



The Joan B. Kroc  
INSTITUTE FOR  
PEACE & JUSTICE

**Peace & Justice Update**  
**June 20, 2003**  
*(Volume 6, Number 1)*

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)

**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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### **UGANDA**

Sudan accused of supporting rebels; LRA increases violence

## UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP	=	Associated Press ( <a href="http://www.ap.org">www.ap.org</a> )
AFP	=	Agence France Presse ( <a href="http://www.afp.com">www.afp.com</a> )
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media ( <a href="http://www.allAfrica.com">www.allAfrica.com</a> )
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation ( <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk">http://news.bbc.co.uk</a> )
CNN	=	Cable News Network ( <a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a> )
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur ( <a href="http://www.dpa.com">www.dpa.com</a> )
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News ( <a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a> )
IRIN	=	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> )
NCN	=	New Congo Net ( <a href="http://www.marekinc.com/NCN.html">www.marekinc.com/NCN.html</a> )
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency ( <a href="http://www.panapress.com">www.panapress.com</a> )
TASS	=	ITAR-TASS News Agency ( <a href="http://www.itar-tass.com/english/">www.itar-tass.com/english/</a> )
UPI	=	United Press International ( <a href="http://www.upi.com">www.upi.com</a> )
VOA	=	Voice of America ( <a href="http://www.voanews.com">www.voanews.com</a> )
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency ( <a href="http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm">www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm</a> )

## **BURMA/MYANMAR<sup>1</sup>**

Military takes Suu Kyi into custody: Opposition leader and 1991 Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was taken into “protective custody” May 30 after a riot began at a stop on her tour of northern Burma. Burma’s Foreign Minister Win Aung stated June 15 that Suu Kyi has been kept in custody to protect her from a possible assassination attempt, although he did not identify any threat. Nineteen members of Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD) were also reported to be in custody after clashes between NLD members and government supporters left four people dead and 50 injured in Yaway Oo, approximately 400 miles north of the capital. Burma’s military junta ordered the closure of all universities and colleges and shut down the remaining offices of the NLD June 2. Some non-military reports indicated that as many as 70 people were killed by pro-government forces and reported that Suu Kyi had suffered head injuries. The country’s intelligence chief and third ranked leader General Khin Nyunt accused the NLD of corruption and triggering the May 30 violence by seeking a confrontation with the government. A spokesperson for the U.S. government stated that American diplomats who visited the scene believed the attack was premeditated and carried out by “government-affiliated thugs.” The military has been in control of the government since 1962, despite Suu Kyi and the NLD’s victory in the 1990 elections. Suu Kyi has been placed under house arrest off and on for the last 10 years. (The Age (Melbourne), June 3; BBC, June 2, 8, 16; New York Times, June 10; The Washington Post, June 9, 2003)

UN envoy seeks release of opposition leader: UN Special Envoy Razali Ismail arrived in Burma June 6 to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, who had been held incommunicado at an undisclosed location since her May 30 detainment by the junta. Authorities in Burma barred Razali from seeing her until the last day of his visit. Razali met with Suu Kyi for 30 minutes and reported that she seemed to be in good spirits and uninjured. Razali mediated peace talks between the junta and Aung San Suu Kyi in late 2000 and helped secure her release from house arrest in May 2002. (AP, June 6, 10; BBC, June 5, 9, 10, 2003)

ASEAN members begin talks: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) began two days of ministerial talks June 16 in Cambodia to discuss North Korea, terrorism, and the situation in Burma. Despite ASEAN’s long-standing policy of noninterference, the 10 ASEAN members were expected to issue an unprecedented joint statement June 17 concerning the May 30 political violence that led to the detention of opposition leader Suu Kyi. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was expected to attend June 18 and to pressure Burma and its neighbors to take action for the immediate release of Suu Kyi. In response to her detention, Powell also backed a bill passed by the U.S. Senate June 12 to ban all imports from Burma and freeze the government’s assets in the U.S. ASEAN was formed in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand to promote political and economic cooperation and regional stability. (AFP, June 15; BBC, June 16, 12; Japan Economic Newswire, June 16, 2003)

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<sup>1</sup> The updates refer to Burma/Myanmar in recognition of the name of the country prior to the military takeover and name change to Myanmar.

## **CHECHNYA**

Russian parliament grants amnesty: Russia's lower house of parliament passed a bill June 4 granting amnesty to Chechen rebels that was originally proposed May 15 by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The bill passed with 352 deputies voting in favor and 25 against. The amnesty would pardon Chechen rebels who hand in their weapons or renounce the separatist cause by the September 1 deadline. The amnesty bill excluded foreigners and those accused of serious crimes such as murder, kidnapping, and rape. The amnesty would apply to Russian troops as well as rebels, which has prompted criticism that it might be used to cover up human rights abuses by Russian soldiers. The amnesty measure has reflected Putin's two-pronged strategy to pacify Chechnya by defeating pro-independence forces militarily while granting limited autonomy to a Chechen government scheduled to be elected in October or November 2003. As of June 13, 41 people had surrendered under the amnesty. The 1994 Chechen war ended in a 1996 peace accord that granted Chechnya de facto independence. Fighting resumed in 1999 when Russian troops entered Chechnya after a series of rebel attacks on the neighboring Republic of Dagestan and bombings on Moscow apartment buildings that Russia attributed to Chechen rebels. (AFP, June 4; BBC, June 6; Economic News, June 9; Los Angeles Times, June 7, 2003)

Maskhadov and Basayev reunite: Chechnya's elected president Aslan Maskhadov and Chechen field commander Shamil Basayev have resolved their differences, according to a June 13 statement. Maskhadov's government has been deemed illegitimate by the Russian government, and Maskhadov has been considered a rebel leader ever since he and Basayev first joined forces for a brief period in the summer 2002. While Maskhadov was elected by the Chechens, Basayev has been widely viewed as a violent extremist. The two have been at odds for several years because Basayev's violent tactics, such as the October 2002 siege of a Moscow theatre, are not in line with Maskhadov's more moderate approach. Basayev has now accepted Maskhadov's command and promised to coordinate all actions with him. (AFP, BBC, June 13, 2003)

Chechen official fights extradition: Russia sought the extradition of Akhmed Zakayev, the foreign minister of Chechnya's elected president Aslan Maskhadov, June 9 in a London court and accused him of 13 criminal charges committed in the Chechen republic between 1995 and 2000. The charges included waging war against Moscow and committing a series of murders and abductions. Zakayev denied all charges and argued that his case has been prejudiced by a hostile press in Russia. Zakayev's extradition hearing came after his December 2002 arrest at Heathrow airport. (BBC, June 9; The Independent, June 10, 2003)

Change in Chechnya security control: Russia's Lieutenant General in Chechnya Yevgeni Abrashin announced June 16 that Russia was expected to hand over responsibility for security in Chechnya from its Federal Security Service to the Interior Ministry. The handover would begin July 1 and finish by the end of August. The Interior Ministry troops would help police forces in combating terrorism and other crimes, but they would not carry out independent military operations. According to Abrashin, Chechen resistance has been subsiding and rebel leaders have instead chosen terrorism as their main weapon.

In recent weeks, a series of Chechen suicide bomb attacks have killed more than 100 people in Chechnya and Russia. (AFP, TASS, June 16, 2003)

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

Fighting resumes in Bunia: Five people were wounded and four killed June 7 in a clash between the militias of two major ethnic groups, the Hema and Lendu, for control of Bunia, the capital of the northeastern Ituri province. The fighting occurred one day after the arrival some of the 1,400 multinational troops authorized by the UN Security Council May 30 to restore security. Hema militia leader Thomas Lubanga stated June 3 that his forces would cooperate with the multinational troops but would not disarm. Residents of Bunia stated they were relieved by the arrival of multinational forces, who have been authorized by the UN to use force to secure Bunia. UN peacekeepers, who have been stationed in the region since March 31, have not been able to stop the fighting because they did not have a mandate to use force unless civilians came under direct threat. The multinational forces' ability to secure the region were questioned in a report June 13 published by the International Crisis Group, a global analysis and advocacy organization, which said that UN forces were completely insufficient, and called for an intervention that covered a greater geographic area than Bunia and stayed much longer the September 1 deadline mandated for the multinational force. Approximately 430 people were killed from both sides during mid-May clashes that resulted in the defeat of Lendu forces by the Hema militia, who have continued to control the area. Hema and Lendu militias, aided by neighboring countries Uganda and Rwanda, have fought over the resources of the region since 1998. The Ugandan troops had exercised de facto control in the region since 1998, but withdrew from Bunia May 7 to comply with the August 2002 Luanda accord, a bilateral agreement with the DRC in which the Ugandan government agreed to withdraw its troops. (AFP, June 15; Africa News, May 8; AllAfrica, June 5; HRW News, June 6; New York Times, June 9, 10; The New Zealand Herald, June 4; Reuters, June 10, 2003)

UN Security Council urges cooperation: A UN Security Council delegation met June 11 in Kinshasa with President Joseph Kabila and signatories of the December 2002 Pretoria Agreement, and urged them to implement the transitional government they had agreed on December 2002. The delegates also met with Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni June 15, and discussed the role that DRC's neighboring countries should play in ending the violence in the country, particularly in eastern Ituri and Kivus districts. The conflict in the DRC began in August 1998 when then President Laurent Desire Kabila's main political sponsors, Rwanda and Uganda, turned against him and began supporting an anti-government rebellion. The Pretoria Agreement represented a reconciliation process to end the conflict in the DRC. It was signed by the DRC's armed political groups, the government, unarmed political opposition parties and civil society, and stated that President Joseph Kabila was to remain president of the DRC and would be assisted by 4 vice-presidents. (AFP, June 4, 11; UN News, June 16, 2003)

### **ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA**

Tensions rise over border decision: On May 27, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi called the March 21 2003 boundary clarification by the Eritrean-Ethiopian Boundary Commission "wrong and unjust." The commission had based their decision on treaties

between 1900 and 1908 and ignored the nationality and input of current border residents. Meles noted that Ethiopia would not instigate hostilities over the decision, but still rejected it as unfair, primarily due to the Commission's decision to place the border town of Badme, which has a majority Ethiopian population, within Eritrea's borders. The Eritrean government has said that reopening discussion about the border is not an option. The physical boundary demarcation, originally scheduled to begin in July, has been postponed by the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. As mandated by the December 2000 Algiers Peace Agreement, which ended the two-year border war that resulted in tens of thousands of deaths subsequent to Eritrea's 1993 independence from Ethiopia, the boundary Commission's border decision was to be binding. (Addis Tribune, May 30; Africa News, May 27; DPA, May 28, 2003)

UNMEE soldiers in sex scandal: Irish soldiers who had served as peacekeepers in the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in a mission before December 2002 were charged June 12 with soliciting prostitutes as young as 15. Commandant Kieran McDaid, Irish defense force spokesman, said that an investigation was underway and that if true, this was "very serious." He said that UNMEE troops have been educated to respect communities and that the alleged behavior would not be tolerated. UNMEE is a 4,200 member military force, which has been deployed in the buffer zone between Ethiopia and Eritrea since they signed a peace accord in December 2000. (AFP, June 14; The Press Association Limited, June 12, 2003)

Human rights abuses continue: Reports of harassment and curtailment of the press continued in Ethiopia. International PEN's Writers In Prison Committee, a freedom of expression activist group, urged the Ethiopian government June 4 to cease systematic harassment of independent journalists, noting that journalists Tewodros Kassa and Melese Shine have been in military custody since July 2002 and April 2003, respectively. Human rights abuses have also continued in Eritrea, including reports of police brutality, arbitrary arrest, detainment without charge, and torture. Eritrean government security forces arrested dissenting police officer Colonel Fiory of Asmara without explanation, and officials of the ruling party, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice, interrogated Colonel Semon Gebredengel for a full night without arrest. Human rights conditions have not improved in Ethiopia or Eritrea since 2002, and reports of abuses have continued to draw negative attention from the international community. (BBC, June 6; International Freedom of Expression Exchange Clearing House, June 5, 2003)

## **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

New UN court for Sierra Leone indicts Liberian leader: Liberian President Charles Taylor was charged June 4 with primary responsibility for the 10-year civil war of its neighbor, Sierra Leone, which started in 1991. Taylor was accused of supporting the Sierra Leone rebel group Revolutionary United Front, which raped, maimed, killed, and kidnapped tens of thousands of people during the conflict over control of the nation's diamond mines. Taylor was served the indictment in Ghana, where he had been invited by local authorities to meet with Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), who were waging their own war within Liberia. Taylor stated June 12 that the

charges must be dropped if peace talks with LURD were to continue. (AP, Reuters, June 5; Xinhua, June 12, 2003)

Khmer Rouge leaders to be tried for genocide: After five years of negotiations between the government of Cambodia and the UN, an agreement was signed June 6 to bring the leaders of the Khmer Rouge to trial for genocide. The government of Cambodia requested UN assistance in creating a tribunal in 1997. The agreement created the trial and appeals systems, and established a supreme court with Cambodian judges representing a majority in each. At least one foreign judge would have to support a ruling for any sentence to be valid. Human rights organizations criticized the plan, saying it is too vulnerable to political manipulation by a government comprised of many former Khmer Rouge soldiers, including Prime Minister Hun Sen. During the Khmer Rouge rule of Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 approximately 25 percent of the population perished from starvation, execution, and mass purging designed to reshape Cambodian society according to Maoist ideology. (AFP, June 8; AP, June 4, 2003)

Bosnia-Herzegovina signs exemption clause with U.S.: The presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina submitted to parliament for ratification June 3 a bilateral agreement that stated neither the U.S. nor Bosnia-Herzegovina would surrender each others' nationals to third parties, granting them immunity from prosecution by the International Criminal Court. Harshly criticized by the European Union and the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, the move brought the total number of countries signing the "Article 98" non-extradition agreement to 37. The UN Security Council renewed a year-long prosecution exemption for U.S. peacemakers June 12, with a 12-0 vote. France, Germany, and Syria abstained, and the U.S. stated its desire for a permanent exemption; an action the EU and Security Council were unwilling to accept. The U.S. withdrew its signature May 6, 2002, from the Rome Statute that created the ICC, stating that any Americans prosecuted would be denied their constitutional rights. (BBC, June 8; Xinhua, June 2, 2003)

## **MACEDONIA**

Commission to investigate police abuses: A commission operating under the Ministry of Interior Affairs was established by the government June 3 to investigate allegations of abuse of power by police officers who participated a May 24 search operation in Sopot, a village in the Kumanovo district in the northern region of Macedonia. The police operation was designed to find the perpetrators of a mine explosion that killed two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) soldiers and two civilians. A spokesperson for the Macedonian government stated that the search violated the residents' constitutional and legal rights. During the search, two ethnic Albanians were arrested. Inhabitants of Sopot demanded the release of the two villagers, but later agreed to wait for the results of the commission. Macedonia has struggled with tensions between government forces and ethnic Albanian rebels who took up arms against the Macedonian government to fight for the rights of the ethnic Albanian minority in February 2001. The seven-month conflict ended August 2001 with the signing of the Ohrid Accord that called for disarmament and greater rights for the country's ethnic Albanian minority. (BBC, June 3, 4, 2003)

Rebel group threatens to resume fighting: The Albanian National Army (ANA) leaders called on all ethnic Albanians June 3 to launch a war in Macedonia by mid-June if demands for a protectorate under the U.S. and European Union and acceptance of a Kosovo-Albania union were not met. The ANA has been described as an extremist group by the international community and has operated in Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania. Macedonian Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski said he was convinced that the appeal to take up arms made by the ANA would not be widely supported by the population, but emphasized that the government should not underestimate any potential danger posed by this group. Unlike the ANA, Macedonia's National Liberation Army and other rebel groups abandoned the seven-month conflict in August 2001 in exchange for political reforms granting greater rights to ethnic Albanians. (BBC, June 4, 2003)

Ethnic Albanian leader argues for foreign military presence: At an early June meeting with European Union (EU) High Representative Javier Solana in Skopje, prime minister Branko Crvenkovski said that EU forces, deployed April 2002, could remain in the country until the end of the year at the latest, while Democratic Union for Integration party leader Ali Ahmeti stated that the presence of EU forces in the country should remain until the full implementation of the August 2001 Ohrid Agreement. Government sources in favor of the prime minister's position stated June 9 that EU forces should leave because it would facilitate the country's integration into NATO, attract more foreign investment, and aid the implementation of the Ohrid agreement, which is based on civilian authority rather than on military leadership. President Trajkovski, in a June 5 meeting with Solana, praised the EU forces' contribution to the stabilization of the country and stated that he would hold negotiations at the end of the summer to resolve the conflict over EU forces. (BBC, June 9, Xinhua, June 6, 2003)

Parliamentary sessions will be bilingual: State television interpreted comments at a parliamentary session made by Albanian-speaking deputies into Macedonian, and those made by Macedonian-speaking deputies into Albanian June 14. The parliamentary sessions have continued to be bilingual. According to government deputies, this was a significant achievement for ethnic Albanians in Macedonia because they would be able to follow parliamentary debates in their own language. Ali Ahmeti, leader of the Democratic Union for Integration, a party committed to the interests of ethnic Albanians, cited this achievement as one of the motivating factors for his contribution to the June 14 parliamentary debate, the first time he had participated in a debate since he entered parliament January 2000. Language and education rights for ethnic Albanians were key issues in the August 2001 Ohrid Agreement. (BBC, June 15, 2003)

## **NEPAL**

King names new prime minister: King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev appointed Surya Bahadur Thapa of the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) June 4 to replace former monarch-appointed Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who resigned May 30 after numerous opposition parties protested his appointment. After Chand's resignation, King Gyanendra mandated the seven main opposition political parties to select a candidate for the office of prime minister. Five opposition parties submitted Madhav Nepal, head of the Communist Party of Nepal – United Marxist Leninist, as their candidate, and the RPP

submitted Thapa's name. After Thapa was announced as prime minister, the opposition parties called the process undemocratic and have refused to participate in the formation of the new government until parliament has been restored. Chand had replaced Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba after King Gyanendra dismissed the prime minister and dissolved parliament October 4, 2002. (AP, Nepal News, June 4; Financial Times, June 9, 2003)

Maoists seek an end to foreign intervention: Head Maoist negotiator, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, stated June 8 that Maoists would steadfastly pursue peace and support King Gyanendra if the government took steps to remove foreign intervention from the Nepalese government. This followed reports that a former Indian ambassador to Nepal and an Indian professor were in the country to influence political actions, an accusation fueled by newly-appointed Prime Minister Thapa's allegedly close relations to India. There were also reports that special envoy of the United Kingdom, Jeffrey James, met with King Gyanendra June 9 for the second time in three months. Maoist rebels have led an insurgency since 1996 that has resulted in the deaths of more than 8,000 people. (BBC, Financial Times, June 7, 9, 10, 2003)

Council of ministers, government negotiation team formed: King Gyanendra appointed six Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) members to Prime Minister Thapa's cabinet June 11. Based on Thapa's recommendation, the council of ministers was expanded with the addition of five cabinet ministers and one state minister in accordance with Article 127 of the Nepalese Constitution, which allows the King to remove constitutional difficulties. All were RPP loyalists, and two members of the new cabinet, Finance Minister Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohini and Communications Minister Kamal Thapa, were appointed to the government negotiation team June 12 during the first cabinet meeting. Negotiations with Maoist rebels were last held May 9, and Kamal Thapa noted more members would be added to the team after mainstream political parties were consulted. Opposition parties have refused to join the government citing constitutional infringements and have demanded new elections and the restoration of parliament. (Kathmandu Post, NepalNews, June 12, 2003)

IPJ staff members, Dr. Dee Aker and Karon Cochran, will be in Nepal June 22 to July 1 conducting a workshop, "Women, Politics, and Peace: Working for a Just Society."
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## **SUDAN**

SPLM/A warns peace talks must conclude by August: Bagan Amom, a leading figure in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), accused Sudan's government of poor faith in peace talks June 14 and stated that were a comprehensive peace agreement not reached by August, armed conflict would resume. The SPLM/A rejected government calls for early elections June 10, claiming it gave the government unfair advantage. Amom said that the SPLM/A would hold a referendum on the peace pact for southern Sudan, and suggested that northerners follow suit. Meetings between the government and SPLM/A followed the July 2002 Machakos Protocol which aimed to return peace to the region by allowing southern Sudan six years of administrative autonomy without being subject to Islamic law. After six years, a referendum would be

held to determine secession from, or unity with, northern Sudan. Sudan's civil war, which has pitted the government in the primarily Islamic Arab north against the SPLM/A in the mainly animist and Christian south, began in 1983 and has resulted in some two million deaths, mostly from war-induced famine and disease, and over four million internally displaced. (BBC, June 12, 13, 16, 2003)

Garang calls for secularization of government: John Garang, leader of the SPLM/A, stated June 1 that the Cairo Declaration, an agreement between opposition leaders of the SPLM/A, the Ummah Party (UP), and the umbrella group National Democratic Alliance (NDA), called for the secularization of the government of Sudan, which is currently run by Islamic law. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the UP and the Ansar Islamic religious sect, rejected Garang's interpretation of the agreement June 1 and denied that it mentioned the term "secularize." In response to Garang's claim, government spokesperson Sayed Al-Khatib accused the SPLM/A June 9 of bypassing the Machakos Protocol. The Cairo Declaration was an attempt to unite and include opposition movements in the current peace process between the government and the SPLM/A. (BBC, May 26, 28, June 1, 9, 2003)

## **UGANDA**

Sudan accused of supporting rebels: President Yoweri Museveni accused Sudan June 13 of supplying arms to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Sudan renewed permission June 12 for Uganda to continue hunting LRA members on Sudanese territory through August 31. It has allowed Uganda to pursue LRA members inside Sudan since March 2002. Museveni's accusation was supported by reports from civilians previously captured by LRA leader Joseph Kony, stating that Sudanese Armed Forces supplied over 400 bombs and 700 bullets to the LRA, and that the LRA opened a new military camp in Sudan named Wat Odwogo or the relationship is back. It also coincided with increased rebel attacks in northern Uganda. Uganda and Sudan severed ties 1995 after each accused the other of supporting rebel groups, but signed the Nairobi Agreement in 1999 to restore relations and stop support for each others' rebel groups. (AP, June 13; Albawaba, June 12; BBC, June 16; The Monitor (Kampala), June 12; New Vision, June 12, 16, 2003)

LRA increases violence: LRA rebels killed at least 15 people, abducted about 100, and looted and burnt between 100 and 200 huts in Lira and Apac districts June 15. About 65 other abductions in Abunga, Ololongo, and Barr districts have also been reported. The increased violence has been attributed to failed peace talks between the presidential peace team and the LRA, and the deaths of Major Ojok and Lieutenant Lapwony Kilama, top commanders of the LRA, who were killed by government militia from the Uganda Peoples Defense Force (UPDF) June 10 and 13. Rebels released a woman and five girls June 12 who they had abducted the week of June 2 with a message to the UPDF that the army should stop patrolling the Karuma-Pakwach road, as they would hit any bus carrying a soldier. Rebel leader Joseph Kony also ordered his troops June 12 to destroy church missions and kill all priests in northern Uganda. The LRA has fought the government of Uganda since 1988 to replace it with a regime that would follow the 10 commandments. The LRA has killed and maimed thousands of civilians in northern

Uganda and has displaced over 800,000 others since Joseph Kony reorganized it 1988 from its earlier form as the Holy Spirit Army, founded 1986. (AFP, June 13; BBC, June 16; The Monitor (Kampala), June 16; New Vision (Kampala), June 13, 16, 2003)