



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

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.

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UPDATE SUMMARY

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan army emerges; Afghanistan receives waiver for drug production problem

CHECHNYA

Fighting continues between Russian and Chechen forces; U.S. sends special forces to Caucasus

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

MLC leader withdraws from Inter-Congolese talks; UN begins deployment to eastern provinces; Kabila realigns armed forces leadership

ERITREA-ETHIOPIA

UN Security Council travels to the Horn

MACEDONIA

Residents prevent Macedonian police from re-entering villages; Bush selects new ambassador; NATO dismisses talk of rebel offensive

NEPAL

Parliament extends state of emergency; Maoists die in attacks

SRI LANKA

Government and rebels sign permanent ceasefire

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Interagency group convenes to fight trafficking in persons; Serbian Prime Minister refuses to hunt down Mladic

UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
CNN	=	Cable News Network (www.cnn.com)
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.com)
EFE	=	Agencia EFE (Spanish New Agency)
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)
JED	=	Journaliste En Danger
NCN	=	New Congo Net (www.marekinc.com/NCN.html)
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan army emerges: The U.S. military began training 200 Afghans from various ethnic groups February 25 for a national army that interim leader Hamid Karzai has said will grow to 70,000 soldiers within a year. U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld believed the implementation and training of an Afghan army should be the primary focus of the international community's "time and money" as the only "viable solution" to the factional disputes that have occurred and threatened the country's stability and peace since the interim government took office December 2001. Karzai supports an Afghan national army but has expressed concern over the lack of security forces throughout the country, a situation that would not improve while the new national army was trained. He has sought continued help from the UN International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) that has placed 4,500 soldiers in the capital, Kabul, and has asked that security forces be increased and expanded throughout the country. One UN official said it would take 30,000 troops to adequately maintain peace in Afghanistan. The ISAF is made up of mostly British and French troops, both of whose governments have been reluctant to place more troops in the country. The U.S. government stated that its troops will not be a part of ISAF and that it is up to Afghanistan's interim government to monitor and control conflicts within the country, not the U.S. (AFP, The Boston Globe, February 25, 2002)

Afghanistan receives waiver for drug production problem: Despite its having "failed demonstrably" at monitoring and controlling narcotic drug production and trafficking, U.S. president George W. Bush announced February 25 that standard economic sanctions against Afghanistan would be waived because continued aid to Afghanistan would be "vital to the national interests of the U.S." Bush assessed narcotic drug monitoring in 23 countries for 2001 and Afghanistan was one of three to fail. Bush justified the waiver and said that Afghanistan would need "the full range of U.S. assistance" to overcome its economic, political, and social hurdles. The U.S. government pledged \$296 million towards Afghan reconstruction efforts last month at an international donor meeting in Tokyo. Just days before Bush's announcement of a waiver, the UN's drug control agency (UNDCP) expressed concern over the recent increase of opium production in Afghanistan. Production had fallen 94% the previous year. Prior to the 1996-2001 Taliban rule, Afghanistan was responsible for 70% of the world's production of all opiates and up to 90% of all heroin in Europe. Once the Taliban were forced out of the country in October 2001 and the UN-backed interim government took office in December, farmers again began to grow poppy plants. The interim government officially banned the production of the drug but could do little to enforce its mandate. (AFP, AP, BBC, January 25; BBC, January 21, 2002)

CHECHNYA

Fighting continues between Russian and Chechen forces: Fighting broke out February 22 in the village of Shuani, southeast of Grozny, between Russian military forces and Chechen rebels. Russian military helicopters struck various Chechen positions with missiles, killing the Chechen president's brother, Aslanbek Maskhadov, a member of the Presidential Guard. The Chechen rebels reportedly conducted a series of attacks across the republic, killing 17 Russians in the southern Vedeno district and in Grozny. Two rebels were killed during an attack at a temporary

police office in the Staropromyslovsky district. Casualty estimates by the two sides have varied since the Russian military launched its self-declared “anti-terrorist” campaign in Chechnya in September 1999. Russian security forces returned to Chechnya in 1999 following the war between Russia and Chechnya from 1994-1996 that left Chechnya with de facto independence. (AFP, February 23, 24; BBC, February 23; ITAR-TASS, February 25, 2002)

U.S. sends special forces to Caucasus: The U.S. announced February 27 that it would send approximately 200 special forces to the former Soviet Republic of Georgia to help fight the U.S. “war on terrorism.” Five U.S. military advisors arrived in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi to discuss training Georgian troops in the remote Pankisi Gorge region. Russia and the U.S. were said to believe that Chechen rebels as well as members of terrorist organizations have taken refuge there. The New York-based human rights organization, Human Rights Watch, urged Russian President Vladimir Putin and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze not to “expel thousands of Chechens from safe havens in Georgia.” The Georgian government claimed to be in support of the U.S., but said that they were not pleased that Russian forces in Georgia had bombed that area because of the suspected presence there of Chechen rebels. Both Russia and the U.S. have accused Chechen rebels of maintaining contact with Islamic extremist groups such as Al-Qa’ida, the group led by Osama Bin Laden and blamed for the September 11 attacks on the U.S. (AFP, BBC, The Washington Post, February 27, 2002)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

MLC leader withdraws from Inter-Congolese talks: Jean-Pierre Bemba, head of the Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC), announced February 19 that he would not attend the Inter-Congolese dialogue in Sun City, South Africa scheduled to begin February 25. Bemba explained at a Paris news conference that his decision was based on the perceived exclusion from the negotiations of key opposition members in favor of known allies of DRC President Joseph Kabila. As evidence of this exclusion, Bemba cited the failure of Kabila to hold meetings in advance of the dialogue with Mbusa Nyamwisi, leader of the Kisangani-based Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD-Kisangani). Bemba also charged that dialogue facilitator and former president of Botswana, Ketumile Masire, was complicit in the exclusion of rebel groups and that he was, as a result, in violation of the 1999 Lusaka accords that called for opposition groups to take part in talks on a transition government. The Inter-Congolese dialogue 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. (BBC, Reuters, February 19, 2002)

UN begins deployment to eastern provinces: Col. Peter Williams, the British chief of staff for the UN mission in the DRC (MONUC), announced February 20 that the UN would soon dispatch approximately 1,200 peacekeepers to the eastern provinces of the DRC with the hope of achieving greater stability in the area. The first deployment of approximately 400 UN soldiers, backed by attack helicopters and armored vehicles, would head to the isolated rebel-held city of Kindu. Williams stressed that the primary goal of the peacekeepers would be to assist in disarming the local militia and in resettling combatants, akin to previous UN missions in Sierra Leone and Mozambique. He emphasized that the goal was not, in spite of the UN’s armament, to fight for peace or even to enforce it. The original UN mandate for the DRC called for the

eventual deployment of 5,527 peacekeepers to the country, though UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan sought authorization from the Security Council February 19 for an additional 850 troops, particularly for deployment to Kisangani. Approximately 3,500 UN troops are currently stationed in the DRC, with the remainder expected to arrive by the middle of the summer. (AP, February 16, 20; IRIN, Reuters, February 20, 2002)

Kabila realigns armed forces leadership: DRC state television reported February 24 that President Kabila revamped his military hierarchy just one day before the opening of the Inter-Congolese dialogue in Sun City, South Africa. Among those reported to have been removed from their positions were the head of the army, General Francois Olenga, the chief of staff of the armed forces, Sylvestre Lwetsha, as well as 18 other senior officers. Lwetsha's chief of staff position was assigned to Lieutenant-General Liwanga Mata, the head of the naval forces and a former general under Mobutu Sese Seko, the late dictator toppled in 1997 by Laurent Desiré Kabila, father of the current president. New generals, most of them trained under Mobutu, were also appointed to the air force, navy, army, military intelligence, and police, replacing Kabila loyalists. President Kabila first reshuffled the military hierarchy last March, shortly after coming to power following the assassination of his father, then President, in January 2001. (Reuters, February 25, 2002)

ERITREA-ETHIOPIA

UN Security Council travels to the Horn: All 15 members of the UN Security Council traveled to Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the disputed border region February 21 for a three-day visit to calm heightened tensions as the countries awaited the announcement of a long disputed border decision. The council met with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki and discussed mine removal within the border region, the return of all prisoners of war, confidence-building measures, and the governments' promised adherence to the Border Commission's decision, set to be announced at the end of March. There has been a 4,200-strong UN force patrolling the border region that was due to remain for another 6 months after the border decision has been announced. A border commission was established to determine the physical boundary between the two countries following the December 2000 peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia that ended a two and a half year conflict over the 160 square mile Yirga triangle to which both lay claim. (BBC, January 21, 22, 24, 2002)

MACEDONIA

Residents prevent Macedonian police from re-entering villages: Approximately 40 ethnic Albanians from the village of Kamenjane erected roadblocks February 20 to prevent multi-ethnic police units from resuming patrols in a cluster of approximately fifteen villages near the western town of Tetovo, an area of heavy fighting during last year's insurgency by the National Liberation Army (NLA). As a condition for permitting the patrols, the villagers demanded the release of political prisoners, the dismantling of police checkpoints in the area, and the creation and deployment of police patrols comprised entirely of ethnic Albanian officers. Macedonian police forces have been re-deployed to areas 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. The first phase of police re-deployment got underway in

December and police have thus far re-entered 50 villages out of a total of 120. (AFP, Reuters, February 20, 2002)

Bush selects new ambassador: U.S. President George Bush selected diplomat Lawrence Butler as the next U.S. ambassador to Macedonia. If confirmed, Butler would replace Michael Einik. White House and State Department officials did not identify any specific reason for the replacement of Einik. Butler has been deputy chief of mission in Copenhagen since 1999 and, before that, was deputy senior director for Europe at the National Security Council. Butler has also served as an economic officer in Helsinki, Sofia, and Brasilia. (AFP, AP, February 25, 2002)

NATO dismisses talk of rebel offensive: A spokesperson for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), speaking in Brussels February 20 on condition of anonymity, dismissed speculation that ethnic Albanian rebels might be preparing to launch a spring offensive. The remarks followed recognition February 19 by Craig Ratdiff, a NATO spokesperson in Macedonia, that there had been widespread comment in the media concerning the possibility of an offensive by ethnic Albanian radical groups such as the Albanian National Army and the Real National Liberation Army. Numerous Macedonian Albanian political leaders, including a former leader of the NLA, responded by insisting that new fighting would not be initiated. Fighting began in January 2001 in an effort by the NLA to obtain greater political rights for ethnic Albanian minorities and lasted nearly eight months. (AP, February 16; Reuters, February 20, 2002)

NEPAL

Parliament extends state of emergency: Parliament extended the state of emergency February 21 for three months. The initial state of emergency had been imposed in November 2001 to allow the army to be deployed against the Maoist rebels, who the government labels as terrorists. All of the main political parties, including the communist opposition Unified Marxists-Leninists (UML), backed the extension. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba used the rebels' February 16 attack, which left more than 150 police and government officials dead in the Accham district, to support his case for the extension. Kapil Shrestha, a member of the Human Rights Commission, said that the extension might cause an escalation in violence on both sides. Maoist rebels launched protest attacks across Nepal hours after the state of emergency was extended, killing 37 policemen February 21 in a raid on a police post in the western district of Sallyan. More than 2,600 people have been killed since the Maoist rebels began fighting in February 1996 to replace the constitutional monarchy with a "People's Republic." (The Advertiser, February 23; AFP, BBC, Financial Times, February 22, 2002)

Maoists die in attacks: More than 76 Maoist rebels were killed over the weekend of February 22 during a military operation in response to the rebel attacks February 16 on police officers, soldiers, and government officials stationed around the western district of Accham. An estimated 67 rebels were killed in the northern district of Kalikot and another nine rebels were killed in separate attacks in three neighboring districts. Human rights groups expressed concern for the safety of civilians in the area due to the fighting. Access to journalists has also been restricted. The government said that it was determined to keep up the pressure on the Maoists

and officials said that tens of millions of dollars would be added to the defense budget. The attacks that occurred during the last week produced the greatest number of casualties since the Maoist rebels began fighting in February 1996. ([AP](#), February 23; [BBC](#), February 25, 2002)

SRI LANKA

Government and rebels sign permanent ceasefire: The government and the ethnically Tamil Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) signed a permanent ceasefire agreement that took effect February 23. The prior ceasefire, initiated December 24, 2001 and extended until February 24, 2002, was the first time in seven years that the government and rebel groups halted fighting. The new agreement paved the way for the first direct peace talks in seven years to end the conflict between the two parties. Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe conducted the first visit to the northern rebel-controlled area of the country by a Sri Lankan premier in almost 20 years to formally hand over his signed copy of the agreement to the Norwegian ambassador, Jon Westborg. The ceasefire agreement would allow for rebels to start coming into government-controlled areas as soon as international monitors were in place. Wickramasinghe said the next stage would be “talks on talks” and within three months, direct negotiations on a political solution to the conflict. The international community, including UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, supported the permanent ceasefire. He welcomed the ceasefire as an “important step” in peace negotiations and expressed full support for Norway’s mediation efforts. Civil war broke out in 1983 between the majority Sinhalese government and the LTTE and has resulted in approximately 64,000 deaths. ([BBC](#), February 22, 23, 24, 26; [Xinhua](#), February 23; [UN News Service](#), February 25, 2002)

HUMAN RIGHTS

Interagency group convenes to fight trafficking in persons: U.S. President George Bush signed an Executive Order February 13 establishing the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Secretary of State Colin Powell convened the first gathering of the Interagency Task Force that same day. The Task Force would seek to strengthen coordination among key agencies working to fight human trafficking and to identify opportunities to bolster efforts to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent future trafficking. Task Force members would include the Secretaries of State, Labor, and Health and Human Services, as well as the Attorney General, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The Task Force was established by the President, as mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to ensure coordination among the various U.S. government agencies in anti-trafficking initiatives. It is estimated that approximately 700,000 persons, especially women and children, are trafficked every year throughout the world. ([U.S. Department of State Press Release](#), February 14, 2002)

Serbian Prime Minister refuses to hunt down Mladic: Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, in an interview published February 23, signaled his unwillingness to hunt down Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic. Djindjic suggested that if troops from the 50,000-strong NATO peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia and the full resources of the West's intelligence services had failed to secure Mladic's capture, the Serbian government could do no more. In an interview

with the German magazine Der Spiegel, Djindjic said, "Am I now to risk the lives of our police so that Mladic and his 100-strong personal guard can be served up at the table in The Hague? What if it caused civil war to break out? We have over 200,000 refugees from Bosnia, many of them armed. The price is too high." Mladic and former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic were indicted in 1996 by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for the 1995 mass killing of up to 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica and for the three and a half year siege of Sarajevo, which killed about 12,000 people. Following the June 2001 surrender to the ICTY by Yugoslavia of Slobodan Milosevic, whose trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity is now underway, Mladic and Karadzic became the highest ranking individuals among those indicted by the ICTY yet to be captured. (BBC, Reuters, February 23, 2002)