



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. 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.

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

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

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BALKANS

MACEDONIA

Country holds presidential elections: Macedonia held elections April 14 to vote for a successor to President Boris Trajkovski, killed in a plane crash February 26. Four candidates ran for the office including current Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski; Sasko Kedev, a heart surgeon; Gezim Ostreni, former military chief of staff of the ethnic Albanian National Liberation Army; and Zudi Xhelili, an engineer. Crvenkovski won the first round of the elections, with 42.5 percent of the vote. However, Macedonian law required that the president be elected by a 50 percent majority or more, and accordingly a run-off was scheduled for April 28. Crvenkovski was to face Sasko Kedev, who came in second place with 34 percent. Although Macedonia had a sizeable Albanian minority, for the most part the campaigns avoided drawing comparisons along ethnic lines. Main concerns for voters included reducing the 40 percent unemployment rate and becoming members of the European Union and NATO. Although Macedonia's presidency has been a largely ceremonial post, electing a successor to Trajkovski was considered vital to maintaining peace and stability within Macedonia, especially in the wake of the March 2004 ethnic violence in neighboring Kosovo. Trajkovski, president since 1999, was considered a moderate leader. He was admired by Western countries for averting a civil war in 2001, when Macedonia's ethnic Albanian minority launched an armed campaign to gain more rights. Since 2001, Trajkovski had called for greater integration of ethnic Albanians into government institutions. (BBC, April 15; WP, April 13, 2004)

SERBIA

Milosevic releases witness list: Slobodan Milosevic, on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague, submitted to the court a list of more than 1,600 people he wanted to call as witnesses in his defense. Milosevic was charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide relating to the Balkan Wars of the 1990s. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair were among a group of high-level political figures included on the list. Clinton and Blair were the main supporters of NATO's 80-day bombing campaign in 1999 that was designed to stop Serbian ethnic violence against Kosovar Albanians. The witness list also reportedly included former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright and former British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. Ultimately, a judge was to decide which witnesses might appear. Former presiding justice Richard May stepped down March 31 due to health reasons. Under court rules, Milosevic had the right to challenge May's replacement; however, he instead maintained his position that the tribunal was illegal and refused to comment on what he termed "administrative matters." The prosecution rested their case in February 2004 after two years of presenting evidence; his defense was scheduled to begin in June 2004. (Reuters, April 13, 2004)

GENDER AND PEACE

Pakistani government abolishes job protections for women: Pakistan's National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) criticized the government April 13 for the

recent elimination of job quotas meant to ensure the presence of women in the public sector. For several years, the Pakistani government had a five percent job quota in place for women. In 1998, it proclaimed a National Plan of Action to further enhance women's representation in all "public, semi-autonomous and government corporations," selecting a representation goal of 25 percent. The NCSW recommended December 2003 that quotas for women be increased even further, to between 33 and 50 percent. In early April 2004, Pakistan's government eliminated the five percent quota, ostensibly to pave the way for the implementation of NCSW's recommendations. But the NCSW was concerned that the elimination of the existing quota was a pretext meant to reduce the presence of women in government, and that it would make it increasingly difficult to get provincial governments to accept the higher recommendations. (IRIN, April 13, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI

Clashes kill 21 people: Approximately 21 people, including six soldiers from the national army, were killed in four days of fighting that began April 5 in a suburb near Burundi's capital of Bujumbura. The clash between the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) and the army displaced as many as 27,000 civilians. Political analysts said that the fighting, which erupted following the rebel's rejection of an offer to join the government in January 2004, damaged hopes of peaceful elections scheduled to be held before the end of this year. Hutu insurgents fought the Tutsi-dominated army for 11 years until cease-fire agreements were signed in 2003 by the government and most of the rebel groups. The FNL refused to sign the agreement and continued their attacks against the army. (FT, April 10; Guardian, April 10; Los Angeles Times, April 11; Xinhua, April 10, 2004)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Ex-army officer receives sentence: A Dutch court ordered Sebastien Nzapali, a former DRC military officer, to be sentenced to 30 months in jail April 7 for human rights abuses committed in his country. He was the first foreign suspect to stand trial in the Netherlands on charges of crimes committed abroad. Nzapali, who commanded a military training camp during the rule of the late President Mobutu Sese Seko, was arrested September 2003 by Dutch authorities in charge of torture, murder, and rape committed in the DRC in the mid 1990s. Nzapali received half the sentence asked for by the prosecutor because the charges of murder and rape were dropped. In 1998 when he requested asylum in the Netherlands, he was rejected by Dutch authorities due to his involvement in serious human rights abuses. The Dutch authorities formed a multidisciplinary task force and began an investigation against Nzapali after several of his former victims alerted the Dutch police. Nzapali was being prosecuted under the Netherlands' 1988 Implementation Act to the UN Convention against Torture, which gave states universal jurisdiction to try suspects accused of such crimes. (AFP, April 6; AllAfrica, April 8; FT, April 8; HRW News, April 7; NYT, April 8, 2004)

Gunmen kill 25 people in North Kivu: The UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) said that at least 25 people were killed by unidentified assailants who launched a three-day campaign of rape, arson, and murder in the rural village of Lutwegi in North Kivu. The March 12 incident was not publicized since the attacks destroyed main sources of communication. A local administrator said that the dead were mainly women and children, and that an estimated 150 homes were burned down. Jacqueline Chanard, a MONUC spokesperson, said that the motive of the attack was unclear. The assailants were yet unidentified, but villagers suspected that Rwandan insurgents affiliated with the Congolese Rally for Democracy, or nationalist Mayi-Mayi fighters were responsible for the attacks. The DRC's civil war, which resulted in an estimated 3.3 million deaths, officially ended in December 2002 when rebels, tribal fighters and the political opposition joined the transitional government headed by President Joseph Kabila. (AP, April 10; IRIN, April 12, 2004)

RWANDA

Army kills 16 rebels: The Rwandan army said that it killed 16 Hutu rebels based in the DRC April 7 when the rebels attempted to launch a campaign against Kabuhanga, a Tutsi village close to the DRC border. The army succeeded in repelling the attack by monitoring the rebels' communications. The clash did not result in any casualties for the Rwandan army or civilians. The Hutu forces behind the 1994 genocide, which claimed as many as 800,000 lives, fled to the DRC after the Rwandan Patriotic Front, led by the current President Paul Kagame, gained power. In November 2003 Paul Rwarakabije, the leader of the Rwandan Hutu rebels in the DRC, surrendered to the Rwandan authorities, but many of the rebels remained in the DRC. (AFP, April 10, 2004)

HORN OF AFRICA

ERITREA-ETHIOPIA

UN envoy assesses humanitarian conditions: Martti Ahtisaari, the UN envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa, visited Ethiopia and Eritrea March 31 through April 6 to assess the humanitarian situations in the region. Ahtisaari reported that seven million Ethiopians were in need of emergency food assistance in 2004, but that the estimate was a 45 percent reduction from the previous year. During his visit to Eritrea, Ahtisaari discussed the progress of implementations on recovery and food-security strategies to aid the estimated 1.9 million civilians who were at risk of starvation. Crop failure and loss of livestock worsened conditions in Eritrea as a result of a four-year drought. (AllAfrica, April 9; IRIN, April 6, 2004)

SUDAN

Government and rebels agree to a cease-fire: The Sudanese government and two Darfur rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), signed a cease-fire agreement April 8. The 45-day cease-fire, which came into effect April 11, included agreements to allow humanitarian access into the region, cease the laying of landmines, and release prisoners of war arrested as a result of the Darfur conflict. The 14-month conflict between rebels, government militia and

paramilitary groups erupted February 2003 after the SLM/A and JEM accused the government of neglecting black Africans in western Sudan. (BBC, April 8; IRIN, April 9, 2004)

U.S. reports cease-fire ineffective: U.S. government sources reported April 12 that Arab pro-government militias continued to attack Darfur civilians despite the cease-fire agreement between the government and rebels. Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesperson, reported that militias continued to attack villages and prevent internally displaced persons from returning to their homes. Despite U.S. reports of continued attacks, both the Sudanese government and the JEM claimed that the cease-fire was being respected. (AFP, April 12; BBC, April 13, 2004)

UN appeals for aid: The UN appealed to donors April 12 for \$115 million to assist Darfur civilians with food, water, medicine, sanitation, and protection for internally displaced persons. The Sudanese government and UN teams agreed to establish an emergency relief program for civilians who fled the region during the conflict. Jan Egeland, the UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, was to lead a 10-member team to assess humanitarian conditions in the region April 18 through the 21. This monetary appeal replaced a previous \$23 million initiative launched September 2003. Approximately 700,000 civilians have been displaced by the conflict since it erupted a year ago; it is estimated an additional 110,000 Sudanese have fled to Chad. (AP, BBC, April 12, 2004)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Rights groups make an appeal for detainees: A two-day conference organized by Amnesty International was held in Yemen April 10 through 11, and focused on Guantanamo Bay detainees and Gulf nationals detained in the Middle East. The conference was a plea to the U.S. government to either put detainees on trial or release them. A statement issued at the end of the conference urged the U.S. to not hold inmates in countries with poor human rights records and to give them access to rights groups. Approximately 600 detainees from 40 countries were held at the Guantanamo base, most of whom were captured during the 2001 war in Afghanistan. Washington claimed that the detainees at Guantanamo were “enemy combatants” who had no right to lawyers and could be held indefinitely without charge. (BBC, April 12, 2004)

NEPAL

Demonstrations continue: Tens of thousands of people have demonstrated in the streets of Kathmandu since April 1, to protest against the King’s sole control of the government. The protests were organized by an alliance of five political parties. A week after the demonstrations began the government imposed a ban on assemblies of more than five people. In addition, the king renewed an ordinance April 10 which gave police and troops the right to detain people and search homes on suspicion of terrorist activities. It was claimed that the demonstrations were the most serious in Nepal since 1990 when

protests forced the kingdom to adopt a democratic constitution. The King dissolved the parliament in May 2002, claiming that it was inefficient. ([BBC](#), April 4, 11, 12; [Oread Daily](#), April 12, 2004)

Police detain protestors: Opposition groups stated that approximately 2,000 protesters, including journalists and party leaders, have been detained by the police for ignoring the ban on assemblies. The National Human Rights Commission of Nepal said that the detainees were denied food, water and basic sanitation facilities, and Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a statement objecting to the police's use of force on demonstrators. HRW demanded that the government and the police make a public commitment to abide by international standards, and to allow citizens their right to demonstrate peacefully. The demonstrators were opposing the King's assumption of executive powers after dismissing the parliament and the elected cabinet in 2002. ([BBC](#), April 11; [HRW](#), April 8, 2004)

Government releases journalists: Fifty journalists who were part of the 2,000 detainees arrested for participation in rallies in Kathmandu were released April 12 after two hours of detainment. The journalists stood in solidarity with the political parties who had been running a long campaign against the monarchy's absolute power. Journalists were repeatedly targeted by the government and the Maoists during the eight-year insurgency. Opposition parties vowed to continue their protests and warned that the next phase of the demonstrations would not be peaceful. ([BBC](#), April 12, 2004)

Minister offers all-party government: The royalist home minister Kamal Thapa offered to form an all-party government April 13 in order to end the pro-democracy protests against King Gyanendra, adding that the king may be willing to meet with the opposition leaders. On March 28 the King announced that elections would be held by April 2005. The opposition parties initiated the demonstrations April 1 in order to force the King to hold elections under an all-party interim government. ([AFP](#), April 12, 2004)