



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)
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

Government creates body to disband private armies: The Afghan government established a high-level commissioning body July 15 to oversee the disarming and disbanding of private armies, a decision intended to increase the government's efforts of creating a national security force. The government appointed a leading warlord as its head and included all prominent warlords and their political parties in the commission. The warlords in Afghanistan have had a strong influence in the country and Afghan leader Hamid Karzai's decision to include them in the was made in order to bring stability and unity to the country. Karzai vowed to rid Afghanistan of factional warlords and a "culture of guns" when he was appointed leader of the UN-backed interim government after the Taliban was ousted from power in December 2001. Karzai was elected by an Afghan Grand Council in June 2002 to lead Afghanistan for another 18 months. (BBC, New York Times, July 15, 2002)

UN urges refugees to repatriate: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) encouraged neighboring governments July 16 to help repatriate refugees who wanted to return to Afghanistan. The announcement was a change of policy for UNHCR, who had previously warned against voluntary repatriation schemes. UNHCR stated it felt confident that both the country and the government were ready for repatriation, following improved security and greater political stability. Since 1999, more than 150,000 Afghan refugees have applied for asylum in approximately 90 countries, and since December 2001 more than one million refugees have returned home to Afghanistan. (BBC, July 16, 2002)

CHECHNYA

Putin selects new human rights envoy: Russian President Vladimir Putin replaced his human rights envoy for Chechnya July 12 with Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, a Chechen economist and adviser to the State Duma's Commission on Chechen affairs. Sultygov said a constitutional referendum should be conducted in Chechnya and that special operations must come to an end. However, he also expressed sympathy for the difficulties faced by Russian soldiers. Human rights groups opposed Putin's choice of successor and accused Sultygov of being "a Kremlin man," in spite of his Chechen ethnicity. The selection of Sultygov coincided with the complete withdrawal of human rights groups from dialogue with Russian security and military officials, on the grounds that promises to curtail abuses in Chechnya had been ignored. Human rights groups documented alleged abuses of Chechen civilian rights both during the 1994 to 1996 war and since the renewal of conflict in October 1999, when Russian troops entered the capital of Grozny in response to a wave of terrorist bombings in Russia, allegedly carried out by Chechen rebels. (AFP, Los Angeles Times, July 13; AP, July 15, 2002)

Kadyrov drafts new constitution: A new constitution was drafted by Russian-appointed Chechen Administration Chief Akhmad Kadyrov, for a public referendum in Chechnya planned for November 2002. The constitution, which already received preliminary approval from the Russian government, established the post of a republic's president, to be elected for a five-year term. It also included stipulations that Russian and Chechen would be the republic's official languages and that religious organizations of "a radical

nature” would be banned. Chechnya was left with de facto independence at the end of the 1994 to 1996 war when Russian troops withdrew, but has been under Russian political control since the war began in October 1999. (AFP, ITAR-TASS, July 16, 2002)

Russia closes refugee camps: The Russian government decided to close two key refugee camps in the northern Chechen Republic town of Znamenskoye July 7, relocating an estimated 2,200 civilians to Grozny. The relief agency, Doctors without Borders, accused the Russian government of trying to create a false picture of security in Chechnya and said that this closure reneged on Russian promises that all refugee returns would be voluntary. A UN Team, including representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), visited the site on a fact-finding mission, and confirmed that the camps had been closed. UNHCR raised concerns that the inhabitants were not fully informed about their right to remain and did not know where they would be relocated to. Despite Russian press statements that the 33-month conflict in Chechnya would soon end, daily clashes between pro-independence rebels and Russian troops have continued in Grozny, raising security issues for refugee returns. (AFP, July 9, 13, 2002)

Suspect in 1999 bombings is arrested: Adam Dekkushev, a Russian born in the Caucasus, was arrested July 14 in Georgia in relation to a series of 1999 apartment bombings in Russia that killed approximately 300 people. Dekkushev was extradited from the Pankisi Gorge in Georgia, on the border of the Chechen Republic, along with two other suspects, who managed to escape. Investigators began questioning Dekkushev about his involvement in the bombings, widely regarded as the trigger to the renewal of conflict in Chechnya in October 1999. (AFP, July 16, 2002)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

RCD-Goma soldiers defect: Approximately 1,300 rebel soldiers of the Goma-based, Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD-Goma) defected July 12 and joined the Congolese Armed Forces. The government’s Army Public Affairs Officer said that the RCD-Goma 71st battalion handed themselves over to Army General Francois Olenga in the northeastern district of Boende. RCD-Goma External Relations Department Head Joseph Mudumbi denied that a mass defection took place and claimed only one commander of RCD-Goma deserted with his family and close aides. Approximately 150 soldiers who were with RCD-Goma’s Bassoko infantry division defected and joined rival group Congolese Rally for Democracy Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC), headed by Jean-Pierre Bemba and backed by Uganda. The MLC signed an agreement with the DRC government at the April 2002 Sun City peace talks in an effort to end the conflict in the DRC. The current 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 3 million people have died in the four-year war. (AFP, July 12; BBC, July 14, 2002)

Scores die in Bunia clashes: At least 40 people died in the northeastern town of Bunia July 10 in a clash between the Ugandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy/Liberation Movement (RCD-ML) and a Ugandan-backed militia representing the ethnic Hema people. Approximately 40 RCD-ML soldiers were reported dead along with an unknown number of civilians. RCD-ML Secretary-General Kolosso Sumahili stated that Ugandan troops ordered the RCD-ML soldiers to lay down their arms, after which the Ugandan troops reportedly shot at them, killing two. The clash occurred after Bunia's Military Governor Jean-Pierre Mulondo was attacked by men loyal to the RCD-ML. Bunia had long been a scene of violent clashes between the Hema and Lendu peoples as well as numerous Ugandan-backed rebel factions. (AFP, Africa News, July 11, 2002)

Troops amass along Rwandan border: Rwanda claimed July 11 that troops from the Central African Republic, the DRC, and the Republic of Congo had amassed with "hostile intent" along the DRC-Rwanda border. The troops reportedly gathered over the last two months in the South Kivu Province resulting in the bolstering of the already present former army of Rwanda, ex-FAR, and extremist Hutu militia forces, the Interahamwe. Rwandan Defense Minister General Emmanuel Habyarimana claimed that the reinforcements came to support Patrick Masunzu, the former commander for RCD-Goma who had been leading the fight against Rwandan troops in the Hauts Plateaux in eastern DRC. Masunzu reportedly fled to a forest outside Minembwe July 16 after approximately 200 of his men deserted him and rejoined RCD-Goma. (AFP, July 11; IRIN, July 16, 2002)

ERITREA-ETHIOPIA

ICRC repatriates 208 Ethiopians from Eritrea: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) repatriated approximately 208 Ethiopians from Eritrea July 12. The repatriation took place between the Eritrean town of Adi Quala and the Ethiopian town of Rama. The ICRC has reportedly repatriated more than 57,000 Ethiopians from Eritrea and continued to assist any person affected by the armed conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. This was the ninth repatriation carried out by 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. (Xinhua, July 15, 2002)

Lack of staff postpones landmine survey: A critical landmine survey, scheduled to begin June 1, was postponed in Eritrea due to a shortage of trained experts. The surveys, which have been carried out worldwide, would have allowed UN teams the opportunity to measure the effectiveness of operations to rid Eritrea of landmines. Addressing a press conference in the Eritrean capital of Asmara, Dave Edwards, a mine expert with the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, said the survey is necessary as part of the long-term development of the country. These expensive surveys have often been held up by lack of

funding. The survey in Eritrea was delayed by more than one month and has yet to be rescheduled. Eritrea was one of the most heavily mined countries in the world with tens of thousands of mines littering the region following a two-year border war with Ethiopia that ended in May 1998. (IRIN, July 12, 2002)

UN launches outreach centers: The head of the UN peacekeepers in Eritrea and Ethiopia, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, launched two centers July 10 to provide the people of both countries an opportunity to have a better understanding of the peace process. Speaking to delegates at the launch in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, Legwaila said he hoped the centers would stand as a “lasting tribute” to peace in the Horn of Africa. Legwaila heads the 4,200-strong UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, which was established after a peace agreement was signed in December 2000. (IRIN, July 11, 2002)

MACEDONIA

OSCE expects clashes among ethnic Albanians: The Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) issued a report July 15 indicating that new confrontations among Albanians were imminent in Tetovo unless local police began controlling the situation. The report encouraged the police to identify individuals responsible for the three-day armed confrontations that began July 11 in the village of Odri in order to deter future violence. The report stated that at approximately the same time period, a group of 30-armed fighters entered the village of Grekaj, located near Gostivar and Mavrovo and heavily populated by Albanians. The OSCE report indicated that the Democratic Union for Integration in Albania and the Democratic Party of Albanians were preparing for a series of armed confrontations against each other around Odri. (Dnevnik Newspaper, July 15, 2002)

MADAGASCAR

Former leader's party divides: Antananarivo Arema Union (Arema) political party leader, Pierre Raharijaona, confirmed July 11 the establishment of the Arema Association for the Rebirth of Madagascar, a faction of former President Didier Ratsiraka's political party, Arema. Raharijaona stated that Arema National Secretary and former Deputy Prime Minister Pierrot Rajaonarivelo had been leading the new Arema Association for an unspecified length of time. The new Arema Association emerged in response to a call by Arema moderates for a reorganization of working procedures, along with a new political approach and the creation of a social agenda. The new party reportedly expressed support for Rajaonarivelo's initiative of encouraging a process of national reconciliation. Raharijaona also stated that the new Arema Association would play the role of a constructive opposition party without any extremist tendencies. Despite the fracturing of his party, Ratsiraka vowed July 13 to continue his fight to regain power. Raharijaona's announcement was the most recent development in the ongoing crisis that emerged when Ratsiraka refused to relinquish power after Madagascar's high court declared Marc Ravalomanana president April 29 following a recount of votes in the December 2001 elections. (AFP, July 11, 13, 14; BBC, July 12, 2002)

Envoy expresses need for Mauritius' support: Jean Eugene Voninahitsy, the president's envoy to Mauritius and former deputy speaker of the Malagasy National Assembly, stated in an interview July 11 with the Mauritius newspaper L'Express that Madagascar would count on Mauritius for support and not on the African Union (AU). Voninahitsy expressed disappointment with the AU for its continued refusal to recognize Ravalomanana as President of Madagascar, and stressed the need for continued positive relations between Madagascar and Mauritius. The AU formerly the Organization for African Unity opened July 9, in Durban, South Africa, and has been designed to increase African solidarity. (BBC, July 11, 15, 2002)

NEPAL

Indian police deport four suspected Maoists: Police reported that four Nepalese nationals, who were arrested July 11 on suspicion of being Maoist rebels, were handed over to Nepalese authorities July 15 on the Indian-Nepal border after being detained in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The men were arrested at a meeting with Indian political activists. However, a journalist and human rights campaigner present at the meeting said the meeting had been organized to discuss the peace process in Nepal and that the four men arrested were all journalists with a Nepalese newspaper. India's decision to deport the four Nepalese nationals came after India pledged June 24 to help the government of Nepal fight the Maoist rebels, during King Gyanendra's visit to India. 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, July 12, 15, 2002)

Journalists boycott government: Journalists in Nepal began a boycott July 16 of all government functions in protest of restrictions on press freedoms. The Nepalese Journalists' Federation also called for a blackout of news and pictures of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, his cabinet, and other government officials. The boycott followed allegations that police tortured and killed Krishna Sen, a left-wing editor of the Janadisha newspaper. The government reported that Sen was a terrorist leader and was not killed, but had gone into hiding. Since the government imposed the state of emergency in November 2001, journalists have asserted that media restrictions were tightened and that more than 100 journalists had been arrested. (BBC, July 16, 2002)

Government, rebels clash: The Nepalese army killed seven Maoist rebels in operations July 13 and 14 in western Nepal. The army recovered nine concealed guns and more than five pounds of explosives July 15 during a search for Maoist arms caches in Sonbarsha and Fattepur in the district of Banke in western Nepal. In another clash between the government and rebels July 14, a group of rebels killed government activist, Aiesing Waiba, in the northwestern town of Nuwakot. Waiba's death was the sixth civilian murder in Nuwakot since November 2001 when the government imposed a state of emergency. Since the fighting began in 1996, more than 4,700 people have been killed. (nepalnews.com, July 16, 2002)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S. wins temporary exemption for peacekeepers: The UN Security Council (SC) voted unanimously for a one-year exemption of U.S. peacekeepers from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Although there was no provision made for a renewal of this exemption, U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Negroponte said that the U.S. would not tolerate the trial of U.S. peacekeepers, and would regard any legal proceedings of this kind illegitimate. The U.S. government previously threatened to veto all future UN peacekeeping missions if the American military was not granted permanent immunity. After the resolution passed, the UN's peacekeeping mandate in Bosnia was immediately renewed. Canadian Foreign Minister Paul Heinbecker criticized the deal, stating that it was not in the mandate of the SC to interpret treaties originally negotiated outside of its own meetings, while Britain and France supported the compromise. The ICC, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, came into being July 1, 2002, and should begin processing claims towards the end of 2003. (BBC, Financial Times, July 14, 2002)

Former dictator under house arrest: Former Argentinian dictator Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri was placed under house arrest July 13, for alleged human rights abuses during his 1976 to 1983 military regime. Federal Judge Claudio Bonadio ordered the detention of Galtieri as well as 41 other former members of the military and police intelligence who had served under him. The arrests were part of an investigation into the 1980 disappearances of 20 members of the Montoneros group. Laws passed in 1986 and 1987 protected former military personnel from prosecution for crimes perpetrated during the dictatorship, but were declared unconstitutional by Bonadio. This was the first time that Galtieri had been arrested in a human rights case, in spite of the alleged abduction and murder of between 11,000 and 30,000 people during his dictatorship, a period now referred to as the "dirty war." (AFP, July 12; DPA, July 13, 2002)

East Timor suggests TV linkups for trials: East Timor's Attorney General, Longinhos Monteiro, suggested July 17 that witnesses in Indonesia's human rights court should testify through a televised link in order to allay fears about their safety. Monteiro said many East Timorese witnesses had refused to travel to the Indonesian capital of Jakarta to testify because they did not feel their security was guaranteed. A television link, arranged by a private television channel, was used in an Indonesian court for the first time in July 2002 when former President B.J. Habibie testified from Germany in the corruption trial of one of his former ministers. Eighteen military, police, civilian officials and East Timorese militiamen were on trial or due to stand trial in the human rights court for abuses perpetrated against East Timorese independence supporters in April and September 1999, following a campaign of election intimidation and subsequent revenge for the pro-independence vote. (AFP, July 17, 2002)