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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.

The Peace & Justice updates are written by the Summer 2003 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Greg Anglea (University of California, San Diego), Carolina Cometto (Pomona College), Viany Orozco (University of California, Berkeley), and Abigail Ross (University of Southern California).

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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))
NCN	=	New Congo Net (www.marekinc.com/NCN.html)
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency (www.panapress.com)
TASS	=	ITAR-TASS News Agency (www.itar-tass.com/english/)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
WPS	=	What the Papers Say (www.wps.ru:8101)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

BURMA/MYANMAR¹

Suu Kyi held in Insein jail: British Foreign Office Minister Mike O'Brien announced June 19 that opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was being held at the Insein jail on the outskirts of the capital, Rangoon. He stated that he was appalled to learn she was detained in a two-room hut inside the notorious prison, and added that she was wearing the clothes in which she was arrested May 30 after clashes between pro-government supporters and members of her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD). He dismissed the military regime's claim that it was holding Suu Kyi under "protective custody." Instead, he said that she was being held under a 1975 state protection law that allowed detention without access to lawyers or family for 180 days at a time up to a total of five years, with no prospect of appeal. O'Brien called for her immediate release and that of all other political prisoners. The military has been in control of the government since 1962, despite the NLD's victory in the 1990 elections. (BBC, June 19, 20; New York Times, June 19, 2003)

Japan freezes aid, U.S. threatens sanctions: Japan, Burma's largest aid donor, announced June 25 that it had frozen all financial aid to Burma in response to the military regime's detention of opposition leader Suu Kyi. The decision came two days after Japan's Senior Vice Foreign Minister Tetsuro Yano met with Burmese intelligence chief and third ranked leader General Khin Nyunt, but failed to secure Suu Kyi's release. The United States threatened June 19 to impose further economic sanctions on Burma. Measures being considered by Congress included freezing the government's assets in the U.S., banning imports from Burma, and restricting travel to the country. Two senior U.S. senators have called for Washington to downgrade diplomatic relations with Burma and expel Burma's ambassador to the U.S. in protest at Suu Kyi's detention. Despite this increased international pressure, the junta continued to refuse Suu Kyi's release. (AFP, June 19; BBC, June 19, 20, 23, 2003)

CHECHNYA

Chechen State Council elects chairman: Khuseyn Isayev was elected chairman of the Chechen State Council June 21 at the council's first session. The State Council was formed under the constitution adopted in a March 2003 referendum to serve as an interim legislature, pending the election of a new Chechen parliament set to occur soon after the Chechen presidential elections scheduled for October. The Council consists of 42 members of which half are elected and half are district officials. Isayev stated that he would support acting President Akhmad Kadyrov, head of the Russian-backed administration in Chechnya. The State Council announced that it would meet June 28 to discuss organizational and structural issues, its role in the implementation of the amnesty, and the Chechen presidential elections. 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 Moscow apartment bombings that Russia attributed to Chechen rebels. (BBC, June 21; TASS, June 21, 23; WPS, June 17 2003)

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

Putin arrives in Britain for state visit: Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in London June 24 on a four-day state visit—the first Russian head of state to visit Britain in 130 years. British Prime Minister Tony Blair assured the British parliament that he would raise human rights abuses in Chechnya with Putin, while also stressing that Russia's struggle in the breakaway republic needed to be seen in the context of the fight against international terrorism. The two leaders were reportedly eager to improve relations after the dispute over the Iraq war. As a result, the issue of Chechen envoy Akhmed Zakayev's ongoing London hearing for extradition to Russia and the June 22 closure of Russia's last independent TV network would most likely not be addressed. (AFP, June 22, 23; Financial Times (London), June 24, 2003)

Bomb blast kills two: A truck carrying 1.6 tons of TNT exploded June 20 near a government compound in Grozny. The man and the woman who were riding in the truck were killed and 36 others were wounded. The blast occurred about 70 yards from its intended target, the building that houses the police department for organized crime in Chechnya. The attack came shortly after President Vladimir Putin pledged to continue efforts to restore federal control in Chechnya and press ahead with Chechen presidential elections scheduled for October. This was the third major suicide attack in Chechnya in the past six months. (AP, DPA, June 20, 2003)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Tension in North Kivu threatens national peace process: The main groups that have been involved in armed operations in the northeastern North Kivu province, Rwandan-backed Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie Goma (RCD-Goma), the DRC government, and the RCD-Kisangani/Mouvement de Liberation (RCD-K/ML,) participated in a two-day cease-fire negotiation that began June 18 in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. The parties signed a cease-fire agreement that was to take effect June 20. Despite this, RCD-Goma attacked and took control of Lubero, a town in North Kivu which had been controlled by the DRC government and its ally RCD-K/ML. The head of the DRC delegation, Vital Kamerhe, accused Rwandan troops of the Lubero take-over, but Joseph Mudumbi, head of the RCD-Goma delegation, disputed the charges. Mudumbi stated that Lubero had been captured by his forces after DRC troops and ethnic Hutu militias attacked RCD-Goma positions. Kamerhe refused to withdraw from Lubero unless the DRC army withdrew from the town of Beni and disarmed the ethnic Hutu militiamen and Rwandan former armed forces, who were largely responsible for the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The RCD-K/ML forces warned that if the RCD-Goma were to remain in Lubero, they would abandon the national peace process. The civil war in the DRC began in August 1998 when President Laurent Kabila's main sponsors, Rwanda and Uganda, turned against him and began supporting an anti-government rebellion. Rival groups signed a power-sharing pact December 2002 in Pretoria, South Africa, but violence has continued in the Kivu province. (AllAfrica, June 19; AFP, BBC June 20; IRIN, PANA, June 19, 2003)

UN Security Council reports on peace prospects: The UN Security Council delegation that met with President Joseph Kabila and signatories of the 2002 Pretoria Agreement June 11 stated in a report issued June 23 that despite the persistent fighting in the eastern

Ituri and North Kivu province, the necessary framework to implement a transitional government by June 30, as agreed on, was in place. The UN Security Council forces acted on the report's recommendation to demilitarize Bunia by issuing a three-day ultimatum for all armed groups in the town to leave by June 23. Another concern of the Council members was the need to withdraw all parties involved in the Kivu conflict to previously held territories. As of June 19, however, the RCD-Goma rebel group that had taken over Lubero, Kanyabayong, and Alimbongo in North Kivu refused the UN Security Council's request to withdraw. The 2002 Pretoria Agreement represented a reconciliation process to end the conflict in the DRC. It was signed 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. ([BBC](#), June 19; [UN News](#), June 20, 2003)

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Refugees return home: Repatriation efforts have increased in past weeks as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UN Development Programme (UNDP) worked to send Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees home before the planting season. The Eritrean government gave farmable land, seeds, and farming tools June 16 to approximately 8,700 of the 16,000 homeless Eritreans who were expelled from Ethiopia in 1998. Sudan also agreed with the Eritrean government June 11 on the location of a border crossing for the previously closed Sudan-Eritrea boundary, facilitating the repatriation of thousands more Eritrean refugees who were stranded in Sudan. Approximately 36,000 Eritreans in Sudan have registered to be repatriated, while more than 100,000 applied to remain in Sudan. The International Committee of the Red Cross assisted the return of 74 Eritreans and 153 Ethiopians to their respective countries June 16 and 17. Repatriation efforts were limited by funding gaps, which restricted provision of basic water, sanitation facilities, and schools, all prerequisites for UNHCR and UNDP resettlement plans aimed at reintegration of former refugees into their communities. Hundreds of thousands of Eritrean and Ethiopian citizens were displaced in the 1998-2000 border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, contributing to the severity of the refugee problem in east Africa. ([Africa News](#), June 16; [BBC](#), June 17; [IRIN](#), June 13, 18, 2003)

Eritrea gives toll of war: Thousands of Eritreans gathered in the capital Asmara June 21 to hear the government read the names of the 19,000 people who died in the 1998-2000 border war with Ethiopia. Many who attended were in tears but relieved to have closure. This was the first official announcement of victims by the government. President Isayas Afwerki had been pressured by provincial governors who relayed parents' requests to find out the fate of their children, and not only authorized the reading but also stated June 20 that families of fallen soldiers would receive one year's salary, other compensations, and priority in the trade and investment sectors. The December 2000 Algiers Peace Agreement ended the two-year border war that resulted in tens of thousands of deaths subsequent to Eritrea's 1993 independence from Ethiopia. ([AFP](#), June 21; [BBC](#), June 19, 20, 1993)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Uganda, U.S. sign ICC immunity agreement: The U.S. government promised \$200,000 in military aid to Uganda following President Yoweri Museveni's June 12 signing of the contentious Article 98 treaty, a non-surrender agreement which exempts U.S. soldiers from prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC). As was the case for 63 other countries, Uganda had a July 1 deadline to sign the pact or risk losing military aid. Uganda is a signatory of the ICC, the first permanent war crimes court, conceived during the Nuremburg trials against Nazi leaders 1946, created by the Rome Statute in 1998, and inaugurated March 11, 2003 when its first 18 judges were sworn in. Uganda People's Congress party spokesperson, Dr. James Rwanyarare, said June 18 that Museveni had no authority to de-ratify a convention ratified by Parliament without going back to Parliament. The Monitor, an independent Kampala newspaper, called Museveni's decision illegal, an aid to crimes against humanity, and an attempt to curry favor from Americans who act in a "near criminal fashion worldwide." Amnesty International also condemned the U.S.-Uganda agreement as illegal June 14. The U.S. signed the treaty creating the ICC under President Bill Clinton, but it never went to the Senate for ratification, and was "unsigned" by President Bush May 2002. The U.S. has sought Article 98 agreements with as many countries as possible, and has publicly signed 39 such bilateral agreements to date. (AFP, June 12, 17; Africa News, June 14; New Vision (Kampala), June 19; The Monitor (Kampala), June 18, 2003)

NGOs denounce human rights abuses in DRC: A network of local, regional, and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) called Watchlist, which had worked to protect the security and rights of children in armed conflicts, released a reported June 16 titled "The Impact of Conflict on Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo," which stated that foreign and domestic governments as well as armed groups had committed gross human rights violations against children in the DRC since war broke out in 1998. Atrocities to included death from abusive imprisonment, forced participation in their parents' deaths, and rape. The organization urged parties to the conflict and the international community to give special attention to the security and rights of children in peace negotiations and throughout the transitional period. More than 3 million people have been killed or died as a result of the war to overthrow the DRC government, which started in 1998; as many as 2 million people have been internally displaced. (UN News, June 23, 2003)

WSTF warns of global deterioration of human rights: The World Social Thematic Forum (WSTF), held in Colombia June 19, discussed the changing definitions and realities of international human rights, especially since America's declaration of a "War on Terrorism." Terrorism was never universally defined, and the speakers at the WSTF pointed out that the Algiers Convention, the African Union Convention, and the Arab League's Anti-Terrorism Convention all included disturbances or obstructions of any important sector, such as public water or utilities, as forms of terrorism. The WSTF concluded that many common forms of union activity could be labeled terrorist acts. In addition, the group scolded the U.S. for using its Guantanamo Bay military base as a detention center where human rights laws set forth in the Geneva Convention have been ignored. Of the 600 enemy combatants held at Guantanamo Bay, only three have been

identified by name. Enemy combatants have been denied almost all rights afforded to civilian criminal suspects and could face trial by a military tribunal. The WSTF cited the “War on Terrorism” as a common justification behind a change in the application of international human rights law, which, since September 11, 2001, has often been side-stepped in the name of national or international security. (AP, June 23; Calgary Sun, June 24; Inter Press Service (Colombia), June 19)

MACEDONIA

Albanian political parties merge: Kastriot Haxhierexha, leader of the ethnic Albanian party, National Democratic Party (NDP), signed a declaration June 20 that merged his party with the most popular ethnic Albanian party, Democratic Union for Integration (DUI). According to local news reports, representatives from both parties stated that the new political entity would work according to the political platform, statute, and symbols of the DUI, and that the main commitment of the party was to accelerate the implementation of the 2001 Ohrid Agreement. The NDP was formed March 2001, before the seven-month conflict began, to promote the federalization of the country, and its leaders were the most severe critics of the 2001 Ohrid Agreement. Their union with the DUI, which has supported implementation of the agreement, suggested increased cooperation among ethnic Albanians in efforts to implement it. The Ohrid Agreement ended the seven-month conflict that started when ethnic Albanians took up arms against the government in February 2001 to fight for the rights of the ethnic Albanian minority. (ATA News, BBC, June 20, 2003)

One Albanian dies crossing the border: The Macedonian army patrol killed Albanian national Agron Sherif Skenderi and injured Arben Qamil Kaja, along the Macedonian-Albanian border as they tried to enter the country illegally near Debar June 18. According to Macedonia’s Defense Ministry, the army patrol opened fire after Skenderi and Kaja failed to heed warnings to stop. At a media conference June 20, Macedonian Defence Minister Rizvan Sulejmani stated feeling deep regret about the incident and said that he would take all measures to prevent any future killings. The Macedonian army recently stepped up control of the border with Albania in an internationally-backed attempt to tackle cross-border weapons smuggling, drugs, and human trafficking. (AFP, June 18; BBC, June 20, 2003)

NEPAL

Students protest secondary education tuition: The administrative offices of 48 boarding schools and private universities were padlocked June 22 and 23 by students who announced plans to lock up 150 offices by June 29. The collaboration of seven student unions, each representing a Nepalese political party, including the Maoists, demanded that all secondary educational facilities, public and private, provide their services free of charge. The president of the Private and Boarding Schools’ Organization of Nepal (PABSON) doubted the alleged motives behind the moves, and accused the student unions of using force as a means to further the political motives of the parties they represent. PABSON issued a 72-hour ultimatum June 24, demanding a dialogue between students and administrators. They also urged the government to create favorable conditions for such talks. The lockdown of schools and universities coincided with

strikes that shut down classes and brought secondary educational facilities to a halt. (Kathmandu Post, June 19; BBC, Kathmandu Post, Nepalnews.com, June 24, 2003)

One third of Upper House retires: In accordance with the constitution, 20 of the 60 members of the Upper House of Parliament retired June 25 when their six-year term limit expired. The Nepali Congress and Communist Party of Nepal Unified Marxist-Leninist lost seven members each, with the other six retirees coming evenly from the Rashtriya Prajanta Party and royal appointments. Of the twenty vacated seats, the King can appoint four. The rest were to be elected by the House of Representatives, which was dissolved October 4, 2002. The elimination of one-third of Parliament's Upper House only exacerbates the constitutional crisis faced by Prime Minister Thapa's government, an administration the five main opposition parties have refused to join until new elections are held. (BBC, NepalNews.com, June 24, 2003)

Peace talks with Maoist rebels to resume shortly: Kamal Thapa, Minister of Information and Communications, and member of the government negotiating team, said June 20 that the third round of peace talks with the Maoists would be held soon. He did not disclose a specific date. Thapa said his team was consulting with the previous government negotiators, and would only begin discussions after proper preparations. Maoist militia-coordinator, Ram Bahadur Thapa, alias Badal, a member of the committee negotiating peace with the government, announced June 20 that the Maoists wished to meet with King Gyanendra before talks resumed. A cease-fire, which made peace talks possible, was reached January 2003 after five years of fighting between the Maoist rebels and Nepalese government, which had led to more than 8,000 deaths. (Kathmandu Post, June 20; Nepalnews.com, June 22)

IPJ staff members, Dr. Dee Aker and Karon Cochran, are 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 argues for secular capital: Deng Alor, Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) delegation member, insisted June 21 on the secularization of Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, which is currently under Islamic law. Alor argued that doing so would benefit the government by encouraging southerners to vote for unity over secession at the end of the six-year transitional period. The government, which wants both unity and a religious state, rejected this as a violation of the Machakos peace agreement. It has maintained this stance since the SPLM/A brought up the possibility June 1, and stated June 21 that renegotiations would mean aborting the peace process. Religious leaders disagreed June 21 over whether Khartoum should be ruled by religious law. Alan Goulty, British envoy for peace in Sudan, stated June 17 that he was optimistic that a comprehensive and lasting peace in Sudan was possible, and that failure of the peace process was not an option. The July 2002 Machakos Protocol between the government and the SPLM/A aimed at bringing peace to a region destroyed by civil war by allowing southern Sudan six years of administrative autonomy without being subject to Islamic law, followed by a referendum to determine secession from, or unity with, northern Sudan. Sudan's civil war, which has pitted the government in the primarily

Islamic 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 people internally displaced. ([BBC](#), June 18, 22; [PANA](#), June 19, 21, 2003)

President responds to Ugandan allegations of supplying rebels: President Omar al-Bashir sent a concerned message to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni June 24 over Museveni's June 13 and 20 accusations that Sudan had begun re-supplying weapons to the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels. Museveni reportedly had intelligence implicating the Sudanese government in supplying the LRA, and warned June 20 that such action would fundamentally change the relationship between the two countries. al-Bashir reiterated Sudan's commitment to strong ties with Uganda and peace in the region, and noted elsewhere that Sudan had given Uganda maximum assistance by allowing Uganda to fight the LRA inside Sudan's borders. In attempts to determine the source of Museveni's accusations, a government committee from Sudan was scheduled to meet July 2 to investigate reports that elements of the government army supported the LRA. SPLM/A spokesman Dr. Samson L. Kwaje suggested June 20 that Sudan's government aided the LRA with logistical and intelligence reports. At the same time, Kwaje rejected reports that Uganda was supporting the SPLM/A. Museveni's accusations followed a spurt of LRA violence in which at least 10 people were killed, approximately 100 children abducted, and 80 to 500 homes razed. Uganda and Sudan severed ties in 1995 after each accused the other of supporting each other's rebel groups, but signed the Nairobi Agreement in 1999 to restore relations and stop such support. ([AFP](#), June 24; [BBC](#), June 17, 23, 25; [New Vision](#) (Kampala), June 17, 24, 25; [IRIN](#), June 19; [Xinhua](#), June 21, 24, 2003)

UGANDA

Uganda, Sudan leaders appeal for intervention in conflict: Archbishop Jean Baptiste Odama, chairman of the Oduru Kuc Northern Uganda peace committee, pleaded with the international community June 19 to stop Uganda's 17-year civil war. Odama spoke for over 50 bishops as well as elders in the area and deplored the lack of media attention to Uganda's plight, warning that increased violence in recent weeks had worsened an already intolerable situation. Odama highlighted the plight of children who fled nightly to urban centers to avoid abduction by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which conscripts them as forced soldiers. Member of Parliament for Lubaga, John Ken Lukyamuzi, also appealed to U.S. President Bush June 17 to push for peace talks outside the country between Uganda President Museveni and LRA leader Joseph Kony. The pleas followed orders by Kony June 12 to kill all priests and destroy all missions, and a week of relentless LRA attacks on civilians in northern and eastern Uganda. The LRA has fought the government of Uganda since 1988 saying it wants to replace it with a regime that would govern according to 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 Movement/Army, founded in 1986. ([AFP](#), June 20; [Africa News](#), June 20; [BBC](#), June 21, 23; [DPA](#), June 20; [New Vision](#) (Kampala), June 17, 18, 24; [PANA](#), June 23, 2003)

Rebels abduct schoolgirls: Between 29 and 100 schoolgirls from a Catholic school in Lira were abducted June 24 by LRA rebels. In a June 26 statement, the UN Children's Fund expressed horror over the incident and noted that the abductions were part of an increase in violence that doubled the number of displaced people in Uganda over the past year. President Museveni rejected reports that the LRA was gaining strength and claimed June 20 that rebel expansion into east Uganda showed their desperation from government pressure in the north. In Lira, people were in panic following the LRA raid. In addition to abducting the girls, rebels looted merchandise, assaulted a Catholic priest, attacked a bus, and killed at least four people. The LRA has fought the government of Uganda since 1988, and has killed and maimed thousands of civilians and displaced over 800,000 others since then. (BBC, June 20; IRIN, June 25, 26; The Monitor (Kampala), June 25; New Vision (Kampala), June 25, 2003)