



Peace & Justice Update
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The countries for the Peace & Justice Updates have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute.

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SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

The Age	=	The Age (www.theage.com.au)
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africafocus.org)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allafrica.com)
American Chronicle	=	American Chronicle (www.americanchronicle.com)
Amnesty International	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
Christian Monitor	=	Christian Monitor (www.christianmonitor.org)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
Concord Times	=	The Concord Times (www.concordtimesl.com)
Crisis Group	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisgroup.org)
The East African	=	The East African (www.nationmedia.com/eastafrican/current)
eKantipur	=	Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
eng24.kg	=	News Agency 24 (http://eng.24.kg)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Financial Times	=	Financial Times News (www.ft.com)
FMM	=	Free Media Movement (www.freemediasrilanka.org)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
The Hindu	=	The Hindu Newspaper (www.hinduonnet.com)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
Herald Tribune	=	Herald Tribune (www.iht.com)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
ICTY	=	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (www.un.org/icty)
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
IPS News Agency	=	Inter Press Service News Agency (ipsnews.net)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
ISN	=	International Relations and Security Network (www.isn.ethz.ch/index.cfm)
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
Jurist	=	The Jurist (jurist.law.pitt.edu)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Library of Congress	=	The Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/index.html)
Monitor	=	The Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
New Vision	=	New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Peace Africa	=	Peace Africa (www.allafrica.com/peaceafrica)
PDO	=	People's Daily Online (english.peopledaily.com.cn)
Prensa Latina	=	Prensa Latina, Latin America News Agency (www.plenglish.com)

Prensa Libre	=	Prensa Libre (www.prensalibre.com)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain (www.oxfam.org.uk)
RadioFreeEurope	=	RadioFreeEurope, Radio Liberty (www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007)
ReliefWeb	=	Relief Web (www.reliefweb.int)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières (www.rsf.org)
The Rising Nepal	=	The Rising Nepal (www.gorkhapatra.org)
SDUT	=	San Diego Union Tribune (www.signonsandiego.com)
The Star	=	The Star.com (www.thestar.com)
Transparency Int.	=	Transparency International (transparency.org)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (www.unesco.org)
UNFPA	=	United Nations Population Fund (www.unfpa.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)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Web India	=	Web India (www.webindia123.com)
WP	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)

UPDATE SUMMARY

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COLOMBIA

Crisis in Latin America resolved: A meeting of the Rio Group in the Dominican Republic on Friday, March 7 brought the week-long feud between Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela to an end. The crisis began after the Colombian military attacked a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) camp across the border with Ecuador Saturday, March 1. The Friday summit had brought the leaders of these and other Latin American countries together to discuss energy and other issues, but the discussion quickly escalated as the presidents of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, and Colombia, Álvaro Uribe, debated the recent events in the region. Correa claimed Uribe and the Colombian military did not have permission to cross the border into Ecuador and this constituted an act of aggression. Uribe counter-argued that Correa had ties to the FARC and that documents found in the raided camp could prove such accusations. After much debate, the nations approved a reconciliation agreement developed by the Organization of American States (OAS) which stated that Colombia must apologize to Ecuador for the attack and could never partake in another cross-border raid. Dominican Republic President Leonel Fernández aided the two leaders in a discussion followed by a handshake and the public announcement that the crisis was settled. As the leaders shook hands Correa announced, “With the commitment of never attacking a brother country again and by asking forgiveness, we can consider this very serious incident resolved.” In response to the settlement, Venezuela chose to restore diplomatic ties to Colombia, calling the meeting a “victory for peace and sovereignty.” Although this conflict is resolved, the conflict between the FARC and the Colombian government remains. The killings of Raúl Reyes in the Ecuador raid and Iván Ríos, another member of the FARC leadership who was killed by his own bodyguard last week, are the first successful attempts by the Colombian military to attack the top members of the guerrilla group since they began fighting over forty years ago. ([BBC News](#), [Washington Post](#), March 8; [BBC News](#), March 9; [Reuters](#), March 10, 2008).

Soccer brawl injures eighty: A riot broke out between fans of América de Cali and Deportivo de Cali at a soccer match between the two teams Saturday, March 8. The brawl, which erupted after an unfavorable call by the referee, resulted in over eighty people injured, almost twenty of whom were treated for stab wounds. After the fight erupted between the players and coaches on the field, fans got involved and began tearing down the fence separating the stands from the field. Police fired tear gas in an attempt to contain the brawlers. The Colombian soccer league officially blamed the América coach, Diego Umana, for instigating the brawl after he ran onto the playing field and punched his opponent coach, Daniel Carreño. Umana was subsequently suspended from eleven matches. Umana took full responsibility for the event and remarked, “It’s my fault, and if I have to leave soccer I’ll go.” Members of the Red Baron, the América fan club, were banned from entering the stadium for the next ten matches because of the riot they reportedly instigated amongst the fans. The incident has brought about much discussion among Colombian politicians regarding whether to stiffen legislation against soccer violence. Representative Mauricio Parodi remarked, “Every weekend that goes by, it seems there’s another incident for us soccer fans to be ashamed of.” He has proposed legislation to increase the prison sentences for instigators of such violence and to establish a police force specifically to patrol matches. Although Colombia has a history of soccer violence, legislators like Parodi are attempting to stem the increase in incidents and prevent future riots like the one that occurred last week. ([International Herald Tribune](#), [The Guardian](#), [Associated Press](#), March 11, 2008).

GUATEMALA

CICIG to investigate cases of femicide: In celebration of International Women's Day, March 8, hundreds of women joined by representatives of human rights groups, trade unions and youth groups marched through the streets of the historical center of Guatemala City to demand an end to violence, discrimination and impunity that affect women. Activist and leader of the non-governmental organization, Sector Mujeres, Sandra Morán said, "We see every day that the levels of poverty affect women more than men, which leads to a lack of access to development, education, health and welfare assistance." On March 5, several deputies in the Congress had presented a bill against femicide, supported by First Lady Sandra Torres. Emilenne Mazariegos of the Democratic Union party explained that the legislation aimed to prevent actions that potentially led to femicide. The bill was rejected that same day, however, by representatives of the rightist Patriot Party that considered the proposal hasty. Roxana Baldetti of the Patriot Party opposed the bill because she believed it suffered many weaknesses. For example, she indicated that the bill did not properly define femicide. "Today, I do not regret having been opposed, if it had been approved we would have done more harm to women," she said. However, the First Lady's Secretariat of Social Work, the Presidential Secretariat for Women, the Office of Indigenous Women and the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) signed an agreement the following day to investigate the killings of women in the country. The director of CICIG Carlos Castresana identified 590 reported cases of femicide that the newly formed entity plans to investigate. He explained that the mandate of CICIG was to help authorities dismantle clandestine groups embedded in the country's institutions that prevent meaningful enforcement. "There is no doubt that there must be some connection between these [clandestine] groups and impunity in gender-based violence and femicide; it is one of the most serious criminal phenomena that is reflected in Guatemalan criminal statistics, yet has received an insufficient response," stated the director. Castresana stressed the importance of properly coordinating social services, education, and civil justice in order to drastically reduce violence against women. President Álvaro Colom declared his support and said that his administration is ready to end impunity for femicide offenders. Colom asked the Congress not to further delay passing a law against femicide. This was the third case that the Guatemalan government has handed to CICIG. The first involved a fraudulent investment scheme at the Bank of Commerce during the previous administration. The second occurred earlier in Colom's administration regarding the death of public transportation drivers. Now, the CICIG has taken the lead role in investigating cases of femicide at a time when the Human Rights Ombudsman recently reported that there have been 65 killings of women so far this year in Guatemala. The international community, including the United States, has taken notice of these killings and some countries have responded. Earlier last year, Representative Hilda L. Solís [CA-32] introduced a resolution expressing "concern over the unsolved murders of more than 2,000 women in Guatemala since 2001 and encourages new efforts to address these killings and prevent further killings." The resolution passed in the U.S. House of Representatives May 1, 2007. (Prensa Libre, March 5, 6, 7, 8; The Library of Congress, March 12, 2008)

Guatemala begins first trial on forced disappearances: Felipe Cusanero, a former civilian commissioner, appeared in court March 10 to face charges that he participated in at least six forced disappearances during the nation's 36-year civil war. "My husband had taken a cow out to pasture when an army platoon took him away. He was missing for 25 years, until his corpse was exhumed two years ago," said María Magdalena at a courtroom in the department of

Chimaltenango, 70 km northwest of Guatemala City. Magdalena joined some 20 villagers from Choatalum attending the first trial held on forced disappearances, state-sponsored abductions in which the victim is never found again. During the nation's armed conflict, the army created the civil defense patrols to serve as civilian adjuncts to the military. In collaboration with the army, Cusanero recruited local civilians to join the civil defense patrols and provide information on fellow villagers, as part of his military commissioner post. According to a legal complaint filed in 2003 by six villagers, Cusanero illegally detained six members of the Kaqchiquel Mayan indigenous group between September 1982 and October 1984, in complicity with the army. "My 24-year old son was taken away by Felipe Cusanero and 30 soldiers at 11:00 one night. He was taken to the military detachment," testified plaintiff Hilarión López. During the hearing, Cusanero's defense attorney, Angel Smith, argued that his client could not be tried for forced disappearances because "disappearing" someone wasn't legally a crime prior to 1996. Center for Legal Action on Human Rights director Mario Minerva claimed that forced disappearance "is an ongoing crime to which no statute of limitations applies." Nothing definitive about Cusanero's sentence has emerged yet from Monday's hearing, and Cusanero is free to roam the village in the meantime. Chimaltenango prosecutor Albert Clinton stated that the trial could involve five or six more hearings to allocate adequate time for all the experts and witnesses to testify. A 1999 United Nations-sponsored truth commission held the army responsible for 45,000 disappearances during the nation's 36-year civil war. Cusanero's trial marks the first time someone accused of forced disappearances has been held accountable, indicating progress since the 1996 peace accords to end impunity. (Associated Press, March 10; IPS, March 11, 2008)

NEPAL

Parties unveil election manifestos: Many political parties are beginning this week to make public their manifestos for the April 10 Constituent Assembly elections. The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists), the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist), the Nepali Congress (NC), and Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) announced their manifestos. The Maoist manifesto was unveiled Friday, March 7. In it, the Maoists called for a federal democratic republic with the president to be elected by popular vote and the prime minister to be nominated by the legislative body. They also proposed Prachanda, the current party chairman, as the first president. The party has set standards of development for Nepal, including more electricity, cleaner water, better education, and a greater respect for human rights. The CPN-UML manifesto was made public on Sunday, March 9. Here the UML has decided to also create a federal democratic republic, but one in which the president holds a ceremonial role, and is elected by the legislative body, with the prime minister holding the executive power, elected through popular vote. In this manifesto, the UML expressed its intent to create federal states based on "linguistic, cultural and geographical specialty" and to recognize all languages spoken in the country. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala made public the Nepali Congress' manifesto on Thursday, March 13. The manifesto announces the party's intent to establish a federal democratic republic with the executive power in the hands of the prime minister and the parliament electing a president to hold ceremonial power. Its manifesto also stressed the necessity of respect for human rights, diversity within the nation, and multiparty cooperation. The RPP, a monarchist party, announced its manifesto Tuesday, March 11. The party is calling for a "constitutional monarchical parliamentary democracy," in which the executive power will be given to the Prime Minister and ceremonial power to the monarch. The RPP does not include development projects

in its manifesto as the other parties had. The April election will establish a new constitution and possibly bring an end to the 240-year-old monarchy. (Nepal News, March 7; Kantipur Online, Himalayan Times Online, March 9; Kantipur Online, March 9; Kantipur Online, March 14, 2008).

Bhutanese refugees find permanent home: The first group of Bhutanese refugees left Nepal this week to be relocated to a third country after having left Bhutan in the 1990s. Over 100,000 Nepali-speaking Bhutanese have been living in seven refugee camps throughout Nepal for over fifteen years. The International Organization of Migration (IOM) coordinated the flight of the first sixty people from the refugee camps in Goldhap, Khudunabari and Timai to Kathmandu where they will then depart for a permanent home in a third country, the United States or New Zealand. In a 2006 agreement, the U.S. announced that it would take in some 60,000 Bhutanese refugees from Nepal. The first group of twenty refugees arrived in the U.S. Monday, March 10. Among those leaving the camps, there were mixed feelings of hope and fear for their unknown future. One tearful woman, Devimaya Rizal of the Sanischare camp remarked, “We decided to go to America for the sake of our children’s future ... but it’s really difficult to leave behind one’s relative and neighbors.” The refugees were forced by the government of Bhutan to leave because of their strict policy of national conformity. None of those who left have been allowed to return to the country, nor have they been allowed to resettle in India, despite its shared border with Bhutan. (BBC News, Nepal News, March 9, 2008).

UGANDA

Parliament members demand ICC indictments be dropped: Members of Parliament from Northern Uganda, lead by Simon Oyet from Nwoya County, were demanding that the government file a request to the UN Security Council for a deferral of prosecution for leader of the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), Joseph Kony. Oyet stated that “We are concerned that Kony will not sign the final peace agreement if the government does not withdraw the case. Our people have suffered enough and this is the only chance they have to enjoy peace like other Ugandans.” Kony demanded that International Criminal Court (ICC) indictments against him be lifted before he is willing to sign the final peace agreement and come out of the bush in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Rome Statute, under article 16 of the ICC charter, states that the Security Council can suspend indictments for 12 months in the interest of peace and security. The ICC is in a difficult position because dropping or postponing the LRA case could undermine its credibility internationally in its early stages. On March 9, ICC officials met with a delegation from the LRA to discuss legal representation for the three indictees (Joseph Kony, Okot Odhiambo, and Dominic Ongwen) and standards for the filing of documents and materials with the court registries. Charges against Vincent Otti and Raska Lukwiya, two of the five original rebel LRA leaders indicted, have been dropped. Otti, second in command to Kony, was killed with instructions from Kony October of 2007 and Lukwiya was recently confirmed dead. For the government, there is reluctance to surrender the best bargaining chip they have thus far: the ICC indictments against Kony and his top commanders. The spokesperson for the government delegation, Chris Magezi, announced that the government may request the indictments to be dropped only if Kony is in custody of the government. He stated that the government cannot ask the ICC to drop indictments on a rebel leader who is still on the run. Based on this stance, Kony seemed to lose hope that indictments will be dropped and is

“sketching out plan B. . . preparing for a longer stay on the bush.” Peace talks have continued for over 20 months, in which five major agreements have been reached. A final peace agreement will be the last step in securing peace in Northern Uganda. (Africa News, March 6, 9, 10, 2008)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) visits Uganda: UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres and Luxembourg Minister for cooperation Jean-Louis Schiltz arrived in Uganda on their first day of an eight-day trip to Uganda and Tanzania to review and assess the implementation of UNHCR programs for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the two countries. On March 3 Guterres spoke at the Kalongo IDP camp in Pader. Guterres declared that the international community would not abandon northern Uganda after a final peace deal was signed. He pledged to rally other developed countries, mainly those of the European Union, to ensure aid is supplied to the war-affected areas of northern Uganda. This aid would help to support the construction of schools, health centers, roads, and establishment of water points and sanitation programs for IDPs returning to their villages. He announced, “I pay tribute to your courage. You faced war, your houses were burned and children abducted. There was violence against women, you need support of the international community.” Although an estimated one million people have returned to their homes over the past 18 months, only four or five percent of IDPs in the Acholi districts most affected by war have left the camps. There are an estimated 850,000 IDPs living in camps in northern Uganda. Two decades of fighting between the Ugandan government and the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army have created more than 2 million IDPs living in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Lira and Amuru districts. (BBC Monitoring Africa, March 6; Africa News, March 5, 2008)