



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**April 8, 2004**  
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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). The Gender and Peace section highlights events in peacebuilding that pertain to gender and human rights.

**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 bibliographical 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.

*The Peace & Justice updates are written by the Spring 2004 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Donna Chung (University of San Diego), Erina Fischer (University of California, Irvine), Marjan Nahavandi (University of California, Los Angeles), and Hilary Stauffer (University of San Diego).*

## UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP	=	Associated Press ( <a href="http://www.ap.org">www.ap.org</a> )
AFP	=	Agence France Presse ( <a href="http://www.afp.com">www.afp.com</a> )
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media ( <a href="http://www.allAfrica.com">www.allAfrica.com</a> )
Amnesty International	=	Amnesty International ( <a href="http://www.amnesty.org">www.amnesty.org</a> )
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation ( <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk">http://news.bbc.co.uk</a> )
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports ( <a href="http://www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/">www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/</a> )
BCR	=	Balkan Crisis Group ( <a href="http://www.iwpr.net">http://www.iwpr.net</a> )
CDC News	=	Center for Disease Control News ( <a href="http://www.thebody.com">www.thebody.com</a> )
Channel NewsAsia	=	Channel NewsAsia ( <a href="http://www.channelnewsasia.com">www.channelnewsasia.com</a> )
CNN	=	Cable News Network ( <a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a> )
CPJ	=	Committee to Protect Journalists ( <a href="http://www.cpj.org">www.cpj.org</a> )
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur ( <a href="http://www.dpa.com">www.dpa.com</a> )
ERIO	=	European Roma Information Office ( <a href="http://www.erionet.org">www.erionet.org</a> )
EU2004	=	European Union Presidency 2004 ( <a href="http://www.eu2004.ie">www.eu2004.ie</a> )
FT	=	Financial Times ( <a href="http://www.ft.com">www.ft.com</a> )
GlobalSecurity	=	GlobalSecurity ( <a href="http://www.globalsecurity.org">www.globalsecurity.org</a> )
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network ( <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/">http://www.guardian.co.uk/</a> )
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News ( <a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a> )
ICG	=	International Crisis Group ( <a href="http://www.crisisweb.org">www.crisisweb.org</a> )
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network ( <a href="http://www.irinnews.org">www.irinnews.org</a> ) (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: <a href="http://www.unog.ch">www.unog.ch</a> )
IWPR	=	Institute for War and Peace Reporting ( <a href="http://www.iwpr.net">www.iwpr.net</a> )
Kantipur Online	=	Kantipur Online ( <a href="http://www.kantipuronline.com">www.kantipuronline.com</a> .)
NCN	=	New Congo Net ( <a href="http://www.marekinc.com/NCN.html">www.marekinc.com/NCN.html</a> )
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency ( <a href="http://www.panapress.com">www.panapress.com</a> )
RSF	=	Reporters Sans Frontières ( <a href="http://www.rsf.org">www.rsf.org</a> ).
TASS	=	ITAR-TASS News Agency ( <a href="http://www.itar-tass.com/english/">www.itar-tass.com/english/</a> )
UPI	=	United Press International ( <a href="http://www.upi.com">www.upi.com</a> )
UN News Center	=	UN New Center Homepage ( <a href="http://www.un.org">www.un.org</a> )
VOA	=	Voice of America ( <a href="http://www.voanews.com">www.voanews.com</a> )
WP	=	Washington Post ( <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">www.washingtonpost.com</a> )
WPS	=	What the Papers Say ( <a href="http://www.wps.ru:8101">www.wps.ru:8101</a> )
WWP	=	Women Waging Peace ( <a href="http://www.womenwagingpeace.net">www.womenwagingpeace.net</a> )
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency ( <a href="http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm">www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm</a> )

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## **BALKANS**

### **CROATIA**

Bosnian Croats surrender to tribunal: Six Bosnian Croats were indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague (ICTY) April 2 for 26 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The indictees, who surrendered to the tribunal April 5, included Jadranko Prlic, former prime minister of the breakaway Bosnian Croat state of Herceg-Bosna; Bruno Stojic, former defense minister of Herceg-Bosna; General Slobodan Praljak and General Milivoj Petkovic, former commanders of Bosnian Croat forces; Valentin Coric, a former militia head and interior minister in the breakaway Bosnian Croat government; and Berislav Pusic, former commander of Bosnian Croat military police. The men were accused of the rape, murder, and unlawful detention of Bosnian Muslims. The indictments alleged that the suspects were part of a campaign to ethnically cleanse Muslims from Herceg-Bosna in an attempt to establish a Greater Croatia. These were the second round of charges leveled against high-ranking Croats; retired generals Mladen Markac and Ivan Cermak plead not guilty to crimes against humanity in March 2004. Croatia was slated to become a candidate for European Union membership in 2005 so long as it met certain political criteria, including full compliance with the tribunal. (BBC, April 2, 5, 2004)

### **SERBIA**

Presidential elections to be held: The Serbian parliament called for presidential elections to be held June 13. The presidency has been held by parliament speaker and acting Predrag Markovic since December 2003. The country has not had an elected president since December 2002, when Milan Milutinovic, an ally of Slobodan Milosevic, surrendered to the ICTY. Three subsequent elections failed due to low voter turnout. In February 2004, the parliament overturned a law requiring 50 percent turnout in favor of a law which called for a simple majority. As of April 5, only two candidates had announced their intention to run: Boris Tadic of the reformist Democratic Party and Tomislav Nikolic of the nationalist Serbian Radical Party (SRS). Tadic's party favored closer relations with the West and continued cooperation with the ICTY. The SRS pledged to suspend the transfer of alleged war criminals to the ICTY and to protect Milosevic-era jobs from market reforms and liberalization. In December 2003, the SRS gained a majority in parliament and Nikolic won a presidential election that was later invalidated for low turnout. Western governments were concerned by a surge in nationalist sentiment from Serbia's parliament, including a recent law that awarded salary and benefits to 25 alleged war criminals currently on trial at the ICTY. On March 31, the U.S. suspended \$25 million of aid designated to help rebuild the Serbian economy, citing in part non-cooperation with the tribunal. (AFP, April 4, 2004)

## **GENDER AND PEACE**

Conference aims to improve Roma women's rights: A conference promoting human rights for Roma women was to be held April 15 through the 18 in Bucharest, Romania. The event was planned by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Romanian Parliament, and several activist groups. The

conference aimed to increase Roma women's awareness of rights groups advocating on their behalf, and also to increase political representation of minority women throughout Europe. For years, the Roma, more commonly known as gypsies, suffered ethnic discrimination throughout parts of Eastern Europe. Roma women have historically endured discrimination from several fronts, including the patriarchal Roma culture. (ERIO, April 5, 2004)

## **THE GREAT LAKES**

### **BURUNDI**

Parties agree to abandon ethnic political groupings: Political parties pledged to scrap ethnic political groupings at a meeting March 31 concerning modalities of a democratic general election as stipulated in the Arusha peace accord. The parties agreed that presidential power would be alternated between various tribes and the Senate would continue to ensure ethnic balance at the national level. The participants of the meeting included representatives of registered political parties and former rebel groups that signed cease-fire agreements with the government. Hutu insurgents fought the Tutsi-dominated army for 11 years until cease-fire agreements were signed in 2003. (IRIN, March 31, 2004)

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

UN Secretary General expresses concerns over transitional process: In a press statement released March 31, UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, raised concerns about rising factionalism within the transitional government. Annan stated that a lack of unity among leaders of the government disrupted the process of establishing mutual trust within society. Alarmed by continued instability in the east, Annan called on the government to prioritize programs directed toward security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration. The civil war in the DRC, which began in 1998, drew in six other nations and claimed the lives of more than 2.5 million people. In December 2002, President Joseph Kabila assumed leadership of a power-sharing government, which began serious efforts to end existing conflicts and rebuild the country. (IRIN, March 31, 2004)

### **RWANDA**

Genocide commemoration begins: The Rwandan government began a week of commemoration of the 1994 genocide with President Paul Kagame's opening speech that urged the international community to promptly respond to volatile situations that could result in the mass killing of civilians. Related activities to the commemoration included a three-day international conference on "preventing and banishing genocide forever through universal active solidarities," and a march in the capital city, which honored the victims of the genocide. The UN declared April 7 as an International Day of Reflection for the victims, and encouraged the international community to observe the day. The UN also planned to hold various meetings that addressed topics including genocide prevention and human rights. Politically motivated killings began in Rwanda, April 7, 1994, a day after the assassination of president Juvenal Habyarimana. Within three

months, at least 500,000 Tutsi and politically moderate Hutu had been killed. (AFP, April 4; IRIN, April 5; UN News Center, April 5, 2004).

## **UGANDA**

Battles in the north claim civilian lives: A spokesperson for the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) said April 5 that in addition to five rebels, an estimated seven civilians were killed during the weekend in the process of repelling the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The Ugandan army expressed its regrets over the deaths of the civilians, and conceded that it was partially to blame for some civilian casualties. In addition to the latest attack, an earlier attempt to repel an LRA attack on a refugee camp near the northern town of Gulu resulted in the deaths of five civilians. A day earlier, after an attack by the LRA, eight civilians from the same camp were found dead. The LRA has been fighting the Ugandan government for 18 years in an attempt to replace it with one based upon the Biblical Ten Commandments. Approximately 1.5 million people were displaced and thousands of civilians have been killed since 1986. (AFP, April 5; IRIN, April 5, 2004)

## **HORN OF AFRICA**

### **ETHIOPIA**

Government reports improvement in Gambella: The Ethiopian government reported April 5 that volatile situations between rival ethnic groups in the western region of Gambella had improved. Clashes between the Anyuak and Nuer tribes resurfaced December 2003 when a riot killed approximately 60 Anyuak civilians, and burned down an estimated 410 homes. The Ethiopian Ministry of Federal Affairs stated that increased security and relief efforts to rebuild homes normalized conditions throughout the Gambella region. Ethnic conflicts between the Anyuak and Nuer intensified in 2001 and 2002 as the Anyuak elite attempted to maintain dominion over the marginalized Nuers. (IRIN, April 5, 2004)

### **SOMALIA**

Demonstrators urge leaders to rejoin the peace process: A demonstration organized by local NGOs March 31 encouraged Somali faction leaders to rejoin peace talks held in Nairobi, Kenya. Several leaders, including approximately 30 traditional elders, walked out of the talks following disputes on the selection of parliament members. The absent leaders had been conducting independent meetings in the town of Jowhar since their departure from the conference. The demonstrators, comprised mainly of women and children, called on the faction leaders to abide by a 2002 agreement that committed them to promoting the peace process. The talks were expected to end Somalia's 14-year armed conflict and establish an all-inclusive government. (IRIN, April 1, 2004)

### **SUDAN**

Security Council calls for Darfur cease-fire: The UN Security Council called for a cease-fire April 2 to the escalating conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the situation in Darfur worsened as armed groups continued to attack civilians through killings, gang rapes,

looting, and forced migration. UN agencies reported that the attacks resulted in an estimated 750,000 internally displaced persons in Sudan, and approximately 110,000 refugees who fled into Chad as the conflict erupted between the Sudanese government, paramilitary forces and rebel groups. The Janjawid militia, an Arab pro-government group, was reported to be primarily responsible for the Darfur attacks on the region's black African population. (IRIN, March 31, April 1; UN News Center, April 5, 2004)

Chad mediates discussions between government and rebels: Peace talks between the Sudanese government and two Darfur-based rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement, began March 31 under the mediation of the Chadian government and the African Union. According to a Western diplomat, Chadian mediators met separately with the government delegation and rebel groups, although neither party directly met with one another. Disputes over the presence of international observers during the talks persisted with the Sudanese government claiming that it did not want the Darfur conflict internationalized. It agreed to allow monitors only during discussions on humanitarian issues although the rebels wanted international observers to attend all negotiations of the peace process. The previous attempt for peace talks between the government and rebel groups collapsed December 2003. (AFP, March 30; AP, March 31; IRIN, April 2, 2004)

## **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Uzbekistan punishes Muslims: Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report March 30 on the Uzbek government's treatment of Muslims, calling it religious persecution. Detailing the arrest and torture of Muslims in a 319-page report, HRW accused the government of targeting Muslims who practiced their faith despite restrictions imposed by the government. The report, which was based on five years of research, included interviews with more than 200 Muslims, human rights defenders, and government officials. HRW called upon the U.S. and the European Union to denounce Uzbekistan's persecution of Muslims. In April the U.S. was to review Uzbekistan's human rights progress before releasing \$50 million in aid to the country. (HRW, March 30, 2004)

## **NEPAL**

Demonstration becomes violent: A pro-democracy rally, which began April 1, became violent when the police confronted demonstrators April 4 as they tried to break a barricade near the royal palace. BBC reported that one hospital received 140 injured civilians and more than six critically wounded people as a result of the clash. The king announced March 28 that elections were to be held in April 2005; however, the alliance of five political parties, who were the forces behind the rally, insisted that the elections must be held under a government that included all parties not only the monarch. The protesters demanded the reinstatement of the parliament that was suspended by the king more than a year ago. (BBC, April 4, 2004)

NGO demands human rights pledge: HRW urged the Maoists to stop violating human rights laws, alleging that the insurgents were responsible for extortion, killing of civilians, and the execution of opposing political activists. Additionally, despite strict international laws against military recruitment of children under the age of 15, the Maoists intended to recruit 50,000 child soldiers in western Nepal and 375,000 nationwide by the end of May. HRW asked the Maoists to sign a commitment to protect the rights of civilians and combatants, and to cooperate with monitors from Nepal's National Human Rights Commission. Fighting between the government and the Maoists has escalated since the seven-month cease-fire ended in August 2003. (AP, April 1, 2004)