



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**May 6, 2005**  
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## UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus - <a href="http://www.africanfocus.org">www.africanfocus.org</a>
AI	=	Amnesty International - <a href="http://www.amnesty.org">www.amnesty.org</a>
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media - <a href="http://www.allAfrica.com">www.allAfrica.com</a>
AP	=	Associated Press - <a href="http://www.ap.org">www.ap.org</a>
B92	=	B92 - <a href="http://www.freeb92.net/english">www.freeb92.net/english</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>
Colombo Page	=	Sri Lankan Online News - <a href="http://www.colombopage.com">www.colombopage.com</a>
Daily News	=	Sri Lanka Daily News - <a href="http://www.dailynews.lk">www.dailynews.lk</a>
Daily Times	=	DailyTimes - <a href="http://www.dailytimes.com">www.dailytimes.com</a>
EAS	=	East African Standard - <a href="http://www.eastandard.net">www.eastandard.net</a>
EU	=	European Union - <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int">www.europa.eu.int</a>
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network - <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk">www.guardian.co.uk</a>
GAO	=	General Accountability Office - <a href="http://www.gao.gov">www.gao.gov</a>
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch News - <a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a>
ICC	=	International Criminal Court - <a href="http://www.icc-cpi.int">www.icc-cpi.int</a>
ICG	=	International Crisis Group - <a href="http://www.crisisweb.org">www.crisisweb.org</a>
ICTR	=	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda - <a href="http://www.ictr.org">www.ictr.org</a>
Independent	=	The Independent - <a href="http://www.independent.co.uk">www.independent.co.uk</a>
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network - <a href="http://www.irinnews.org">www.irinnews.org</a>
Kansas City	=	Kansas City - <a href="http://www.kansascity.com">www.kansascity.com</a>
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post - <a href="http://www.nepalnews.com.np">www.nepalnews.com.np</a>
Kazinform	=	Kazinform - <a href="http://www.kazinform.org">www.kazinform.org</a>
La Hora	=	La Hora - <a href="http://www.lahora.com">www.lahora.com</a>
Prensa Libre	=	La Prensa Libre - <a href="http://www.prensalibre.com">www.prensalibre.com</a>
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times - <a href="http://www.latimes.com">www.latimes.com</a>
Monitor	=	The Monitor - <a href="http://www.monitor.co.ug">www.monitor.co.ug</a>
MONUC	=	MONUC - <a href="http://www.monuc.org">www.monuc.org</a>
Nepal News	=	Nepal News.Com - <a href="http://www.nepalnews.com">www.nepalnews.com</a>
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times - <a href="http://www.nepalitimes.com">www.nepalitimes.com</a>
News.com.au	=	News.com.au - <a href="http://www.news.com.au">www.news.com.au</a>
New Vision	=	New Vision - <a href="http://www.newvision.co.ug">www.newvision.co.ug</a>
News 24	=	News 24 - <a href="http://www.news24.com">www.news24.com</a>
NPT	=	Nuclear Proliferation Treaty <a href="http://www.un.org/events/npt2005">www.un.org/events/npt2005</a>
NYT	=	The New York Times - <a href="http://www.nytimes.com">www.nytimes.com</a>
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam - <a href="http://www.oxfam.org.uk">www.oxfam.org.uk</a>
Prensa Libre	=	La Prensa Libre - <a href="http://www.prensalibre.com">www.prensalibre.com</a>
ReliefWeb	=	ReliefWeb - <a href="http://www.reliefweb.int">www.reliefweb.int</a>
RWB	=	Reporters Without Borders <a href="http://www.rsf.org">www.rsf.org</a>
Reuters	=	Reuters - <a href="http://www.reuters.com">www.reuters.com</a>
Siglo XXI	=	Siglo XXI - <a href="http://www.sigloxxi.com">www.sigloxxi.com</a>
Terra	=	Terra - <a href="http://www.terra.com.gt">www.terra.com.gt</a>
UN News	=	UN News Center Homepage - <a href="http://www.un.org">www.un.org</a>
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - <a href="http://www.unhcr.ch">www.unhcr.ch</a>
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund - <a href="http://www.unicef.org">www.unicef.org</a>
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women - <a href="http://www.unifem.org">www.unifem.org</a>
VOA	=	Voice of America - <a href="http://www.voanews.com">www.voanews.com</a>
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency - <a href="http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm">www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm</a>
WP	=	Washington Post - <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">www.washingtonpost.com</a>
Worldnews	=	World News - <a href="http://www.worldnews.com">www.worldnews.com</a>

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## **BURUNDI**

**Twenty political parties reject new election calendar:** Twenty Burundian political parties said April 28 they would not accept the new electoral calendar issued by the Independent Electoral Commission, as they believed the change of calendar unconstitutional. The Burundian elections would introduce a new power-sharing government with 60 percent Hutus and 40 percent Tutsis, unprecedented given that Tutsis have dominated politics since Burundi's independence from Belgium in 1962. According to the initial calendar the first election was to be local, followed by communal, legislative, and presidential elections, but in the revised calendar the local elections would come last. In addition, the 20 parties opposed the deadlines for candidates to register for elections; saying they were too short and calling for them to be extended. Tension arose at a news conference where both the Chairman for the Independent Electoral Commission, Paul Ngarambe, and the spokesperson for the 20 parties, Terence Nsanze, were present. When Ngarambe announced that "the electoral calendar will never change," the crowd became agitated and Ngarambe was forced to flee the conference. The elections are meant to provide for a sustainable peace after Burundi's 12-year civil war between the Tutsi-dominated army and rebels from the Hutu majority. ([IRIN](#); April 29, 2005)

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

**The UN transfers refugees to make room for more:** According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Congolese refugees have been fleeing to Rwanda at an average rate of 50 per day since April 1. The refugees fled fighting, looting, and pillaging by Rwandan Hutu rebels ensconced in the DRC. The new flow of refugees caused crowding in Rwandan refugee centers by the border, prompting UNHCR to begin transferring the existing refugees to a safer camp with better infrastructure in Byumba province, eight hours from the border. The transfer of existing refugees was expected to free up room in the border centers in the Rwandan provinces of Gisenyii and Cyangugu. Space would then be available for new Congolese refugees, as well as for returning Rwandan rebels, who announced in late March they would put down their arms and return to Rwanda. There are currently 7,500 refugees in the camps in Gisenyii and Cyangugu. The UNHCR hoped to move 4,000 of the refugees to Byumba by May 18. The new site, Nyabiheke, in Byumba province, was built by the nongovernmental organization American Refugee Committee, and will be managed by the Rwandan government. Rwandan rebels, responsible for the genocide in Rwanda, fled to the DRC after the genocide in 1994 and have since terrorized the population in eastern DRC, causing the influx of refugees into Rwanda. ([AllAfrica](#); May 3; [IRIN](#); April 29, May 4, 2005)

**Ten killed after plane crash:** A plane crashed near DRC's northeastern city of Kisangani May 4, killing six Ukrainian crewmembers and four Congolese passengers. One passenger survived while another one is missing. The plane was heading from Kisangani to the town of Isiro when it lost radio contact, and as it was returning to Kisangani its propeller hit a tree and the plane lost control. DRC's infrastructure is in ruins after the 1998-2002 war and in a country the size of Western Europe planes are often the only means of transportation. Plane crashes are not uncommon in the DRC; at least 350 people died when a plane crashed into a crowded market in Kinshasa in 1996 and in December 2003 a plane crashed into a market near the town of Boende. Africa only accounts for three percent of world aircraft departures, but is leading the globe in

aviation accidents, often involving aging cargo planes. (IRIN; May 5, News 24; March 24, Reuters; May 5, 2005)

### **GENDER and PEACE**

Kuwaiti women lose suffrage efforts: The Kuwaiti parliament delayed further discussion of a bill that would have allowed women to participate in the 2005 municipal elections, until after the elections themselves. Parliament ended debate on the bill due to “constitutional issues” on voting procedures concerning the law. The parliament’s proceedings thus effectively ended any opportunity for women to vote or participate in elections until 2009. “The government appears to have lost its allies in this and the only thing that remained was personal interests,” said women’s rights leader Lulwa al Mulla. Opponents of the bill fear that women’s political empowerment would lead to mixing between men and women. In addition, critics of the bill say that women’s involvement in politics would also cause women to neglect their familial duties. “The parliaments of most other Muslim countries don’t have as much power as we do. We have no problem with women voting, but we do have a problem with women standing in elections. Islam dictates that the head of a nation must be a man, and we are technically the head of a nation here,” said Waleed al-Tabtabae, head of the parliament’s human rights committee. In spite of the setbacks, Mulla promised to continue her fight, saying, “We will continue our pressure and our program. It’s all we can do, but the sense of tragedy will not be lost on us.” (ABC News; New York Times; May 3, 2005)

### **GUATEMALA**

Police chase and shoot four students: On April 30 four students in Guatemala City accused the National Civil Police (PNC) of chasing and shooting at them after the students refused to stop their car at a PNC registry station. Three of the students were injured and one remains in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the head. The students’ families have taken their case to the Prosecutor’s office, but Vice Minister of the Interior Alfredo Cáceres has denied the PNC shot the students. He claimed the shots came from a black car following the students, and that police were only involved in the incident to help the wounded students. Despite the complaint before the Ministry of the Interior no record of the incident appeared in PNC records. Cáceres promised to investigate both the motives of the omission of the incident and the events of the crime. (Siglo XXI; May 3, 2005)

### **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Journalists commemorate World Press Freedom Day: May 2 marked World Press Freedom Day, and protests were held in several countries worldwide against press restrictions. Nepalese journalists in Kathmandu protested the severe curtailment of press freedom since King Gyanendra took absolute power February 1. Rather than make arrests, the police merely stood by and watched even though protests are illegal under King Gyanendra’s decree. Since the King dissolved the government the press has been denied the right to criticize the monarchy, and private radio stations have been banned from broadcasting. Pakistan’s capital, Islamabad, also saw protests demanding greater press freedom - police arrested and later released 30 journalists protesting outside the parliament. In other news, the BBC identified Colombia as one of most

dangerous places for journalists to work. Forty journalists have been killed in the last year and impunity for these murders has been key in perpetuating violence against the press. One Colombian paper, El Tiempo, says its journalists are forced to write anonymously, and they often change the areas for which they report. These obstacles are also commonplace in the Philippines, which according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines reported the murder of 23 journalists in the past 3 years. The Philippines is another of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists according to an annual report by Reporters Without Borders. Iraq continues to be the most dangerous country with 19 journalists' deaths in 2001 and over a dozen arrests. With 53 deaths worldwide the report declares 2004 as one of the worst years for journalists since 1995. (Reporters Without Borders; AP; BBC; May 3, 2005)

UN reviews Non-Proliferation treaty: On May 2 the UN began its review of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) treaty, a review that will last until May 27. The NPT was formed shortly after the use of nuclear weapons in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945. Under the NPT, the five countries allowed to have nuclear weapons are the United States, China, Russia, France and Britain. The rest of the treaty signatories are permitted to use nuclear technology only for energy sources. The only three known nuclear states not signatories are Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea. The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons meets every five years to examine the treaty's implementation since the last meeting. The May 2 meeting follows Iran's announcement April 30 that it is looking into restarting its work on uranium enrichment. Several EU members including Germany, France, and Britain said they would take the Iran issue to the UN Security Council if Iran restarted its nuclear program. An agenda for the conference has yet to be decided. (NYT; NPT; May 3, 2005)

House of Representatives deliberates Darfur Accountability Act: The Darfur Accountability Act was introduced in the House of Representatives on May 2 after it was passed in the Senate April 21. The Darfur conflict began in 2003 when two non-Arab rebel groups began their fight against the Arab-dominated government. The conflict has since then escalated into widespread killing and international accusations of genocide. The U.S. legislation calls for UN sanctions against those responsible for the conflict, future U.S. legislation enacting those sanctions, an arms embargo, the creation of a no-fly zone over Darfur, and the expansion of the African Union and European Union mandate to include the protection of civilians. Some of these propositions face strong opposition from the international community. Both Russia and China, which are large foreign investors in Sudan and hold veto power in the Security Council, have made it clear that they oppose the passing of any resolution that imposes sanctions. Western countries see a no-fly zone as military action and have opposed such actions. According to Roberta Cohen of the Brookings Institute, there are 2,300 AU troops and observers currently in Sudan and some military experts say they would need 50,000 to be effective in Darfur. (NY Times; NPR; May 4, 2005)

## NEPAL

King ends state of emergency: King Gyanendra ended the three-month state of emergency April 30, two days earlier than originally promised, in order to demonstrate his dedication to democracy, according to the Nepalese government. However, the practical impact remained

unclear, as civil liberties were not reinstated nor media censorship lifted. Gyanendra originally took over Nepal's government ostensibly to end corruption and stop the Maoist revolt that has killed over 11,000 people since 1996. The international community, including Great Britain and India, both of which suspended military aid to Nepal in protest of the King's takeover, welcomed the lifting of the state of emergency. However, many states stressed the need to restore civil liberties and end arbitrary detention. "It has been our consistent view that multiparty democracy... and the constitutional monarchy should work together," said an Indian External Affairs Ministry official. In another effort to improve its standing within the international community, the Nepalese government released top communist leader Madhuv Kumar Nepal May 1 from house arrest. Despite the king's official end to the state of emergency, thousands of Nepalese took to the streets May 1 to demand the King reinstate democracy. Over 8,000 political activists marched in Kathmandu shouting slogans and carrying pro-democracy posters. Police watched the protesters attentively, but did not intervene. Previous protests had led to multiple arrests and detentions. ([BBC](#); [NYT](#); [Reuters](#); May 1, [BBC](#); [Reuters](#); May 2, 2005)

Human rights organizations say lifting of state emergency is not enough: The King's suspension of the state of emergency came under close scrutiny by human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). The three groups called for re-establishment of all civil and human rights suspended under the state of emergency. The human rights organizations also noted that immediately after the removal of the state of emergency, the Kathmandu District Authority gave an order to ban public gatherings and protests. Despite the lifting of the state of emergency officials were designated the power to intercede in any "political program" involving more than two people. In addition, hundreds of political protesters and leaders were still under arrest and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Ordinance (TADO) was still in effect whereby individuals could be detained for as long as one year without any contact with the outside world. "If Nepal's once vibrant civil society continues to be suppressed, the lifting of the state of emergency will be meaningless," said the director of the Asia Pacific Program at Amnesty International, Perna Sen. Brad Aams, Asia Director of Human Rights Watch, further criticized the King saying that the removal of the state of emergency "could simply turn out to be a cynical attempt to convince India and others, notably the United States, to resume their military aid." ([HRW](#); May 3, 2005)

## **RWANDA**

Hutu politician sentenced to life in prison: On April 28 the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) sentenced former councilor for Gishyita Commune in Rwanda's western province of Kibuye, Mika Muhimana, to life in prison – the most severe penalty that can be handed down by the tribunal. Muhimana was found guilty on three counts: genocide, rape as a crime against humanity, and murder as a crime against humanity; however, the court dismissed a fourth count of complicity in genocide. Muhimana was convicted of 27 rapes, more than any other genocide suspect. The judgment by the ICTR confirmed that rapes were also crimes against humanity, and Rwandan women's rights activist, Marie Immaculee Ingabire, remarked that the ruling set a good precedent and would lead more women to come forward and testify on the acts of sexual violence they suffered during the genocide. The trial against Muhimana was the shortest ever at the ICTR: the testimonies of 19 prosecution and 33 defense witnesses were heard in 34 days. The ICTR was set up in 1995 to try suspected masterminds of the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus and in which

approximately 250,000 women were raped. [AllAfrica](#); April, 30, May 2; [BBC](#); [CNN](#); [ICTR](#); [IRIN](#); April 28, 2005)

No asylum for Rwandan refugees: Senior officials from Burundi and Rwanda held a closed-door meeting in Burundi's northern province of Ngozi April 27 to defuse diplomatic tensions between the countries, created by thousands of Rwandan refugees fleeing into Burundi. Rwanda had criticized Burundi's decision to relocate the refugees further inland and the decision to treat them as refugees, as Rwanda considered them to be fleeing from prosecution in the traditional court system, known as Gacaca. Some of those who fled said that all Hutus were being accused of involvement in the genocide and therefore they were escaping prosecution in Gacaca; others who fled said they feared death threats would be carried out against them if they testified in Gacaca. The Burundian and Rwandan officials decided Rwandans fleeing to Burundi would not be granted asylum, nor would they be relocated away from the border. Instead joint committees of officials from both countries were to meet the fleeing Hutus and try to convince them to go back to Rwanda. Burundi estimated that at least 5,000 Rwandans had crossed into the country over the last three weeks, but Rwandan authorities put the figure at about 2,000. The traditional Gacaca courts began trials on March 10, 2005, and were established to speed up the process of prosecuting almost 1 million suspects for their involvement in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. ([AllAfrica](#); April 30, May 2; [BBC](#); [IRIN](#); April 28, 2005)

### **SERBIAN AND MONTENEGRO**

Serbia and Montenegro seeks extension with the IMF: Serbia and Montenegro sought an extension to its three-year International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan May 5. The agreement in principle to renew the loan, which was set to expire May 15, was reached April 18 at the IMF's spring meeting. Serbia and Montenegro's high public expenditure, which in March reached about 10.3 billion dollars, will be a key negotiation point as the loan agreement is finalized. Serbia is especially concerned with meeting international obligations after receiving a positive Feasibility Study report from the EU April 12. The report was conducted to assess the probability of Serbia and Montenegro's entrance into the EU. It is the first in a series of steps required for EU accession and its positive outcome indicates the go-ahead for formal discussion on Serbia's acceptance into the EU. ([B92](#); May 3, 2005)

### **SOMALIA**

TFG announces relocation date: The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia announced it is planning to relocate to Mogadishu at the end of May. The news came in a statement released by government spokesman Abdirahman Denari. In an attempt to end the current impasse over the details of relocation, which has plagued the government since its formation, Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Ghedi began his first visit to Mogadishu since his appointment. He was to meet with breakaway MPs and members of the community to assure them of the government's commitment to a return to the capital. However at the same time the government has maintained that the decision to temporarily move to the towns of Jowhar and Baidoa remains in effect. Meanwhile, the group of 80 MPs that broke away from the government to set up in Mogadishu have made progress in their attempts to pacify the city. Abdullahi Shirwa, a member of a prominent civil society group in Somalia stated, "They are

facing head-on their differences and are intent on resolving them.” Observers think the key to security in the city rests on the resolution of differences among the MPs, who are also warlords. The TFG was formed in Kenya in 2004 following the culmination of talks conducted by the Inter-governmental Authority on Development. Since then the TFG has been attempting to relocate to Somalia to form the first government since the collapse of President Siad Barre’s regime in 1991. (IRIN; April 28, 2005)

Blast kills ten at PM’s rally: As Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Ghedi addressed thousands of Somalis this week in the capital, Mogadishu, an explosion went off, killing at least ten people and injuring 30 others. The rally was taking place at a football stadium where Mr. Ghedi had received an enthusiastic welcome on his first trip to the capital since his appointment. He had just announced the government’s plans relocate to Mogadishu if it became less dangerous, when the blast occurred. Many were injured in the panic and stampede that followed. Further injuries occurred when security guards opened fire on the crowd. According to information Minister Abdullahi Mohamud Jamah Sifir one of the militia men holding a grenade launcher had accidentally dropped it and the grenade went off. (BBC; CNN; IRIN; May 3 2005)

## **SRI LANKA**

Tsunami aid deal faces many challenges: Increasing resistance to the tsunami aid-sharing deal between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has exacerbated fears that the deal, known as the joint mechanism, may fall apart before a key donor meeting in mid-May. The joint mechanism planned to share the \$2 billion of promised aid between the government and the rebels to reconstruct regions destroyed by the December 2004 tsunami that killed over 40,000 Sri Lankans and left another 500,000 homeless. “I think there is a concern that if this criticism is increasing it will be more difficult to agree on the mechanism,” said an official involved in the negotiations. Agreement on the joint mechanism is also viewed as a necessary step to reach a lasting peace agreement between the government and the rebels who have continued fighting despite a 2002 cease-fire. The LTTE declared that in order for any further peace talks to continue, the joint mechanism must be instituted. However, critics asserted that any weaknesses in the tsunami deal could lead to the perception that the government is acquiescing to rebel demands for self-rule. “Do we give murderous Tiger terrorists, who murdered Mr. Thyagarajaha Kailanathan, a joint mechanism?” declares an opposition poster, referring to a government official killed by the LTTE. The conflict between the LTTE and the government has lasted more than 20 years, killing over 64,000 people. The death of senior Tamil journalist Dharmratnam Sivaram, whose body was found riddled with bullets April 29 and is blamed on the government, has only exacerbated the conflict. (Reuters; April 29, May 1, 2005)

## **SUDAN**

African Union to increase peacekeeping force: The Peace and Security council of the African Union (AU), meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the week of May 2, agreed to more than double AU peacekeeping troops deployed to the war-torn region of Darfur. It had been widely acknowledged that the current AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) was providing an essential function but was inadequate in terms of both size and scope. A recent Crisis Group report praised the AU

for being the only body that had stepped up to deal with the situation in Darfur in a meaningful fashion, but argued that with only around 2,000 troops the AMIS was incapable of fulfilling its limited mandate of monitoring the cease-fire. The new enlarged force was expected to number 7,700 by September 30 and potentially be increased to 12,000 next year. These numbers reflect the proposal by the UN special envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk. AU Peace and Security Commissioner, Said Djinnit stated, "These troops will further promote a more secure environment and help build confidence as well as protecting civilians." However, the AU did not go so far as strengthen the mission's mandate, as urged by human rights groups. The Sudanese ambassador to the AU, Abuzeid Alhussein pointed out that the peacekeepers would run the risk of being seen as an occupying force if they engaged militarily to protect citizens. He argued, "The protection of civilians in Darfur should be left to the Sudanese civilian police." The conflict in Darfur began two years ago when rebels took up arms against the government, complaining of discrimination. Despite the April 2004 cease-fire in N'djamena, Chad, violence persists in the region, predominantly carried out by the government-backed Janjaweed militia. (BBC; April 29; ICG; April 26; IRIN; April 29. 2005)

## UGANDA

UK to withhold aid: The UK government announced April 29 plans to cancel \$10 million in funding to Uganda due to concerns regarding the progress of the political transition in the country. The British High Commission in Kampala stated, "We were concerned by several aspects of the transition, including that insufficient progress that has been made towards establishing a fair basis for a multiparty system." Parties have been severely restricted in Uganda since President Yoweri Museveni came to power in 1986. The return of multi-party politics had been proposed for next year; however, concern has been raised over the government's delay in moving the process forward. There is also concern regarding a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow Museveni to stand for a third term. Uganda is highly dependent on foreign aid, which comprises approximately half of the entire budget. However, Museveni has been quick to downplay the significance of aid. After a meeting this week with the heads of the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Museveni declared that by stopping leakages in tax collection Uganda would no longer "need this ignominious practice of dealing with these so-called donors." He went on to say, "Those [donors'] meddling is responsible for the perpetuation of terrorism in northern Uganda." Opposition MPs hit back stating it was impossible for Uganda to survive without international aid; they argued that a good relationship with donors was essential as Uganda is one of the least developed countries in the world. Uganda in fact is classified as a Least Developed Country by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and in the Human Development Report 2002 of the UN Development Program it was ranked 146 of 177 countries in the world. Nonetheless both Uganda's human development index and Gross Domestic Product values ranked above the Sub-Saharan Africa average. (BBC; April 29, May 2; IRIN; May 2; Monitor; May 2, 3; UNDP; May 4, 2005.)

