



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 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)
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 (http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

AFGHANISTAN

Rules set for military tribunals: U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld unveiled rules March 21 for military tribunals to try Al-Qa'ida and Taliban captives in the "war on terrorism." Rumsfeld said those facing trial would be presumed innocent, would have the right to avoid self-incrimination, and would be provided military counsel. A jury, which could include as many as seven members of the military, would try the captives and determine whether the death penalty should be imposed. Two-thirds of the jury would be necessary to convict, but a unanimous vote would be required to impose the death penalty and U.S. President George Bush would have to give final approval to any death sentences. The New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights criticized the absence of an independent appeal process, while Amnesty International objected to the proceedings being undertaken by military authorities rather than civil ones. It is expected that only a few of the more than 500 Al-Qa'ida guerrillas and Taliban fighters captured in Afghanistan and now held by the U.S. military would face a military tribunal. Suspected terrorists have been held at "Camp X" at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and have been awaiting formal charges from the U.S. government for their involvement in the September 11 terrorists attacks in New York and Washington D.C. that resulted in approximately 3,000 deaths. (AP, Reuters, New York Times, March 21, 2002)

Date set to convene Loya Jirga: In accordance with the UN-sponsored December 2001 Bonn Agreement that established Afghanistan's 53-member interim government, elections for the Loya Jirga, or Grand Council, were announced for June 10-16, 2002. Under the agreement, former and exiled King Zahir Shah has been chosen to convene the Loya Jirga as he has been regarded as a "unifying symbol" throughout Afghanistan. The Loya Jirga would be comprised of 1,450 members, of whom 1,051 would be elected and the remaining appointed. The Loya Jirga has been designed to include seats for ex-patriots, refugee groups, women, the 53-member interim government, and the 21-member UN commission that has been involved in the Loya Jirga process. Once elected and appointed, the Loya Jirga would choose the country's leaders, enact electoral laws, draft a constitution, and oversee continuing reconstruction efforts. Officials have announced that anyone with ties to terrorism or human rights abuses will be prohibited from

participation in the council. The Loya Jirga has been a traditional Afghan congress that has convened in times of political turmoil and has been empowered to amend the constitution, elect leaders, declare war, and decide on other pressing political matters. (Calgary Herald, Toronto Star, April 1; EFE, March 29, 31, 2002)

UN announces new mission: The 15-member UN Security Council voted unanimously March 28 for the creation of a UN assistance mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) that would be led for an initial 12-month period by UN Secretary-General Special Representative to Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi. Duties of UNAMA would include involvement in human rights issues, ensuring the rule of law, promoting equality in gender issues, and working closely with the Afghan government. UNAMA has called upon all groups within Afghanistan to unite and work together towards these goals. The UN announced the mission would stand on two "pillars," one for exemplary political affairs and the other for "relief, recovery and reconstruction" in the country. (UN News Center, March 23, 2002)

Afghan army concludes training: Six hundred soldiers for the new Afghan military completed training April 3 and began official duty in the capital, Kabul, after being trained by British and Italian troops. The soldiers included men from all of Afghanistan's ethnic groups and are the first of an intended 68,000-soldier army to be led by Defense Minister Mohammad Fahimy. The army's officers have been chosen from each of the country's 30 provinces in order to combat "warlordism" in Afghanistan and unite the country. The soldiers were trained for six weeks and their initial, primary duties would be to serve as presidential guards for the six-month government leader Hamid Karzai. (Edmonton Journal, The Standard, April 4; New York Times, April 3, 2002)

Government discovers coup attempt: Afghan authorities announced April 4 they had discovered a plot to overthrow Karzai in a coup led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e-Islami extremist Islamic group. A Pakistan-based spokesman for the Hezb-e-Islami denied that the group was responsible for the planned attacks. Authorities discovered plans for bombings and attacks in Kabul, including areas where peacekeepers have been stationed. The group also allegedly planned to disrupt the Loya Jirga set for June 2002. The Afghanistan government announced it had arrested hundreds in the past two days in connection with the attempted coup. (New York Times, April 4, 2002)

CHECHNYA

Security operations raise rebel death toll: A three-day Russian security operation aimed at finding Chechen rebels and weapons began March 25 in the village of Oktyabrskoye, in the Kurchaloi district. Police arrested several rebels after six servicemen were wounded when bombs exploded in the village. Five rebels were killed and police detained 50 people March 27 during security operations conducted in the capital of Grozny, as well as in the districts of Nozhai-Yurt, Kurchaloi, and Shelkovskoi. Russian troops killed 18 rebels, most of whom died in air strikes during security operations carried out March 28 by Russian jets. Russian officials looking for Chechen rebels have conducted search operations since Russian security forces returned to Chechnya in September 1999 after Chechen rebels allegedly bombed several apartment buildings in Moscow. The war between Russia and Chechnya from 1994 to 1996 left

Chechnya with de facto independence. (AFP, ITAR-TASS, March 28; BBC, March 26, April 1; Interfax News Agency, March 27, 2002)

Russian military agrees to human rights decree: Commander of the Russian forces in Chechnya, Lieutenant General Vladimir Moltenskoi, signed a government-issued decree aimed at ending human rights abuses by soldiers against Chechen civilians. Accusations of human rights abuses have included the large number of Chechens disappearing during security operations and the use of unnecessary force. The decree outlined measures that would require officers to identify themselves before entering homes and require troops to invite village elders, the heads of local administration, and clergymen to accompany them on operations. The head of Human Rights Watch, Deidrich Lohman, was not optimistic about the decree because he said that many of the measures were already in Russian law but simply had not previously been implemented. (BBC, March 29, 2002)

Radio Free Europe begins broadcasting to the North Caucasus: Radio Free Europe announced that they would begin broadcasting to the North Caucasus region the week of April 1. A spokesperson for Radio Free Europe, Sonia Winter, said that the two-hours of daily programming would be produced by a staff of nine and would air in the regional languages of Avar, Chechen, Circassian, and Russian. The inaugural broadcast, which was initially set for February 28, was postponed at the request of the U.S. Department of State, which feared broadcasting could affect future efforts to end the conflict in Chechnya. Russian officials warned the U.S.-funded radio station that they would closely monitor its coverage of the war in Chechnya and would strip its license if they perceived a pro-rebel bias. Radio Free Europe was established in 1949 to spread pro-Western news to countries in Eastern Europe. It merged in 1975 with Radio Liberty, which was broadcasting in the former Soviet Union. It is now a private, nonprofit corporation that receives funding from the U.S. government. (AP, April 2; BBC, April 3, 2002)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Rebels withdraw from Moliro: UN officials confirmed March 27 that Rwandan-backed rebels in eastern Congo had withdrawn from the town of Moliro. The Goma-based Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD-Goma) captured Moliro, a strategic port on Lake Tanganyika, after heavy fighting March 14 with government forces, prompting the government's withdrawal from the Inter-Congolese dialogue. The UN Security Council issued a unanimous resolution March 19 accusing the RCD-Goma of a major violation of the 1999 Lusaka peace accord and demanding its withdrawal within five days from both Moliro and the nearby town of Pweto. Representatives of the UN mission in the DRC (MONUC) said that although the rebels complied with the demand to withdraw completely from Moliro, some rebel officials and police remained in Pweto, allegedly to stop a looting spree by local people. A representative of MONUC said they intended to send a team to check that government forces had also complied with the order to stay out of Moliro. The current war in the DRC began in August 1998 when President Laurent Desiré Kabila's main sponsors, Rwanda and Uganda, 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. More than three million people have died in the four-year war. (AP, March 18, 19; New York Times, March 20; Reuters, March 18, 28, 2002)

Inter-Congolese dialogue resumes: The government consented March 21 to resume peace talks with rebels in Sun City, South Africa after each agreed to withdraw from positions captured in fighting over the past month. The government had quit the talks March 14 in protest of the assault on Moliro by RCD-Goma rebels. A spokesman for former Botswana President Ketumile Masire, who is chairing the talks, said the DRC government delegation agreed to retake its seat at the negotiating table after settling on a withdrawal plan with the rebels at a meeting in Zambia. The government agreed to withdraw from Kayaya and Yayama, and the RCD-Goma agreed to withdraw from Moliro and Pweto, both within five days. The Inter-Congolese dialogue, mandated by the 1999 Lusaka peace agreement, was designed to bring together government, rebel, and civil society representatives to establish peace and political unity in the DRC. (AP, March 20; Reuters, March 21, 2002)

HRW criticizes RCD-Goma: The U.S.-based advocacy group, Human Rights Watch (HRW), accused the RCD-Goma March 21 of torture and arbitrarily detaining opponents in inhumane conditions without access to medical and legal help. The detainees were said to be members of the Mai-Mai, a local armed group with whom the RCD-Goma rebels have been engaged in periodic clashes. HRW urged the RCD-Goma to either release the detainees or to officially charge and transfer them to an acknowledged place of detention in accordance with Congolese law. A representative of the RCD-Goma said the HRW report exaggerated the situation and was simply an effort to discredit the rebel group since the Inter-Congolese dialogue has been underway. The Mai-Mai are largely based in the eastern Kivu provinces, on land mainly controlled by RCD-Goma, who first took up arms against Kinshasa in August 1998. The late president Laurent Desiré Kabila had integrated the Mai-Mai fighters into the anti-rebel coalition, alongside the regular army, under the name of the People's Self-Defence Forces. (Reuters, March 21, 2002)

UN Security Council envoys to tour Central Africa: The President of the UN Security Council, Ambassador Ole Peter Kolby of Norway, announced March 25 that the Council would send envoys April 27 to Central Africa for a 10-day mission to discuss the peace process in the DRC with all major parties to the conflict. The mission would be led by France's Ambassador to the UN Jean-David Levitte. The UN presently has approximately 3,500 UN peacekeeping troops currently stationed in the DRC, with an additional 2,000 expected to arrive by the middle of the summer. (Reuters, March 25, 2002)

ERITREA

Imprisoned journalists go on a hunger strike: Ten Eritrean journalists began a hunger strike April 1 in response to what they have alleged as an unfair detention by the Eritrean government. The ten detained journalists have asked to stand trial for the accusations made against them in an independent and fair court. The Eritrean Journalists Society in Exile has called upon the international community to condemn the acts of the government towards the journalists and for fair treatment and the journalists' release. Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki came under scrutiny from the international community and human rights groups when he closed all free press, detained 11 government officials as "dissidents", and placed students in summer work camps in 2001. (BBC, April 3, 4, 2002)

ETHIOPIA

Uprisings occur in the Oromiya region: Officials reported March 30 that protests by students and clashes between rebels and government forces left 11 dead in Western Ethiopia. The students claimed they were protesting the government's high price for fertilizers and the low cost paid to the peasants who worked in the coffee fields in the area. The rebels involved in the clashes belonged to the opposition political group, the Oromo Liberation Front. Oromiya has been one of the nine autonomous states that comprise the Ethiopian Federation. (AP, April 2, 2002; Deutsche Presse-Agentur, March 30)

ERITREA-ETHIOPIA

Ottunu issues report on child soldiers: In a statement to the UN March 26, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Olara Otunnu announced that he had seen no evidence of "child soldiering" during his visits to Eritrea and Ethiopia. Otunnu discussed the situation for women and children in refugee camps and said he found no evidence of abuses, rape, or wrongdoings. He attributed the success of the countries in these areas to the interaction between government officials, non-government organizations, the UN Mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia, and the public's participation. Otunnu emphasized the need for the peaceful acceptance of the UN Border Commission's decision due to be announced April 13 and for support towards the return of displaced persons from both countries. The UN Border Commission was established following the Algiers peace agreement in December 2000 that ended the 2-year border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Amidst civil dispute against the upcoming ruling, government officials from both countries have continued to affirm their support and acceptance of the UN Border Commission's decision on the boundary. (UN News Center, March 26, 2002)

GUATEMALA

Death threats continue: Guatemalan Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini received threats from "death squads" due to his involvement in implementing Austrian aid projects in Guatemala and for his participation in land reform efforts for the poor. The Austrian Green Party issued a statement regarding the threats March 30 and said the peace process in Guatemala has not been implemented as promised. The Green Party blamed President Alfonso Portillo for the lack of progress in Guatemala since the country emerged from a 36-year civil war that claimed some 200,000 lives throughout the country and called the present situation in Guatemala a "spiral of violence." Juan Jose Aldez, a parish priest complained of threats from an unknown source in early February 2002, the same time 11 anthropologists who have been uncovering and investigating grave sights of the 200,000 killed during the war received similar warnings and threats. In response to the threats towards Ramazzini, Austria has threatened to discontinue its financial support to Guatemala as early as 2003. (EFE, March 31, 2002)

Civil society calls for president's resignation: The Guatemalan Civic Movement has continued to collect signatures from civil society calling for the resignation of President Alfonso Portillo and Vice President Juan Francisco Reyes for their alleged connection to a financial scandal

involving 13 secret bank accounts in Panama. The Civic Movement began its efforts against the President March 5, though Portillo has denied any connection to the bank accounts. Instead, Portillo accused two men March 25 of “masterminding” the scandal to oust him from office. One of the accused men, Lopez Bonilla, participated in a successful 1982 coup against then president General Romeo Lucas Garcia. Both men have accused Portillo of trying to create a “smoke screen” to divert attention from himself. Critics have arisen in opposition to both the Civic Movement whose members include high-ranking government officials who oppose Portillo, while others are calling on Portillo to present evidence to support his claims of innocence. Guatemala emerged from its civil war in 1996 and has been criticized by the international community for its lack of progress in discovering and prosecuting those responsible for human rights abuses that occurred during the 36-year war and in the years following. (EFE, March 25, 28, 2002)

MACEDONIA

Two killed and five wounded in clash: Two ethnic Albanian gunmen were killed and five others wounded in a March 25 gun battle in Mala Recica between former insurgents of the National Liberation Army (NLA) and members of a splinter group called the Albanian National Armada (ANA). The battle occurred while members of the ANA attempted to free six comrades from NLA custody. A statement reportedly issued by the ANA March 26 acknowledged involvement in the fighting while another statement issued March 27 shifted responsibility to “ultra Marxists of the Albanian Revolutionary Party.” This was the first major incident between rival factions since the NLA and other rebel groups abandoned their eight-month civil war in August 2001 by surrendering thousands of weapons to NATO troops in exchange for political reforms granting greater rights to ethnic Albanians. The ANA has refused to disarm and vowed to continue their insurgency against the government. (AP, March 26; Reuters, March 26, 27, 2002)

Government plans a new round of weapons collection: Macedonian authorities announced March 20 they were planning a new arms amnesty to try to rid the country of thousands of illegal weapons. Government officials said that while they still expected a formal proposal from the interior ministry, collection of arms could begin within a month. Authorities estimated that there are more than 10,000 illegal weapons in Macedonia, most of which were acquired during the eight-month ethnic Albanian insurgency in 2001. An October 2001 weapons collection overseen by NATO collected nearly 4,000 weapons and almost 400,000 items of ammunition, mines, and explosives in a voluntary program designed to disarm ethnic Albanian insurgents. A spokesperson for the NATO mission in Macedonia, Craig Ratcliff, said that NATO would support the action, but was not sure whether NATO would be involved. (Reuters, March 20, 2002)

NATO protests detention of diplomats: NATO protested March 20 the brief detention by Macedonian police of two of its officials, both of whom enjoy diplomatic immunity. A NATO official said the two diplomats were detained for half an hour in the western lakeside resort of Ohrid while taking pictures of the town's main square. NATO's Macedonia mission has provided security for international monitors overseeing implementation of the August 2001 peace agreement between the government and ethnic Albanian rebels who led last year's six-month insurgency. (AP, March 20, 2002)

Germany formally extends peacekeeping mission: Germany approved March 22 a three-month extension of its command of the NATO peacekeeping mission in Macedonia, voting to keep its 600 troops in the Balkan state until June 26. NATO's Operation Fox peacekeeping mission has helped maintain peaceful relations between Macedonian government forces and Albanian rebels, and has protected international monitors observing the return of government forces and displaced persons to areas formerly controlled by the rebels. NATO's present mandate had been scheduled to expire June 26 but would likely be extended to insure a peacekeeping presence in the country through the Macedonian parliamentary elections, which are scheduled for mid-September 2002. NATO officials announced March 28 that, should an extension be authorized, the Netherlands would accept a request from NATO to take command of the peacekeeping force when the German mandate ends. (Reuters, March 22,28, 2002)

NEPAL

Security forces and rebels continue fighting: One policeman was injured and several rebels were killed in an exchange of gunfire March 31 after rebels bombed the Radhapur police post in Bardia. Three rebels were also killed March 31 by security forces near Melumchi during an overnight patrol where security forces recovered weapons, pistols, and explosives. Government soldiers who also recovered guns and explosives killed ten rebels March 24 in separate attacks in the western districts of Bardia, Lamjung, and Myagdi. The Defense Ministry claimed that the recent rebel deaths were due to the successful targeting of rebel training centers and shelters nationwide by government troops. More than 2,700 people have been killed since the Maoist rebels began fighting in February 1996 to replace the constitutional monarchy with a "People's Republic." (BBC, March 23, April 1; DPA, March 22; Japan Economic Newswire, March 22, 24, 30 2002)

India pledges support for Nepal: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba returned to Nepal March 25 after a six-day visit to India, where he met with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and other high-level officials who pledged to help the government of Nepal fight Maoist rebels. India has agreed to provide military equipment and training for the Nepal army and increase cooperation between the countries' intelligence agencies. Indian officials also stated that they would not allow their territory to be used to harm Nepal's "sovereignty, peace, and security" after it was announced that Indian Maoist groups had previously trained some of the rebels inside India. (AFP, Japan Economic Newswire, March 25, 2002)

Bombs explode in Kathmandu: One person was killed and 27 others were wounded when an explosive device was set off March 29 during the morning rush hour on a bridge over the Bishnumati River in the western part of the capital. Police arrested one suspect who was injured during the bridge explosion. Maoist rebels set off bombs in two other locations in Kathmandu March 29, but police reported no injuries. (BBC, Japan Economic Newswire, March 29, 2002)

Rebels postpone general strike: Maoist rebels postponed a five-day strike April 1 that was scheduled to begin April 2 after appeals were issued by student unions on behalf of more than 250,000 students taking graduation exams that day. Although the strike intended to demonstrate the strength of the rebels was postponed, 8,310 security personnel were stationed at testing

centers around the country. The rebels said that the strike would be rescheduled for the week of April 24. (AFP, April 2; BBC, April 1, 2002)

SRI LANKA

Government announces future peace talks plan: The government announced March 27 a plan to hold “face-to-face” peace talks in May with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) aimed at ending the country’s 18-year civil war. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, who ended sanctions held on rebel areas and said that he would consider lifting the ban put on the LTTE in 1998, said his administration was ready to consider all conditions with the exception of a separate homeland for the ethnically minority LTTE. The last round of negotiations between the LTTE and the government broke down in 1995 after a 100-day ceasefire because President Chandrika Kumaratunga alleged that the rebels were not “interested in discussing substantive political issues.” The government and the LTTE signed a ceasefire February 23, 2002 that paved the way for permanent peace talks between the opposing parties. Civil war broke out in 1983 between the majority Sinhalese government and the LTTE, and has resulted in approximately 64,000 deaths. (BBC, CNN, March 27; MSNBC, March 28, 2002)

Police arrest security chief: Police arrested the commander of the Presidential Security Division, Nihal Karunaratne, April 2 after he failed to appear in court to face charges of alleged, attempted murder. Karunaratne was accused of plotting to kill politician SB Dissanayake, who left President Chandrika Kumaratunga’s political party in 2001 and joined the party of the current Prime Minister, Ranil Wickramasinghe. Karunaratne was also accused of issuing death threats to a police officer inquiring into the alleged assassination attempt on Dissanayake. Nine other men, including five presidential guards, were implicated in the same alleged assassination plot. Dissanayake accused the President’s political party of involvement in pre-election violence against the president’s opponents. Karunaratne’s arrest marked the first time a senior aide to the president was charged with a criminal offense in the country. (BBC, April 2, 2002)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Panama ratifies Rome Treaty: Panama became the 56th country March 21 to ratify the Rome Treaty that would create an International Criminal Court (ICC) located at The Hague, Netherlands. Four 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. (AP, March 25, 2002)

UN tribunal to begin hearing cases in October: UN Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Ralph Zacklin announced March 21 that a new UN tribunal could begin hearing war crimes cases in Sierra Leone by October 2002 and return its first indictments before the end of the year. Zacklin, who briefed the Security Council March 19 on the proposed court, said the

tribunal would enlist judges and lawyers in Sierra Leone as well as prominent jurists from outside the country. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan would appoint the majority of judges, while the government of Sierra Leone would select the remaining judges and the chief prosecutor. The court in Sierra Leone would have a single trial chamber with three judges, two of them foreign. The appeals chamber would have five judges, three of them foreign. The tribunal in Sierra Leone would have a smaller staff and budget than the tribunals previously established by the UN for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The UN signed an agreement with Sierra Leone January 16 creating a legal framework for prosecuting dozens of defendants accused of committing atrocities in the country's civil war, during which as many as 50,000 people were killed and thousands more forced to flee their homes as government forces and militias fought against Revolutionary United Front rebels who seized control of the diamond-mining areas. (New York Times, March 21; Reuters, March 28, 2002)

Cambodia sets deadline for talks with UN: Cambodia set a three-month deadline March 20 for the UN to return to negotiations on establishing a tribunal to try allegations of genocide against Khmer Rouge. The recently passed legislation for the trial of the Khmer Rouge contained two options for holding a trial without UN involvement, a purely national court or a trial with participation from individual countries. Prime Minister Hun Sen said that the trial legislation, which the UN has expressed concerns over, would not be amended. The UN and Cambodia reached an agreement in 2000 that, in principle, stipulated they would hold a trial with Cambodian and international judges and prosecutors. That agreement provided for a majority of local judges and was criticized by many within the UN as being too reliant on Cambodia's ill trained and politically aligned judiciary. The UN pulled out of nearly five years of talks with Cambodia on establishing the tribunal February 8, saying the court envisaged by Cambodian authorities would not be impartial. An estimated 1.7 million Cambodians died from execution, torture, starvation, disease, and forced labor during the period of communist rule from 1975-1979. (Kyodo News Service, Reuters, March 20, 2002)

ICTR predicts 15 more years to finish: A spokesperson for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Kingsley Moghalu, announced March 25 that without additional judges the ICTR would be trying genocide suspects for another 15 years. Kingsley added that the ICTR could wrap up its work by 2008 if the UN Security Council doubled the present number of judges from nine to 18. The ICTR at Arusha, Tanzania began trials in 1998 of the alleged masterminds of the genocide, in which as many as 1,000,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. Eight senior architects of the genocide have been convicted and sentenced including Rwanda's former Prime Minister Jean Kambanda. More than 70 others have been indicted, of whom 58 are in custody at the tribunal's headquarters in Arusha. (Reuters, March 25, 2002)

Milosevic associates sought in response to U.S. imposed deadline: Faced with a March 31 deadline for suspension of all U.S. aid to Yugoslavia, Serbia's government issued arrest warrants against four of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's closest associates to face war crimes prosecution. The U.S. Congress issued the deadline to Yugoslav authorities and demanded they cooperate with the Netherlands-based International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) or lose as much as \$40 million in financial assistance. Most prominent among the four Milosevic aids to be arrested was Milan Milutinovic, the current president of Serbia. Acting on a similar U.S. imposed ultimatum, the Serbian government

arrested Milosevic in 2001 for crimes against humanity in Kosovo in 1999, Croatia in 1991, and for genocide in Bosnia between 1992 and 1995. (AP, Reuters, March 28, 29, 31, 2002)

European Court of Human Rights rejects Milosevic appeal: The European Court of Human Rights dismissed a suit March 27 filed by Slobodan Milosevic against the Netherlands for alleged human rights abuses. The court ruled that Milosevic, who argued that his October 2001 transfer to the ICTY was illegal and violated his human rights, had not yet exhausted avenues of appeal available to him in the Netherlands. Milosevic's trial has been adjourned since March 18 after the 60 year-old Milosevic was diagnosed with influenza. (Reuters, March 27, 2002)