



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**August 6, 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](http://www.hrw.org) or [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org). The Gender and Peace section highlights events in peacebuilding that pertain to gender and human rights.

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## UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	=	Agence France Presse ( <a href="http://www.afp.com">www.afp.com</a> )
AI	=	Amnesty International ( <a href="http://www.amnesty.org">www.amnesty.org</a> )
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media ( <a href="http://www.allAfrica.com">www.allAfrica.com</a> )
AP	=	Associated Press ( <a href="http://www.ap.org">www.ap.org</a> )
Balkan News	=	Balkan News ( <a href="http://www.balkannews.net">www.balkannews.net</a> )
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation ( <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk">news.bbc.co.uk</a> )
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports ( <a href="http://www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/">www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/</a> )
BCG	=	Balkan Crisis Group ( <a href="http://www.iwpr.net">www.iwpr.net</a> )
ECHR	=	European Court of Human Rights ( <a href="http://www.echr.coe.int">www.echr.coe.int</a> )
Economist	=	Economist ( <a href="http://www.economist.com">www.economist.com</a> )
EUObserver	=	EUObserver.Com ( <a href="http://www.euobserver.com">www.euobserver.com</a> )
FT	=	Financial Times ( <a href="http://www.ft.com">www.ft.com</a> )
GlobalSecurity	=	GlobalSecurity ( <a href="http://www.globalsecurity.org">www.globalsecurity.org</a> )
GlobalSolutions	=	Citizens for Global Solutions ( <a href="http://globalsolutions.org">globalsolutions.org</a> )
Hirondelle	=	Hirondelle News Agency ( <a href="http://www.hirondelle.org/">http://www.hirondelle.org/</a> )
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch News ( <a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a> )
ICC	=	International Criminal Court ( <a href="http://www.icc-cpi.int/php/index.php">www.icc-cpi.int/php/index.php</a> ).
ICG	=	International Crisis Group ( <a href="http://www.crisisweb.org">www.crisisweb.org</a> )
IPS	=	Inter Press Service ( <a href="http://www.ips.org">www.ips.org</a> )
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network ( <a href="http://www.irinnews.org">www.irinnews.org</a> )
IWPR	=	Institute for War and Peace Reporting ( <a href="http://www.iwpr.net">www.iwpr.net</a> )
Kantipur Online	=	Kantipur Online ( <a href="http://www.kantipuronline.com">www.kantipuronline.com</a> )
LA Weekly	=	Latin American Weekly Report ( <a href="http://www.latinnews.com/lwr">www.latinnews.com/lwr</a> )
Latinnews Daily	=	LatinNews Daily ( <a href="http://www.latinnews.com">www.latinnews.com</a> )
Los Angeles Times	=	Los Angeles Times ( <a href="http://www.latimes.com">www.latimes.com</a> .)
Le Monde	=	Le Monde ( <a href="http://www.lemonde.fr">www.lemonde.fr</a> )
Le Jour	=	Le Jour ( <a href="http://www.lejour.ci">www.lejour.ci</a> )
M2	=	M2 Presswire ( <a href="http://www.presswire.net">www.presswire.net</a> )
Monitor	=	The Monitor ( <a href="http://www.monitor.co.ug">www.monitor.co.ug</a> )
MRG	=	Minority Rights Group International ( <a href="http://www.minorityrights.org">www.minorityrights.org</a> )
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times ( <a href="http://www.nepalitimes.com">www.nepalitimes.com</a> )
Nepal News.Com	=	Nepal News.Com ( <a href="http://www.nepalnews.com">www.nepalnews.com</a> )
NewKerala.Com	=	NewKerala.Com ( <a href="http://www.newkerala.com">www.newkerala.com</a> )
New Vision	=	The New Vision ( <a href="http://www.newvision.co.ug">www.newvision.co.ug</a> )
NYT	=	The New York Times ( <a href="http://www.nytimes.com">www.nytimes.com</a> )
Reuters	=	Reuters ( <a href="http://www.reuters.com">www.reuters.com</a> )
RSF	=	Reporters Sans Frontières ( <a href="http://www.rsf.org">www.rsf.org</a> )
Santiago Times	=	The Santiago Times ( <a href="http://www.tcgnews.com/santiagotimes">www.tcgnews.com/santiagotimes</a> )
Sudan Tribune	=	The Sudan Tribune ( <a href="http://www.sudantribune.com">www.sudantribune.com</a> )
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund ( <a href="http://www.unicef.org">www.unicef.org</a> )
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage ( <a href="http://www.un.org">www.un.org</a> )
UN Wire	=	UN News Wire ( <a href="http://www.unwire.org">www.unwire.org</a> )
U.S. Dept. of State	=	U.S. Department of State ( <a href="http://www.state.gov">www.state.gov</a> )
UPI	=	United Press International ( <a href="http://www.upi.com">www.upi.com</a> )
VOA	=	Voice of America ( <a href="http://www.voanews.com">www.voanews.com</a> )
Washington Times	=	Washington Times ( <a href="http://www.washingtontimes.com">www.washingtontimes.com</a> )
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency( <a href="http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm">www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm</a> )

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## ANDES

### **COLOMBIA**

President requests paramilitary demobilization: President Alvaro Uribe announced August 3 that two paramilitary groups would have to disarm and move into a new demilitarized zone if peace talks were to continue. Fighting between the Centaur Bloc of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) and the Peasant Self-Defense Forces of Casanare (ACC) over the drug trade in eastern Colombia killed dozens of civilians and displaced hundreds more during the past month. Uribe said the Centaur Bloc and the ACC would not be allowed to participate in peace negotiations until they respected the July 1 cease-fire agreement and moved their disarmed forces into the new demilitarized zone. The zone would be similar to one created in the northwest for peace talks between the larger paramilitary unit, the AUC, and the government. The paramilitary groups were formed 20 years ago to fight leftist rebels but eventually became involved in drug trafficking, kidnapping, and violence against civilians and military forces. (AFP, AP, August 3, 2004)

### **VENEZUELA**

Judge orders arrest of rebel officers: Judge Rita Hernandez issued arrest warrants July 31 for 59 former Venezuelan military officers on charges of rebellion, incitement to rebellion, conspiracy, and participation in the failed October 2002 coup to remove President Hugo Chavez. The Chavez government also accused the men of bombing the Spanish and Colombian embassies in 2003 and planning to use explosives to disrupt the recall vote that was scheduled to take place August 15. An attorney representing the accused officers claimed they could not be charged with rebellion because they had only expressed their views and had never participated in any planning or conspiracy. The arrest warrants and the short-lived 2002 coup represented the deep divisions between citizens who believed Chavez was the first president in decades to care for the poor and those that said he has threatened the economic and democratic development of Venezuela. (AP, July 31; BBC, August 1, 2004)

## BALKANS

### **BOSNIA/CROATIA**

Court reduces former general's sentence: The appeals court at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague lessened the sentence of Tihomir Blaskic from 45 years to nine years. Since he had already served nine years in prison, he was released August 2. Blaskic was a Bosnian Croat general from 1993 to 1994 and was convicted in 2000 of 19 charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes against Bosnian Muslims. The appeals court upheld only three of the lesser charges, stating that the lower court misinterpreted the law, made factual errors, and did not receive all the evidence. Franjo Tudjman, former President of Croatia, withheld documents from the war crimes tribunal that were made available in 2002 and which implicated other political leaders, portraying Blaskic's role as minor. Bosnia was involved in a civil war from 1992 to 1995 in which hundreds of thousands of people were displaced and an estimated 250,000 people were killed. Bosnian Serbs wanted to remain with the Belgrade-based

Yugoslavia while Bosnian Muslims and Croats wanted an independent Bosnian state and an independent Croatia. ([BBC](#), July 29; [NYT](#), July 30, 2004)

## **GENDER AND PEACE**

### **SUDAN**

UNICEF provides police training: The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) sponsored a three-day training course for 32 police officers on investigating cases of juvenile rape. The initiative was intended to sensitize police and other law enforcement officials on how to interview children who endured sexual violence. The training, led by Jordanian and Sudanese police officers in Khartoum, was the first of several scheduled to take place over the next few months. Upcoming courses will train all Sudanese police officers in Darfur, with special attention paid to the training of female officers. According to Carol Bellamy, UNICEF Executive Director, the training of police officers would ensure the effective handling of war-time rape cases which had not been properly prosecuted. ([UNICEF](#), [UN Wire](#), July 26, 2004)

## **GREAT LAKES**

### **BURUNDI**

Inmates suspend protests: Prisoners in five prisons around the country halted their 11-day protest August 2 when paramilitary forces used tear gas to flush the inmates out of their cells. The prisoners, who had prevented new inmates from entering cells and others from appearing in court, agreed to a 15-day postponement of the strike to allow for a negotiated solution. The strike started July 19 when prisoners demanded that they be released in compliance with the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Accords that stipulated the release of political prisoners. The Minister of Justice stated that the 4,000 prisoners were not members of the political leadership that was granted provisional immunity in the accords and therefore were not eligible for release. Most of the prisoners were jailed for their involvement in the 1993 coup d'etat that killed Burundi's first democratically elected president, Melchior Ndadaye. Officials have been negotiating for a permanent government that would share power between Hutus and Tutsis, the two main ethnic groups responsible for violence in the country since independence from Belgium in 1962. ([IRIN](#), July 19, 22, August 2, 2004)

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

ICC completes first visit: A group from the International Criminal Court (ICC) finished its first trip to the DRC August 2 aimed at encouraging cooperative efforts between government officials and the ICC. The team arrived in the DRC July 26 and met with government officials and members of the civil service to discuss the need for the investigation and the difficulties that could arise. The group was sent as a result of the June 23 announcement by ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo that he would probe alleged human rights violations committed after the ICC's jurisdiction began July 1, 2002. Though many rebel groups that fought the government in the DRC civil war between 1998 and 2002 were accepted into the power-sharing government, violence against and by the army still continued in many regions. ([IRIN](#), August 2; [UN News Center](#), July 30, 2004)

## **UGANDA**

UPDF attacks LRA leader: In an attack that killed 120 rebels July 29, the Ugandan People's Defense Force (UPDF) reported that it nearly captured the leader of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Joseph Kony. Kony's alleged headquarters were 125 miles north of the Sudan-Uganda border. Though Kony escaped, the UPDF captured four of his wives and nearly 30 fighters as well as a number of his personal items. Stationed in Juba, Sudan, Brig. Kale Kaihura of the UPDF was assured that cooperation would continue with the Sudanese People's Armed Forces (SPAF) who gave special permission to the UPDF to advance further into Sudan for the attacks. SPAF Brig. Mohammed Habib, citing parallel suffering on both sides of the border due to LRA attacks, said that they would capture or kill Kony by August 6. The Ugandan government flew 77 rebels and Kony's wives and children to Gulu in northern Uganda for repatriation August 4. The LRA has fought the government of Uganda for 18 years, displacing more than 1.6 million people in the north and kidnapping more than 20,000 children and forcing them to fight. (BBC, IRIN, July 29; Monitor, NewVision, August 2, 2004)

ICC announces investigation: The International Criminal Court (ICC) announced it would begin an investigation of crimes committed in northern Uganda since July 2002, when the ICC's jurisdiction came into effect. The investigation was requested in December 2003 by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni who hoped to bring LRA rebels to justice. The decision was opposed by many local religious leaders who stated that, since most rebels were kidnapped as children and forced to fight, they should not be charged with crimes. The leaders stated that their traditional methods of reconciliation would be more conducive to a successful peace process and that investigations would cause rebels to reject amnesty offers. (BBC, ICC, July 29; Monitor, August 1, 2004)

## **HORN OF AFRICA**

### **ERITREA**

Refugee repatriation to end this year: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that repatriation of Eritrean refugees from Sudan was to be completed by the end of 2004. Since the program began four years ago, 120,000 Eritreans have returned home. Most of the refugees fled famine and fighting during the country's war of independence from Ethiopia and lived in Sudan for more than 30 years. The UNHCR program, in conjunction with the Eritrean government, aimed to ensure that stable reintegration processes were available to the refugees. The government provided them with land, financial assistance, materials for building shelter, and exemptions from military service for one year. Eritreans began fighting for independence in 1962, when the Ethiopian emperor annexed the autonomous entity of Eritrea. In 1993, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front defeated the emperor's successor and staged a referendum, supported by Ethiopia, in which Eritreans voted for independence. (AllAfrica, IRIN, August 2, 2004)

### **SUDAN**

Government indicates it will abide by UN resolution: The UN Security Council passed a resolution July 30 that called for Sudan to disarm the Janjawid militia in 30 days or face "economic and diplomatic measures." The government of Sudan was alarmed at the

resolution because a July 3 agreement between President Omar al-Bashir and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan gave the country 90 days to disarm the militia. In an August 2 meeting, a UN official acknowledged the government's concern over the shorter timeframe for disarmament and requested that Sudan show progress by the 30-day deadline. Sudan's ambassadors to the UN and the African Union stated separately that their government would implement the Security Council resolution. Despite the statements from Sudanese government officials, members of the Sudanese army stated that the resolution was a "declaration of war" and threatened to fight any foreign intervention that might result from it. Sudanese citizens also reacted, marching in Khartoum August 4 to protest Western interference and demand that the rebel groups of Darfur be disarmed as well as the Janjawid. Rebel groups in Darfur took up arms against the government in February 2003 to demand greater political representation and rights to resources. The government-supported Janjawid militia has attacked the rebels and citizens of Darfur, killing nearly 50,000 people and displacing more than 1.2 million. (BBC, July 31, August 2, 3, 4, 2004)

Government to double Darfur security force: After a meeting with a senior UN representative, government officials announced that they would increase the number of security forces in the Darfur region to 12,000 over the next four months. This would implement part of the government's previous July 3 agreement with the UN in which it promised to deploy police forces to protect camps for internally-displaced persons (IDPs). The UN representative encouraged the progress made by the government, stating that security in IDP camps had improved since the agreement was made. (BBC, Washington Times, August 3, 2004)

## **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **BELGIUM**

UN identifies human rights concerns: At the conclusion of its 81<sup>st</sup> session, the UN Human Rights Committee expressed concern over ongoing human rights issues in Belgium. Chief among these concerns were continuing allegations of police brutality, often accompanied by acts of racial discrimination. The Committee also addressed allegations of excessive force and inhumane conditions suffered by non-nationals facing deportation, despite implementation of European directives aimed at alleviating such conditions. The right to freedom from racial discrimination, freedom from cruel and inhumane punishment, and the right to liberty of person are protected by the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (1976), to which Belgium is party. (AI, M2, August 2, 2004)

### **UNITED STATES**

U.S. Congress proposes aid cut to ICC member states: The U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment to the Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill July 15 that would cut aid to International Criminal Court (ICC) member states. The Nethercutt amendment, which could be considered by the Senate as early as September, would withdraw Economic Support Fund assistance from ICC member countries that had not signed a bilateral immunity agreement (BIA) with the U.S. The BIA agreements would prohibit countries from extraditing to the ICC any U.S. national or past and present employees of the U.S. government or military, regardless of their nationality. More than

50 ICC member countries refused to conclude BIA agreements with the U.S., stating that the broad scope of the agreements was inconsistent with Article 98 of the Rome Statute, and signing would consequently violate their international treaty obligations. ([GlobalSolutions](#), July 7, 14, 15; [IPS](#), July 29, 2004)

## **NEPAL**

Maoists abduct thousands of villagers: Maoist rebels abducted more than 5,000 people at the end of July, forcing them to participate in training campaigns. Rebels have forced increasing numbers of people to take part in training on the use of weapons, warfare, and Maoist political philosophy since the second week of July. Maoist rebels have been fighting for the end of the monarchy and a new state constitution since 1996. ([Kantipur Online](#), August 2, 2004)

Victims of displacement ask for government help: The Association of the Victims of Maoist Violence announced a new campaign August 3 to press for humanitarian relief. They accused the government of failing to act on promises to provide relief and rehabilitation to victims of violence and those displaced trying to avoid abduction by the Maoists. Amnesty International condemned the abductions and appealed to the Maoist leadership to stop them, release all hostages unconditionally, abide by international humanitarian standards, and minimize the impact of the conflict on children. ([BBC](#), [Nepalnews.com](#), August 3; [Kantipur Online](#), August 2, 2004)

Women join ranks of the infantry: For the first time nearly 200 women were inducted into the Royal Nepalese Army's (RNA) infantry August 2. There were approximately 500 women soldiers serving in non-combat roles in the RNA. The army was to recruit 251 additional women for service in the infantry and increase the participation of women in the future to up to 5 percent of the total number of soldiers. ([Kantipur Online](#), August 2, 2004)

## **WEST AFRICA**

### **COTE D'IVOIRE**

Parties recommit to peace process: At the conclusion of two days of talks July 30 in the Ghanaian capital Accra, the government of Cote d'Ivoire and the leaders of opposition groups signed an agreement which restarted the peace process. The new accord required the signatories to enact political reforms by the end of August that would ensure equal opportunities for Ivorians of immigrant descent. During the talks, the opposition groups agreed to rejoin the power-sharing government which they had left in March. In exchange for their return, President Laurent Gbagbo promised to reinstate three opposition ministers who were dismissed in May including Guillaume Soro, the leader of the New Forces, the major rebel group. Along with the revival of the power-sharing government, the signatories were obliged to initiate a disarmament program by October 15. In an attempt to ensure execution of the agreement, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, and the UN were to set up a joint team to monitor implementation. The 2003 Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement faltered after opposition parties left the country's interim government. In June, President Gbagbo held two rounds of talks with representatives of four major opposition parties, but the

talks ended in failure due to the boycott by the New Forces. ([AFP](#), August 2; [AFP](#), [AllAfrica](#), [AP](#), [UPI](#), July 31; [BBC](#), July 30, 2004)

UUUN mission finds mass graves: In a statement released August 1, the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire said that it found three mass graves containing approximately 100 bodies near the northern rebel-held town of Korhogo. The mass graves were made following violent clashes between two rival rebel factions of the New Forces June 20 and 21. The UN statement indicated that it could not determine if the dead were rebel fighters or civilians.

Cote d'Ivoire's civil war divided the country between the rebel-held north and the government loyalist south after a September 2002 coup attempt. Reports from local newspapers stated that the rebels had fought among themselves due to disagreement over the group's leadership. ([AP](#), August 1; [BBC](#), [UPI](#), August 2, 2004)