



Peace & Justice Update
July 16, 2004
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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. The Gender and Peace section highlights events in peacebuilding that pertain to gender and human rights.

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 bibliographical 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

AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
Balkan News	=	Balkan News (www.balkannews.net)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/)
BCG	=	Balkan Crisis Group (www.iwpr.net)
Channel NewsAsia	=	Channel NewsAsia (www.channelnewsasia.com)
CPJ	=	Committee to Protect Journalists (www.cpj.org)
Economist	=	Economist (www.economist.com)
EUObserver	=	EUObserver.Com (www.euobserver.com)
ECHR	=	European Court of Human Rights (www.echr.coe.int)
FT	=	Financial Times (www.ft.com)
GlobalSecurity	=	GlobalSecurity (www.globalsecurity.org)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk/)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int/php/index.php).
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
Irish Times	=	The Irish Times (www.ireland.com)
IWPR	=	Institute for War and Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Kantipur Online	=	Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
MRG	=	Minority Rights Group International (www.minorityrights.org)
LA Weekly	=	Latin American Weekly Report (www.latinnews.com/lwr)
Latinnews Daily	=	LatinNews Daily (www.latinnews.com)
Los Angeles Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com .)
Le Monde	=	Le Monde (www.lemonde.fr)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
Nepal News.Com	=	Nepal News.Com (www.nepalnews.com)
NewKerala.Com	=	NewKerala.Com (www.newkerala.com)
New Vision	=	The New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
NCN	=	New Congo Net (www.marekinc.com/NCN.html)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
Ottawa Citizen	=	The Ottawa Citizen (www.ottawacitizen.com)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters Sans Frontières (www.rsf.org)
Santiago Times	=	The Santiago Times (www.tcgnews.com/santiagotimes)
Scotsman	=	The Scotsman (www.scotsman.com)
Sudan Tribune	=	The Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
UN News Center	=	UN New Center Homepage (www.un.org)
U.S. Dept. of State	=	U.S. Department of State (www.state.gov)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Washington Times	=	The Washington Times (www.washintontimes.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency(www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

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Pinochet loses immunity: The Santiago Court of Appeals published July 7 the full version of its decision to strip former dictator Augusto Pinochet of his political immunity under Chilean law. The Court ruled 14 to 9 in favor of allowing the ex-general to be tried for killings, disappearances, and other human rights abuses that occurred during his 1973 to 1990 military dictatorship. The Court stated that Pinochet could not blame subordinates for the incidents because he was in a command position and was aware of what his security forces were doing. The ruling also reversed the 2002 decision that found the ex-dictator medically unfit to stand trial due to his advancing dementia. The charges against Pinochet were related to the operations of his National Intelligence Direction Agency and a military information service called Operation Condor that supported right-wing military regimes in Chile and many neighboring Latin American countries. (Latinnews Daily, Santiago Times, Xinhua, July 8, 2004)

COLOMBIA

Violence plagues countryside: At least 15 people were killed and 13 injured during a clash between two rival paramilitary factions. According to the national army, the United Peasant Self-Defense Forces of Casanare and the Centaur Block of the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC) have fought since the end of June over control of territory and cocaine trafficking in eastern Colombia. In northwestern Colombia, 7 peasants were killed under similar circumstances by the left-wing Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) during the weekend of July 10. Additionally, 3 members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) died in combat against government troops in the same region. The violence among the FARC, the groups of the AUC, and smaller guerrilla groups like the ELN have killed approximately 3,500 people annually; most of them civilians. (AP, July 12; Xinhua, July 13, 2004)

Colombian refugees cross Venezuelan border: Approximately 200 Colombians fled Arauca for the Venezuelan border state of Apure after violence erupted between competing rebel and paramilitary groups during the first week of July. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Jesuit Refugee Service housed many of the civil war refugees while others were housed by indigenous communities along the border. The refugees could be granted a 90-day asylum that would allow them to seek assistance from the Venezuelan government. Venezuela's National Refugee Commission granted temporary asylum for the first time July 2 to 292 indigenous Colombian Wayuu refugees who fled similar violence in May. Arauca has been a hotspot in the four-decade-old Colombian civil war with more than 200,000 farmers fleeing to Venezuela. (AP, Xinhua, July 9, 2004)

Army dismisses more than 500 troops: More than 500 Colombian soldiers have been discharged this year for poor performance, corruption, or human rights abuses, according to a statement made by the national army July 12. Many of the soldiers, including 67 officers, were dismissed for involvement with left-wing rebels or right-wing paramilitaries. The dismissed soldiers were thought to have assisted either rebel or

paramilitary forces in the illegal production and transportation of cocaine. Since taking office in 2002, President Uribe sought to eliminate links between military personnel and both the Marxist rebels and the right-wing paramilitaries. Uribe has attempted to establish peace and reduce the civilian deaths associated with Colombia's four-decade-old civil war. (Irish Times, New York Times, July 13, 2004)

BALKANS

MONTENEGRO

Government takes steps toward independence: Montenegro's Parliament voted July 12 to adopt a new flag, national anthem, and national day, stating that the road to Montenegrin independence was irrevocable with that declaration. The republics of Serbia and Montenegro stayed together in a federation after the 1991 collapse of the former Yugoslavia. Serbian leaders reportedly favored the union with Montenegro but indicated they would accept Montenegrin independence. Both Serbia and Montenegro would be able to declare independence in 2007 according to the 2003 ruling of the Yugoslav parliament. As part of the ruling, the Yugoslav parliament voted itself out of existence and declared the new state of Serbia and Montenegro. Both republics were to have their own parliament, control over most of their policy areas, and the opportunity to choose independence after three years. (Balkannews, BBC, July 13, 2004)

SERBIA

ICTY postpones Milosevic trial: Former President Slobodan Milosevic's trial was to begin July 14, but a spokesman for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague announced that the trial was to be adjourned until August 31. A court-appointed cardiologist declared Milosevic was too ill to stand trial because his high blood pressure would put him at risk of suffering a heart attack. The former Serbian President's frequent health problems have repeatedly delayed the trial and judges at The Hague stated July 6 that his health problems could force Milosevic to accept a court-appointed lawyer. He has conducted his own defense since February 2002 against charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide stemming from incidents during the Balkan wars of the 1990's. (BBC, July 16, 2004)

GENDER AND PEACE

AU leaders promote women's rights: At the conclusion of a two-day African Union (AU) Summit July 7, regional leaders presented an 11-point action plan aimed at improving women's rights. The action plan outlined the launch of an awareness campaign in 2005 that would address the use of sexual and gender-based violence as weapons of war. The campaign was intended to highlight the suffering of women during conflict, particularly in instances involving the issues of female child soldiers and mass rape. In recognition of women's greater role in peace processes, the leaders from African states pledged to incorporate the objectives of UN Security Council resolution 1325 within their domestic legislation by the end of this year. UN Security Council Resolution 1325, passed in October 2002, aimed to enhance the role of women in preventing conflict, promoting peace, and assisting in post-conflict reconstruction. UN Secretary

General Kofi Annan, who spoke at one of the sessions on gender, welcomed the AU's steps toward greater gender inclusion in peace processes. He stated that the plan would provide opportunities for women to formally participate in Africa's peacemaking processes at all levels. The 2004 AU Summit, which focused on Africa's conflicts and development, addressed regional gender issues for the first time. Earlier this year, the AU, an intergovernmental organization promoting the cooperation of African states, elected five women to the board of 10 commissioners working at the AU headquarters in Addis Abba, Ethiopia. ([IRIN](#), [UN News Service](#), July 7, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

Countries to reactivate economic cooperation: Foreign ministers from Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) met July 11 and 12 to restart economic cooperation among the three countries. The Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) was reactivated with plans to cover the energy, agricultural, and social sectors in hopes that the cooperation would foster mutual trust throughout the region. Fighting between DRC troops and rebels in eastern DRC since May 28 raised tensions among the three countries when more than 30,000 Congolese refugees fled into Rwanda and Burundi. Further steps to reduce these tensions involved the creation of a commission including members from all three countries, the African Union, UN, European Union, and others that was to investigate the current economic situation and begin work on the separate foci of the CEPGL. The CEPGL was founded in 1976 to promote the access to and movement of goods and workers among the three countries, but it dissolved with the start of the DRC civil war in 1998. The civil war, which ended in 2002, was influenced by several countries, including Rwanda and Burundi, who supported different rebel troops. ([IRIN](#), July 12, 2004)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Militia groups break cease-fire: The Congolese Popular Armed Forces and the Front of the Integrationist Nationalists fought over a gold mine July 9 killing more than 50 fighters in the northern province of Ituri. A number of small villages were abandoned because of the fighting and more than 2,000 Congolese fled into Uganda. The fighting broke a cease-fire agreement signed by seven militia groups May 14, creating fears that violence would return to the area on a large-scale basis. The Ituri province remained volatile after the signing of the Lusaka Peace Accords in 1999, which were to have ended the DRC's civil war. It was estimated that more than 55,000 people have died in the Ituri province since 1999. ([BBC](#), [IRIN](#), July 9, 2004)

UGANDA

Government employs ex-rebels: The Uganda Amnesty Commission (UAC) reported that they would employ former members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) as "change advisors." LRA defectors applied for amnesty after learning of the possibility. Those employed as change agents would speak on radio stations to spread the message of amnesty and help the UAC find more effective means of publicizing its work. The Ugandan government had problems relating the message of amnesty to LRA rebels and hoped the change agents would be more effective. The LRA, a rebel group from the

north, has fought the government for 18 years in an attempt to establish a state based on the Biblical Ten Commandments. To date, the civil war has killed more than 1.6 million people. ([IRIN](#), July 12, 2004)

LRA attacks Sudanese villages: More than 120 villagers have been killed by the LRA in southern Sudan since June 25. According to reports, an LRA taskforce of more than 2,000 men looted and ransacked a number of small towns in the province of Eastern Equatoria which borders northern Uganda. Members of the Equatoria Defense Forces, a local militia group, said they fought the LRA during the recent attacks, contradicting the Sudanese government's claims that the LRA was no longer hiding in southern Sudan. The government of Sudan previously backed the LRA but in June 2002 allowed the Ugandan government to cross its southern border to pursue LRA rebels under "Operation Iron Fist." Prior to the military operation, an agreement was made between the two countries in which Ugandan government troops would be allowed to remain in southern Sudan until April 18, 2002. However, days after the deadline passed the Sudanese government granted permission for Ugandan troops to remain in the country. ([BBC](#), April 14, 2002; [IRIN](#), July 8, 2004)

HORN OF AFRICA

SOMALIA

Annan pushes for all-inclusive government: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged delegates at the Somali peace talks in Kenya July 8 to overcome their differences and form a government that would represent all factions of the country. He praised the delegates for forming a committee to elect members of parliament and an arbitration committee to resolve disputes that might arise during the process. Somalia's civil war began in 1991 with the overthrow of Muhammad Siad Barre's regime. During the war, the country was left without a central government causing the governmental infrastructure to deteriorate. In October 2002, The Declaration of the Cessation of Hostilities was signed between rival clans and the Kenyan peace talks began. ([AllAfrica](#), July 8; [IRIN](#), July 9, 2004)

SUDAN

U.S. urges approval of sanctions: The UN debated a U.S. draft resolution to impose sanctions on the Sudanese government-supported Janjawid militia if the government did not carry out its promises within 30 days. The Sudanese government pledged July 3 to deploy police forces near refugee camps in Darfur, lift restrictions on humanitarian workers, and disarm the militia, which has attacked civilians in the western region of Darfur. The U.S. was disappointed with the government's lack of speed in carrying out these actions because although Sudan lifted travel restrictions on aid workers, the Janjawid militia was reportedly still armed. The militia moved into Darfur after rebel groups took up arms against the government in February 2003 to demand political representation in the peace process and access to state resources. To date, thousands have died and more than a million people have been displaced. ([BBC](#), July 9; [Sudan Tribune](#), July 12, 2004)

SUDAN - CHAD

Governments to create joint-patrol: The presidents of Sudan and Chad agreed July 10 to establish a joint border patrol in the western region of Darfur to stop the violence from moving into Chad. They also planned to establish a commission to assess the damage in Chad caused by previous Janjawid Arab militia raids into the country. Chad has served as a mediator between the Sudanese government and rebel groups of Darfur and hosted the talks that led to an April 2004 cease-fire. In June the Chadian government threatened to withdraw from its role as mediator if Sudan continued to allow the Janjawid militia to cross the border. (BBC, July 11; Sudan Tribune, July 10, 2004)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

ISRAEL

ICJ rules West Bank barrier is illegal: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in a July 9 advisory opinion that the barrier constructed by Israel in the West Bank was illegal under international law. The Court held that the construction of the barrier impeded the liberty of movement of the inhabitants of the occupied Palestinian territory. Human Rights Watch had previously reported that the barrier hindered Palestinians' access to such basic services as education and medical care as well as to land, jobs, and other means of livelihood. The Court acknowledged Israel's right to self-defense, yet stated that the West Bank barrier could not be justified on the basis of security. The ICJ's ruling outlined obligations for Israel to cease construction of and dismantle the barrier, as well as to pay reparations for injuries suffered by inhabitants of the West Bank. The Court's advisory opinion was made in response to a December 2003 request by the UN General Assembly to examine the legality of the Israeli West Bank barrier. ICJ advisory opinions, made at the request of UN organs and agencies, are of a consultative nature and are not binding upon the requesting bodies. Israel has stated that it would ignore the non-binding ruling, but would instead follow the June 30 ruling of the Israeli Supreme Court. Israel has reportedly begun to revise the route of a 20-mile section of the barrier to comply with the ruling by the Israeli court. (UUAFP, July 12, 14; BBC, July 9, 12; HRWNews, February 22, 2004)

NEPAL

Government allows possibility of talks: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba said his newly formed government was ready to talk to the Maoist political leaders on any political topic except the constitutional monarchy and multi-party democracy. Both Deuba and the Maoists said they were interested in peace talks; however, Deuba expressed concern that the Maoists would not actively cooperate with the government in a peace process. The leader of the Nepali Congress Party Girija Prasad Koirala announced July 12 that he laid groundwork for talks with the Maoists and would work to resolve the conflict himself. Koirala's Nepali Congress Party has not joined the Deuba coalition government. The Maoists have called for elections to an assembly that would draw up a new constitution. Since Maoist rebels began waging war with the Nepali

government in 1996, two rounds of peace talks failed, one in November 2001 and another in August 2003. ([Kantipur Online](#), July 9, 11, 12, 13, 2004)

Government unveils human rights plan: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba made public a 12-point human rights plan July 14. The three-year plan ensured the rights of children, the dalit caste, ethnic minorities, senior citizens, and women. The UN Commission on Human Rights said July 15 that human rights abuses in Nepal were on the rise and the situation was grave. The UN said most of the 146 urgent human rights appeals made to the government since the beginning of the year were related to the actions of government security forces. ([Kantipur Online](#), [Nepalnews.com](#), July 14, 15, 2004)

Monsoon flooding and landslides claim lives: More than 15 districts in the southern region of Nepal have been badly affected by floods brought on by seasonal monsoon rains. At least 50 people died last week and thousands have been displaced due to landslides and flooding. Many homes, roads, and bridges were destroyed. The Nepali Home Ministry proposed a budget of nearly \$556,000 in the upcoming fiscal budget for the flood victims. Floods and landslides have been common in South Asia during the monsoon season when annual rains combine with melting snow from the Himalayas. ([BBC](#), July 14; [Kantipur Online](#), [Nepalnews.com](#), July 10, 12, 2004)

WEST AFRICA

Security Council encourages regional stability: Following a fact-finding mission to West Africa, UN Security Council members presented recommendations July 13 aimed at strengthening institutions working for regional stability including the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The recommendations praised ECOWAS and UNOWA's joint conflict resolution initiatives, in particular the recent initiatives in Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, and Cote d'Ivoire. The initiatives focused on the restoration of rule of law and promotion of good governance in an effort to prevent coups d'état and other unconstitutional means of seizing power. Noting financial and logistical constraints that impede the performance of the regional initiatives, the Security Council called for additional resources to be allocated to ECOWAS and UNOWA to help implement coherent solutions to conflicts and political instability. Due to the region's high youth unemployment and poverty levels, which were major obstacles to stability, the recommendation stressed the need for West African countries to work closely with their international partners to bolster economic performance. Council members said the international community should not neglect to assist currently stable states as well as the most troubled countries in promoting good governance, institutionalizing human rights mechanisms, and maintaining good neighborly relations. Representatives of the Security Council were sent to seven West African countries June 22 through June 28 to raise awareness of all UN activities. ([UN News Center](#), July 13, 2004)

COTE D'IVOIRE

UN probes human rights violations: A team from the human rights division of the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire said July 8 that it was investigating reports of human rights violations in the northern town of Korhogo, where two rival rebel factions within the New Forces violently clashed June 20 and 21. The human rights investigation began due to controversy over death tolls and numerous allegations against the rebels that included the creation of mass graves. Guillaume Soro, the leader of the New Forces, claimed that approximately 22 people died in firefights; however, the Ivorian government insisted that more than 300 people were killed. Pro-government newspapers reported that the mass grave in Korhogo was created immediately following the clashes. Amadou Kone, a senior commander of the New Forces, said that the group would conduct its own investigation into the alleged mass grave and would announce the results of its probe next week. Cote d'Ivoire's civil war, which began in September 2002, divided the country between the rebel-held north and the government loyalist south. Recently, it was reported that the rebels fought amongst themselves over a strong disagreement about the group's leadership. A UN-appointed Independent Commission of Inquiry, set up to investigate serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Cote d'Ivoire between mid-September 2002 and January 2003, was scheduled to begin its work July 18. (IRIN, July 7; UN News Center, July 8, 2004)

LIBERIA

Parliament rejects petition on Taylor: Liberia's transitional parliament unanimously rejected a petition submitted by human rights organizations to pressure the government of Nigeria into handing over former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. A spokesperson for the assembly said that a trial at the Special Court would endanger Liberia's fragile transition process. The petitioners appealed to the assembly due to President Gyude Bryant's rigid stance on Taylor. In April, President Bryant said that Taylor's presence in Nigeria was part of Liberia's peace process and no request would be made to transfer Taylor to Freetown where the Special Court was held. Charles Taylor, fighting his own civil war against the-then Liberian government, and later as President of Liberia, has been accused of supporting the Revolutionary United Front in its activities against the government of Sierra Leone. The Court for Sierra Leone, created by the Sierra Leone Government and the UN, was tasked with trying those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the 1991 to 2001 civil war. (IRIN, July 7, 2004)