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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The Updates will not be published the week of July 18, resuming July 25.

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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)
CDC News	=	Center for Disease Control News (www.thebody.com)
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

Witnesses to violence testify: Khin Zaw and Wunna Maung, two Burmese dissidents who witnessed the May 30 riots that triggered opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's detention, testified July 4 before the Thai Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. Their accounts reinforced reports by the U.S. State Department and Burmese exile groups that as many as 70 people were killed when government-backed thugs attacked Suu Kyi's convoy. The government has said that four people were killed in a clash provoked by Suu Kyi's supporters. Khin Zaw testified that he and other pro-democracy activists were ambushed by a drunken mob using iron rods and spears, bamboo sticks, and wooden bats, Wunna Maung said the attackers pounded the heads of victims against the stone surface of a road. A source told AFP July 3 that Suu Kyi was transferred at the end of last week from the notorious Insein Jail to an undisclosed location. The military has been in control since 1962, despite Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy's victory in the 1990 elections. Suu Kyi has been placed under house arrest off and on for the last 10 years. (AFP, July 2, 4; AP, July 6, 7, 2003)

Thailand to relocate Burmese refugees: The Thai government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced July 2 after joint talks that approximately 1500 refugees from Burma are to be transferred to refugee camps along the Thai-Burmese border. The meeting followed claims by the Thai government last week that the UNHCR had violated Thailand's sovereignty by granting refugee status to Burmese exiles. A spokesperson for the Thai foreign ministry said that all people of Burmese nationality have been granted "person of concern" status and are to be transferred to several of the nine camps along the border where some 125,000 displaced Burmese already live. Thailand is currently home to an increasing number of refugees and nearly one million illegal immigrants from Burma. (AFP, July 2; BBC, July 3, 2003)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Interim government named: President Joseph Kabila named a transitional government June 30 that is expected to govern the country until democratic elections scheduled for 2005. The new government consists of 36 ministers and 25 deputy ministers. The main rebel groups—the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) and the Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC)—each have seven ministers and four deputy ministers, as do the government and the political opposition. The RCD received the ministries of defense and economy, while the MLC received the foreign and budget ministries. Kabila's government retained the ministries of the interior, security, finance, industry, and energy among others. The government, the RCD, and the MLC agreed to divide control of branches of the military and top military posts June 30—removing the main obstacle to the formation of the transitional government. The establishment of the transitional government is part of the 2002 Pretoria Agreement that sought an end to the conflict in the DRC. The conflict began in 1998 when then-President Laurent Desire Kabila's main political sponsors, Rwanda and Uganda, turned against him and began supporting an anti-government rebellion. (AFP, BBC, June 30, 2003)

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

Fighting in Butembo: Fighting erupted July 3 in Butembo, located in northeastern DRC, between Mayi-Mayi militia and the Rassemblement Congolais Pour la Democratie-Kisangani-Mouvement de Liberation (RCD-K-ML), a rebel group allied to the government. Fighting ended July 7 but the situation remained tense. RCD-K-ML authorities said that certain elements had resisted a disarmament operation being conducted, but that the town remained under their control. Other reports stated that the Mayi-Mayi militia had taken control of Butembo. One source estimated that at least 35 people had died in the fighting. The Red Cross stated that it was concerned about many thousands of people in the area who had fled fighting between ethnic militias in Bunia, located some 200km northeast of Butembo. Violence in northeastern DRC has escalated in recent months despite a peace accord formalized in April 2003. (IRIN, July 4, 7, 2003).

Ituri receives aid and new UN force: The government of Canada, through its International Development Agency (CIDA), announced July 4 that it would provide \$4.3 million in humanitarian aid to the DRC, approximately \$750,000 of which would go towards emergency shelter and clean water for thousands of war-affected people in the Ituri district. CIDA stated that although the situation in Ituri is stabilizing and many displaced people are returning, there remains a humanitarian crisis in the region. UN spokesperson William Lacy Swing announced July 6 that the region was also expecting a new 3,800-strong UN force. The force would operate under the aegis of MONUC, the UN mission in the DRC, and would include soldiers from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Indonesia. The new force follows the May 30 deployment of a 1,500 strong UN multinational emergency force to Bunia, the main town in Ituri. Violence has escalated and hundreds have died in the northeastern Ituri and Kivu districts in the past few months. (IRIN July 4, 7; AFP, July 3, 2003)

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Immediate aid required for food crisis: A representative of the UN's World Food Program warned July 1 that a third drought in four years in Eritrea and Ethiopia has created desperate food crises in both countries. The crises were exacerbated by deep poverty and incomplete recovery from the 1998-2000 border war. In Ethiopia over 12 million people—approximately one fifth of the population—required food aid, but only 70 percent of aid requested had been pledged by humanitarian donors. In Eritrea over two million people, approximately two thirds of the population, required humanitarian assistance, but only 40 percent of food aid requested was promised, and only 19 percent of the aid needed had arrived. Low donor giving to Eritrea was attributed to the low profile of the Eritrean problem in world media, the reticence of Eritreans to request help, and increased donor cautiousness due to the Eritrean government's jailing of dissidents and independent journalists. International aid organizations have begged for immediate contributions to deal with what has been called the worst Eritrean crop failure in 10 years and the most widespread Ethiopian famine in history, but also argued that the underlying roots of famine, including poverty, poor development, and environmental degradation, had to be dealt with to avoid such crises in the future. (Addis Tribune (Addis Ababa), June 13, 20; AP, July 2; BBC, July 2; Financial Times Information, July 3; IRIN, June 11, 23, July 1, 2, 3; UN News, June 11, 26; 2003)

Public unrest against Ethiopian prime minister rises: Discontent with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi due to his authoritarian regime, purges of dissidents, failure to enable food self-sufficiency for peasants, and weak promotion of Ethiopian interests in the Ethiopia-Eritrea border demarcation has increased in past weeks. Despite pressure to repudiate the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC)'s March 21 clarification of their boundary decision which awarded the disputed town of Badme to Eritrea, Meles stated July 4 that Ethiopia would only pursue peaceful legal methods to correct the EEBC's "mistake," and would not use force to overturn the decision. Eritrean Foreign Minister Ali Sayyid Abdallah stated July 5 that the international community should take action against Ethiopia for hampering implementation of the boundary decision. Ethiopian discontent was aggravated by Meles' June 30 decision to cede Ethiopian farmland to Sudan following the Ethiopia-Sudan border dispute. Opposition Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party condemned this action July 3 and called on citizens to increase efforts to overthrow Meles' "treasonous" regime. Meles has been accused of capitulating to Eritrea by acquiescing to the EEBC's border decision which was said to favor Eritrea, despite Ethiopia's victory over Eritrea in their 1998-2000 border war. (Addis Tribune (Ethiopia), June 13; Africa News, July 2; BBC, July 4, 6; The Indian Ocean Newsletter, June 21; IRIN, July 4, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S. peacekeeping role in Liberia remains undecided: President Bush arrived in Senegal July 8 as part of his five-day five country trip to Africa after having demanded Liberian President Charles Taylor step down before any peacekeepers would be sent. Bush said July 8 the U.S. would help end the Liberian war, but did not commit to using military force. Taylor, an indicted war criminal, accepted an asylum offer from Nigeria July 6, but said he would only resign after peacekeepers arrived, to avoid "chaos and anarchy." A U.S. military assessment team was placed in Liberia July 8 to decide if force is necessary, and how many troops would be needed. The arrival of the team was welcomed by weary Liberians urging peace, and favoring an American-led, multinational intervention. The June 17 cease-fire between forces loyal to Taylor and rebels who have been trying to oust him since 1999 has been ineffective, and violence has engulfed Monrovia, displacing thousands of people. (AFP, July 1,9; AP, July 8; BBC, July 7, 2003)

Argentinean genocide suspect extradited to Spain: Mexico extradited former Argentinean naval officer Ricardo Miguel Cavallo to Spain July 1 to stand trial for crimes against humanity. It was the first time a country has extradited a suspected war criminal from a second country for crimes committed in a third country. The move was made possible by the Mexican Supreme Court, and defended by Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon, who noted that Cavallo was charged with international war crimes, and thus his prosecution was an international matter, not solely belonging to Argentina. The universal jurisdiction of war crimes was previously denied by Mexican courts when Garzon attempted to extradite former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet, under whom Cavallo served. Cavallo is accused of torturing and murdering hundreds of people at the School of Naval Mechanics in Buenos Aires which served as a secret torture center. From 1976 to 1983 approximately 30,000 people were killed or disappeared in an attempt

to remove opposition to Argentina's military dictatorship. (The Independent (London), June 30; International Herald Tribune, July 1, 2003)

Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire appears fragile: Palestinian complaints of Israeli non-compliance with the terms of the cease-fire agreement, and the suicide bombing of a 65 year old woman July 7 supported by Islamic Jihad have jeopardized the three-month cease-fire between Israel and Palestine signed June 29. Palestinians in Gaza have had increased freedom of movement since the cease-fire began, but continued use of checkpoints within the West Bank made life there no easier than before. Israel said July 8 that they could not risk removing checkpoints until Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas pacifies the militant groups that claimed responsibility for suicide bombers. Due to internal pressures Abbas cancelled talks with Israel set for July 9. He has been criticised for renouncing Palestinian violence without gaining sufficient returns in exchange. Although the cease-fire agreement did not call for release of prisoners, Palestinians demanded at least some of the estimated 5,500 detainees be freed. Israel released 300 July 6, giving favor to the very young and old, and releasing no one implicated in violence, Islamic Jihad, or Hamas. Israel admitted to the existence of a secret detention center June 9, featuring windowless cells and blindfolded prisoners who according the Associated Press are told they are, "on the moon." The temporary end to 33 months of violence is the first step of the "roadmap" to peace proposed by the Bush Administration, which has called for the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005. (AP, June 29, 30; Christian Science Monitor, June 30; Financial Times, July 8; International Herald Tribune, July 9, 2003)

MACEDONIA

Macedonia signs ICC immunity agreement: Macedonia signed a bilateral agreement, known as Article 98, July 1 that exempted U.S. citizens and military personnel from prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The U.S. had warned Macedonia that it would be denied 11 million dollars of military equipment and training programs in the next budget year if it did not sign the agreement. The European Union, which led the economic reconstruction of Macedonia after the ethnic conflict of 2001 and oversaw the implementation of the peace deal, has strongly supported the ICC and has urged would-be EU members in the Balkan states to resist U.S. pressure for exemption deals. Greece was also against the signing because the agreement used the name "Macedonia," the same name as that of the northern Greek province, instead of the constitutional name "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (FYROM). A spokesperson for the State Department said that the use of the name Macedonia did not represent a change in U.S. policy and that the U.S. continues to formally recognize Macedonia by its formal name FYROM. The U.S. has sought Article 98 agreements with as many countries as possible, and has signed 49 such bilateral agreements to date. (AFP, July 2; DPA, July 1, 2003)

Albanian police arrest ANA rebel: Albanian police arrested Gafur Adili, the alleged commander of an extremist rebel group called the Albanian National Army (ANA), July 2 in Tirana hours after his arrival from neighboring Macedonia. Adili was placed on a blacklist of insurgents who threatened international stabilization efforts in the region, and

his assets were blocked by the U.S. government in 2002. The ANA is a guerilla group operating in Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania whose goal is to create a “greater Albania” in the Western Balkans. It has claimed responsibility for several attacks against Macedonian troops and police in the past two years. (AFP, DPA July 2, 2003)

NEPAL

AI urges human rights be incorporated into peace process: Human rights group Amnesty International (AI) sent delegates to Nepal the week of July 6 in an attempt to persuade both Maoist and Royal Nepalese Army representatives to protect fundamental rights in any peace accord or constitutional reform they might agree upon. The delegates directly referenced the National Human Rights Commission which has asked guerilla fighters to stop nationwide extortion, kidnappings, and landmine plantings. They also asked the Royal Nepalese Army to stop targeting Maoists. The delegates met with government peace-talk members Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani and Kamal Thapa. However, both the Maoists and Royal Nepalese Army refused to meet the delegates. The Maoist rebels have fought the government since 1996, claiming approximately 8,000 lives; their extortions and kidnappings have most often targeted school teachers and administrators. (Financial Times, July 7; Kathmandu Post, July 6; Nepalnews.com, July 7, 2003).

Massive protests continue: The youth wings of the five opposition political parties staged a protest against King Gyanendra and Prime Minister Thapa’s government July 6 in Kathmandu. Led by Nepali Congress General Secretary Sushil Koirala and Communist Party Nepal-United Marxist Leninist leader K.P. Oli, thousands of protestors demanded an inclusive government featuring all political parties. They chanted democratic slogans and charged King Gyanendra with intentionally overstepping his constitutional bounds as a means of subduing his opposition. The five parties, previously united only in their dislike for the current government, agreed July 1 on common goals including placing the Royal Nepalese Army under control of the parliament. The House of Representatives was dissolved October 4, 2002 and three prime ministers have served Nepal in the last year alone, bringing the legitimacy of Nepal’s constitutional monarchy into question. (Financial Times, July 7; Himalayan Times, July 6; Nepalnews.com, June 30, July 7, 2003).

SUDAN

Government, rebels resume peace talks: The sixth round of peace talks between the government and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) resumed July 6 in Nakuru, Kenya, and was to last until July 12. Kenyan peace envoy Gen. Lazarus Sumbeiywo stated July 6 that he expected this to be the concluding phase of talks, in which parties would prepare the final Draft Framework Agreement to be signed in mid-August. The session was hoped to resolve crucial issues including composition of the armed forces, religious status of the capital, details of wealth sharing, percentage of southerners in national institutions, and power-sharing arrangements in the new government. The International Crisis Group called the current talks the closest to peace so far, but stressed that the final steps would be the most difficult, and failure could plunge Sudan back into civil war. In agreement with SPLM/A goals, the July 7 report called for a comprehensive pact that promoted Sudanese unity under a restructured

government which promoted equal rights and opportunities for all Sudanese. Following a 19-year civil war between the government in the primarily Islamic north and the SPLM/A in the mainly animist and Christian south, the government and the SPLM/A agreed July 2002 to allow 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. Current peace talks have worked toward implementing that agreement, focusing on post-war security, power-sharing, wealth-sharing, and how to deal with the debated Abyei, Nuba Mountains, and Southern Blue Nile areas. (AFP, July 4, 6; BBC, July 7; IRIN, July 4; The Times of India, July 7; Xinhua, July 6, 2003)

Government rejects secular capital: Presidential advisor Qutbi al-Mahdi stated July 7 that SPLM/A leader John Garang had “no peace agenda” and that his May 2003 signing of the Cairo Declaration suggested that he wanted to back out of their July 2002 peace agreement. The Cairo Declaration was an agreement between the SPLM/A and main northern opposition parties that cooperation was necessary for peace and that Sudan should be unified under a government that “treats all religions and beliefs as equal.” Al-Mahdi stated that the secular capital promoted by the Cairo Declaration was at odds with the 2002 Machakos peace agreement. Another ruling party official suggested July 7 that it would be possible to have two capitals, which could resolve both the government and SPLM/A concerns. The government has repeatedly rejected the idea of a secular northern capital while the SPLM/A has rejected rule by Islamic law. (BBC, July 7, 2003).

Northern opposition members arrested by government: The Sudanese government arrested northern opposition leader Ghazi Suleiman July 2 just hours before a press conference by northern opposition parties which was to broadcast the “Khartoum Declaration,” supporting a secular government and calling for an end to one-party rule. Four other activists who were said to have helped draft the agreement were also arrested between July 3 and 6. The Khartoum Declaration essentially restated the May 2003 Cairo Declaration in advocating a reorganized secular government, but was signed not just by 3 groups as was the previous agreement, but by 18 opposition parties, 15 non-governmental organizations, and more than 40 individual opposition leaders. The current peace process between the government and the SPLM/A followed the Machakos Protocol, which allowed Southern Sudan six years of administrative autonomy without being subject to Islamic law before determination of unity with or secession from northern Sudan. The peace process has been hampered by the fact that not all factions have been included. (AFP, July 2, 6; Amnesty International, July 8; Arabic News, July 3; BBC, July 7, 2003)

UGANDA

President Bush to visit Uganda: Uganda was one of five African nations that U.S. President George Bush was to visit during his five-day, five-country tour July 8-12. Bush was to be the first Republican president to visit Africa. As the only country in the world to have reversed the AIDS prevalence rate, Uganda was to be congratulated by Bush in its successful use of the “A, B, C” information campaign (standing for Abstinence, then Birth control, and Condoms if necessary). Bush was also to thank President Yoweri

Museveni for joining the “coalition of the willing” against Iraq. Bush met with Ugandan President Museveni in the White House in June, and Museveni has said that continued international limelight on Uganda would encourage international investment. Sources disagreed over whether Bush would advise Museveni to respect the 1995 constitution and not run for a third term in 2006. Museveni had promised not to run again; however, his intentions have been questioned. President Bush’s journey to Africa has been interpreted as both a commitment to the poor during the war on terror and an effort to promote peace and security, and also as an effort to promote linkages to strategic oil reserves outside of the Middle East, as one-fifth of American oil comes from Africa. (AFP, July 6; Africa News, June 26, 29; AP, July 2; BBC, July 2; The Monitor (Kampala), July 2, 3; United Press International, July 2; The White House News, July 3, 2003)

Uganda, Sudan meet over rebel allegations: A Ugandan military delegation visited Sudanese capital Khartoum July 2-4 following Ugandan claims that Sudan had begun to rearm Ugandan rebels. The Ugandan delegation presented a 60-page document showing that parts of the Sudanese military supported the Ugandan Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) militarily since October 2, 2002, despite agreements between the two countries not to support each other’s rebel groups. Northern Ugandan church leaders stated July 5 that despite Sudanese claims that LRA support was due to resolvable local problems, evidence indicated that support was never stopped. The delegation requested that the Sudan government punish such members severely. Following the talks, Sudan reaffirmed its view of the LRA as an outlaw terrorist group and agreed to continue talks on the issue. 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, July 5; African Church Information Service, July 1; The Monitor (Kampala), July 6; Reuters, July 5; Sudan News Agency, July 5, 2003)