



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**February 8, 2002**  
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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](http://www.hrw.org) or [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

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## UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AP</b>	=	Associated Press
<b>AFP</b>	=	Agence France Presse
<b>BBC</b>	=	British Broadcasting Corporation
<b>CNN</b>	=	Cable News Network
<b>DPA</b>	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur
<b>EFE</b>	=	Agencia EFE (Spanish New Agency)
<b>HRW News</b>	=	Human Rights Watch News
<b>IRIN</b>	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: <a href="http://www.unog.ch">www.unog.ch</a> )
<b>JED</b>	=	Journaliste En Danger
<b>NCN</b>	=	New Congo Net
<b>PANA</b>	=	Pan African News Agency
<b>Xinhua</b>	=	Xinhua News Agency

## **AFGHANISTAN**

Local warlords engage in conflict: Fighting broke out in the eastern town of Gardez January 30 between two local warlords who had recently been appointed governors by the interim government of two bordering towns, leaving more than 100 dead. The President of Afghanistan's interim government, Hamid Karzai, said that the occurrence in Gardez should be expected in a country where the population continues to carry arms. In response to the fighting, Karzai created a council February 2 that convened in a mosque in Gardez where the parties to the fighting and mediators such as UN representative Ashraf Refahmedzai came together to seek a resolution to the dispute. Afghan Border Affairs official Merza Ali Khan said the disputes among the country's warlords threatened the stability of the interim government and its ability to establish and maintain its authority in Afghanistan. Karzai became leader of the six-month interim government in December 2001 and has spent six weeks traveling around the world in fundraising efforts for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. (BBC, January 30, February 3, 4, 2002)

## **CHECHNYA**

Human rights group accuses Russia of abuses: Russia's leading human rights group, Memorial, reported January 21 that Russian soldiers tortured Chechen civilians December 30, 2001 in the village of Tsotsin-Yurt. At least three villagers died and six other villagers were reported to be missing. Russian General Vladimir Moltenskoï denied Memorial's accusations and Russian government officials claimed that the four-day operation of questioning subjects was part of an effort to drive rebels out of Chechnya. The Memorial report stated that throughout the Chechnya conflict there had been "mass violation of human rights." The alleged human rights abuses were the latest charges of crimes committed by Russian soldiers sent to fight separatist rebels in the southern region. Russia and Chechnya were engaged in a war from 1994 to 1996 that left Chechnya with de facto independence. After the September 1999 apartment bombings in Moscow, Russia redeployed troops to Chechnya. (CNN, January 17; The Washington Post, January 22, 2002)

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**

Angola completes troop withdrawal: DRC Deputy Army Chief of Staff, General Dieudonne Kayembe, announced January 31 that Angola had completed its troop withdrawal from DRC where it had supported the government during three years of civil war. Kayembe noted that withdrawal of the troops did not sever "prior commitments," such as Angola's pledge to support the DRC government in the case of an attack. The war in DRC began in August 1998 when President Laurent Desiré Kabila's main sponsors, Uganda and Rwanda, turned against him and began supporting an anti-government rebellion. Kabila countered the rebellion with the assistance of troops supplied by Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Namibia completed its withdrawal of troops in August 2001. Rwanda has indicated it will not withdraw troops as long as members of an ethnic Hutu militia, Interahamwe, who participated in the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed approximately one million people in 100 days, remain in the DRC. (AP, January 31, 2002)

Belgian foreign minister visits for talks: Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel traveled to the DRC and Rwanda February 1 for three days of talks aimed at maintaining confidence in the 1999 peace agreement signed in the Zambian capital, Lusaka. At a news conference in the Rwandan capital of Kigali, Michel expressed confidence in the Lusaka Peace Accord as the foundation for future negotiations. Following a visit to DRC to meet with representatives of the Goma-based Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD-Goma) Michel met with Rwandan President Paul Kagame. In a statement issued after Michel's visit, an RCD-Goma spokesperson accused Belgium and its foreign minister of demonstrating bias in favor of DRC's President Joseph Kabila. (Reuters, January 3, 2001)

Millionaire offers to head interim authority: A European-based DRC millionaire, Raphael Katebe Katoto, announced February 1 that he would push for a role as head of a transition authority that could emerge from the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, set to resume February 25 under the auspices of former Botswana President Ketumile Masire. Katoto said he had contacted the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the UN to share his vision for peace. Although Katoto has held no political office, he has become a popular figure as owner of the country's favored soccer team. His popularity has aroused the suspicions of the government, which accused him of trying to discredit it. The Inter-Congolese Dialogue, mandated by the 1999 Lusaka Accord, was designed to bring together government, rebel, and civil society representatives in an attempt to end the country's three-year war that has resulted in more than 3 million deaths. (Reuters, February 1, 2002)

## **ERITREA**

Legislative body convenes: Eritrea's National Assembly met January 29 for the first time since September 2000 to discuss the country's peace agreement with Ethiopia, electoral laws, and the president's actions against "dissidents," such as arresting student activists and closing all private press. After five days of deliberation, the National Assembly passed a law allowing for Eritrea's first election and created a "special committee" to monitor elections. The assembly also concluded that Eritrea would continue its ban on political parties. The National Assembly has supported President Isaias Afewerki and the arrest of "dissidents," including the September 2001 arrests of 11 government officials who signed a letter in May 2001 that called for the government to adopt democratic measures. The first multi-party presidential elections, scheduled for December 2001, were indefinitely postponed. The international donor community has begun to withdraw funding to Eritrea and has continued to monitor the government's actions. (BBC, January 29, February 1; Financial Times, February 5, 2002)

## **MACEDONIA**

Villagers stall police redeployment: Residents of several northwestern villages refused entrance into their villages January 30 to multi-ethnic police forces due to fears of retaliation or prosecution for their alleged support of the ethnic Albanian rebel National Liberation Army (NLA). Following promises by legislators that a formal amnesty would soon be enacted by parliament and assurances of protection from officials of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the residents of Lipkovo, Otlja, and Orizare permitted the police forces to enter. Police forces have been redeployed to territories previously held by the NLA as part of the implementation of the August 2001 agreement that ended the eight-month conflict between the NLA and government forces. Fighting began January 2001 in an effort by the NLA to obtain greater political rights for ethnic Albanian minorities. (AP, January 31; Reuters, January 31, February 1, 2002)

Spain requests EU presence in Macedonia: Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar announced January 31 that the European Union's (EU) rapid reaction force should take control of peacekeeping operations in Macedonia. Speaking at a press conference in Madrid, Aznar said, "I think it is possible and desirable that Macedonia would be the first example of European Security and Defense Policy operationality and we would like a decision to be taken on this matter before the end of the Spanish presidency." Spain has held the EU's rotating six-month presidency since January 2002. The EU has already stated that its rapid reaction force is partially operational but does not expect to be able to deploy its full force of 60,000 troops until 2003. If approved, the Macedonia operation would be the first military action undertaken by the EU. (Reuters, January 31, 2002)

## **NEPAL**

Rebels raid police post: Maoist rebels raided a police post February 4 that killed 16 policemen in the northern Kavrepalanchok district. At least six rebels were also killed in the raid. The raid occurred one week before a scheduled Parliament session to discuss a possible three-month extension of the existing state of emergency. Clashes between police forces and the rebels have regularly occurred since the state of emergency was declared in November 2001. More than 2,500 people have been killed since the Maoist rebels began fighting in February 1996 for a "People's Republic." (BBC, February 5, 2002)

## **SRI LANKA**

Tamil rebels recruit child soldiers: President Chandrika Kumaratunga stated February 5 that the ethnic Tamil Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have been taking advantage of the ceasefire signed December 24, 2001 between the government and the LTTE to recruit children. President Kumaratunga declared that the LTTE had pledged to UNICEF in 1988 that it would not use child soldiers. The LTTE, which has allegedly entered villages in the eastern district of Batticaloa to recruit teenagers, has been fighting the majority Sinhalese government for equal rights and in pursuit of a separate homeland since 1983. The ceasefire, scheduled to end in January, has been extended until February

24 due to recent peace negotiations between the government and the rebels, mediated by the government of Norway. ([BBC](#), February 5; [Bloomberg.com](#), February 6, 2002)

## **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Portugal and Ecuador ratify Rome Treaty: Portugal and Ecuador became the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> countries February 5 to ratify the Rome Treaty that would create an International Criminal Court (ICC) located at The Hague, Netherlands. Eight more nations must similarly ratify the treaty before it is to enter into force. If established, the ICC would try individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, and other gross human rights violations. While the UN Security Council has established ad hoc courts for war crimes committed in the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the ICC would be the first permanent global criminal court. The Rome Treaty was negotiated at a June 1998 conference after which 139 countries signed the treaty. Although the U.S. signed the treaty, the present administration has said it will not ratify the treaty and has undertaken legislation that would forbid any U.S. ties to the court. ([Reuters](#), February 4, 2002)

ABA urges military tribunal rights: The American Bar Association (ABA), the largest lawyers' group in the U.S., voted February 4 to recommend that terrorism defendants tried before U.S. military tribunals should receive traditional legal protections. Defying the government's request to refrain from speaking out on the matter, the ABA issued its recommendations following several days of debate during which the group voted 286-147 in favor of affording the protections. Recommended protections would include a guarantee that innocence be presumed until guilt is proven, a requirement that guilt be established only by proof beyond a reasonable doubt, and the right of those convicted to appeal their conviction to the Supreme Court. U.S. President George Bush announced in November 2001 that the U.S. would use specialized military tribunals to try captured members of the Al-Qa'ida terrorist network. The Pentagon has been drafting legal rules that would guide the creation and operation of the military tribunals. ([AP](#), February 2, 2002)