



Peace & Justice Update
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The countries for the Peace and Justice updates have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute. The International Human Rights section is intended to focus on aspects of international law. For information on specific cases of human rights abuses, please visit www.hrw.org or www.amnesty.org

Source information: Information presented in this update is condensed from wire and newspaper reports from Lexis/Nexis and from electronic sites on the World Wide Web. Complete biographical information is unavailable from these services, but every attempt has been made to properly cite information and give credit to source materials. This update is intended for use by IPJ staff and associates for informational purposes only. As the material in this update is condensed, and does not directly quote the primary source, information from the update should not be quoted.

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AllAfrica	=	allAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
CNN	=	Cable News Network (www.cnn.com)
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.com)
EFE	=	Agencia EFE (Spanish New Agency)
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org) (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: www.unog.ch)
JED	=	Journaliste En Danger
NCN	=	New Congo Net (www.marekinc.com/NCN.html)
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency (www.panapress.com)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

AFGHANISTAN

Rockets fired in Kabul: Two rockets were fired in the capital of Kabul June 18 and exploded approximately 1.3 miles from the U.S. Embassy compound. German peacekeepers from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) reported the rockets had been fired from the Qalai Zaman Khan neighborhood, located in the northern hills of Kabul, and were intended to disrupt the proceedings of the Loya Jirga. An ISAF spokeswoman suggested that the suspects behind the rocket attacks could be Al Qai'da or Taliban soldiers. The rocket blasts were the first attacks since the start of the Loya Jirga meetings June 11. The Loya Jirga last met in 1973 and was reorganized as an Afghan tribal assembly mandated to elect the new government, which would hold power for the next 18 months to two years. Approximately two-thirds of the delegates at the Loya Jirga were elected in districts throughout the country, while the rest of the delegates were representatives from interest groups such as women, refugees, and Afghanistan's nomadic population. The traditional purpose of the Loya Jirga was to create a council where Afghan leaders could come together and settle affairs of the nation or rally behind a cause. (CNN, New York Times, June 18, 2002)

Karzai wins election: Afghanistan's UN-appointed interim leader, Hamid Karzai, was elected as President by the Loya Jirga June 13, after receiving nearly 85 percent of the votes. Karzai promised to fight corruption and to make political reforms in Afghanistan. The first project for President Karzai and the Loya Jirga was to create a Cabinet that would aid the efforts to restore peace and stability in the country. The Loya Jirga, consisting of approximately 1,600 delegates, began its six-day session June 11, but due to delays the session was extended until the new cabinet has been elected. (Financial Times, June 13; New York Times, June 17; Reuters, June 18, 2002)

CHECHNYA

Refugees return from Ingushetia: A group of 187 refugees returned to Chechnya from Ingushetia June 18, following an additional 160 who had returned June 16. All refugees were accommodated in temporary housing centers in the capital of Grozny. According to the Chechen Governmental Committee for the Affairs of Forced Migrants, eight temporary centers had already been built, and hostels for approximately 10,000 people would be ready by September 2002, to accommodate the 8,000 refugees who have already applied for return to Chechnya. The committee also claimed that the Chechen homes of 53 percent of Chechen refugees in Ingushetia were suitable for return. An agreement signed May 29 by Ingushetian President Murat Zyazikov and head of the Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov set October 2002 as the completion date for returning all refugees residing in Ingushetia back to Chechnya, estimated at 150,000 people. While the Russian government assured the UN High Commissioner for Refugees that all returns to Chechnya would be voluntary, Head of the Migration and Rights Network of Memorial Svetlana Gannushkina, a Russian human rights group, said that arranging a voluntary return in such a short time would be impossible. Vladimir Yelagin, Federal Minister for the Co-ordination of Activities in Chechnya, stated that at least 40,000 refugees have refused to leave Ingushetia. Several neighboring regions, including

Ingushetia, have suffered from an influx of refugees from Chechnya after Russian troops were sent into Chechnya in October 1999, in response to a string of apartment bombings in Moscow, blamed on Chechen rebels. (AFP, The Independent, June 15; Interfax News Agency, June 4; Itar-Tass News Agency, June 15, 18, 2002)

Children's envoy visits Moscow: Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Olara A. Otunnu arrived in Moscow June 17 on a week-long mission to the Russian Federation to examine the impact of armed conflict on children. Otunnu held extensive discussions with Russian Vice-Premier Valentina Matviyenko, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov, and Federal Minister for the Coordination of Activities in Chechnya Vladimir Yelagin. Otunnu said that he planned to visit Chechnya, as well as refugee camps in the Ingush Republic and North Ossetia. He said that nearly one half of the 150,000 forcibly displaced persons in the Northern Caucasus were children. During his tour he planned to give special attention to assistance for victims of landmines, the protection of the rights of children, housing, medicine, food, and education, as well as to the prevention of the use of minors as participants in armed actions. Otunnu confirmed that UN agencies planned to assign \$35 million to Chechnya this year, but that the Russian administration was responsible for the rehabilitation of children injured during the 31-month conflict with Chechnya. Statistics released by the Russian government last July estimated that 400 school-aged children had been killed since Russian forces entered Chechnya in October 1999. (AFP, Itar-Tass News Agency, June 17, 2002)

"Cleanup" operation provokes allegations of abuse: Russian federal troops have been accused by human rights organizations of mistreating civilians during a "cleanup" operation in the village of Mesken-Yurt in the Shali district of Chechnya, which began May 21. The operation was mounted on the basis of information suggesting that field commanders and leaders of the Jamaat Wahhabi movement, described by Russian military sources as a radical Islamic rebel group, met there. The village was cordoned off for more than two weeks, leading to villagers sending an appeal to local human rights organizations, which claimed they were the victims of Russian military violence and requested assistance. A Memorial spokesperson said that federal troops in Mesken-Yurt executed noncombatants and that over 60 villagers were taken into custody and "disappeared." Federal troops allowed trucks with food and medicine into the village June 8. The Russian military denied all allegations and Group Commander Colonel General Vladimir Moltenskoy described Mesken-Yurt as a "criminal den." Russian appointed Chechen Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov stated June 18 that the law had been violated in recent raids on Chechen villages, and said the role of armed forces in Chechnya should now be passed on to local law enforcement agencies. Accusations of civilian abuse have continued to be documented by human rights organizations since Russian troops began operations in Chechnya October 1999. (Interfax News Agency, June 18; Izvestia, June 10; Krasnaya Zvezda, June 11; Novye Izvestia, June 1, 14, 2002)

Bush compares conflict in Chechnya with Afghanistan: U.S. President George W. Bush disappointed human rights campaigners May 24 when he compared Russia's ongoing war in Chechnya with the U.S.-led "war on terrorism" in Afghanistan. Bush told a meeting of

human rights activists and leaders that Russian troops in Chechnya could learn a lesson from the U.S. troops in Afghanistan, where he said the rights of the people were being respected. Bush also appeared to endorse Russian President Vladimir Putin's linkage of the Chechen and Afghan conflicts through comments on ongoing terror bombings, most recently in Chechnya's neighbor Dagestan, attributed to Chechen rebels. Bush said that he was committed to helping achieve a political settlement in Chechnya, but gave no indication of what role his administration might play. At a summit meeting earlier the same day, Bush and Putin signed a landmark disarmament treaty and an anti-terrorist declaration, marking an historic rapprochement between the two cold war enemies. Human rights organizations expressed fear that Bush's muted criticism of human rights violations in Chechnya would impact international scrutiny of the fate of Chechen civilians. (AFP, DPA, May 24, 2002)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Nation brings suit against Rwanda: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, began hearings June 13 in a case the government brought against Rwanda for its role in the DRC's four-year war. The government alleged that Rwandan forces committed "genocide against more than 3.5 million people" on Congolese territory, and demanded the "immediate, unconditional withdrawal" of all Rwandan forces from the country. Rwandan forces were accused of numerous human rights abuses, including rape and sexual assault, the assassination and kidnapping of political figures and human rights activists, and arbitrary arrests and detentions. Along with their Goma-based Congolese rebel allies, the Rassemblement Congolaise pour la Democratie (RCD-Goma), Rwandan troops were also accused of looting both public and private institutions, and plundering the nation's natural resources. Most recently the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) reportedly captured the village of Bonyatenge, located in the North Kivu province. DRC's Ambassador to the Netherlands Jacques Masangu-a-Mwanza told the ICJ that "the RPA killed thousands of civilians and they were constantly in violation of UN resolutions." Rwandan Special Envoy for the DRC Patrick Mazimhaka denied the charges and stated that people in the region died from other causes, including "neglect, poverty, disease and a lack of infrastructure, medical supplies, food and access for aid agencies." The case against Rwanda followed a similar pattern to a previous case initiated by the DRC against Uganda, in which Uganda counter-claimed for a reported \$6.3 million in compensation for the alleged destruction of Ugandan property by Congolese soldiers. The war in the DRC began in August 1998 when President Laurent Désiré Kabila's main sponsors Rwanda and Uganda turned against him and began supporting an anti-government rebellion. Kabila countered the rebellion with the assistance of troops supplied by Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. More than 3 million people have died in the four-year war. (allAfrica, June 10, 13; BBC, June 13; IRIN, June 17, 2002)

UN investigates Kisangani massacre claim: A UN expert announced that Asma Jahangir, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, would conduct a six-day information-gathering visit to the DRC beginning June 16. The alleged extrajudicial killings occurred in Kisangani in mid-May, and the death toll was estimated at 200, making it one of the most deadly incidents during the war. The trip began in

Kinshasha where Jahangir was to meet with numerous government officials and UN representatives, and then travel to Goma to meet with representatives of the RCD-Goma, and then to Kisangani to meet with local authorities, international agencies, and witnesses and victims of the alleged human rights violations. The European Parliament, who strongly condemned the massacre in a 626-page resolution June 13, supported Jahangir's mission. Jahangir was to report her findings to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, who would then brief the president of the UN Security Council. The head of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), General Mountaga Diallo, stated that contrary to international speculation there was no evidence that Rwanda was involved in the events in Kisangani. Subsequent to recent events, the Security Council extended MONUC's mission under the recommendation of the UN Secretary-General for one year. (Africa News Service, June 14; AFP, June 14, 16; IRIN, June 12; UN News Centre, June 11, 2002)

UN to investigate ethnic clashes: The UN announced it would investigate allegations that more than 2,400 people were killed in tribal conflicts in northeastern DRC. Diallo stated that a team would be sent to the Ituri province where the Hema, a minority tribe in the area, claimed many of their people were killed by the majority tribe, the Lendu. He also noted that security concerns were an obstacle to the success of investigating these claims. Over recent years, thousands were killed in the fight between the two ethnic groups, which originated over disputes involving land and natural resources, such as tea and coffee farms, and cattle. Both the Hema and Lendu were recruited by the Ugandan backed Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement (RCD-ML) to fight in the ongoing conflict in the DRC. The Hema and Lendu have backed rival warlords in the civil war between government troops and rebel factions which has continued to prevent peace and unity within the country. (BBC, UN News Centre, June 11, 2002; HRW News, January, 2001)

IMF loans DRC \$750 million: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed June 13 to loan \$750 million to promote economic growth and decrease poverty in the DRC. More than \$500 million was made immediately available under the terms of the loan, with the remaining amount determined to be distributed over a three-year period. Congolese Finance Minister Matungulu Mbuyamu reported that the DRC's total debt was estimated at \$13 billion, \$10 billion of which Mbuyamu expected lenders to forgive. The money was made available to members of the private sector as credits aimed to alleviate the debt incurred while sustaining the importing needs of the nation. The IMF Board of Trustees congratulated the DRC government for the execution of its Enhanced Interim Programme (EIP), which brought inflation under control and created an arena in which a stable macro-economic framework could be formed. The IMF encouraged the DRC government to continue its current economic and environmental policies for growth. Past loans to the DRC resulted in criticism of the IMF for reportedly loaning money to corrupt dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, and eventual default in the early 1990s. The current loan was agreed to as a result of current President Joseph Kabila's willingness to adhere to advice given by the IMF, and was necessary to boost the DRC's economy that had deteriorated largely due to the ongoing war between government troops and rebel factions. (BBC, PANA, June 14, 2002)

ERITREA-ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia repatriates Eritreans: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced that approximately 168 Eritrean Civilians were repatriated from Ethiopia June 3. The repatriation effort took place between the Eritrean town of Adi Quala and the Ethiopian town of Rama. This was the eighth repatriation carried out by the ICRC since the two countries signed a peace accord in December 2000, following a two-year border war that left an estimated 80,000 people dead. The accord called for the release of prisoners of war and detainees without delay, but hundreds were still being held in each country. In May 2002, 122 Ethiopians held in Eritrea were repatriated. (IRIN, June 3, 2002)

Ethiopia criticizes border ruling: The 21-page document on the border ruling between Eritrea and Ethiopia was deemed ambiguous and flawed May 13 by the Ethiopian government. The government indicated that the Ethiopian-Eritrean Border Commission (EEBC) made mistakes in identifying the confluence of key rivers used to mark out the new border. Both Eritrea and Ethiopia claimed they were awarded Badme, the village that initiated the border conflict in May 1998. The document also awarded Eritrea territory it did not claim. Dismissed by Eritrea as just another ploy to undermine the peace process, the decision of the EEBC was said to need “interpretation, correction, and consultation.” Jean-Marie Guehenno, a senior UN peacekeeping official, arrived in the Ethiopian capital June 17 and discussed the recent ruling on the border with Eritrea. She was in the region to monitor the situation on the ground and see what could be done to move forward the EEBC’s decision. The EEBC was established in December 2000 as part of the peace deal to end hostilities between the neighboring countries that lasted for two years. (IRIN, June 3, 18, 2002)

ETHIOPIA

Government is accused of violating agreement: Tension between Ethiopia and the UN mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) intensified after the UN accused Ethiopia of violating an international agreement, by restricting UN movement. The more than 4,000 peacekeepers deployed in a 32-mile buffer zone separating Eritrea and Ethiopia have been required to show passports rather than standard UN identification when traveling, and have been subjected to body searches and their luggage x-rayed before being allowed to leave the country. UNMEE spokesperson Gail Bindley-Taylor stated that Ethiopia had violated aspects of the State of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the UN mission and Ethiopia. SOFA is an international agreement between UN member states and UN peacekeeping missions throughout the world to protect the rights, privileges, and immunities of all UN staff. (BBC, June 6, 2002)

UPEACE to work with government: A delegation from the UN University for Peace (UPEACE) announced that it was prepared to work with the Ethiopian government by strengthening the capacity for education, training and research on issues of peace and security including the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. According to a statement from UPEACE, the university would support collaborative research and sound

scholarship on issues of peace and security in Africa in order to improve the prospects for successful conflict prevention. The program would also include empowering elders to participate in conflict prevention and problem-solving strategies. During its one-week visit, the delegation assessed universities and research institutions for the proposed co-operative program and undertook preliminary examinations regarding establishing the program in the country. UPEACE was established by UN General Assembly Resolution 35/55.5 in December 1980 as an international institution of higher education for peace. (IRIN, June 17, 2002)

MACEDONIA

Violence threatens peace: The government crisis center announced May 30 that an explosion took place in the ethnic Albanian Tetovo downtown area, causing no injuries, but some damage to nearby structures. Government sources indicated the bomb was planted by an unknown individual who had placed a self-made device near the town's Sarena mosque. Shooting also took place May 30 in Aracinovo, a village near the capital of Skopje, at a police checkpoint, and an international de-mining team discovered a booby trap near an Orthodox monastery in the northern region. These incidents were seen as serious threats to the peace in Macedonia. An internationally brokered peace agreement was secured August 2001, ending the seven-month conflict between government forces and members of the National Liberation Army (NLA). The NLA took up arms to fight for the rights of ethnic Albanians, who constitute one-third of the population, however, the government claimed that the NLA consisted of Albanians from Kosovo who were trying to gain territory. (AP, May 30, 2002)

Ahmeti organizes political party: Former NLA leader Ali Ahmeti organized a new political party, the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI). Ahmeti said the DUI was dedicated to fighting organized crime, which has been corrupting politics and continues to threaten the peace agreement. Ahmeti also called for a new value system for Macedonian society. Ahmeti's NLA agreed to disband and disarm after the signing of the August 2001 peace agreement., turning in some 4,000 weapons to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (International Herald Tribune, June 15, 2002)

MADAGASCAR

President dissolves government: President Marc Ravalomanana dissolved his government June 16 in what appeared to be a step towards ending the long-lasting power struggle with former President Didier Ratsiraka. Ravalomanana immediately reappointed Prime Minister Jacques Sylla, and instructed Sylla to form a new government. Dissolving the government was part of the plan put forward during the most recent talks between Ravalomanana and Ratsiraka and other African heads of state. Ravalomanana recently confirmed that he agreed to the main points of the plan, including the creation of a national reconciliation government. President Ravalomanana reportedly also planned to name a cabinet that would "appeal to all stakeholders, including supporters of the former president." The dissolving of the government was an effort to end the ongoing crisis that arose after Ravalomanana was declared the victor in the disputed presidential elections of December 2001. (AFP, June 16; IRIN, June 17; Xinhua, June 16, 2002)

Former president flees country: Former President Didier Ratsiraka reportedly fled the country June 13 and flew to France with his family as Ravalomanana's troops approached the northwestern port city of Mahajanga. While many speculated that Ratsiraka had deserted the country without any intention to return, aides close to him reported he had said he was going to search for the best thing for the Malagasy people, and that he intended to return. Ratsiraka fled the island under similar circumstances in the early 1990s, but returned after five years in exile. (BBC, June 13, 14; The Daily Telegraph, June 15; The Guardian, June 15; UPI, June 14, 2002)

Troops capture bridge, lift blockade: Troops loyal to President Ravalomanana peacefully captured the Betsiboka river bridge June 12. For more than three months the blockade on the Betsiboka bridge had closed the main road between the capital of Antananarivo and Mahajanga. The blockade was set up by former President Ratsiraka's troops to isolate the capital from needed resources imported through the port. Following the capture of the bridge, forces from both sides of the political controversy clashed on the resort island of Nosy-Be, located just off the northern coast of the country. Ravalomanana's troops also captured the southwestern seaport town of Toliara and the northeastern town of Vohemar. Neither side reportedly had the support of local townspeople who were said to be tired of the war between the two leaders. Fighting broke out June 15 in Ambanja, where troops fought for control of the Sambarino bridge. The wave of fighting followed President Ravalomanana's recent move to dissolve the government in an effort to end the ongoing conflict between himself and former President Ratsiraka that began after the disputed December 2001 elections. (AP, June 15; BBC, June 14, 18, 2002)

Troops clash in northeastern province: Approximately 15 people were killed June 3 in fighting between troops loyal to Ratsiraka and Ravalomanana in the northeastern town of Sambava, located in the vanilla producing region of the country. At least seven soldiers and three civilians were killed when Ratsiraka ordered forces to recapture Sambava. Nearly 300 soldiers on each side were involved in a fight reported to be a response to alleged human rights abuses committed by Ratsiraka supporters. Ravalomanana instituted the military offensive with the intention of moving into the provincial capital of Diego Suarez, and to eventually secure the entire northeastern region. Officials stated that Sambava was suffering from a fuel shortage that was not likely to end because Ratsiraka forces have controlled the only city where diesel could be unloaded by boat north of Sambava. Ratsiraka supporters also imposed a blockade on the capital, Antananarivo, causing food and fuel shortages. (BBC, June 4, 6, 8, 2002)

NEPAL

NC dismisses Koirala: During a June 17 meeting called by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, 873 members of the Nepali Congress (NC) voted NC President Girija Prasad Koirala out of office. The meeting was called after Koirala expelled Deuba from the NC due to Deuba's decision to dissolve parliament and call for early elections, and plan to extend the state of emergency. The meeting also called for a reorganization of the party's Central Working Committee, Parliamentary Board, and Central Disciplinary Committee,

all of which were heavily influenced by Koirala. Koirala declared the meeting and the vote illegal, but Deuba said a new president would be elected June 19. The NC has remained the most influential political party in Nepal and has continued to assert its dedication to the monarchy and constitutional democratic government. ([BBC](#), June 18; [Kantipur News](#), [Kathmandu Post](#), June 16, 2002)

Government, rebels clash: Six government troops and more than 60 Maoist rebels were killed June 13 in a battle in west Nepal. The fighting began when at least 500 rebels raided a remote area in the district of Salyan, approximately 270 miles west of the capital of Kathmandu. As many as 200 rebels were thought to have died in the fighting, but their bodies had not yet been recovered. Security forces killed 17 Maoist rebels in four separate battles June 7, and four other rebels as they looted the house of Deuba's advisor June 1. The Maoists launched an insurgency February 1996 to topple the constitutional monarchy and to install a "people's republic." Since the fighting began, more than 4,700 people have been killed. ([CNN](#), June 14; [Kathmandu Post](#), June 15, 2002)

China pledges help to fight Maoists: Following a visit to Beijing, Koirala announced June 9 that China had promised to help the government of Nepal fight Maoist rebels. Koirala did not indicate what type of assistance China would give to Nepal, but army officers said they needed everything from basic clothing to bullets and helicopters. The writings of the late Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong inspired the rebels, but political analysts said the rebels had little in common with the government of China. ([ABC News](#), [Times of India](#), June 9; [New York Times](#), June 10, 2002)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Court in Bosnia could try war criminals: Carla Del Ponte, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), said June 18 that 50 suspects under investigation for war crimes could be tried inside Bosnia itself, once a court had been established for this purpose. Del Ponte's comments came during a day of talks with Bosnian leaders and legal experts in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The current legal process of the ad hoc ICTY in The Hague, based in the Netherlands, has proven expensive and time-consuming. It has been estimated that only a few hundred cases could be dealt with by the time the court finishes work in six or seven years, but at least 7,000 people have been accused of serious war crimes. Del Ponte indicated that those people to be tried locally had not yet been arrested, but were on a list of 108 people the tribunal was planning to indict. The state level war crimes court would take over low level and medium level suspects. No decision was made as to whether the court would be an independent institution or part of the existing court system in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ICTY was formed in May 1993 to prosecute perpetrators of the atrocities committed during the former Yugoslavia's breakup. ([AP](#), June 14, 18; [BBC](#), June 15, 18, 19, 2002)

Afghanistan establishes first human rights commission: The Independent Afghan Human Rights Commission was signed into law June 6 by Harmad Karzai, leader of the current interim government. Amnesty International applauded the terms of reference for the commission and noted that the choice of commissioners included a significant number of

women and people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. The Afghan government was obliged to set up a human rights commission under the terms of the December 2001 Bonn Agreement, which led to the installation of Karzai's interim administration. Plans for the commission, drawn up in May 2002, included a series of national consultations to establish a framework for dealing with abuses of the past, which would take place over the next eighteen months. Pressure groups have warned that the commission would prove ineffective if it failed to pursue allegations against leading warlords, many of whom are now supporters of the interim administration and the US campaign against Al-Qai'da and the Taliban. The terms agreed on in Bonn explicitly denied amnesty or immunity for perpetrators of gross violations of human rights, war crimes or crimes against humanity. (AFP, June 7; DPA, June 6; UN News, May 23, 2002)

Peruvian Cabinet approves request to extradite Fujimori: The Peruvian government announced June 14 that the Cabinet had approved a formal request to Japan for the extradition of former President Alberto Fujimori on murder charges, and that the document was being translated to send to Tokyo, which could take up to two months. Fujimori, President of Peru from 1990 to 2000, has been accused of murder in relation to two allegedly state-sponsored massacres carried out by the paramilitary Colina Group in 1991 and 1992, as well as separate charges of corruption. Fujimori fled to Japan in November 2000 during a corruption scandal, and was fired from his Presidential post November 22, 2000. As the son of Japanese immigrants, Fujimori was granted Japanese as well as Peruvian citizenship, which could protect him from extradition, as Japan has clearly stated that it would not extradite its nationals. The Peruvian government acknowledged that the absence of an extradition treaty between Japan and Peru would create a difficult barrier in the extradition process. The government planned to appeal to international law on the grounds of crimes against humanity, which could force Japan to address a standing extradition request. Amnesty International urged the Japanese government's co-operation in bringing justice to Fujimori's victims. (AFP, Amnesty International News, June 14; Financial Times, June 17; Los Angeles Times, June 15, 2002)