



Peace & Justice Update
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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus - www.africanfocus.org
AI	=	Amnesty International - www.amnesty.org
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media - www.allAfrica.com
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
Colombo Page	=	Sri Lankan Online News - www.colombopage.com
Daily News	=	Sri Lanka Daily News - www.dailynews.lk
Daily Times	=	DailyTimes - www.dailytimes.com
EAS	=	East African Standard - www.eastandard.net
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
ICTR	=	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda - www.ict.rg
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.kazinform.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
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
News 24	=	News 24 – www.news24.com
NPT	=	Nuclear Proliferation Treaty www.un.org/events/npt2005
NYT	=	The New York Times - www.nytimes.com
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam - www.oxfam.org.uk
Prensa Libre	=	La Prensa Libre - www.prensalibre.com
ReliefWeb	=	ReliefWeb - www.reliefweb.int
RWB	=	Reporters Without Borders www.rsf.org
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
VOA	=	Voice of America - www.voanews.com
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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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Conference on Human Rights concludes: The Helsinki Committee on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina, an organization under the umbrella of the Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, concluded its two-day conference on human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) May 11. The Committee, a non-governmental organization founded in 1995 to promote human rights in BiH, summarized BiH's accomplishments in human rights following the signing of the Dayton Accords in 1995. The general message from the conference was that although BiH has made significant advances in human rights it still will need to push forward reforms to conform with international human rights standards. The Committee noted improvements in the form of laws concerning property, judiciary reforms, and the establishment of the Court of BiH. The Committee also noted areas needing improvement such as the promotion and protection of individual interests rather than those of ethnic groups. BiH will also need to continue cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and conform its constitution and election laws to European standards. (Fena, May 10, May 11, 2005)

Karadzic spotted in Bosnia and Belgrade: With the death of Jovanka Karadzic, mother of Bosnian Serb war criminal Radovan Karadzic, Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Carla del Ponte decided to pressure Belgrade officials to give information on the whereabouts of Karadzic, who has been in hiding since the end of the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. Before Karadzic's mother passed away May 5 in Niksic, Serbia and Montenegro, Karadzic had reportedly been seen on two separate occasions: once April 14 in southeastern Bosnia and again April 20 in Belgrade with his brother. According to The Herald, it is assumed that sightings are related to preparations for the funeral of Karadzic's mother. The information was withheld until recently when Carla del Ponte made the decision to release it to Belgrade authorities in an effort to pressure them to turn in Karadzic. Their reactions to the information would determine the level of sincerity behind their promises to cooperate with the ICTY in the arrest of war criminals, she stated. Although there were no reports of having seen Karadzic at his mother's funeral, according to the New York Times there was a lack of visible police presence at the funeral. Where the police were lacking, Karadzic supporters were abundant; former soldiers and Serbian nationalists filled the public cemetery to support the mother of their celebrated leader who UN prosecutors say is responsible for the murder of 7,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in July 1995 and for the shelling of Sarajevo during the Bosnian war from 1992-1995. (NYT, The Guardian, May 9, 2005)

BURUNDI

Progress in peace process as interior minister is appointed: Burundian President Domitien Ndayizeye appointed a new interior minister May 10, Jean-Marie Ngendahayo, a Tutsi from the former rebel group and current political party, Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD). Ngendahayo's appointment followed talks in South Africa between FDD's leader Pierre Nkurunziza and President Ndayizeye. The appointment removes a major obstacle to Burundi's peace process as the FDD had boycotted cabinet sessions and frozen relations with Ndayizeye after he refused to appoint their initial candidate for

interior minister. However, FDD said it would not immediately start participating in cabinet meetings; rather the party was waiting for Ndayizeye to make other appointments, including at state-owned companies and the intelligence service as promised. The transitional government is based on a power-sharing agreement signed in Arusha, Tanzania, in 2000. The transitional government and the FDD then signed an additional power-sharing agreement in 2003, which provided for members of the former rebel group to join the transitional government. The absence of an interior minister and the FDD boycott had raised concern in the country as it was preparing for national elections meant to bring democracy to Burundi after 11 years of civil war. ([BBC](#), [IRIN](#), May 11, 2005)

Four people sentenced to death over WHO representative murder: The Criminal Chamber of the Bujumbura Court of Appeal sentenced four senior army and police officers to death over the murder of the country's top World Health Organization (WHO) representative in 2001. In addition, the Court condemned three people to life imprisonment and handed 20-year jail terms to two others for carrying out the murder. The four to be executed for plotting the murder are Emile Manisha, a former police superintendent; Gerard Ntunzwenayo, the deputy director general of the Burundi Intelligence Service; Japhet Ndayegamiye, head of the Intelligence Service in Bujumbura; and Aloys Bizimana, head of the army's Kiyange Brigade in Bujumbura Rural. They were expected to appeal the sentence to Burundi's Supreme Court. The WHO representative, Kassy Manlan, was killed in his house in November 2001; the motive for the killing was still unknown. However, lawyers claimed that Manlan was killed because he was investigating suspected embezzlement of funds meant for buying medicine to combat malaria in Burundi. Burundi is currently edging toward peace after more than 11 years of civil war between the Hutu majority and the dominant Tutsi minority. ([IRIN](#), May 5; [Reuters](#), May 4, 2005)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Authorities arrest 50 in alleged secession plot: At least 30 soldiers and 20 politicians were arrested May 6 in the southern mineral-rich Katanga province, on suspicion of plotting to separate the province from the rest of the country. Katanga's Deputy Governor Chikez Diemus said, "I believe these people are trying to work against the transitional government. They include some soldiers and politicians who don't believe they're getting enough out of the transition." Katanga tried to become independent from the DRC in 1960 after the DRC became independent from Belgium; this struggle lasted for three years before Katanga was forced back into the DRC. On May 8, President Joseph Kabila flew to Lubumbashi, the capital of Katanga, to reaffirm his authority in the town. Kabila's transitional government was sworn into office in 2003 after a four-year war, and was to be leading the country to elections originally planned for June. The elections, which would be the DRC's first in 40 years, may now be postponed. ([BBC](#), [CNN](#), [IRIN](#), May 9, 2005)

GENDER and PEACE

Pakistani women join ranks of fighter pilots: The Pakistani Air Force, which had been all male for 55 years, allowed women to join its ranks for the first time. Women were now permitted to enlist in its fighter pilot and aerospace engineering programs, and some would begin flying jet engine planes. There are 10 women in the academy and more in the engineering and aerospace arenas. “I always wanted to be a fighter pilot, and eventually with Allah’s wish and the full support of my parents, I made it this far,” said Cadet Saba Khan. However, Pakistan also faces religious and cultural difficulties in integrating women into its military combat forces. Though women participate equally in most exercises, certain parts of training are segregated including physical maneuvers. “It’s quite important that we maintain this level of segregation, mainly because we are a Muslim society,” said squadron leader Shazia Ahmed. However, women must reach the same standards as men or risk being removed from the program. (BBC, May 11, 2005)

GUATEMALA

Faction of New National Alliance forms new party: Nineth Montenegro, member of congress and one of the original founders of the human rights organization Mutual Support Group for relatives and friends of the disappeared left the New National Alliance (ANN) together with a group of supporters in to form a new political party “Encounter for Guatemala” May 9. Following a year and four months of unresolved debate, the leaders of Encounter for Guatemala set out to promote the interests of youth, women, and indigenous people-constituencies that have been significant in consolidating their movement. The ANN is a coalition of dissident factions formed in 1999 when the factions split from the National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity (URNG), a leftist political party and former grouping of rebel armies formed in opposition to Guatemala’s past military dictatorships. Encounter for Guatemala will need to conform with the Electoral and Political Party Law that requires 15,200 members distributed in at least 51 municipalities of the 12 provinces, before it can be registered as a political party. (Prensa Libre, May 9; Prensa Latina, May 10, 2005)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Head of World Food Program warns WTO about food aid restrictions: On May 9 UN World Food Program(WFP) director James Morris warned a meeting of World Trade Organization (WTO) representatives in Geneva that new rules on food aid would damage an already declining food aid program. The rules are currently under discussion in agricultural negotiations, and were created in 2001 to encourage development. In the talks the EU and many other food exporters are pushing for new laws that would restrict food aid to cash grants except in emergency situations. They argue that the U.S. uses in-kind donations to dispose of surplus food created by subsidies to farmers. The EU likewise, however, maintains a system of domestic and export subsidies. According to WFP statistics, food aid volume dropped 30 percent from 10.3 billion tons in 2003 to 7.5 billion tons in 2004. Morris and others are concerned that the new laws would

discourage in-kind donations now coming from developing countries such as India and Malawi. Morris urged nations to increase cash and in-kind donations back to the 2001 level of 11 millions ton. (Financial Times, Reuters, May 9, 2005)

NEPAL

India reinstates military aid: On May 10 the Indian government resumed military aid to Nepal, which it had suspended to protest King Gyanendra's takeover in early February. Delhi was to release non-lethal military supplies to Nepal including vehicles. The decision followed Gyanendra's lifting of the state of emergency and the release of senior political officials, according to Indian foreign ministry official Navtej Sarna. Sarna said that the decision was a consequence of Gyanendra's meeting with the Indian Prime Minister. Sarna also stressed the need for Nepal to take "further and early steps" to restore democracy. However, analysts such as the BBC's Sanjeev Srivastava said that India, as the chief source of military supplies to Nepal, is increasingly concerned about China's mounting influence in the area. In contrast, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) denied claims that it was going to stop aid to Nepal until the human rights situation was improved. The ADB issued a statement May 11 saying, "At no time did Mr. Kuroda (ADB President) mention that the bank might stop its aid to Nepal." The ADB also said that it was monitoring closely the situation in Nepal. Nepal is a founding member of the ADB, which pledged \$121 million in aid to Nepal this year. (BBC, Reuters, May 11, 2005)

Assistant U.S. Secretary of State meets King: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca, met with King Gyanendra May 11 to encourage the King to restore Nepal's democracy and respect for human rights. Rocca, the highest ranking Western official to visit Nepal since the takeover, emphasized that Washington was pleased with the lifting of the state of emergency but was still concerned about abuses such as press censorship and arbitrary political detentions. She emphasized that if the human rights situation did not improve, Nepal, an aid dependent country, could lose American funds. Rocca stated, "We will continue to stress this message to the King and to all political forces." U.S. economic assistance to Nepal totals about \$42 million. However, Rocca also noted that the U.S. still supported Nepal's struggle against the Maoist rebels, and that a Maoist government would create even greater instability in the region. Violence occurred between the army and Maoist rebels along the India-Nepal border where 30 policemen are believed to have been either kidnapped or killed by the rebels. Over 12,000 people have died since 1996 when the Maoists began their rebellion. (BBC, Reuters, May 10, 11, 2005)

RWANDA

Slow progress in the return of Rwandan refugees: A Rwandan government official reported May 6 that around 1,000 Hutus who fled to neighboring Burundi and Uganda in April had returned home. Many of the refugees fled in fear of unfair treatment in the new

semi-traditional Gacaca courts that were established to speed up trials of suspects of the 1994 genocide. Officials from Burundi and Rwanda met April 27 to discuss the return of the refugees. The initial response was positive and many refugees returned to Rwanda shortly after the meeting, but since then the numbers of returnees had fallen sharply. To date, only senior officials have met with refugees in Burundi to convince them to return home, however, the two countries changed their tactics and will send lower-ranking people to speak to the refugees. The Governor of Ngozi in northern Burundi, Felix Niragira, suggested the refugees might be intimidated by the presence of the high-ranking officials and their escorts. In the meantime, UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations provide limited emergency humanitarian assistance on an ad hoc basis to the thousands gathered at the borders. (AllAfrica, May 5; IRIN, May 6; UN News, May 10, 2005)

SOMALIA

Prime Minister returns to Nairobi: Ali Mohammed Ghedi, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), completed his first trip to the Somali capital, Mogadishu since his appointment last year. The 8-day visit was considered a success by government spokesman Abdirahman Dinari who stated that the PM was “warmly welcomed by enthusiastic crowds wherever he went.” However, this enthusiasm was not shared by all. An outbreak of violence in the southern port of Kismayo, where Ghedi was also due to visit, combined with an explosion at a football stadium last week, where the PM was addressing a crowd, appears to have cast a shadow over the trip. One of the purposes of the visit was for the PM to engage in discussions with members of the TFG who had broken away from the government and already relocated to Mogadishu, protesting the TFG’s delay in relocating. According to Dinari, “differences with most MPs and ministers had been resolved.” However it is not yet clear whether the MPs had agreed to Ghedi’s call for them return with him to Nairobi to take part in final discussions concerning relocation. Matt Bryden of Crisis Group stressed the significance of resolving these differences stating, “As long as we see different parts of the government taking isolated decisions, nothing is going to be resolved.” The culmination of talks held by the Inter Governmental Authority of Development led to the formation of the TFG in 2004. The TFG now faces the task of returning to Somalia where no central government has operated since the collapse of President Siad Barre in 1991, and security remains an issue. (IRIN, May 6, 9; IPS, May 9 2005)

SRI LANKA

Tsunami aid deal faces many difficulties: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said that any further efforts by the government to delay the distribution to Tamil areas hit by the tsunami will cause serious consequences for peace talks between the LTTE and the government. The Tigers blame the president for holding up the “joint mechanism” to distribute aid saying that President Kumaratunga was “deceiving the international community,” according to senior rebel leader SP Thamilselvan. However, Kumaratunga

announced her dedication to the fair distribution of the aid last week even at the risk to her own political power. “The government may fall. But those things are not of national interests unlike bringing peace to the country,” the President said. Kumaratunga faces political opposition within the government itself. The Marxist Liberation Front (JVP) threatened to pull out of the unstable coalition government if she compromises with the Tigers. The JVP fears that any concessions on tsunami aid will help the Tigers’ attempts to establish a separate Tamil homeland. A cease-fire has existed since February of 2002 but collapsed a year later. Overall, violence between the LTTE and the government has caused over 60,000 deaths since the war started 22 years ago. However, Kumaratunga says that compromise on the tsunami deal could lead to peace in the strife-torn country. “I see the willingness of the LTTE to co-operate with the government as the first step of achieving peace,” said President Kamaratunga. (BBC, May 11, 2005)

SUDAN

Concern grows over slow deployment of troops: Following the decision April 28 by the African Union (AU) to more than double the current peacekeeping force on the ground in Darfur, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Human Rights Watch (HRW) have both expressed concern that troop deployment may be delayed. Mr. Annan warned that violence continued in Darfur, illustrated by the recent attack on the village of Khor Abeche.” He stated, “It is now critical for all concerned to do their part,” and called on members of the AU to identify personnel to join the mission. Peter Takirambudde of HRW warned that some countries who pledged troops might be unable to deploy them as quickly as required. He urged the AU to circumvent this by requesting troops from other countries and seeking support from the international community. However Kofi Annan warned that the United Nations Mission in Sudan would only be able to provide limited assistance to the AU in Darfur due to its attention and resources being directed to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the North and the South. The conflict in Darfur began in February 2003 when government forces and allied militias attacked villages in an attempt to quash rebellion in the region. Since then it has been estimated that between 160,000 to 400,000 people have died due to the conflict. Many analysts argue the deployment of AU peacekeeping troops is the only way to bring real security to the region. (AllAfrica, May 10; Reuters, May 9, 2005)

UGANDA

Rebels slaughter 20: The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) carried out two attacks May 5 leaving 20 dead and others severely injured. The first attack came in the morning in Koch Goma when a group of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) left their camp to dig nearby fields. According to northern Ugandan army spokesman Lieutenant Tibaro Kiconco, the rebels “used machetes, axes and hoes that the people were using to dig their garden to kill them, while those who ran were shot.” A second attack took place later the same day in the area of Kalongo when LRA rebels ambushed a vehicle killing four people including a soldier. The attacks occurred as peace negotiator Betty Bigombe

continued in her efforts to resolve the conflict in northern Uganda. Bigombe recently contacted LRA leader Joseph Kony and demanded he immediately cease all attacks on civilians. Despite strong international support for the process, led by Bigombe, it appears that the latest atrocities will only further add fuel to President Yoweri Museveni's determination to end the 19 year conflict through military means. The LRA seeks revenge against the government for past transgressions and targets all those believed to collaborate with it. The war has left tens of thousands dead and led to the displacement of 1.6 million. ([BBC](#), [IRIN](#), May 6, 2005)

