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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)
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

ASEM talks center on Suu Kyi's detention: Asian and European foreign ministers debated July 23 about the correct response to the detention of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi at the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) forum in the Indonesian island of Bali. The European states wanted to increase pressure on Burma's military junta to free Suu Kyi, while many Asian states advocated a softer line, emphasizing the need for further negotiations. Burma's military junta appeared to hint at concessions July 23 when it released 91 prisoners detained over the May 30 clashes between pro-government supporters and supporters of Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD). At the ASEM talks, Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirithai proposed that Burma outline a road map for democracy and national reconciliation as well as the release of Suu Kyi. He offered Thailand's assistance in the venture, and stated that Thailand would be prepared to host a meeting of interested parties to help the Burmese government formulate the road map. The meeting would primarily consist of Asian countries most of whom belong to the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN). Surakiart stated that the Indonesian, Malaysian, and Chinese foreign ministers have all been supportive while EU participants at the ASEM meeting declined to comment on the idea. Surakiart's initiative came after increased international pressure on ASEAN to take significant steps to secure the release of Suu Kyi. Surakiart was quoted as saying that ASEAN must take the lead on this issue before someone else steps in. The Burmese military has been in control since 1962, despite Suu Kyi and the NLD's victory in the 1990 elections. Suu Kyi has been placed under house arrest periodically for the last ten years. (AFP, July 23; BBC, July 23, 24, 2003)

Junta arrests 12 over assassination plot: Burma's ruling junta announced the arrests of 12 people July 17 who were accused of plotting to assassinate five members of the ruling military regime as part of a campaign to create civil unrest and seize power. Deputy military intelligence chief Major General Kyaw Win stated the group intended to mobilize monks, students, and opposition parties. He added that the government was investigating whether the National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi was involved in the campaign. Colonel San Pwint stated the plot was scheduled to coincide with Martyr's Day on July 19, a day that marks the anniversary of the assassination of independence hero and father of Suu Kyi, General Aung San. The government's investigation of links between the arrests and Suu Kyi may bolster the rationale for her continued detainment in spite of mounting international demands for her immediate release. (AFP, BBC, July 26, 2003)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Ethnic violence continues: French-led UN mission troops in Bunia discovered the mutilated bodies of 22 civilians July 21 in Nizi, a village 22 km north of Bunia in the northeastern Ituri district. The victims were primarily women and children. A spokesperson for the UN force, Colonel Gerard Dubois stated that the bodies were found by a reconnaissance mission that was sent to Nizi after 2,500 to 3,000 displaced villagers arrived in Bunia July 22. The troops found the village empty except for several Lendu

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

fighters who opened fire. One Lendu militant was wounded in the exchange of fire. Ethnic strife in the Ituri district between Hema and Lendu militias has caused between 200,000 and 350,000 people to flee since fighting escalated in May 2003. The conflict in the DRC 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. (IRIN, July 22; New Vision (Kampala), July 23, 2003)

New ministers sworn in: Fourteen ministers and eight vice-ministers from the two main rebel groups, the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD) movement and the Mouvement de Liberation du Congo (MLC), took their oath of office July 24 in the capital Kinshasa after the pledge of allegiance was modified. The oath of office ceremony was originally scheduled for July 18, but the ministers refused to participate. They stated that they would not swear allegiance to President Kabila, but would agree to pledge allegiance to the institutions and the laws of the country instead. The text was changed and the new ministers sworn in. The UN opened a Joint Security Operations Center in the capital Kinshasa July 24 for coordination of the safety of members of the transition government. The various parties in the power-sharing government recently agreed to the number of bodyguards to which they would be entitled: the four vice-presidents will each have 108 bodyguards, ministers will each have 13, and vice-ministers will have eight. The transition government is expected to govern the country until elections scheduled for 2005. (IRIN, July 23, 24, 2003)

MONUC investigates arms trafficking: The UN denounced the trafficking of arms in northeastern DRC, following the seizure of a cache of munitions in Beni July 24 by the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie-Mouvement de Liberation (RCD-ML), who turned them over to MONUC (UN Organization Mission in the DRC). MONUC reported that it intended to open an inquiry into the trafficking, and that preliminary information indicated that the weapons were destined for armed rebel groups in the Ituri district. The munitions were found on board of an aircraft belonging to a private company based in northeastern DRC. According to the RCD-ML, the cargo came from Uganda and was destined for a Lendu fighting group in Mongbwalu. Ugandan government officials have denied the claims. News of the arms trafficking came a day after rival ethnic militias in the Ituri district participated in cease-fire talks organized by MONUC, and agreed to disarm, withdraw to rear bases, and participate in joint verification exercises. (IRIN, July 24, 25; The Monitor (Kampala), July 28, 2003)

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Border demarcation to begin in October: The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) announced July 24 that the physical border delineation between Eritrea and Ethiopia was due to start in October and be completed by June 2004. The demarcation timeline, which was originally planned to begin in May, could be further delayed if issues such as the authorization of flights over the border and the guarantee of worker safety are not agreed upon expeditiously. Despite Eritrea and Ethiopia's December 2000 peace agreement, in which they agreed that the EEBC's border decision was to be binding, Ethiopia has said that the ruling was biased towards Eritrea and has repeatedly contested the EEBC's 2002 border decision. The UN has pressured Eritrea and Ethiopia to

implement their 2000 peace agreement which has been delayed due to the lack of normalization between the two countries and Ethiopian critiques of the border ruling. The EEBC was created following the December 2000 Algiers Peace Agreement, which ended a two-year border war that resulted in tens of thousands of deaths subsequent to Eritrea's 1993 independence from Ethiopia. (AFP, July 24; IRIN, July 18, 24, 2003)

Remains of soldiers are repatriated: The UN Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) handed over the remains of 220 soldiers to Ethiopia in a July 25 military ceremony. The soldiers had died during the 1998-2000 border war, and were found by UNMEE in the 25 km-wide temporary security zone between the two countries. The Ethiopian government stated July 25 that it would bury the dead soldiers on humanitarian grounds, but claimed that they were actually Eritrean. The Eritrean government insisted that the soldiers were Ethiopian, and accused Ethiopia of hiding its losses. UNMEE maintained that the repatriation was a step toward peace, and urged reconciliation between the two countries. The soldiers are among an estimated 70,000 people killed during the 1998-2000 border war. (BBC, July 25; DPA, July 24; IRIN, July 29, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Liberian violence escalates, peacekeepers wait: The situation in Liberia worsened as more than 600 people died the week of July 23 in capitol of Monrovia, where half the nation's population has taken shelter. Regional leaders have pledged 1,000 Nigerian soldiers, but only if the agreed upon cease-fire is followed. UN envoy to Liberia, Jaques Klein stated July 18 that the country is too dangerous for him to enter, and peacekeepers are needed. UN war crime indicted Liberian President, Charles Taylor, stated he will leave, but only once the situation is under control. President Bush made a symbolic move July 25 ordering 3,200 marines sent to the coast of Liberia. However, he maintained that any military intervention would not take place until Taylor departs. While having accepted an offer of asylum from Nigeria, Taylor showed no signs of leaving as fighting continued to escalate in and around the capital. Human Rights Watch has urged immediate intervention citing the daily rise in death tolls, casualties, and displaced persons. A cease-fire was reached June 17 between Taylor's government and the rebels who have been fighting for his departure since 1999; both sides have used increasingly violent means of warfare, including extra-judicial killings, torture, sexual abuse, and arbitrary detention. (AFP, July 25; AllAfrica, July 27; Economist, July 23, 2003)

Canada, EU, accuse Iran of abuse: The European Union (EU) delivered an ultimatum to Iranian officials July 23, stating no bilateral trade agreement would be reached between the two unless Iran improved its human rights record and allowed for inspection of its nuclear facilities. Iranian President Mohammed Khatami allegedly cancelled a scheduled visit to Belgium after being told he would not be officially received. Canada also entered the picture, withdrawing its ambassador from Tehran after an Iranian-Canadian photo-journalist died after interrogation by Iranian officials. Originally claimed as a heart attack, Iranian officials admitted July 23 the cause of death to be a brain hemorrhage resulting from a blow to the head during her 77 hours of interrogation. An Iranian shot dead July 14 by Canadian police after a road-rage incident induced similar protests from

Khatami's administration. The EU's ultimatum strayed from the last 15 years of policy, in which the EU has often stood against the antagonistic policies of the U.S. and kept Iran from drifting into international isolation. While President Khatami stated July 24 that preconditions for negotiations, such as human rights improvement and nuclear inspections, were inappropriate for a civilized nation, he urged his country not to provide any additional excuses for international isolation. (BBC, Deutsche Presse-Agentur, July 24; International Herald Tribune, Mideast Mirror, Toronto Star, July 25, 2003)

Indonesia pushes to end Aceh independence movement: After imposing martial law on the province of Aceh May 19, the Indonesian government has struggled to make any progress towards eradicating Aceh hopes for independence. Brussels based think-tank International Crisis Group (ICG) released a report July 23, stating the government has no clear objectives or exit strategies concerning the province of Aceh. The six-month period of martial law was imposed by President Jukarta in an attempt to finally crush the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) guerillas, who have fought for a separate state for 27 years. No GAM leaders have been captured, as the Indonesian Armed Forces have engaged in a stated quest to win the hearts and minds of the Aceh separatists. The ICG report found the opposite has occurred, as forced loyalty oaths, displacement of villagers, and arrests of GAM sympathizers has created a new generation of Aceh separatists. The imposition of martial law scrapped a five-month cease-fire, and a return to negotiations appears impossible. GAM's struggle for independence has focused mainly on Indonesian exploitation of their natural resources, with too few returns to the area. They also have sought autonomous legislative powers. The Indonesian Army's campaign to eradicate GAM was predicted in May by government officials to last six months; that period has now been expanded to two years. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur, July 23; Australian Financial Review, July 24, 2003)

MACEDONIA

Weapons handover date set: Macedonian officials announced July 23 that the voluntary handover of thousands of illegal weapons is scheduled to start in November as part of a broad regional initiative orchestrated by the UN Development Program (UNDP) for a weapons-free Balkans. The government is preparing to collect the estimated 300,000 illegal weapons in civilian hands since the end of the 2001 ethnic Albanian insurgency. Local experts stated that the number of weapons could be much higher because Macedonia served as a major smuggling route for Albanian guerillas in Kosovo and Serbia. The seven-month conflict in Macedonia began when ethnic Albanians took arms against the government in February 2001 to fight for the rights of the ethnic Albanian minority. (AP, July 24; DPA, July 23, 2003)

EU appoints new general to Macedonian force: The European Union announced the July 25 appointment of a Portuguese army general, Luis Nelson Ferreria dos Santos, to head its military force in Macedonia. Ferreira dos Santos will replace the present French commander of the force, General Pierre Maral, who commands 380 soldiers from 27 countries. The EU took over security in Macedonia on March 31 following the 2001 ethnic Albanian insurgency. The EU operation, known as Concordia, was originally

expected to last for six months, but it has recently been extended until December 15. (AFP, July 25, 2003)

NEPAL

Five-point ultimatum complicates peace talks: The government sent a letter to the Maoist leadership July 25, inviting them to participate in formal negotiations. The Maoists responded July 27 with letters of their own, presenting a five-point ultimatum. The first point demanded that agreements reached during the first two rounds of talks be implemented. The second and third points required that any agreements reached would be followed by both the King and his army. The fourth insisted that U.S. army specialists be expelled from the country. Finally, the government was asked for a clear political agenda. The most contentious issue was the battle over confinement of the Royal Army to their barracks, an agreement the Maoists claimed was reached in the second round of talks, but that was disputed by Finance Minister Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani. The minister claimed July 27 that he had clinching evidence that no such agreement was made, and suggested initiating a third round of negotiations. There has been a flurry of letters exchanged during the week of July 21 between government officials, Maoist representatives, and human rights groups, all have favored a third round of negotiations. The negotiations will focus on creating a lasting peace to the People's War, which the Maoists began in 1996 with the stated purpose of overthrowing the monarchy. A cease-fire was reached between the two sides January 2003. (BBC, July 27, 28; Kathmandu Post, July 27; Himalayan Times, Nepalnews.com, July 28, 2003)

Security tightens as informal negotiations continue: Government security forces in Kathmandu and district capitals were put on high alert July 24 following the exchange of a series of letters sent by Maoists to the government demanding implementation of past agreements. The Maoist's closure of their contact office in Kathmandu July 20 also added to growing tensions. Maoists claimed that the government was unable to negotiate a lasting peace, and stated that the government's refusal to comply with past agreements was tantamount to nullification of the peace process. Government officials responded by intensifying their security check-ups, especially outside the capital. The exchange of letters has been part of six recent rounds of informal negotiations between the Maoists and government officials, in an attempt to convene for a third round of formal negotiations. (Kathmandu Post, July 23; Nepalnews.com, July 23, 24, 2003)

Maoists demand King take active role in peace talks: Maoists sent a letter to the government July 22 asking that King Gyanendra either be present at the next round of peace talks, or publicly endorse the negotiation team as representing him. Negotiations have been complicated by arguments over the status and implementation of agreements reached in the two prior peace talks, as well as recent government statements questioning if such agreements were ever made in the first place. The government responded by formally inviting the Maoists for a third round of peace talks, without addressing the issue of the King's role in such talks. The second round of formal talks took place May 2003, with government facilitators representing the King. (Kathmandu Post, July 22; Nepalnews.com, July 23, 2003).

SUDAN

Peace talks are postponed: Kenyan mediators announced July 25 that peace talks between the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) originally scheduled for August 3 were to resume August 10. Government spokesperson Ali Ahmed Hamid stated July 28 that the draft agreement proposed by mediators in the last round of peace talks was biased toward southern Sudan's secession, and suggested mediators bring a new draft consistent with previous peace agreements to the August 10 talks. SPLM/A leader John Garang stated July 23 that reaching a political agreement was crucial since the alternative was to resume war. The sixth round of Sudanese peace talks, meant to be the concluding session, ended prematurely July 12 when the government accused Kenyan mediators of siding with SPLM/A rebels. 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. (AFP, July 28; The East African Standard (Nairobi), July 25; IRIN, July 23; Xinhua, July 25, 2003)

Government accuses Uganda of breaking Nairobi agreement: Sudan's ambassador to Uganda, Surajjudin Ahmed Yusuf, accused the Ugandan government July 27 of continuing to back Sudan's rebel SPLM/A, despite promising otherwise in the 1999 Nairobi agreement. He claimed that SPLM/A members kidnapped two members of a Sudanese diplomat's family in Uganda July 19, and said that the abduction would not have happened if Ugandan government did not endorse SPLM/A members in Uganda. SPLM/A spokesperson George Riak denied SPLM/A involvement July 26. Ugandan Director of Military Intelligence Noble Mayombo stated July 28 that Ugandan police were investigating the alleged kidnapping, but questioned the Surajjudin's claims, noting that there was no documentation of the alleged kidnappees ever entering the country at all. Mayombo argued that Sudan's accusations were meant to cover up its own renewed support for Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army rebels. Relations between Sudan and Uganda thawed recently following the 1999 Nairobi Agreement to restore severed ties and stop support of each other's rebel groups; tension has increased following Ugandan claims and Sudanese counter-claims that each had begun supporting each other's rebel groups. (AFP, July 26; BBC, July 27, 28; DPA, The Monitor (Kampala), July 28, 2003)

UGANDA

Former dictator dying in Saudi Arabia: Former president Idi Amin Dada, the "Butcher of Africa" whose regime was responsible for widespread murder and torture, was in a Saudi hospital July 28 in comatose condition and suffering from high blood pressure and kidney failure. Idi Amin's family requested that he be allowed to return to Uganda following a 10-year exile in Saudi Arabia, and some Ugandan members of parliament argued that Amin be granted amnesty like others who had served under him. Human Rights Watch stated July 22 that they rejected comfortable exile for tyrants, and they regretted Idi Amin was dying without meeting justice for his crimes. President Yoweri Museveni declared July 22 that Idi Amin would face charges of human rights violations if the exiled dictator returned to Uganda alive. He said that Amin's family would be allowed to return his

dead body to be buried, but without a state funeral. Amin has lived in exile in Saudi Arabia since 1980, following his 1971-1978 rule of Uganda in which 10,000 to 500,000 people were killed and 70,000 citizens of Asian origin were expelled and had their property confiscated. (African Church Information Service, July 28; The Monitor (Kampala), July 26, 28; New Vision (Kampala), July 23; Vanguard (Lagos), July 22, 2003)

Son of former dictator trains rebel forces: Brig. Kale Kayihura, spokesperson for the government's Ugandan People's Liberation Front (UPDF), stated July 26 that Taban Amin, son of Uganda's former dictator Idi Amin, was training a rebel group to attack Uganda from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Kayihura said that Taban Amin was working with the Congolese Armed Forces and a local group in the transition government near the DRC border. Taban Amin promised money to people in northwestern Uganda to join, and was said to have recruited approximately 400 people. The Ugandan government has criticized the DRC for supporting Taban Amin, who has reportedly lived in the DRC for the past five years and worked with ex-UPDF soldiers to recruit rebels since March 2001. His father, Idi Amin, was from northwestern Uganda, and has been labeled by Human Rights Watch as one of the bloodiest dictators in the last century. (The Monitor (Kampala), July 27; Xinhua, July 26, 2003).