



Peace & Justice Update
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The countries for the Peace & 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 peace-building that pertain to gender and human rights.

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus - www.africanfocus.org
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse - www.afp.com
AI	=	Amnesty International - www.amnesty.org
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media - www.allAfrica.com
Angola Press	=	Angola Press - www.angolapress-angop.ao
AP	=	Associated Press - www.ap.org
B92	=	B92 - www.freeb92.net/english
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation - http://news.bbc.co.uk
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports - www.monitor.bbc.co.uk
Boston Herald	=	Boston Herald - www.bostonherald.com
Colombo Page	=	Sri Lankan Online News - www.colombopage.com
Daily News	=	Sri Lanka Daily News - www.dailynews.lk
Daily Times	=	DailyTimes - www.dailytimes.com
EU	=	European Union - www.europa.eu.int
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network - www.guardian.co.uk
GAO	=	General Accountability Office - www.gao.gov/
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch News - www.hrw.org
ICC	=	International Criminal Court - www.icc-cpi.int
ICG	=	International Crisis Group - www.crisisweb.org
ICJ	=	International Court of Justice - www.icj-cij.org
ICTR	=	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda - www.ictr.org
Independent	=	The Independent - www.independent.co.uk
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network - www.irinnews.org
Kansas City	=	Kansas City – www.kansascity.com
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post - www.nepalnews.com.np
Kazinform	=	Kazinform - www.kasinform.org
La Hora	=	La Hora - www.lahora.com
Prensa Libre	=	La Prensa Libre - www.prensalibre.com
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times - www.latimes.com
Monitor	=	The Monitor - www.monitor.co.ug
MONUC	=	MONUC - www.monuc.org
Nation	=	The Nation - www.nationmedia.com
Nepal News	=	Nepal News.Com - www.nepalnews.com
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times - www.nepalitimes.com
News.com.au	=	News.com.au - www.news.com.au
New Vision	=	New Vision - www.newvision.co.ug
NYT	=	The New York Times - www.nytimes.com
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam - www.oxfam.org.uk
Prensa Libre	=	La Prensa Libre - www.prensalibre.com
Reuters	=	Reuters - www.reuters.com
Siglo XXI	=	Siglo XXI – www.sigloxxi.com
Terra	=	Terra - www.terra.com.gt
UN News	=	UN News Center Homepage - www.un.org
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - www.unhcr.ch
UNICEF	=	UN Children’s Fund - www.unicef.org
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women - www.unifem.org
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency - www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm
WP	=	Washington Post - www.washingtonpost.com
Worldnews	=	World News - www.worldnews.com

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BURUNDI

Concerns raised about possible election delay: The chairman of the Great Lakes regional initiative on Burundi, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, and the European Union envoy to the Great Lakes region, Aldo Ayello, expressed concern over a possible delay to general elections scheduled for April 22. Ayello earlier criticized Burundi's National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) for delaying publishing the electoral timetable, but CENI stated they could not publish the timetable until the government had approved the new electoral code. However, April 12 Burundi's Senate voted 46-0 to adopt the electoral code, but the senators proposed 60 amendments to the code and that could cause a delay to the electoral process. In addition, President Domitien Ndayizeye asked the European Union for more financial support for the army and police to prevent disorder before the elections. If held, the elections are expected to provide for sustained peace in Burundi after 11 years of a civil war in which approximately 300,000 people were killed. (AllAfrica, March 25; IRIN, April 12, 13, 2005)

Rebel group stops fighting: Burundi's last remaining rebel group, Forces for National Liberation (FNL) stated, following discussions in Tanzania, that it was willing to stop fighting government troops and was ready to hold peace negotiations with the interim government without pre-conditions. The FNL had claimed responsibility for killing 150 refugees from the DRC in Burundi's border town Gatumba in August 2004, and had carried out several attacks in the capital of Bujumbura in the past few days. The decision was welcomed by Burundi's ministers. The FNL is the last Hutu rebel group poised to join the transitional government and this is seen as a positive development that could put a definitive end to Burundi's civil war. (BBC, April 13; IRIN, April 12, 2005)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

International Court of Justice (ICJ) starts hearings in case of DRC v. Uganda: On April 11 the ICJ at The Hague began hearing a case filed by the DRC against Uganda June 23, 1999, for "acts of armed aggression perpetrated in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and of the Charter of the Organization for African Unity." The DRC accused Uganda of invading its territory, committing human rights violations and massacring its citizens. The DRC also sought "compensation from Uganda in respect of all acts of looting, destruction, removal of property and persons." Uganda denied all accusations and accused the DRC of acts of aggression, in particular "attacks on Ugandan diplomatic premises and personnel in Kinshasa and on Ugandan nationals for which the DRC was alleged to be responsible." Both the DRC and Uganda have accepted the court's jurisdiction and the hearings are expected to continue until April 29. Uganda was one of six outside countries involved in the 1998-2002 war in the DRC that killed approximately 4 million people. (AllAfrica, April 11, 12; BBC, April 11; ICJ, December 6, 2004, March 30; IRIN, April 11, 2005)

UN investigates two new cases of sex abuse: The United Nations mission in the DRC (MONUC) investigated two additional incidents of possible breaches of its Code of Conduct and of UN's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. Two Nepalese MONUC soldiers, based in the northeastern district of Ituri, were arrested by local police in the Ugandan border town Aruwa when on a supply mission they were accused of having sex with a 19 year old woman.

District Police Commander James Taaru-Shokye said the soldiers stated “The girl was open to having sex with them for money.” Both soldiers were released from the local police department, but are now under investigation by MONUC. The other unrelated incident took place in Kinshasa where local police found two international civilian employees and a UN volunteer in a Kinshasa home with 13 Congolese women. The police arrested the three men, but released them after interrogation and without bringing charges against them. However, MONUC suspended the staff until the end of their investigation. After earlier accusations of sexual exploitation of local women and girls by MONUC peacekeepers, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced in February 2005 that MONUC peacekeepers were banned from having sex with any locals. MONUC is in the DRC to oversee the transition toward peace after the 1998-2002 war that involved seven African nations and killed an estimated 4 million people. (MONUC, April 11; New Vision; UN News Services, April 12, 2005)

GENDER and PEACE

Darfur women still raped in refugee camps: Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report April 11 asserting that women and girls from Darfur were being raped and had endured sexual abuse in refugee camps. HRW said that more resources and funds must be dedicated to protect women from sexual violence in Darfur and refugee camps in Chad. “Donors urgently need to set up programs to protect women and girls from sexual violence and address the needs of those who have been raped.” The report examined the abuses and rapes committed by Sudanese security forces. The report also noted that multiple rapes occurred in refugee camps in Chad where 10 women were imprisoned by Chadian authorities and raped by other prison inmates. HRW asserted that the Sudanese government has not alleviated the women’s situation and at times has exacerbated their plight, with Sudanese soldiers harassing women who were pregnant as a result of rape. Rape and other acts of sexual violence are an inherent violation of human rights and have been used to subjugate the women of the Darfur. (Reuters, April 11, 2005)

Sudanese women demand 30 percent representation in post-conflict government: Sudanese women’s organizations sought 30 percent representation in the creation of the new government and constitution. The women requested “urgent programs for addressing negative customs and practices which continue to foster women’s marginalization and exclusion from all spheres of life.” The women asked for greater efforts in pro-poor economic policies, poverty eradication, and reducing gender inequalities. (AllAfrica, April 11, 2005)

GUATEMALA

Former militia members strike a deal with President Former Berger: Former members of the Civil Self-defense Patrols (ex-PAC) met April 11 to finalize their proposal for a plan that will provide monetary compensation rather than social programs for their services in Guatemala’s 36-year civil war. Felipe Raxón from the National Commission of ex-Patrols claims that President Oscar Berger agreed to sign the initiative in a meeting March 7 in return for the ex-PACs’ assurance that they would not participate in the protests against the Central American Free Trade Agreement, which was ratified on March 11 to create a large free trade zone among Central American countries and the U.S. Many Guatemalans opposed the agreement and have led

protests against its ratification. Before this initiative, ex-PACs had twice attempted to get Congress to pass bills for monetary compensation, but the bills were declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court on the grounds that they did not include a source of financing for the initiative. The number of ex-combatants varies with the military reporting 250 thousand and an ex-PAC census done in November reporting 1.3 million. (Siglo XXI, April 11, 2005)

Guatemala representative to go to Human Rights Commission: Guatemalan Human Rights representative Walter Ordóñez was to participate in the assembly of the Commission on Human Rights in the United Nations. He proposes to present the current situation on Guatemalan human rights along with a commentary on the situation of persons disappeared during the 36-year Guatemalan civil war. Although government action has been limited in dealing with the issue of disappeared persons, groups in Guatemala have organized to push for action and promote awareness. One such group, the Group of Mutual Support helps to reunite families torn apart by the war. They also plan to send Mario Polanco to represent them at the Human Rights Commission where he intends to push the disappeared persons agenda and propose the Commission send a team to investigate the situation of the disappeared persons. (Terra, April 11, 2005)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

GAO releases report on arms exports: The General Accountability Office (GAO), an independent, nonpartisan agency that works for Congress to investigate how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars, released a report March about the effectiveness of the arms export control system. The report is meant to assess the performance of the State Department in meeting U.S. laws and regulations in conjunction with national security and foreign policy goals. The report stated that the State Department had failed to make significant changes since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and that the arms export system contained a number of weaknesses including confusion over which regulations are controlled by the State Department, lack of ability to regulate exports that do not need government approval, and lack of resources for enforcement. The report also stated, “Taken together, these weaknesses and challenges create vulnerabilities in the arms export control system and undermine assurances that the system is protecting U.S. interests.” The State Department rejected the report, calling it inaccurate and misleading because it failed to mention U.S. government progress in controlling arms exports. In a letter to the GAO the State Department said, “There is no reason to believe that any U.S. defense items have been used in terrorist attacks, or that our enemies have used them against U.S. military forces or those of our coalition partners.” (AP; GAO, April 7, 2005)

General Assembly approves anti-nuclear terrorist treaty: On April 12 the UN General Assembly approved the “International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,” a global treaty that would make it illegal for terrorists to possess or threaten to use nuclear weapons. The treaty was to be open for signatures September 14 and was to come into force after being ratified by 22 countries. Signators of the treaty must make the acts stated in the treaty criminal offenses under their national laws. The proposal for the treaty was first launched seven years ago by Russia but was delayed because its controversial definition of terrorism. The current treaty refrains from defining terrorism, focusing solely on making terrorist acts criminal. (AP, April 13, 2005)

NEPAL

UN to establish human rights monitoring offices in Kathmandu and regional centers: The Nepalese government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights agreed to establish UN human rights monitors in Nepal. The monitors were to examine human rights abuses committed by both Nepalese royal security forces and Maoist rebels. The UN monitors would also have the power to conduct investigations and submit reports to the UN General Assembly and Secretary General. Human rights groups in Nepal enthusiastically welcomed the agreement, hoping that the increased attention would pressure the government to reinstate basic civil liberties and press freedoms revoked February 1 by the takeover, and encourage the Maoists to restart peace talks. “The agreement between the UN and the government will mostly benefit civilians. The UN monitors will help to deliver people from the terrifying atmosphere that they have been living in,” said Subodh Pyakhurel, president of local rights groups INSEC. The Maoists supported the call for outside monitors, publicly agreeing April 5 to collaborate with the UN. Besides the actual presence of the monitors, the UN decision also candidly acknowledged the response to the crisis in Nepal by the international community. “One of the major roles of the commission is to set out the benchmarks for change that should guide the Government, the Maoists, and this new human rights operation,” said Nicholas Howen, Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists. ([BBC](#), [Reuters](#), April 11, 2005)

RWANDA

Genocide remembered 11 years later: On April 7 Rwanda began a week of mourning in remembrance of the genocide that took place 11 years ago in 1994. The main commemoration of the genocide was the reburial of genocide victims that had been dumped in mass graves, pit latrines and trenches. Communities all over Rwanda have exhumed bodies and given them formal burial. April 7 was not only a day for Rwanda to remember the genocide, but also a day for the international community to do so. The White House released a statement recognizing the anniversary, calling the genocide “one of the most horrific episodes of the 20th century.” Simultaneously a pressure group, Africa Action, led hundreds of people in a vigil outside the White House demanding President Bush and the U.S. government take action against the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. The Rwandan genocide started within hours after President Habyarimana’s plane was shot down over the capital of Kigali late April 6, 1994. The Rwandan genocide was unprecedented in the history of the world considering that in just 100 days 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu militias. ([AllAfrica](#), April 6, 7, 8; [Boston Herald](#); [Reuters](#), April 7, 2005)

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Serbia and Montenegro receives positive assessment for accession into EU: On April 12, a feasibility study conducted by the European Commission indicated good prospects for Serbia and Montenegro’s accession to the EU. Although the study gave no indication of when the EU would extend membership to Serbia and Montenegro, it did say Serbia and Montenegro and the EU would begin talks about the formation of a Stabilization and Accession Agreement to outline the requirements for accession. The positive assessment was meant to reward Serbia and

Montenegro for its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, a special tribunal set up by the UN to punish the serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991. Although Serbia and Montenegro has failed to arrest war criminals who will not voluntarily go to the ICTY, it has persuaded nearly a dozen war criminals' to surrender themselves this year. The war criminals continued cooperation will be a key factor in determining Serbia and Montenegro's eligibility for EU membership. (B92, April 13; Reuters, April 12, 2005)

SOMALIA

Yusuf appeals for unity amid increased violence: At least 49 people were thought to have died this week in fresh clashes between rival clans. In the border town of Bura Hache fighting broke out when members of the Marehan clan allegedly attacked Garre militiamen in an attempt to drive them from the town. Further conflict occurred in Hobyso district, in central Somalia, where two sub-clans, from the Hawiye clan, battled over rights to grazing lands and water points. President Abdullahi Yusuf, meeting with his exiled government for the first time since a parliamentary brawl last month, condemned the violence and called on all MPs to "nurture unity for the sake of peace in their country." The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) planned to adopt a bill next week outlining the latest proposal to relocate to Somalia. However, alongside the problem of clan fighting, the relocation program continued to suffer setbacks from divisions in the TFG. This week 11 MPs walked out of the parliament to protest government hesitation to return to the capital of Mogadishu. Since the collapse of President Siad Barre in 1991 Somalia has been without effective government and clan warfare has prevailed. The TFG, currently exiled in Kenya, has continued to suffer setbacks in its plan to relocate and restore order. (AllAfrica, April 13; IRIN, April 12, 13; The Nation, April 11 2005)

SRI LANKA

Splinter group from LTTE spotted in government-held regions: Nordic cease-fire monitor Steen Jorgensen announced that rogue Sri Lankan rebels, whom the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) accused of helping the government to attack its members, were operating in army areas. During testimony April 6 before a presidential commission, Jorgensen said that he had seen armed forces devoted to the rogue rebel commander Karuna in an eastern military base in the city of Welikanda. Analysts said the presence of Karuna followers in Welikanda was distressing because it implied the government was ignoring violence by the Karuna faction; this would constitute a breach of the 2002 cease-fire. "We are looking into this camp and a lot of other allegations about Karuna supporters," said monitoring mission spokeswoman Helen Olafsdottir. The government asserted that it had severed all connections with paramilitary groups such as the Karuna faction and denied providing them with any aid. Jorgensen's testimony inflamed already tense relations between the LTTE and the government, whose 2002 cease-fire has been under constant strain due to killings on both sides. (Reuters, April 7, 2005)

SUDAN

Donors exceed target at Oslo conference: Meeting in Norway this week international donors including Norway, Netherlands, the U.S. and the UK pledged \$4.5 billion to the reconstruction of Sudan, far exceeding the initial request of \$2.6 billion established in a joint report by the UN, the World Bank, the Sudanese government and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM). The money was to be used to aid the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed by the government of Sudan and the SPLM January 2005, and to aid human and economic development that suffered enormously during the 21 year civil war. As the largest donor, the U.S., offering an initial \$850 million, expressed concern over the situation in Darfur. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick warned that the U.S. would not be able to fully support the peace deal in the south if violence continued in the western region of Sudan. This view echoed the earlier statement released by Human Rights Watch (HRW) that urged donors to focus on Darfur. Peter Takirambudde, Africa Director of HRW, stated, "Real peace will only come in Sudan if donors help provide urgently needed protection for civilians in Darfur." However in opening the conference, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stressed that money for the north and south needed to be given unconditionally despite the continued conflict in Darfur. Southern Sudan is considered one of the poorest places on earth. Aid is essential in ensuring the appropriate infrastructure is put in place as hundreds of thousands of refugees begin to return home following the signing of the CPA. (BBC, April 11, 12; HRW, April 8; IRIN, April 12, 2005)

Darfur atrocities continue, village destroyed: Armed militiamen thought to number 350 rode into the village of Khor Abeche, South Darfur, on camels and horses April 7. In what became a day-long attack the militia "rampaged through the village, killing, burning and destroying everything in their path leaving in their wake total destruction," according to the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the African Union (AU). It is believed that the attack was carried out in revenge for villagers allegedly stealing 150 cattle. It is not clear how many were killed in the attack but the matter was under investigation by the AU. UNMIS stated the militia leader responsible for the attack, Nasir al-Tajani, had twice before threatened to destroy the village and that no steps had been taken by the Sudanese government to prevent the attack. Jan Pronk, the UN Secretary-General's special representative for Sudan indicated that Al Tajani's name would now be sent to the Security Council's sanctions committee so that he would be brought to justice. Earlier this month the UN Security Council voted to try members of the Sudanese government and its allied Janjaweed militia, responsible for many of the atrocities, at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. It is now believed that the death toll in Darfur could reach up to 300,000. (BBC, April 11; IRIN April 12 2005)

UGANDA

Bigombe and Kony meeting arranged: Chief peace negotiator Betty Bigombe informed the press April 6 that Joseph Kony, leader of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), had agreed to meet with her in two weeks to discuss the most recent peace proposal. Bigombe stated, "I have talked to Kony twice on the phone about the resumption of peace talk negotiations and he seems to be serious this time." Meanwhile the Crisis Group (formerly International Crisis Group) released a

report warning of the fragility of Bigombe's latest attempts. The report drew attention to the apparent loss of patience by the government for the mediation process combined with its desire to pursue a military solution. Further, it dismissed government reports of the imminent demise of the LRA and estimated the rebels now number at least 3,000. Crises group argued that for there to be any chance of success in the peace proposals international actors would have to lend support to Bigombe. Further it asserted that Kony would only agree to the implementation of a cease-fire if his security and that of his fellow leaders were guaranteed. Bigombe seemed to indicate that this would be the case when she assured that international peacekeeping forces would provide security for the LRA leaders during the peace process. The conflict between the government of Uganda and the LRA has lasted 19 years, and tens of thousands are thought to have been killed during this time. (IRIN, April 12; NewVision, April 11, 2005)

