



Peace & Justice Update
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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africafocus.org)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
Angola Press	=	Angola Press (www.angolapress-angop.ao)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/)
Colombo Page	=	Sri Lankan Online News (www.colombopage.com)
Daily News	=	Sri Lanka Daily News (www.dailynews.lk)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Feminist Daily News	=	Feminist Daily News Wire (www.feminist.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)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
ICTR	=	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (www.ictt.org)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
Kansas City Infozine	=	Kansas City Infozine (www.infozine.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Monitor	=	The Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
MONUC	=	MONUC (www.monuc.org)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News.Com (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
News.telegraph	=	New.telegraph (www.telegraph.co.uk)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.allafrica.com)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam (www.oxfam.org.uk)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
SMH	=	Sydney Morning Herald (www.smh.com)
Suna	=	Suna News (www.sunanews.net)
TamilNet	=	TamilNet (www.tamilnet.com)
The Hindu	=	The Hindu (www.hinduonnet.com)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.unhcr.ch)
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women (www.unifem.org)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)
WP	=	Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)

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BURUNDI

Radio station faces government ban: Burundi's National Communications Council ordered the popular independent radio station, Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), to go off the air indefinitely after alleging that the RPA had been overly biased in their recent election coverage. Alexis Sinduhije, RPA's director, called the ruling unjust and stated the station would remain on the air despite the council's decision. The council's report claimed that the RPA gave coverage to only two of the 30 parties that recently ran in Burundi's legislative elections. It also reported that the station had broadcast "defamatory, insulting, and offensive words" about the council. Sinduhije denied the claim and noted that the station gave all parties 20 minutes of airtime per week during the election campaign. Earlier this year, RPA was ordered to go off the air after breaking two of Burundi's press laws, including "offending public morals" by reporting the rape of an eight-year-old girl, and "threatening public security" by "deforming" the words of a politician. RPA observed both bans and was later allowed to resume airtime. Ann Cooper, director of the Committee to Protect Journalists' International Press Freedom (CPJ), stated, "Governments in a free society should not be in the business of deciding the editorial content of a radio station." (AllAfrica, July 18, 2005)

COLOMBIA

Leading cartel boss arrested: Jose Aldemar Rendón, one of Colombia's most powerful drug lords, was arrested July 14 near the city of Medellín. Rendón was the boss of the Norte del Valle drug cartel, Colombia's largest. He was on the U.S. list of the nine most wanted Colombian drug bosses and has been accused of smuggling \$10 billion worth of cocaine into the U.S. Federal authorities in the state of New York have requested his extradition. Authorities have reported that the Norte del Valle cartel has been responsible for the export to the U.S. of more than 500 tons of cocaine since 1999 and for hundreds of drug-related kidnappings and assassinations. While Colombia is still the world's largest exporter of cocaine, Colombian and U.S. authorities claim to have made substantial progress against the cocaine industry in recent years, having seized approximately \$1.5 billion worth of cocaine in 2005 thus far. Critics of the "war on drugs," however, point out that while drug production may have decreased, the price of the drug has not dropped. Colombia has been embroiled in warfare for more than three decades as its numerous cartels and rebel factions have struggled to gain control of the drug trade. (Reuters, July 15, 2005)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Fighting continues to plague east: Thousands of Congolese citizens were forced to flee their homes July 13 after local and foreign rebels seized control of three villages in North Kivu province. Most of the refugees fled to North Kivu's Virunga National Park or across the border into Uganda. Army officials in Nyakakoma and Ishasha, two of the villages, reported that they had been attacked by Congolese militiamen known as the Mayi-Mayi and by Rwandan Hutu rebels from the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). In Nyamilima, the third of the villages, army spokesmen stated that the ethnic Lendu militia had attacked and driven out the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Goma faction (RCD-G). An army spokesman reported July 16 that 41 gunmen and two government soldiers were killed in the fighting. These clashes highlight the instability of the eastern regions of DRC and the plethora of rebel groups currently living along the eastern border of the country. The FDLR has been in eastern DRC since the 1994 genocide. Their presence has fueled much fighting in the east and has been a constant

source of tension between Kinshasa and Kigali. (AllAfrica, July 18; MONUC, July 13; Reuters, July 16, 2005)

UN reports need for additional funds for polls: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a report to the UN Security Council calling for an additional \$190 million to help support the elections set for sometime next year. This estimate was based on Annan's assessment that an additional 2,590 military personnel would be needed to ensure that elections take place without any major incident. This increase in troops would bring the total number of military personnel in DRC up to 19,290. The money would also be used to boost the strength of the police force and bring in extra civilian staff members to aid in election monitoring. The UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) is expected to spend a total of approximately \$1.3 billion in 2005. The elections, postponed June 17 by parliament, would be the country's first in 40 years. Since the postponement, the DRC's Electoral Commission has successfully registered more than two million people in Kinshasa. Monitors from MONUC have reported that voters in Kinshasa have been registering at a rate of 130,000 per day. Approximately 20-30 million of the country's total population of 53 million are expected to vote next year. (AllAfrica, July 15; IRIN, July 14, 2005)

UGENDER AND PEACE

Draft Iraqi constitution jeopardizes women's rights: A proposed draft of the constitution would incorporate more Islamic law and reduce the rights of Iraqi women. Women currently hold 31 percent of the seats in the National Assembly as a result of the Transitional Administrative Law which requires that a minimum of 25 percent of seats are reserved for women, and that every fourth person in a political party is a woman. The draft constitution would eliminate the minimum requirement, most likely causing a decrease in positions held by women, and would grant women equal rights so long as they did not conflict with Islamic law. In addition, the new provisions consider putting laws regarding inheritance, divorce, and marriage, under the jurisdiction of religious courts. Each family would be expected to consult their own religious sect's court, subjecting women from more religious families to harsher laws. Women's groups are lobbying and women in the assembly are petitioning against the draft constitution, but the proposed changes are a result of strong pressure from Muslim clerics. Since 1959, when family laws enacted in Iraq were among the most liberal in the Middle East, women have enjoyed more equality than elsewhere in the region. (Feminist Daily News, LA Times, July 21, 2005)

Successful Kenyan women-only village suffers from repeated attacks: In 1990, 15 Kenyan women began a women's only village called Umoja, the Kiswahili word for unity. The purpose of the village was to provide refuge for women abused by their husbands. Many of the small village's inhabitants—currently numbering 48—were beaten daily by their husbands for having been raped and thus shaming the family. To earn a living the women sell beaded necklaces, operate a cultural center, and provide camping grounds to tourists. The women's businesses have been thriving, thus eliciting the jealousy of local men, who have responded with daytime raids, beatings, attempts to steal the women's livestock, and threats to torch their homes. Authorities promised to conduct investigations, but have come under pressure to turn a blind eye. Neighboring men tried to build their own tourist and cultural center to compete with the women's, but failed in their attempts. Lolosoli, the village's matriarch, attended a United Nations conference on women's empowerment and subsequently received death threats. High rates of sexual violence have led Kenyan feminists to present legislation to deal with women's

right to refuse marriage proposals and genital mutilation, and to fight sexual violence and prosecute rapists. The proposed law with the most severe penalty is the “chemical castration bill,” imposed upon repeated rapists. ([News.telegraph](#), July 16; [Seattle Times](#), July 17, 2005)

Violence against Afghan women remains high: The United Nations reports that even three and a half years after the overthrow of the Taliban regime, Afghan women still face much abuse. The report follows a 10-day visit by Special Rapporteur for the UN Commission on Human Rights on Violence against Women, Yakin Ertürk. Some of the abuse young girls in Afghanistan endure includes being bartered to pay off debts; forced marriage at a young age; and public executions on local council orders. Girls often immolate themselves from despair, and abusers are treated with impunity. Yakin Ertürk offered a number of suggestions including a public education campaign, and for the police to refrain from returning girls who have escaped domestic violence. Despite the predicament of many Afghan women, the government has a number of female ministers and women holding other significant posts; Afghanistan ratified without hesitation the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the new Afghan constitution protects the equal rights of women; and girls have returned to school and women to the work force in significant numbers. ([ReliefWeb](#), [UN News Centre](#), July 18, 2005)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Thousands displaced in clash between Kenyan ethnic groups: The Kenyan Red Cross Society (KRCS) requested nearly \$700,000 in aid to assist the estimated 3,000 people displaced July 12 in clashes in Kenya’s northern district of Marsabit; 76 have died as a result of the violence. The funds would be used to help those who fled their homes and who lost livestock, a central aspect of the Marsabit economy. The attackers, believed to be members of the Borana community, raided ethnic Gabra villages while the men were away guarding cattle, with the result that most of the dead were women and children, including 22 children killed while attending school. “The intention was to destroy the mainstay of the economy,” said Abbas Gullet, Secretary-General of the KRCS, “We need to restore the people’s livelihoods so that they can live in dignity and confidence again.” In a suspected revenge killing, ten members of the Borana community were also murdered July 13 while traveling to church in Marsabit. Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki condemned the attacks and assured that the wounded would receive medical treatment and authorities would find those responsible. The semi-arid territory near Ethiopia has a history of violent clashes involving pasture and water points, and tension between the two communities has escalated in recent months. ([IRIN](#), July 15; [Reuters](#), July 14, 2005)

UN envoy urges response to Niger famine: In order to stave off famine in the country’s desert territory, Niger’s government and the international community must supply those affected with free food, said UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Jean Ziegler. After his return from a visit to Niger July 13, Ziegler stated that 3.6 million people of Niger’s population of 10 million, including 800,000 children, were facing severe malnutrition due to drought and a locust plague that destroyed the harvests of the south Saharan region late last year. The UN World Food Program said July 12 that it needed \$12 million, in addition to \$4.2 million received last month, to feed the 1.2 million people facing the highest risk. Despite early warning signs, the government has maintained its refusal to distribute free food because they believe this would distort food markets and create dependency; the government prefers to give food in return for work on community projects. In regard to international support, UN Aid Official Jan Egeland

stated, “Niger is the example of a neglected emergency, where early warnings went unheeded.” Ziegler asserted that response to the famine has thus far been “totally insufficient.” He reminded UN member states that under international human rights treaties, they were required to come to the help of those denied the right to food. Ziegler has held the post of Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food since that position’s inception in 2000. As the second poorest country in the world, Niger has been vulnerable to major fluctuations in the price of uranium, its main export, and is plagued by serious food insecurity even during normal conditions, which have now been exacerbated by natural disasters. ([BBC](#), May 11, July 20; [IRIN](#), July 14; [Reuters](#), July 13, 2005)

Iranian students protest imprisonment of journalist, activists appeal to the UN: In one of many recent protests, students at Tehran University demonstrated July 12 over the health of the well-known imprisoned political dissident and journalist Akbar Ganji. Ganji was first sentenced to six years in prison in 2000 on a number of charges, including articles that linked Iranian authorities to a series of political murders in the 1990s. Upon starting an unlimited hunger strike in May of this year, Ganji stated, “I protest against my illegal and unjust imprisonment. No one should be imprisoned – not even for a second – for expressing an opinion.” Ganji was temporarily released in May for medical treatment, but since his return to prison he has resumed his hunger strike and has reportedly been suffering from serious respiratory problems. In a letter to the UN, 33 Iranian activists asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to directly intervene in this “urgent human rights issue.” Ganji’s condition caused strong reactions from a number of Western institutions. The White House, as well as Human Rights Watch, has expressed concern over the matter, demanding the Iranian government release Ganji immediately. Iranian authorities responded by characterizing President Bush’s criticism as hypocritical in light of human rights violations recently exposed in Guantanamo Bay and the Abu Ghraib prison. In the past, the Iranian government has relied heavily on laws restricting criticism of its actions and leadership in order to bring charges against journalists and dissidents. ([BBC](#), July 18; [HRW](#), July 13; [IRIN](#), July 14, 2005)

NEPAL

International donors suspend aid to Nepal: The European Commission (EC) suspended \$30 million in aid to Nepal’s Education for All (EFA) 2004-2009 program July 19. The EC cited political developments after the February 1 coup as the reason for suspending aid. “Due to the new political situation, we have been reviewing our cooperation with Nepal,” said Guy Banim, member of the EC delegation to Nepal. Banim stated that while ongoing projects would continue, projects currently in the pipeline would be temporarily halted. The EC grant was meant to fund textbooks and scholarships for thousands of Dalit children. Even with the aid, the Nepali government was unsure of its capacity to meet the Millennium Development Goal of universalized primary education by 2015. In related news, Norway announced cutbacks in aid to Nepal July 20. The Norwegian government asserted that setbacks to multiparty democracy, constitutional monarchy, human rights, and a peaceful solution to the insurgency prompted its decision to reduce \$2.5 million in a planned bilateral financial assistance program set for 2006. While Norway is the first country to take such measures, Norway’s Ambassador Tore Toreng stated that most bilateral donors have taken preliminary steps to cut or reduce aid to Nepal. Toreng also said that the government will now focus on promoting human rights and democracy through the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights mission in Nepal. Since King Gyanendra’s February 1 takeover, his government has received much criticism from the

international community, especially donors and trade partners attempting to effect change through economic pressure. (IRIN, July 21; Kantipur, July 19, 20, 2005)

Nepali government reveals new budget, parties oppose: The 2005-2006 annual budget, as announced by Finance Minister Madhukar Shumsher Rana July 16, totals Rs.126.88 billion (equivalent to \$1.9 billion) and includes a 22 percent increase in security spending and a 12 percent increase in palace expenditures. In addition, funds allocated this year for the Defense Ministry were 31 percent higher than last year. The budget also proposed an allotment of Rs.700 million (\$10.6 million) for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the 40 districts hit hardest by the insurgency. In his announcement, Rana stated that the budget was based on the “underlying spirit and essence” of King Gyanendra’s February 1 proclamation. Many believe that as in previous years, the RNA would receive additional government funding by request; this year there is an extra Rs.6 billion (\$91 million) allotted for miscellaneous expenses. In a statement released July 18, the seven-party opposition alliance expressed concern that the budget implies a government decision to further pursue a military strategy against the ten year-old insurgency. In February of this year, King Gyanendra seized control of the government and has since resisted efforts by political parties and civic organizations to bring all sides into peace talks with the Maoists. (Kantipur, July 15, 16, 18, 2005)

Indian minister supports democracy in Nepal and Indian army pushes to sell arms: Indian External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh advised both the king and the party leaders to “seize the opportunity” and work together to begin new peace talks with Maoists. In a meeting July 14, Singh and Nepali Congress (Democratic) Acting President Gopal Man Shrestha agreed that there was no viable military solution to the insurgency and that all sides needed to enter peace talks. After the meeting, Shrestha told reporters that he was impressed with India’s commitment to restoring democracy in Nepal. The recent round of talks between Nepali party leaders and Indian authorities follows the return to India of Indian envoy Shiv Shankar Mukharjee, whose reports to authorities have prompted greater caution regarding further shipments of military aid to Nepal. The Indian army, however, has been pushing for an early resumption of lethal military supplies to the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA). Authorities from the Indian army asserted that it is in “India’s own security interests” to resume lethal military aid and fulfill the ten-year military assistance agreement with Nepal signed in 2001; the RNA has requested an immediate supply of 7.2 million rounds of ammunition. The RNA recently told Indian authorities that without the supply, the RNA would be forced to buy the ammunition from other sources. Recent statements by the Indian army have implied that various branches within the Indian government do not concur in their policy regarding Nepal. Some analysts believe India’s inconsistent behavior towards Nepal is partly due to China’s growing influence in the recently isolated Nepali government. Since King Gyanendra’s seizure of power February 1, India has sent Nepal one consignment of non-lethal military aid and has delayed the shipment of all lethal military arms. (Kantipur, July 14, 20, 2005)

Party leader calls on Maoists to join against king’s rule: In a speech at Kavre district July 17, Communist Party Nepal (CPN-UML) Standing Committee Member Bam Dev Gautam stated that the opposition coalition and Maoists should join against the king’s “autocracy.” Gautam asserted that the differences between the mainstream political parties and the Maoists have been decreasing over time, and that a “government of political parties” possessed the capacity to

resolve Nepal's current crisis. Gautam's speech came in response to last week's call on the seven-party alliance by Maoist leader Prachanda to form a delegation to begin talks. Minister of Information and Communication Tanka Dhakal said during a press conference July 16, "the crisis can be resolved if all the constitutional forces are reconciled." Dhakal stated the government had been consulting with the political parties and civil society regarding the Maoist problem. At a joint meeting of the seven-party alliance July 18, party leaders asked the Maoists to create a "conducive environment for dialogue" by immediately halting the confiscation of property and arrests of party workers. When the opposition coalition and the Maoists first expressed interest in peace talks last month, government authorities threatened to treat any Maoist collaborator as a terrorist. Once a mainstream political party, the Maoist rebel group has waged a ten-year insurgency campaign to overthrow the Nepali government; 12,000 people have died as a result of the violence. (Kantipur, July 16, 18, 2005)

Maoist leaders reinstated after suspension, violence by Maoists increases in Doti: After several months' suspension, senior Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai, along with key supporters Ashok and Rahul, who each go by their pseudonyms, has been reinstated to the Maoist politburo standing committee. The three men were suspended earlier this year by Maoist high commander Prachanda after Bhattarai submitted a note of dissent. Bhattarai's reinstatement marked a reunification of opposing factions; in the past Bhattarai has been known to favor greater dialogue between Maoists and mainstream political parties. The news of the reunification came amid increased violence as the Royal Nepalese Army reported that 40 civilians were abducted July 11 in the western district of Doti. Within the same district, Maoists declared an indefinite blockade from July 16, taking control of several passenger buses traveling on the K.I. Singh Highway, completely closing the road to vehicles. In a separate incident, after forcing passengers to exit their bus traveling along the Mechi Highway July 17, rebels torched the bus, leaving passengers stranded. Although the Maoist leadership has repeatedly expressed interest in renewed peace talks, the increase in violence has caused many analysts to believe that after ten years of guerrilla warfare, the leaders have begun to lose control over their cadres. (Kantipur, July 17, 18, 2005)

RWANDA

NGOs call for monitoring of "forced" refugee repatriation: The nongovernmental organization (NGO) International Rescue Committee stated July 14 that it and nine other NGOs had requested international monitoring of 8,000 Rwandans who they claim were forcibly returned home from Burundi June 13. The NGOs asked U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to "insist that the Rwandan government provide guarantees that the safety and dignity of those returned from Burundi will be ensured." The NGOs accused both the Rwandan and Burundian governments of violating the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees. The Rwandan government has dismissed earlier claims made by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) that Rwanda and Burundi had violated their obligations under international law. Protais Musoni, Rwanda's Minister for Local Government, defended the government's stance, stating that the majority of those returned home were Hutus who had participated in the 1994 genocide and were attempting to escape charges in the Gacaca courts. In a June statement, Musoni explained, "It is not in the mandate of UNHCR to accept such a group of people." The Gacaca courts began operations in March as part of the government's efforts to speed up the justice process and clear the national courts' massive backlog of cases relating to the 1994 genocide during which more than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. It is

estimated that nearly one in 10 of Rwanda's 8 million citizens face charges relating to the genocide. ([Reuters](#), July 15, 2005)

Refugees denied asylum in Uganda: An estimated 1,100 Rwandans who fled their country in recent months and have been seeking asylum in Uganda were denied refugee status and encouraged to return home July 15. David Kazungu, Uganda's Assistant Commissioner for Refugees, stated, "We were not convinced by the reasons they gave during our interviews. They told us that they came to Uganda looking for land and they were citing property wrangles back home." Kazungu noted that 80 of the asylum seekers were found to have "well-founded fears of persecution," and that these people would be treated accordingly. The UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) confirmed Uganda's decision and declared that the assessment process did not violate any international convention. UNHCR monitored the process and was satisfied with the way it was carried out. Uganda is currently home to an estimated 14,000 Rwandan refugees, most of whom live in settlement camps in the west. Relief workers have noted that some of these refugees had fled out of fear of persecution in the Gacaca courts. ([Reuters](#), July 15, 2005)

Minister of Defense denies link to Bagosora: Rwanda's Minister of Defense, General Marcel Gatsinzi, denied receiving a summons from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) to testify in the trial of Colonel Theoneste Bagosora in Arusha, Tanzania. Gatsinzi, who served as Army Chief of Staff in the Juvenal Habyarimana regime, told [AllAfrica](#), "I have never received any communication requesting me to go to Arusha. I have just got that information from you and some other people who told me that they heard it broadcast over BBC last week." However, Bagosora's lawyer said he had summoned General Gatsinzi to report to Arusha, but that he had not honored the request. Gatsinzi denied having any connection to Bagosora and noted that his summons was "just the lawyer's tricks to delay the case." Bagosora is largely believed to be the mastermind behind the 1994 genocide. He has been accused of planning the plane crash in which former president Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira were killed and which sparked the 100-day genocide. Rwanda is struggling to bring to justice the millions of people accused of participating in the genocide. ([AllAfrica](#), July 17, 2005)

Government sends troops to Darfur: On July 17, Rwanda began the process of sending more than 1,000 additional troops to Darfur, Sudan, to aid in the protection of citizens. This increase more than quadruples the size of Rwanda's contingent in the African Union (AU) in Darfur. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Karamba, Rwanda's Military Director of Research, stated that Rwandan troops would be used to "protect and secure civilians who are under imminent danger within the area of their vicinity and capability." Eleven years after the genocide during which more than 800,000 of its people died, Rwanda has been one of the primary contributors of troops to Darfur. Rwandan Foreign Minister Charles Murigande stated that Rwandan troops would remain in the area so long as it was determined they were making a "positive difference on the ground." The AU in Darfur has faced a chronic shortage of troops, as there are currently approximately 3,600 troops in Darfur with an expected 7,700 total to be deployed by September. However, International Crisis Group (ICG) has estimated that at least 12,000-15,000 troops are urgently needed to help end the violence in Darfur. ([ICG](#), July 6; [Reuters](#), July 17, 2005)

SRI LANKA

Supreme Court announces ruling on P-TOMS: On Friday July 15 the Supreme Court issued a stay order on four clauses in the Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure agreement signed by the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The four main issues of contention center on: the location of the Regional Committee in Killinochchi, an LTTE stronghold; fund management; project approval; and implementation issues. The stay order will be in effect until September 12 when the case will be reviewed again by the Supreme Court for a final determination. The case was originally brought against the P-TOMS on July 5 by the Marxist Sinhala nationalist party, People's Liberation Front (JVP), and the Buddhist Sinhala nationalist group, National Heritage Party (JHU). Sri Lankan government spokesperson Minister Nimal Siripala announced the government's pleasure with the court decision in that it will not halt implementation of the remainder of the P-TOMS agreement, and that the agreement was not deemed illegal according to the constitution. However, the JVP also claimed victory in response to the stay order. The LTTE considers the court order a block of the P-TOMS and an example of why, in its view, Tamils cannot count on justice from the Sinhalese majority. (ColomboPage, July 15, 17; TamilNet, July 15, 2005)

LTTE responds to governments' offer of conditional protection: On Friday July 15 the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam sent a statement to the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) regarding the government's July 11 offer to conditionally protect LTTE convoys while traveling through government controlled areas in response to an earlier LTTE ultimatum. In the letter to the SLMM, LTTE leader S.P. Thamilselvan rejected the government's stipulations limiting the number of LTTE members traveling at a time and the number of journeys the convoys could take. The letter threatened that "if the Tigers are forced to resort to their own means and modes of transport, the military should not interfere with LTTE's own travel and security arrangements. If on the other hand, [the] military attempts to prevent or hinder such travel, we would be compelled to react suitably." (ColomboPage, July 15, 2005)

Violence by LTTE threatens cease-fire agreement: Since July 12 there have been at least 10 attacks on Sri Lankan military forces, wounding more than two dozen people according to military spokesperson Brigadier Daya Ratanayake. On July 14, three young men were murdered by the LTTE for supposedly trying to set an LTTE vehicle on fire. It has not yet been ascertained whether the victims had any connection to a rival group. Security officials were on high alert after the stay order came from the Supreme Court restricting some measures of the P-TOMS agreement and angering the LTTE. However, on July 16, one military official and one civilian were killed by suspected LTTE rebels. Christian Aid, a British relief agency, reported machine gun fire throughout Trincomalee which forced civilians to seek safety in the jungle. In addition, the Kuchaveli naval base came under continuous attack from the LTTE. Police arrested seven LTTE members and confiscated claymore mines and detonating wires from them on July 18. According to a European monitoring team, the recent wave of violence against the security forces has been the most severe since the signing of the cease-fire agreement overseen by Norwegian government mediators in 2002. In a statement, Norway, Japan, the U.S., and the European Union (the major foreign donors helping to rebuild war-ravaged areas) warned that if the killings did not stop and if the 2002 truce failed international support would be "deeply

eroded.” (Associated Press, July 16; ColomboPage, July 15, 16, 18; Reuters, July 19; The Hindu, July 16, 2005)

LTTE’s threat of war intensifies: On Sunday July 17, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) leader S.P. Thamilselvan warned of the impending resumption of the two-decade civil war. The LTTE has removed their cadres and emptied their political offices from all government controlled areas, which Nordic monitors claim temporarily has quelled the violence. However, LTTE members have vowed they will carry arms when passing through government controlled regions. The Sri Lankan government has, in turn, promised to prevent the LTTE from carrying arms; S.P. Thamilselvan declared counter-measures would be taken if the military obstructs their activity and “the cease-fire will enter a critical stage.” “We are in reality moving very fast towards the end of the peace efforts,” Thamilselvan told the press, “Our patience too has come to an end.” The civil war, which began in 1983, killed more than 64,000 people prior to the 2002 cease-fire. (ColomboPage, July 18; The Hindu, July 17, 2005)

SUDAN

New government committed to ensure security in the Juba area: Sudanese armed forces have agreed to withdraw from Juba, the historic capital of southern Sudan, as a show of their willingness to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The CPA stipulates that 17 percent of the Sudanese Armed Forces have to move north from the 1956 border. The 1956 boundary marks the northern border of the Southern states and was previously used as the dividing line between the British and the Egyptian colonial powers. The Sudanese People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) is also expected to transfer 70 percent of its troops from the east to the south within two months. Sudan Minister of Foreign Affairs Mustafa Osman Ismail expressed his concern over the insecure climate maintained by the “terrorist” Ugandan group, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in the south of Sudan. He explained that the LRA undermined the government’s efforts to achieve peace in the region, by “obstructing troops’ movement and the civilians convoys.” Last week, the LRA rebels attacked the area of Rajaf, close to Juba, killed four and forced hundreds to flee to the city. Ismail stated that the government’s intention was to “eradicate this dangerous group” and also expressed his full support for the Ugandan government. Ugandan-Sudanese relations have not always been so harmonious. Sudan previously backed the LRA against the Ugandan government, while Uganda supported the SPLA. Last week the former rebel leader John Garang was appointed vice-president to his former enemy, President Omar Al-Bashir with Ugandan President Museveni among the dignitaries attending the ceremony. (AP, July 12; IRIN, July 14, 2005)

Darfur rebels said to accept peace agreements and to stop infighting: UN Special Representative to Darfur Jan Pronk said July 13 he had “good reason to believe that the Abuja process is supported at the field level.” He was returning from a two-day visit to North Darfur and El-Fasher, where he met with rebel military leaders from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). In a July 19 agreement signed in Tripoli, Libya, the two major rebel groups agreed on the “release of prisoners and an immediate end to fighting between the two movements.” They also established setting up a joint committee to aid with “smoothing relations and preventing disputes.” In the recent months, the infighting between the different

rebel groups has raised great concern: “This political conflict is being overshadowed more and more by a tribal conflict,” said Dominik Stillhart, Sudan chief for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) last month. The Abuja peace talks that ended last week revealed divisions between the two rebel groups, threatening to undermine the durability of any agreement. However, the two groups eventually signed a Declaration of Principles for the Resolution of the Conflict in Darfur. There is hope that the next round of talks in Abuja, due to begin August 24, will achieve a solid agreement. The rebel groups rose against the Khartoum government in 2003, and estimates are that the conflict has killed between 180,000 and 400,000 and displaced another 2.4 million. ([AFP](#), July 18, [IRIN](#), July 13, 2005)

Diplomatic efforts to appease eastern rebellion: UN Representative Jan Pronk met with Eritrean President Isaias Afewerke Thursday in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, in hopes of finding a solution to the rebellion that erupted against the Khartoum government in the eastern provinces of Sudan, bordering Eritrea. While the rebels maintain an office in Asmara, Eritrea still has refused to back the movement. According to Pronk, “[the President] is in a position to help persuade the leaders of the eastern opposition movements.” The notably bad Sudan-Eritrea relations grew more tense after Sudan warned that the border could “explode” if Eritrea continued to support the rebels of the Beja Congress and the Free Lions Movement. After his visit, Pronk expressed his impression that Eritrea was willing to normalize relations with Sudan. Pronk allegedly met with the rebel groups July 15. A senior official with the Eastern Front, the alliance of rebel movements headquartered in Asmara, confirmed this allegation and declared that the Eastern Front would not meet with Khartoum unless two conditions were met. The rebels asked for justice for the estimated 14 to 36 Beja Congress supporters killed while demonstrating in Port Sudan in January. The Eastern Front rebels also demanded the immediate end to the state of emergency in the East, which has led to the harassment of its supporters. Last Tuesday Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail stated that the government was ready to negotiate with the rebels. Also last week, the secretary-general of the Beja Congress, Amina Dhirar, said in a press statement that the essence of the conflict was political and economic, and that providing services for people would be a good way to address it. ([AFP](#), July 13, 17; [SUNA](#), July 15; [Xinhua](#), July 13, 2005)

Renewed attention on Sudan from the U.S: A weekend of prayer was organized July 16-17 throughout the United States to commemorate the victims of the Darfur genocide. At the U.S. Capitol, 20 Republican and Democratic Senators and representatives were joined by members of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim groups and by research and advocacy groups urging the U.S. to adopt a firm position against the Sudanese government. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was on an official visit to Sudan this week and met with the new national unity government representatives, President Omar Al-Bashir and John Garang. Following an incident in which journalists were prevented from entering the meeting room and were manhandled, Rice demanded and received apologies from the Sudanese government. She ended her visit in Sudan with a visit to Abu Shouk camp, where some 55,000 displaced people are living, and urged for “action, not words” to solve the situation in Darfur. Rice also demanded the Sudanese government to stop widespread violence against women. President Bush had announced last Friday that the U.S. government would grant six million dollars in “commodities and services” to help transport African Union troops to Darfur. The U.S. government has labelled the crisis in Darfur, “genocide” in which government-backed militias launched indiscriminate attacks in

reprisal for rebel uprising. ([AFP](#), July 15; [BBC](#), July 21; [IPS](#), July 12, 2005)

UGANDA

Uganda and Rwanda sign extradition treaty, a step to the normalization of their relations:

Uganda and Rwanda signed an extradition treaty at the end of the 6th session of the Joint Permanent Commission, a body set up July 14 to normalize their relations. The commission, initiated by presidents Yoweri Museveni and Paul Kagame, is meant to address cooperation on political, economic, social and cultural relations between the two countries. On Friday in Kampala, Foreign ministers Sam Kutesa of Uganda and Charles Murigande of Rwanda agreed on an extradition treaty applying to each other's criminals. At the heart of the discussion over extradition was the question of the Rwandan asylum seekers. Uganda refused last week to give asylum to more than 1,000 Rwandans. The two countries also agreed to facilitate the movement of people across borders by issuing temporary permits. The governments also renewed the "memorandum of understanding on education" designed to promote exchange of teachers and of educational material. The two countries also agreed to facilitate the movement of people across borders by issuing temporary permits. Rwanda and Uganda were both allies of Congolese rebels against the government of Laurent Kabila, but, due to disagreements over the strategy, their armies eventually fought each other in Kisangani. Since then, the relations between the two neighbours have remained tense. ([Allafrica](#), July 16; [BBC](#), July 15; [IRIN](#), July 18, 2005)

Fighting erupts between the Karamojong warriors and the UPDF: Dozens of civilians were killed in clashes between the Karamojong warriors and the Ugandan People's Defense Front in the Karamoja region in northeast Uganda. The Karamojongs, for whom cattle is the chief source of wealth, are divided in three ethnic groups, the Pian, the Bokora and the Matheniko. The conflict arose when Pian warriors raided cattle from the rival Bokora group early last week. The military was called to recover the cattle, but it was ambushed by the Pian, who killed seven of their soldiers in a two-day battle. While the Army Lieutenant denied that civilians were killed, Paul Lokeris, the local MP, accused the army of being responsible, saying, "Very many people were killed and so many were injured. About 200 huts and 400 granaries were torched by the army and property looted; about 800 people are homeless now." Humanitarian organizations fear that the victims have not had any access to medical care following the clashes. Following these events, the army launched an operation on a neighboring town to recover arms and stated it would operate to disarm the warriors. In 2001, before being redeployed to fight against the LRA, the UPDF had undertaken disarmament exercise in the Karamoja region. Karamojong warriors, who used to launch raids with bows and arrows, have recently been more heavily armed. ([AFP](#), [IRIN](#), July 15, 2005)