



Peace & Justice Update
May 14, 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 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.

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

AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
Amnesty International	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
Arabic News	=	Arabic News (www.arabicnews.com)
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)
Economist	=	Economist (www.economist.com)
FT	=	Financial Times (www.ft.com)
GlobalSecurity	=	GlobalSecurity (www.globalsecurity.org)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (http://www.guardian.co.uk/)
Hi Pakistan	=	Hi Pakistan (www.hipakistan.com)
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (http://www.icc-cpi.int/php/index.php).
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 .)
M2 Presswire	=	M2.com (http://m2.com/M2/M2Web.nsf .)
Mail&Guardian	=	Mail&Guardian Online (http://www.mg.co.za/Content/13.asp?ao=66106)
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)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters Sans Frontières (www.rsf.org)
Scotsman	=	The Scotsman (www.scotsman.com)
TASS	=	ITAR-TASS News Agency (www.itar-tass.com/english/)
UN News Center	=	UN New Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
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

Crvenkovski sworn in as president: Former Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski was sworn in as Macedonia's new President May 12. In his inaugural speech, Crvenkovski pledged to work towards ending ethnic strife in Macedonia and to continue integration measures for the country's large Albanian minority, noting that good interethnic relations were crucial to the country's acceptance into the European Union (EU, to which it formally applied March 22. Crvenkovski, who was elected in a run-off election April 28, was the successor to former President Boris Trajkovski, who died in a plane crash February 26. The inauguration was boycotted by opposition parties, who accused Crvenkovski of electoral fraud. International observers said that the election was generally fair, but have urged for an investigation of reports of serious irregularities. (BBC, May 12, 2004)

Victims' families seek damages: Relatives of six Pakistani immigrants framed and executed as terrorists by Macedonian police in March 2002 said they would seek legal damages. The killings were part of a plan to gain U.S. support and heighten Macedonia's profile in the U.S. War on Terror. Seven men, including six Pakistanis and an Indian, were accused of ambushing a police patrol and plotting attacks on international embassies and personnel. However, recent police investigations found that the victims were illegal immigrants who had been promised passage through Macedonia to Western Europe. Former Interior Minister Ljube Boskovski was accused of ordering the killings, and was thought to be hiding in Croatia. Croatian authorities were negotiating with Macedonian counterparts over arrest and extradition proceedings. A lawyer representing the families of the Pakistani victims said he was planning to file a lawsuit in the International Court of Justice at The Hague, asking for \$2 million in damages per victim. (WP, May 11, 2004)

GENDER AND PEACE

Women's conference underway in Monrovia: The National Women's Conference on Peace and Socio-Economic Recovery opened May 10 in Monrovia, Liberia. The conference's theme was "Solidifying and Sustaining Peace and Development in Liberia," and attendees included NGOs, women legislators and lawyers, and civil society groups. Participants were to discuss the role of women in political decision making, women's contributions in the country's economic recovery, health and human rights issues. The First Lady of Liberia, Rosie Leigh-Bryant, asked participants to encourage women to run for office, while another speaker, Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), stressed the importance of women's involvement in Liberia's disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration process. Heyzer also called for the inclusion of female perspectives in any new constitutional, legislative, or judicial frameworks. (AllAfrica, May 11; DPA, May 10, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI

Regional leaders call for peace: At the end of the trilateral summit in Dar es Salaam, the leaders of Burundi, Tanzania, and Uganda issued a joint statement calling for the international community to increase pressures on the Forces for National Liberation (FNL). It cited that the international community should take stronger measures against the FNL to end Burundi's on-going civil war, which has resulted in more than 300,000 deaths. The statement indicated that leaders of the Great Lakes would continue to provide assistance to the Burundian transitional government in restoring security to Burundi. In addition, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, the chairman of the Great Lakes regional initiative on Burundi, said that Uganda was to host a regional summit that would discuss collective actions to be taken against the FNL. Hutu insurgents fought the Tutsi-dominated army for 11 years until the Arusha peace accords 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, May 10, 2004)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Government calls for militias to back peace process: Azarias Ruberwa, one of four Vice Presidents of the DRC transitional government, urged rebel groups May 10 to stop fighting and support national moves toward democracy. The government hoped that 20 militia leaders from the Ituri region would endorse a peace plan at a meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Armed Groups. Local Ituri militia groups whose members were drawn mainly from two-warring ethnic groups, the Lendu and Hema, have been engaged in fighting since 1999. In September 2003, the UN deployed a peacekeeping force to the region to restore security, but the fighting continued and claimed more than a thousand lives. (BBC, May 11; Mail&Guardian, May 10; UN News Center, May 10, 2004)

RWANDA

Genocide suspect moves to ICTR: After his May 5 arrest in central DRC, Yusuf Muyakazi was transferred to UN detention facilities in Arusha, Tanzania, where the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was located. In November 2000, the ICTR indicted Muyakazi on charges of genocide and extermination, which fall within the jurisdiction of crimes against humanity. As a leader of the Interhamwe Militia, a Hutu extremist group, Muyakazi played a key role in organizing the 1994 genocide in southwest Rwanda. He was initially indicted alongside other former Rwandan officials whose trials were completed in 2003. Muyakazi's initial appearance in front of the ICTR was scheduled for May 12. (AllAfrica, May 7, 10, 11, 2004)

HORN OF AFRICA

ERITREA

Government criticizes UN mission: The government of Eritrea released a statement May 6 accusing the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) of committing illegal activities in the region and endangering the area's security. Alleged crimes committed by

UNMEE included pedophilia, housing criminals, and the illegal trafficking of civilians. The UN denied the allegations and claimed that Eritrea continued to make its mission difficult by illegally detaining UN staff and restricting movement of its vehicles. The UN issued a statement that demanded that the Eritrean government fully cooperate with its peacekeeping forces, or else ask the UN mission to leave the area. UNMEE has been operating between the border of Eritrea and Ethiopia since the end of the two-year border war in 2000. The mission was established at the request of both parties to help demarcate their common border. (BBC, May 8; IRIN, May 5, 2004)

SOMALIA

Faction leaders to rejoin peace talks: Faction leaders, who walked out of the Somali peace talks in February, announced that they would rejoin the talks being held in Kenya. The decision came after foreign ministers of member-states of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) declared May 6 their total commitment to resolving differences, achieving inclusivity, and implementing a common policy with the faction leaders. The faction leaders, who had been conducting separate meetings in Somalia, suspended preparations for convening their own conference and announced that they would attend the May 20 meeting organized by IGAD. The Somali peace talks began in October 2003 and have been deadlocked over issues of power-sharing and the selection of parliament members. Negotiations were to end the country's 14-year armed conflict and establish an all-inclusive interim government. (IRIN, May 6, 7, 11, 2004)

SUDAN

Peace agreement to be signed: Sources of the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) reported May 7 that they were close to reaching a peace agreement on contentious issues. Both sides were in broad agreement on power-sharing negotiations and the future of three disputed areas, and agreed that non-Muslims would be exempt from the application of Islamic Shari'a law in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. The Sudanese peace talks were aimed at ending the 20-year civil war between the Northern government and Southern rebel groups. (IRIN, May 7, 2004)

U.S. protests Sudan's election to UN commission: Sudan was re-elected as a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights May 4 despite continued reports of atrocities committed in the country. Following the announcement, the U.S. envoy walked out of the meeting in protest of Sudan's appointment to the commission. The walk out followed previous U.S. frustrations concerning an April 23 UN resolution that mildly criticized the humanitarian situation in western Sudan despite reports from the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan declaring Darfur the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. The UN investigative team assessing the Darfur conflict expressed concern, but failed to mention the alleged reports of mass rape and systematic targeting of black African communities in the region. The conflict has displaced approximately 700,000 civilians since it erupted in February 2003. (Economist, May 7, 2004)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Africa moves to abolish capital punishment: Amnesty International (AI) reported that almost half of all African countries did not execute convicted prisoners and welcomed the move to abolish capital punishment. AI's statement came as government officials and civil society representatives from the continent met in Entebbe, Uganda May 10 through 11 to discuss the death penalty in Commonwealth African countries including Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Liberia. During the past 10 years, the number of countries in the Economic Community of West African States and Mauritania that legally abolished the death penalty or did not carry out executions rose from one to 10. Approximately 20 African countries ratified the Rome Statute, a founding treaty of the International Criminal Court, which stated that life imprisonment was the maximum penalty that the Court could impose. (Amnesty International, May 10, 2004)

Angola's diamond trade threatens residents' rights: The Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies (ISS) reported that Angola's northeastern residents of Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul were excluded from the wealth generated by the diamond-rich region. ISS reported that the army and private security companies guarding the mines abused and threatened the locals who belonged to the least powerful Angolan ethnic group. During the 27-year civil war, which officially ended in 2002, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola controlled the mineral resources and used the profits to buy arms. (All Africa, May 10, 2004)

NEPAL

Government opposition continues: Despite Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa's resignation May 7, opposition leaders continued to carry on mass protests that began April 1. G.P. Koirala, the main opposition leader, said that the protests would continue until the King agreed to either appoint a multi-party government or reinstate the dissolved parliament. The King announced May 10 that he would hold talks with opposition groups, and the parties agreed under the condition that all five party leaders were present during the talks. Thapa was the second prime minister to be appointed since the King assumed executive power in October 2002. (BBC, May 7, 8; Channel News Asia, May 9, 2004)

Foreign donors suspend work in western Nepal: Agencies from the UK, Holland and Germany announced May 10 that they would indefinitely suspend projects in western Nepal, due to lack of security and ongoing threats by Maoists. The agencies said that in addition to their own staff, a number of NGOs associated with them were targeted by the Maoists. The United Nations World Food Program and European, Canadian, and Japanese embassies announced that they were to pull out as well. The agencies expressed regret, as the pull out was to affect 50,000 people and suspend projects in four north-western districts. Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the region, depended on foreign aid for approximately half of its budget. (BBC, May 10, 2004)