Those who protested Sept. 28 viewed the arrest as a retaliatory response to Okruashvili's allegations, and evidence of rampant corruption within the Saakashvili administration. According to Republican Party leader Tina Khidasheli, who helped organize the protest, "If there is any legal basis to Okruashvili's imprisonment, then Saakashvili must sit with him in the jail cell." (The Messenger, Sept. 27, 28; Oct. 1)

Human Rights Watch Report finds Russia guilty of illegally expelling thousands of Georgians: In a 78-page report released Oct. 1, Human Rights Watch (HRW) documented the illegal detention and expulsion of thousands of Georgians living in Russia in October and November 2006. According to Holly Cartner, Europe and Central Asia Director at HRW, "Russian authorities claim that the expulsions were part of a renewed fight against illegal migration but the reality is that this was a coordinated campaign by senior level officials to single out Georgians for a specific period of time." The mass deportation of Georgians in 2006 followed the Sept. 27 detention of four Russian military officers by Georgian officials on espionage charges. In the weeks that followed, Russian authorities began singling out ethnic Georgians, Georgian nationals and Georgian-owned businesses and organizations. Many of those detained were denied lawyers, held in severely overcrowded cells in sometimes appalling conditions and denied access to Georgian embassy officials. Tensions between Georgia and Russia have historically been high, particularly in regard to Russia's continued support of Abkhazian and South Ossetian autonomy. Georgia has sought unification with these two regions for over a decade. (Human Rights Watch, Oct. 1)

INDONESIA

Papuan pro-independence groups attempt to initiate talks with Indonesia: The West Papua Coalition for National Liberation (WPCNL), an umbrella organization of pro-independence groups, has reportedly written to President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and asked to meet with him. They have asked to discuss the possibility for greater democracy and self-determination in addition to the withdrawal of troops from various resource-rich regions of Papua. One group member, Paula Makabori, told Reuters, "The pro-independence groups demand a peace dialogue with Indonesia with third-party mediators, as that will guarantee transparency." She asserted that Finland, which mediated a peace agreement between Indonesia's government and the Free Aceh Movement in 2005, was willing to mediate between Papuan groups and the Indonesian government. A resolution to the Papuan quest for independence would open up the possibility for Papuans to form political parties and attain greater control over resources such as forests and gold and copper deposits. Papua was under Dutch colonial control until 1963 and by 1969 Indonesia formalized its rule over Papua in a vote by Papuan community leaders. (SMH, Oct. 1; SDUN, Oct. 1, 2007).

Australia deports Papuans seeking asylum: The Australian government defended its decision to deport a group of Papuan asylum-seekers Sept. 27. Five West Papuan men seeking asylum left Papua New Guinea (PNG), where they had been refugees, and reached Saibai Island off the coast of Australia Aug. 21. The men made claims for protection but could not seek asylum in Australia because the government excluded Saibai Island from its migration zone. Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews said that they were all returned to a PNG refugee camp Sept. 18. It would then be left up to the PNG government to decide what to do with the men if they were found to be refugees. Refugee advocates such as the Asylum Seeker Resource Center alleged that by doing this Australia broke international law and endangered the lives of the five Papuan asylum-seekers because they could be threatened by the Indonesian military stationed at the border between west Papua and PNG. A spokeswoman for Minister Andrews responded to these allegations by stating that the Australian government was confident that the men would not be in danger if they were sent back. Critics claimed that this move was designed to appease Indonesia so as not to repeat the quarrel which occurred the previous year between Jakarta and Canberra when Australia accepted 43 Papuan asylum seekers as refugees. Mr. Andrew's spokeswoman said that this was, "predictable conspiracy rubbish." (The Canberra Times, Sept. 27; The Australian, Sept. 27, 2007).

KOSOVO

Serbs and Kosovars finish New York talks: Serbian and Kosovar delegates wrapped up the first round of talks on the disputed province of Kosovo Sept. 28 and agreed to meet again Oct. 14 in Brussels. While E.U. Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana called the talks constructive, Kosovar delegates continued to hint at a unilateral declaration of independence after the negotiations were to close Dec. 10. Kosovo Prime Minister Agim Ceku said Oct. 1 that Kosovo would "coordinate" its independence and that this should be no surprise to anyone after Dec. 10. Hashim Thachi, a member of the Kosovar delegation, said that the two sides cannot reach an agreement. U.S. officials gave indications that they will support a unilateral declaration, but Serbian and Russian officials rejected the idea, reiterating that the dispute must be solved through the U.N. Security Council and Resolution 1244. The two countries also warned against what Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica called "violent and unilateral solutions." Kosovo's self-governance has been a subject of contention in the Balkans for the last eight years. (B92, Sept. 28-30, 2007).

Serb and Russian delegates meet in Moscow: A delegation from the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) attended a congress of the ruling United Russia party in Moscow Oct. 1, and read aloud a letter from Serb Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica, in which he thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin "for his principled support to the preservation of Kosovo-Metohija within Serbia." Koštunica added that, "President Putin's principled stand that the issue ... cannot be solved unilaterally, outside the U.N. Security Council, contrary to the U.N. Charter, Resolution 1244 and Helsinki final document has invaluable and fateful importance for Serbia." Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also demanded that his colleagues in the Contact Group (a policy group of influential countries on the Balkans) stop prejudging the outcome of the Serb-Kosovar negotiations by lending support to a unilateral declaration of independence for Kosovo. President Putin has been lending support to the Serbian government, stating that he would veto any U.N. resolution granting full independence to Kosovo. (B92, Sept. 28, Oct. 1, 2007).

NEPAL

Negotiations with Maoist party leaders continue – little progress made: Since resigning from the interim government Sept. 18, Maoists have been unable to reach consensus with leaders of the seven-party alliance regarding their demands for a fully proportional electoral system for upcoming constituent assembly polls. In a Sept. 30 meeting with Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, the Maoists agreed to delay their scheduled strikes for October 4, 5 and 6 in exchange for an extension of the election commission's filing deadline. The new deadline for filing nominations for the proportional electoral system is slated for Oct 5. Election Commissioner Bhoj Raj Pokharel has cautioned, however, that it would be impossible to keep extending the deadline. Neither Koirala nor Maoist Chairman Prachanda has been willing to back down from his position and with the Nov. 22 constitutional assembly polls looming, serious questions remain as to whether or not the election will be postponed. (eKantipur, Sept. 30; Oct. 1)

Union attacks on Kantipur Publications trigger widespread contempt: The Sept. 26 disruption by the Maoist-affiliated All Nepal Trade Union Federation (ANTUF) of two national daily newspapers – Kantipur and The Kathmandu Post – escalated Oct. 1 when Chairman Shalik Ram Jamkattel warned that the union would force Kantipur Television off the air in the next four days if its demands were not met. Jamkattel criticized Kantipur Publications for “serving the interest of middlemen that work against the people's interest” and for ignoring the plight of its workers by failing to institute a 22-point demand according to the newly enacted Working Journalists Act. Pratik Pradhan, editor of The Kathmandu Post, said that management was ready to meet the unions' demands but could not agree to the ANTUF's insistence that permanent employee status be given to part-time workers. Meanwhile, numerous political leaders and professional organizations have condemned the halting of news publications as a direct violation of the freedom of the press. A statement issued by the Home Ministry Oct. 2 described the activities of the Maoist trade unionists as a “violation of the people's democratic right to information” and urged the two parties to resolve the problem through dialogue. (eKantipur, Oct. 1, 3; The Rising Nepal, Oct. 2)

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Israel warns of wider operation after Gaza raid: A two-day Israeli raid into the Gaza strip subsided Sept. 28 after killing 12 Palestinians (including two civilians) and injuring 21 others. Hamas officials condemned the attack as an act of aggression and vowed revenge, and then renewed calls for a cease-fire with Israel, which were rejected. While on a visit to New York, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas denounced the attacks as a massacre and urged the U.N. Security Council to intervene. Israeli officials asserted the attacks were a response to Palestinian rocket and mortar fire hitting southern Israel from Gaza, and Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak warned of “a nearing extensive operation in Gaza.” This statement raised fears among Gazans of an Israeli invasion in the near future. The death toll of the raids marked the highest casualty level in Gaza since Israel declared it “hostile territory” Sept. 19. (Ha'aretz, Sept. 27, Oct. 1; New York Times, Sept. 28; Yediot Ahranot, Sept. 26-27, 2007).

U.N. warns of humanitarian crisis in Gaza: The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) issued a warning Sept. 30 that if Israel carried out its threat to withhold fuel and electricity to the Gaza Strip, a humanitarian crisis would likely ensue. OCHA also warned that Israel

could be guilty of collective punishment and in violation of international law if it carried out the measure. The news came as a number of human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch and seven leading Israeli human rights groups, condemned Israeli sanctions policy as collective punishment and a violation of international humanitarian law. Israel issued the threat Sept. 19 after designating the Gaza Strip as “hostile territory,” on the grounds that Palestinian militants in Gaza have continued rocket fire into Southern Israel. (Jerusalem Post, Sept. 30, 2007).

SIERRA LEONE

Koroma’s invisible cabinet: President Ernest Bai Koroma recently spent the morning of Oct. 1 refuting rumors that the former Ministers fell under a recent ban ordering all civil servants and employees of government-controlled agencies to seek clearance before leaving the country. Koroma has reportedly stated Ministers have been free to leave the country as they please. Many Ministers from the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) have not had the option to leave the country due to Koroma’s request that they continue to serve in his office while he waits to name his own cabinet. This unparalleled move has been catalyzed by Koroma’s apparent difficulty in naming potential Ministers, attributed by some observers to the pull he feels from the many groups which contributed to his victory. SLPP Ministers have filled the vacuum and agreed to continue serving the All People’s Congress (APC) administration for the time being. After Sierra Leone’s independence, the APC won a plurality of Parliamentary seats and party leader Siaka Stevens was declared Prime Minister. The party was notorious for its abuses of power but kept its position until 1992 when Stevens’ successor, Maj. Gen. Joseph Saidu Momoh, was sent into exile by Revolutionary United Front (RUF). (Awareness Times, Oct. 1; Associated Press, Sep. 30).

Rebels, Government forces to receive sentencing: Former members of both the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), convicted for their roles in Sierra Leone’s 11-year civil war, were set to receive sentencing in early Oct. 2007. The Special Court for Sierra Leone, an international war crimes tribunal, was created Jan. 2002 by a treaty between the Sierra Leone government and the United Nations (U.N.). It has been charged with bringing justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed. The sentencing for Allieu Kondewa and Moinina Fofana, two leaders of the CDF, was moved from Oct. 1 to Oct. 9 due to “prior commitments of the defense council.” After pleading not guilty on all counts, Kondewa and Fofana were acquitted on charges of murder and other inhumane acts but found guilty of four counts of war crimes this past Aug. The prosecuting team has recommended a 30-year jail term for both the defendants. Simultaneously, the trial of Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao has been set to resume. These three former senior officers of the RUF are on trial for the terror committed against civilians and other serious violations under humanitarian law. They have been rumored to have called in nearly 300 witnesses to attest to their innocence. (Agence France-Presse, Oct. 2; News24, Sep. 27).

UGANDA

Ugandan rebels plan to visit Kampala: Delegates from the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) planned to visit Kampala Oct. 4 to meet with government representatives, according to senior officials. LRA representatives have not been to the capital since the two-decade long insurgency began. Chief government negotiator Ruhakana Rugunda told Reuters, “The LRA delegates were invited by the government of Uganda and when they come they will be guests of the state.” He did not say whether President Yoweri Museveni would be present to meet with them. According to officials, however, LRA leaders wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) would remain in the bush. The south Sudan President, Salva Kiir, claimed that a peace deal could possibly help solve

the predicament over the ICC indictments against LRA leader Joseph Kony, and three other commanders for crimes they committed during the conflict. Numerous Ugandans have preferred that Kony and the commanders be tried by local courts and traditional reconciliation rituals instead of with the ICC. A truce was signed Aug. 2006 to engage in peace talks and the visit to Kampala will have been part of an effort to discuss how peace should be implemented. (SDUN, Oct. 2; The Monitor, Oct. 4, 2007).

Ugandan government will not allow Kony to be hanged: The Ugandan government has stated that the leader of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army, Joseph Kony, will not receive the death penalty if convicted of crimes committed during the insurgency in Northern Uganda. Ruhakana Rugunda, the chief government negotiator, asserted that when the comprehensive peace agreement is implemented, it will emphasize reconciliation, thus ruling out the possibility of a death sentence. He reasoned, "When someone has gone to the gallows, he has gone, he cannot reconcile." This decision came out of government consultations on accountability and reconciliation held in Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala Oct. 27. Those in attendance included judges, magistrates, lawyers, academics, police, army, representatives of opposition parties and human rights activists. Rugunda stated that the government's priority was to satisfy the victims, then the people of Uganda and lastly the international community. He claimed that the international community stresses punishment, but he believes that reconciliation is more vital. Rugunda's comments were in response to a Human Rights Watch report demanding that if the national courts were going to try the LRA rebels, the death penalty needed to be abrogated. The organization has repeated its endorsement of the International Criminal Court (ICC). (New Vision, Oct. 1, 2007).