



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**June 28, 2002**  
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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](http://www.hrw.org) or [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

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## UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

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

## **AFGHANISTAN**

Britain withdraws troops: Great Britain (GB) announced June 20 that they would withdraw approximately 1,400 Royal Marines from Afghanistan, starting July 4. The pullout would take approximately one month and Turkish soldiers would replace the Royal Marines, maintaining the current force of 4,500 troops in Afghanistan. GB Secretary of State for Defense Geoff Hoon told Parliament that GB would leave approximately 200 soldiers in Afghanistan as a rapid response force, and would be prepared to deploy additional troops in the case of an emergency. GB turned over control of the 19-nation security force in the capital of Kabul to Turkey June 20. Since their April 2002 deployment, the Royal Marines have had almost no contact with enemy soldiers in Afghanistan. The U.S. has planned to take over most combat duties in Afghanistan after GB's withdrawal and military operations would focus on searching for arms caches and caves that once harbored terrorists. U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan began after the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. that caused more than 3000 deaths. Nearly 400 Al-Qai'da and Taliban have been captured and currently await trial. (Financial Times, June 24; New York Times, June 20, 2002)

New cabinet sworn in: Following the nine-day Loya Jirga meeting, Afghan leader Hamid Karzai swore in his new cabinet June 24 at an official ceremony that officials of former King Sahir Shah and representatives of the International Security Assistance Force attended. Karzai, a Pashtun tribal leader, named 12 other Pashtuns, three Uzbeks, two Hazaras, two Shias, and one Turkmen as members of his cabinet. Karzai and his cabinet have been elected to govern until the next election scheduled for December 2003. The Loya Jirga was a traditional Afghan council designed to bring Afghan leaders together to settle affairs of the nation or rally behind a cause. The most recent Loya Jirga's purpose was to elect a new government for the nation. (BBC, June 24, 2002)

## **CHECHNYA**

Floods devastate the northern Caucasus: Chechen refugee camps in the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia sustained heavy damage after torrential rainfall that began June 21 resulted in flooding in the northern Caucasus. In the Chechen Republic, tens of thousands of residents were stranded on the mountains, electricity lines knocked out, and hundreds of acres of farmland destroyed. Health officials said there was an increased risk of infectious diseases because the flooding had taken out sanitation systems and left dead livestock decaying in the streets. Russian federal troops, posted in Chechnya since October 1999 to fight a rebel independence movement, were deployed to assist residents in affected regions, but many military units were isolated as a result of the floods. Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting with top ministers to discuss the emergency in Chechnya, where flooding has aggravated the suffering of a population enduring 32 months of ongoing conflict. (AFP, June 23, 24, 25; BBC, June 25; Interfax, ITAR-TASS, June 22, 2002)

Arrests made over Dagestan bombing: Eight men believed to be Chechen rebels and six military officers were arrested May 9 in connection with a bomb attack in the town of Kaspiisk, Dagestan, which killed 43 people and injured more than 150 during a Victory Day Parade marking the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Russian victory in World War II. Russian Deputy Prosecutor General Vladimir Kolesnikov said the attack was ordered by Rappani Khalilov, a Chechen warlord of Dagestani origin, believed to be hiding in Chechnya, and carried out by 18 Chechen rebels, ten of whom have remained at large. The officers arrested were accused of selling an anti-personnel mine to the men who carried out the attack. Kolesnikov said they were from units deployed to Buinaksk in Dagestan. Kolesnikov's investigators had been heavily criticized for their failure to solve the 1999 Moscow apartment bombings that instigated the deployment of Russian troops in Chechnya. (BBC, The Moscow Times, June 25, 2002)

Putin calls violence in Chechnya a "tragedy": Russian President Vladimir Putin, while speaking at a June 24 press conference, said the conflict in Chechnya should not be blamed on Chechen civilians, who had been used as "a living shield," but on the failings of the Russian state. He also said that "mop-up" military operations in Chechnya could not be improved, and must be stopped immediately. He estimated that it would take a year to lay the legal and security groundwork to "normalize" the situation in Chechnya and mentioned that a merger between Chechnya and neighboring Ingushetia was a possibility. Russian operations in Chechnya from 1994 to 1996 ended inconclusively with the withdrawal of federal troops, but were followed by a second wave of military intervention that began in October 1999, which formed a key part of Putin's 2000 election campaign. Putin's approach was notably softer June 24 than at a similar press conference held in 2001, when Putin argued that federal intervention in Chechnya aided civilians by stemming lawlessness and violence in the region. (BBC, ITAR-TASS, June 24; The Moscow Times, June 25, 2002)

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

Former RCD-Goma forces turn against allies: Former Rwandan-backed, Goma-based Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD-Goma) rebel commander Patrick Masunzu and his forces have been fighting Rwandan troops since June 10 in the Ngoma Hills in the eastern DRC. Masunzu, a Congolese national of Rwandan Tutsi ancestry, turned against the RCD-Goma and began opposing Rwandan occupation of the eastern DRC in March 2002. Troops loyal to Masunzu fought with Rwandan government troops in March and April 2002 in the Hauts Plateaux resulting in RCD-Goma occupation of the area. Masunzu allied himself with local pro-DRC government militia and another deserting RCD-Goma member, Aaraon Nyamushebwa, enabling him to renew fighting Rwandan troops June 10. Masunzu and other ethnically Rwandan Tutsi rebels were angered by the RCD-Goma's failure to appoint them to posts in the DRC's South Kivu Province bordering Lake Tanganyika. The civil war in the DRC began in August 1998 when President Laurent Desiré 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 three

million people have died in the four-year war. ([AFP](#), June 20; [Africa News](#), June 24, 2002)

Hundreds die in tribal clashes: More than 200 people were reportedly killed and 247 houses burned in recent ethnic clashes in Manjiriko, a town on the DRC-Ugandan border, between the Angar clan of the DRC and the Omedo clan of Uganda. The fight was led by a Congolese soldier Abeka Toki against the Omedo clan in retaliation for a recent battle they had fought with the Angar. In the past, the two tribes worked together to further common border related goals. However, recent insecurities regarding the trafficking of arms from Uganda into the DRC have caused the two communities to turn against one another. ([Africa News](#), June 20, 2002)

Human rights groups criticize armed forces: Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Voice of the Voiceless (VSV) accused forces in the DRC June 21 of sexual violence and human rights abuses against women and girls. HRW released a report entitled “The War Within the War: Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in the Eastern Congo,” which contained accounts from victims and witnesses regarding repeated sexual attacks during the conflict. Two cases in the report stated that assailants inserted firearms into their victims’ genitals, and then shot them, or otherwise mutilated their sexual organs. According to the report, women and girls aged from five to 80 were at risk from sexual attacks by the Bunyamulenge, Mai-Mai, Burundian, and Rwandan armed rebel groups. Both HRW and VSV specifically condemned the acts of soldiers in the Rwandan Patriotic Army and the RCD-Goma, which included sexual violence and large-scale atrocities. ([AFP](#), [BBC](#), June 21, 2002)

## **ERITREA-ETHIOPIA**

UNMEE addresses human rights: The United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) hosted a three-day seminar that began June 17 in the Eritrean capital of Asmara entitled “The Special Needs of Women and Children in Conflict.” The seminar was organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and brought together forty men and women from UNMEE, various UN Agencies, and Eritrean NGOs. The interactive training session was led by experienced staff from the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Red Cross, and local human rights organizations. The seminar covered issues such as the protection of refugees, the rights and needs of women in armed conflict, gender and peacekeeping, and the situation of children during and after armed conflict. UNMEE was the second peacekeeping mission to be trained by UNITAR, after the first training with the UN Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and UNITAR has planned to train the UN Mission in the Congo. UNMEE was established December 2000 as part of the Algiers peace agreement. The Algiers Agreement called on both Eritrea and Ethiopia to terminate military hostilities and refrain from the threat or use of force against each other. ([IRIN](#), June 24, 2002)

Eritrea releases names of war victims: The Eritrean government June 22 released the names of those killed during the country’s two-year border war with Ethiopia began in

1998. Families of victims had had no official report of their deaths and had to rely on former comrades and other witnesses for information. Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki's cabinet chief acknowledged that families needed to be told about the deaths of their relatives, but explained that it was a long process to collect all the information about the victims and the residencies of their families. According to official figures, approximately 19,000 Eritreans died during the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia that began in May 1998 and ended with a truce in May 2000. A peace agreement was signed December 2000, with provision for international demarcation of the border. (AFP, June 22, 2002)

## **GUATEMALA**

Activists and journalists threatened: Eleven journalists and human rights activists were sent death threats the week of June 17 that stated slogans such as "visible activist: dead activist." The journalists and human rights activists have criticized the government's unwillingness to prosecute the paramilitary death squads responsible for the mass killings and human rights abuses during the country's 36-year civil war. UN human rights official Hina Jilani arrived in Guatemala May 27 to investigate similar threats and the murder of the treasurer of the Rigoberta Menchu Foundation, Guillermo Ovalle, after he called for the government to bring the death squads to justice. The 36-year civil war that left more than 200,000 people, primarily indigenous, dead, ended with the signing of a 1996 peace agreement. (Boston Globe, June 25, 2002)

Paramilitaries release tourists: More than 70 tourists from Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the U.S were freed June 19 after being taken hostage June 17 by civil war-era paramilitary fighters. Approximately 8,000 members of the "Civil Defense Patrols" demanded \$2,500 each for their participation in the country's 36-year civil war. By the second day of the demands and blockade of northern Guatemala by the "Civil Defense Patrols," they reached an agreement with the government, ending the blockade of roads leading to the north and releasing the Western tourists. During the civil war, as many as one million men, were recruited into the "Civil Defense Patrols," which were created by former President Efraim Rios Montt in 1983 as a means to help the army fight left-wing rebels. They were disbanded in 1996 before the signing of the peace agreement ending the civil war, and as a result did not qualify for land under the UN-brokered agreement. (BBC, June 19, 2002)

## **MACEDONIA**

Dutch take over NATO mission: Germany surrendered commanding control to the Netherlands of the NATO security mission in Macedonia June 26. Spanish General and NATO leading representative Frederico Carretero, stressed that NATO is still committed to its mission to maintain peace in Macedonia, despite handing over to the Netherlands. The NATO mission was established following the disarmament of the ethnic Albanian rebels, the National Liberation Army (NLA), who took up arms against the Macedonian government to fight for the rights of the ethnic Albanian minority February 2001. This

was the Netherlands's first attempt to take command of a major international peacekeeping mission. (BBC, June 26, 2002)

Police diffuse airport bomb: A bomb was diffused at the Petrovec airport near the capital of Skopje June 25. All take-offs and landings were immediately halted, and anti-terrorist units were called in to locate and diffuse the bomb. Radical elements of the Democratic Party of Albanians have been suspected of working for the airport services in order to subvert operations in the hope of gaining fuller rights than those contained in the August 2001 Orhid Accord that ended the seven month conflict. (BBC, June 25, 2002)

## **MADAGASCAR**

Power lines explode, humans used as shields: The eastern town of Moramanga and much of the nation's capital, Antananarivo, lost power after electric pylons were blown up June 21 at the hydro-electric plant at Andekaleka, 90 miles east of Antananarivo. The attack was blamed on supporters of former President Didier Ratsiraka. Moramanga was considered an important strategic target because it provided the only railway passage to Alaotra, the rice field that feeds the entire nation. In the northeastern town of Antsirana, approximately 70 people were used as human shields by supporters of Ratsiraka trying to defend one of his two remaining strongholds. Troops loyal to Ratsiraka chained the people to the railings of the governor's office June 24 to shield the office from a reported imminent attack. Those chained were claimed by Ratsiraka supporters to be militia under President Marc Ravalomanana's control. However, witnesses stated they were not militia but rather businessmen belonging to Ravalomanana's ethnic group. The reported sabotage of the electric pylon and the use of humans as shields were the most recent incidents in the ongoing crisis that arose after Ravalomanana was declared the victor of the disputed December 2001 presidential elections. (AFP, AP, June 21; Africa News, June 24; BBC, June 25, 2002)

Mercenaries sent to kill president: Ravalomanana's spokesman Raymond Ramandimbilahatra reported that 36 mercenaries were sent to Madagascar June 21 by forces loyal to Ratsiraka in order to assassinate the president. He said that three helicopters each carrying 12 mercenaries left East London, South Africa with orders to carry out the assassination June 26, disrupting the country's Independence Day festivities, but South African air traffic controllers reported no unusual activity from any South African airports, including East London. The assassination claim came just two days after 12 to 15 suspected French mercenaries en route to Madagascar were turned back to France by Tanzanian authorities. The U.S. condemned the alleged assassination attempts June 21 and commended Ravalomanana's commitment to uniting the government. (AFP, June 21; Africa News, June 24; PANA, June 23, 2002)

Former leader returns, OAU makes decision: Ratsiraka returned June 23 after leaving for Paris, France June 14. The former leader told reporters that he was the legitimate president until there was a legal successor as head of the country. An aide to Ravalomanana said that Ratsiraka was a criminal who would be arrested. Ratsiraka attended the emergency summit held by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) that

began June 21 in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. The OAU announced that it would not recognize a government formed by either Ravalomanana or Ratsiraka until a constitutional government had been established. The AFP reported that Ravalomanana described the OAU's refusal to recognize him as the legitimate leader of the nation as "an irrelevant decision by a club of old cronies." Ravalomanana also promised to continue his fight against troops loyal to Ratsiraka. The OAU proposed a settlement that included a recount with a possible run-off election within six months, which would be internationally monitored. Ratsiraka accepted the outcome of the meeting, but Ravalomanana did not, stating that the decision to hold new elections failed to take into consideration the current political situation. Ravalomanana's refusal to accept a new election appeared to be supported by the U.S., who officially recognized Ravalomanana's presidency June 26. ([AFP](#), June 22; [Africa News](#), [BBC](#), June 23, 2002)

## NEPAL

India pledges to help fight Maoists: King Gyanendra began a six-day visit to India June 24 to gain support from the Indian government for the fight against the Maoist rebels. Indian President Narayanan pledged military support to help the government defeat the insurgency and maintain peace and security in the country. India has already provided Nepal with two helicopter gunships to help fight the rebels, and has pledged more assistance by way of arms and military training. India shares a 1,090 mile open border with Nepal, which authorities said Maoist leaders frequently pass through to take refuge in India and coordinate their activities, making it difficult for government forces to intercept their operations. The government of Nepal has been fighting the Maoist rebels since 1996 when they staged a "people's revolution" in an attempt to overthrow the constitutional monarchy and create a "people's republic." ([BBC](#), [DPA](#), June 24, 2002)

London conference gives aid to government: Nepal's major development partner countries and international organizations attended a two-day London conference that began June 19 to discuss Nepal's security and development needs, and possible poverty reduction measures. After the government of Nepal made a direct appeal to Great Britain (GB) for help in May 2002 GB pledged millions of dollars in military support and aid to the Nepalese government in their fight against Maoist rebels, thereby broadening the international "war on terrorism." GB has agreed to provide the Royal Nepalese Army with helicopters and monetary assistance for training and equipment to help their battle against the Maoists. GB has also agreed to give Nepal an additional 10.5 million dollars in assistance this year. ([BBC](#), [Guardian Newspapers](#), [The Financial Times](#), June 20, 2002)

Government, rebels clash: At least 88 rebels were killed June 20 to 24 in rural areas of western Nepal during clashes between government forces and Maoist rebels. Approximately 50 rebels were killed June 20 in Khara village, and another 27 were killed June 21 and 22 in scattered battles around Nepal. There were no government casualties and the army recovered concealed guns, explosives, pipe bombs, combat fatigues, wire, documents, and logistics from rebel hideouts in Gorkha, Accham, and Ramechhap June 23

and 24. Since the fighting began in 1996, more than 4,700 people have been killed. (DPA, Toronto Star Newspapers, June 24, 2002)

## **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

G8 meet under pressure from human rights groups: The G8 countries (Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, U.S.) planned to meet June 26 and June 27 in Calgary, Canada amid protests from human rights activists, to discuss an aid package for Africa in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), expected to encourage investment. Human rights groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, were concerned that aid pledges were compromised by other G8 policies that undermined human rights in Africa. Amnesty International said the G8's trade in arms and military aid to African countries affected by civil or inter-state conflict undermined human rights and sustainable development in the region. According to Amnesty, the U.S. was the world's leading arms trader and exported more than \$14 billion to developing countries in 2000, far exceeding the amount spent on health in the same year. Other human rights concerns included the alleged complicity of some Western corporations in African conflicts, a lack of commitment to stemming the HIV/AIDS crisis, Nepad's failure to integrate international human rights criteria within its framework, and the potential of G8 policy on the "war on terror" to undermine human rights on a global scale. The G8, the world's eight largest economies, have met annually since 1975 to discuss political and economic strategy. (AFP, Amnesty International News, DPA, June 24; BBC, June 25; Human Rights Watch News, June 5, 2002)

U.S. threatens Bosnia peacekeeping mission: Diplomats warned June 26 that the future of the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina was threatened by a dispute with the U.S. over the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal. The U.S. said it could be forced to pull out of the international force in Bosnia if American peacekeepers were not granted immunity from the International Criminal Court (ICC), due to be formally established in the Netherlands the first week of July 2002. The court was designed to replace the current expensive, ad hoc tribunals to try criminals on charges of genocide, war crimes, and human rights abuses worldwide. The deadline for renewing the Bosnian operation was extended by nine days to allow further discussions, in the hope of reaching a compromise before the ICC began work. The U.S. withdrew its signature from the Rome Treaty that brought the ICC into being, but those countries that did ratify the treaty were bound by law not to undermine the powers of the court, which could prevent them from approving the exemption of U.S. peacekeepers. The U.S. has provided 3,100 peacekeepers of a total 17,000 in Bosnia-Herzegovina, all of whom would need to be replaced if removed, according to UN officials. Although the U.S. could not veto the peacekeeping operation, its withdrawal of staff would have serious consequences for the continuation of the project. (BBC, June 26, 2002)

African Commission assess alleged abuses: The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights delegation arrived in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, June 23 to investigate accusations of human rights abuses. The delegation planned to meet with representatives of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front party (Zanu-PF) as well

as opposition party Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) officials. Other stakeholders, including farmers, academics, churches, and NGOs, would also be consulted about human rights standards in Zimbabwe. Vice Chairperson Jainaba Johm said the delegation would make independent conclusions about the human rights situation in Zimbabwe at the end of their visit, at which point a report would be produced, and a resolution made in October 2002 based on the Commission's findings. The Commission's investigation was prompted by an appeal from the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum to investigate alleged state-sponsored violence perpetrated by Zanu-PF during the 2000 elections. The MDC leveled similar accusations at Zanu-PF in the run-up to the March 2002 presidential elections, which failed to meet international standards of fairness, according to UN monitors. In April 2002, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights threw out a European Union resolution calling for an investigation of human rights violations in Zimbabwe, due to resistance from African, Asian, and Middle Eastern countries. (The Herald, June 24, 2002)