The countries for the Peace & 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

- **ACLU** = American Civil Liberties Union ([www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org))
- **AFP** = Agence France Presse ([www.afp.com](http://www.afp.com))
- **AP** = Associated Press ([www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org))
- **AllAfrica** = AllAfrica Global Media ([www.allAfrica.com](http://www.allAfrica.com))
- **AI** = Amnesty International ([www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org))
- **Asian Tribune** = The Asian Tribune ([www.asiantribune.com](http://www.asiantribune.com))
- **Balkan News** = Balkan News ([www.balkannews.net](http://www.balkannews.net))
- **BBC** = British Broadcasting Corporation ([news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk))
- **BBC Monitoring** = BBC Monitoring International Reports ([www.monitor.bbc.co.uk](http://www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/))
- **BCG** = Balkan Crisis Group ([www.iwpr.net](http://www.iwpr.net))
- **Colombo Page** = Sri Lankan Online News ([www.colombopage.com](http://www.colombopage.com))
- **Deutsche Presse-Agentur** = Deutsche Presse-Agentur ([www.dpa.de](http://www.dpa.de))
- **Defense Link** = The Defense Link ([www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil))
- **EFE News** = EFE News Services ([www.efenews.com](http://www.efenews.com))
- **Guardian** = Guardian Unlimited Network ([www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk/))
- **Hindustan Times** = The Hindustan Times ([www.hindustantimes.com](http://www.hindustantimes.com))
- **HRW** = Human Rights Watch News ([www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org))
- **ICBL** = International Campaign to Ban Landmines ([www.icbl.org](http://www.icbl.org))
- **ICC** = International Criminal Court ([www.icc-cpi.int](http://www.icc-cpi.int))
- **ICG** = International Crisis Group ([www.crisisweb.org](http://www.crisisweb.org))
- **Independent** = London Independent ([www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk))
- **IPS** = Institute for War and Peace Reporting ([www.iwpr.net](http://www.iwpr.net))
- **IRIN** = Integrated Regional Information Network ([www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org))
- **IWPR** = Institute for War and Peace Reporting ([www.iwpr.net](http://www.iwpr.net))
- **Kantipur Online** = Kantipur Online ([www.kantipuronline.com](http://www.kantipuronline.com))
- **LA Times** = Los Angeles Times ([www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com))
- **Le Monde** = Le Monde ([www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr))
- **Monitor** = The Monitor ([www.monitor.co.ug](http://www.monitor.co.ug))
- **Nepali Times** = Nepali Times ([www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com))
- **Nepal News** = Nepal News.Com ([www.nepalnews.com](http://www.nepalnews.com))
- **NewKerala** = NewKerala.Com ([www.newkerala.com](http://www.newkerala.com))
- **New Vision** = The New Vision ([www.newvision.co.ug](http://www.newvision.co.ug))
- **PANA** = Panafrican News Agency ([www.panapress.com](http://www.panapress.com))
- **Reuters** = Reuters ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com))
- **RSF** = Reporters Sans Frontières ([www.rsf.org](http://www.rsf.org))
- **SLMM** = Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission ([www.slmm.lk](http://www.slmm.lk))
- **SwissInfo** = News and Information Platform ([www.swissinfo.org](http://www.swissinfo.org))
- **Sunday Observer** = The Sunday Observer ([www.sundayobserver.com](http://www.sundayobserver.com))
- **UNICEF** = UN Children’s Fund ([www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org))
- **UN News Center** = UN News Center Homepage ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org))
- **U.S. Dept. of State** = U.S. Department of State ([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov))
- **UPI** = United Press International ([www.upi.com](http://www.upi.com))
- **Washington Post** = The Washington Post ([washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com))
- **VOA** = Voice of America ([www.voanews.com](http://www.voanews.com))
- **Xinhua** = Xinhua News Agency ([www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm))
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MACEDONIA
Rumsfeld visits Macedonia: During a visit to Macedonia U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld expressed worry over a referendum that could threaten the Ohrid peace accord. The referendum concerned a decentralization law, passed August 12, which would give the Muslim ethnic Albanian minority greater political representation by restructuring municipal electoral boundaries and establishing Albanian as the official second language of Macedonia. Validation of the law via the referendum would ensure completion of the Ohrid framework and put Macedonia down the path of NATO membership; its nullification would halt progress toward NATO acceptance. The Orthodox Christian majority fervently opposed the legislation, which they viewed as a divisive measure that would further promote federalization and stoke ethnic tension. Macedonia was part of a small country tour which Rumsfeld undertook to thank nations for their troop contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan. In a press conference with Defense Minister Vlado Buckovski, Rumsfeld complemented Macedonia’s defense reforms and implementation of Ohrid and stated his support for the country’s integration into NATO. The 2001 Ohrid peace accord ended fighting between ethnic Albanian guerillas and government forces. The agreement reformed the constitution to prevent ethnic exclusion, increase ethnic Albanian representation in the police force, and establish a limited transfer of power from the central government to local authorities. (AFP, October 11; Defense Link, October 12, 2004)

GENDER AND PEACE
Kenyan woman wins Nobel Peace Prize: Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize October 8 for her work as founder of the Green Belt Movement, an organization which sought to empower women, preserves biodiversity and fight corruption in the Kenyan government. She was selected out of a record 194 applicants for the award, which was given to her for her most recent efforts in halting illegal land grabbing and deforestation in Kenya. Maathai said she will use a substantial portion of the $1.36 million dollar prize to establish a foundation that will deal with issues such as biodiversity, culture, and democracy throughout Africa. Maathai is the 12th woman and the first African woman to win the award since its inception in 1901. (BBC Monitoring, October 11; NYT, October 9; Washington Post, October 8, 2004)

Women hold preparatory meeting for regional peace conference: In preparation for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, women representatives urged leaders to implement an affirmative action policy for women at all decision making levels, as set out by the African Union. The conference, to be held in the Rwandan capital of Kigali in late 2004, was to focus on women’s role in recovering from war, maintaining peace and achieving economic stability in the Great Lakes region. Participants were to include Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Since the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the Great
Lakes region has been marked by political instability and civil wars that have killed more than 3 million people and displaced millions more. (AllAfrica, October 7, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI
Timetable for political transition continues to slip: Burundi’s National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) met October 12 with the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi in the Ugandan capital of Kampala. The NIEC was expected to discuss a new timetable for elections in Burundi. The country’s leading Tutsi parties rejected the current draft of the new constitution September 27, claiming that the proposed power-sharing setup would give too much power to the Hutu majority. This dismissal resulted in a boycott of the government by the leading Tutsi parties and postponed the national referendum on a new constitution. The new constitution was a requirement for new elections, which would mark the end of a three-year transitional period and were to take place by the end of October 2004, as mandated by the August 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. Until both an agreement on the new constitution and the election process are reached, the country cannot move forward with its political transition. Burundi had a Tutsi-led government since gaining independence from Belgium in 1962. The Tutsi-dominated government agreed to hold an open presidential election for the first time and to form a power-sharing government between Hutu majority and Tutsi minority in 1993, but the same year a civil war erupted that killed approximately 300,000. (AFP, BBC Monitoring, October 12; IRIN, October 11, 12, 2004)

Japan assists displaced persons: The Government of Japan and the UN announced October 4 to extend assistance of approximately $1 million through the Trust Fund for Human Security for a project to restore food availability to approximately 20,000 households in Burundi. The project was designed to assist internally displaced persons and repatriated Burundians, mainly from Tanzania, with basic agricultural supplies, equipment, and technical aid. The Japanese government reported the project would improve agricultural productivity within rural communities in Burundi. The UN established the Trust Fund for Human Security in March 1999 with total contributions of approximately $227 million from the Japanese. Burundi’s civil war officially ended in 2003 and displaced more than 550,000 people. (AllAfrica, IRIN, October 4, 2004)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)
Government opens borders to refugees: DRC authorities allowed approximately 1,600 Congolese-Tutsi refugees to return home to South Kivu in eastern DRC October 11. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Burundi reported that the DRC government had initially denied the refugees entry because of a “lack of transit facilities in the border area of DRC to accommodate them.” The violent protests against the return of the Tutsi refugees in the South Kivu province had coerced them to stay in the no man’s land between DRC and Burundi since the week of October 4. Approximately 50,000 people fled civil war fighting between army dissidents and government troops in June 2004 in the eastern DRC Kivu and Ituri districts. Non-Tutsi Kivu residents have accused the Congolese Tutsis of having collaborated with the army dissidents and feared that some
rebels would return with the refugees. Despite the July 2002 Pretoria Peace agreement, sporadic violence in eastern DRC has caused refugees to move back and forth across the border between DRC and Burundi. (AFP, BBC Monitoring, October 11; IRIN, October 11, 12; Reuters, October 12, 2004)

ICC meets with the government: A 12-member delegation from the International Criminal Court (ICC) and a DRC government delegation signed a cooperation accord October 8 allowing the court to officially begin investigations into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in DRC. President Joseph Kabila filed an official request at the ICC April 2004 to accelerate the process of setting up an international criminal tribunal. The international court for DRC was due to be established in the country by the beginning of 2005 and was to focus on crimes committed after the ICC officially came into existence July 1, 2002. DRC’s Minister of Justice Kisimba Ngoy said the Congolese judiciary would deal with all crimes committed before that date. Among the war crimes alleged to have been committed by the various parties during the DRC civil war from 1998-2002 were killings of civilians, forced recruitment of child soldiers, destruction of villages, internal displacement, cannibalism, rape and torture. The ICC has been analyzing the situation in DRC since July 2003, initially with a focus on crimes committed in the Ituri district in the northeastern DRC where interethnic clashes have killed more than 50,000 people and displaced approximately 500,000 others since 2002. (AllAfrica, IRIN, October 8, 2004)

UGANDA

Ugandan army track down rebels: A series of attacks on Lord’s Resistance Army’s (LRA) hideouts in northern Uganda between October 8 and October 11 killed 15 rebels, including one senior commander, captured eight rebel combatants, and arrested 26 rebel collaborators of the LRA. The Uganda People’s Defense Forces confirmed that the army offensive would continue tracking down the rebel leader Joseph Kony who had crossed back into DRC from Sudan September 27. The LRA rebels, based in southern Sudan, have abducted approximately 30,000 children and displaced more than 1.6 million people in northern Uganda in their 18-year rebellion. (AllAfrica, October 8, October 11; New Vision, The Monitor, October 8; Xinhua, October 12, 2004)

GUATEMALA

Former military ruler heads political party: Former dictator Efrain Rios Montt was reelected October 9 as secretary-general of the opposition Guatemalan Republican Front Party (FRG), which governed the country from 2000-2003. Montt was chosen to preside over his party for the next two years. During the speech following his reelection, Rios Montt, who ruled Guatemala in 1982-83 following a military coup, criticized President Oscar Berger’s administration for the lack of safety in the country. Rios Montt, whose reign witnessed some of the worst atrocities in Guatemala’s 1960-1986 civil war, was the FRG’s candidate for the November 2003 presidential elections and finished in third place. (EFE News, October 10, 2004)
HORN OF AFRICA

SUDAN

Government accepts Darfur peace plan: President Omar al-Bashir heeded British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s threat of sanctions during his October 6 visit and agreed to Blair’s five-point peace plan. The Blair plan was to allow free movement of a larger African Union (AU) force in Darfur, and was to require that the Khartoum government identify its troops and any militias under its control in the region, return them to their barracks and replace them with police. The current AU force of 308 troops had been relegated to protecting approximately 100 AU observers who were in Darfur to monitor the April 8 cease-fire agreement between local rebel groups and the Sudanese government. Under the Blair plan, the larger AU force was to have greater leeway in protecting civilian populations in the region. Blair also set a December 31 deadline for an end to the Darfur conflict, signaling his expectations that the AU force be mobilized quickly and effectively. The Khartoum government had increased its support for Arab militias, called Janjaweed, in response to February 2003 attacks by Darfur rebel groups Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and Justice and Equality Movement and in order to clear citizens from regions considered disloyal. Government offensives and Janjaweed attacks, which have included but are not limited to killing, rape and plunder, have resulted in more than 50,000 deaths and the displacement of approximately 1.5 million people. (Guardian; Independent, October 7, 2004)

Southern peace talks to resume: The Khartoum government agreed October 8 to resume peace talks for the 21 year-old civil war in the south. Sudan’s Vice President Ali Osman Taha met with Dr. John Garang, leader of the southern rebels, and reaffirmed his country’s commitment to ending the war. The government signed a preliminary agreement with southern rebels July 2004 that was to end fighting and usher in a power-sharing process. Peace talks in Nairobi between the rebel insurgency and the government derailed in July and again in August when Taha claimed he was too busy with the Darfur crisis to return to Kenya. Under the current proposal rebel groups would share power with the Khartoum government and after six years would have the option via referendum of forming their own state. Sudan’s southern civil war began in 1983 when then-Colonel John Garang led the mutiny of two army battalions against military dictator General Jaafar Nimeri, who had embarked on an islamization campaign that suspended civil liberties and curtailed southern autonomy. (IRIN, October 7; NYT, October 8, 2004)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

HRW condemns U.S. treatment of terrorist detainees: Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a 46-page report October 12 that accused the U.S. of violating international human rights laws. The reports stated detainees underwent torture including interrogations in the nude, extreme fluctuating room temperatures, the use of cables and electrical cords to induce shock, and water-boarding, a torture technique where the subject is forced under water repeatedly. HRW cited 11 senior Al-Qaeda members in U.S. custody that have “disappeared.” The U.S. had not disclosed the location of these prisoners, breaching international treaties ratified by the U.S. Included among the 11 was Khalid Shaikh
Muhammed, alleged to have masterminded the September 11, 2001 World Trade Tower attacks and Abu Zubayda, a close ally of Osama bin Laden. According to HRW the U.S. had illegally denied the detainees access to their families, legal counsel, and the International Committee of the Red Cross; all of which were illegal under the Geneva Convention. HRW claimed that U.S. was using 39 prisons overseas that practice torture techniques outlawed in the U.S. Since 2001, the U.S. has held that Al-Qaeda members are “illegal combatants” and therefore are not covered by the Geneva Convention. (HRW, VOA, October 12, 2004)

NEPAL

Political parties clash in anticipation of elections: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba called for a reunification of his splintered party October 10, asking that the Nepali Congress, led by Girija Prasad Koirala, rejoin his party, Nepali Congress Democratic, in anticipation of upcoming elections scheduled for April 2005. In response to Deuba’s announcement Koirala stated October 10 that his party would make no such venture without the reinstatement of the dissolved house of representatives. The Communist Party of Nepal – United Marxists Leninists was experiencing similar turmoil as their General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal was harangued by party members and officials October 10 for failing to pressure the government to call a unilateral cease-fire. Critics condemned him for allegedly lying to his constituents and demanded their party’s withdrawal from the cabinet if the cease-fire failed to be declared in the coming weeks. The Nepalese government was in ongoing negotiations with the Maoist rebels to hold the fourth round of peace talks since 2002. The rebel forces have been fighting to overthrow the constitutional monarchy since 1996, and the government has experienced additional internal turmoil since King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah dissolved the elected parliament in 2002 and appointed a new cabinet and prime minister. (Kantipur Online, Kathmandu Post, October 10, 2004)

British envoy discourages use of military force: British Ambassador to Nepal Keith Bloomfield spoke at a peace program in Pokhara, Nepal October 10, and declared that military force would not be the solution to the Maoist conflict in Nepal. He stated that because of the unique geographical makeup of the country as well as the sensitive situation of the government, processes involving the wishes and needs of the political parties and civil society rather than violence would be necessary to end the conflict. He stated that Britain would be willing to help if needed but would not interfere unless summoned. The issue of foreign intervention has been contentious in the Maoist uprising; all parties involved have harbored different opinions on third party mediation that have varied depending on the political climate. (BBC Monitoring, Kantipur Online, October 11, 2004)

PAKISTAN

Indian and Pakistani paramilitary forces discuss border issues: Representatives of the civilian-based forces of India and Pakistan met October 11 in Chandigarh, India to discuss human trafficking and smuggling across their shared border. Members of the
Pakistani Rangers and the Indian Border Security Force met to discuss ways in which these common problems between the borders could be rectified and prevented in the future. The meeting also included a discussion on the positioning of the barbed-wire fence India has been building along the Line of Control which has divided the disputed northern region of Kashmir into Indian and Pakistani-administered areas. Pakistan was concerned that the position of the fence would give India an unfair share of the region. India and Pakistan have been in conflict over the region of Kashmir since 1947 when British India was divided into Pakistan and India, with both countries claiming ownership of Kashmir. (Deutsche-Presse Agentur, October 11, 2004)

SIERRA LEONE

Foreign aid on the rise: The European Union allotted $1.2 million in foreign aid to Sierra Leone the week of October 11 to reconstruct the well-known Serabu Hospital, whose reputation formerly drew patients from neighboring countries; it also served as a popular training site for nurses before rebels destroyed it in 1995. The same week the U.S. allocated $4.9 million for projects dealing with reintegration of ex-combatants, democratic governance, and agriculture. The offer was signed by the U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone’s Economic Development and Planning Minister and its programs will be overseen by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The aid packages from the international community are designed to help the country recover from its 10-year civil war which ended in 2002 and caused widespread poverty, political instability, and led to severely diminished infrastructure. (AllAfrica, October 11; PANA, October 10, 2004)

Child mortality rate reaches record high: The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) released a study October 8 that stated Sierra Leone had the highest child mortality rate in the world. The study reported that one in every four children in the country died before the age of five, mostly due to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. In comparison, in 2002 industrialized countries had seven deaths of children under the age of five per 1,000 live births. The report stated that simple and inexpensive mechanisms such as vaccines, micronutrient supplements, and insecticide-treated mosquito nets would save millions of children. UNICEF reported that the problem had grown significantly worse since 1990, and that the agency was concerned with Sierra Leone’s lack of efforts to rectify the problem. Sierra Leone’s health care system is one of many internal mechanisms left severely diminished as a result of the 10-year rebellion, which ended in 2002. (AllAfrica, October 11, 2004)

SRI LANKA

Cease-fire violations are published: The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) released an updated report September 8 that detailed violations of the 2002 cease-fire agreement. The SLMM was established through the cease-fire agreement signed February 22, 2002 by the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The neutral organization is made up of members from five countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The SLMM investigates complaints of cease-fire
violations including torture, extortion, forced recruitment of children, assassinations, and military movements. From the date of the cease-fire agreement to August 31, 2004 the SLMM received 4,903 complaints against the LTTE. Of these there were 1,760 complaints of child recruitment, 1,424 of which were deemed cease-fire violations. The SLMM also recorded 961 complaints against the government; 111 were verified. Almost half of the complaints on the government were harassment cases. The two-decade long war in Sri Lanka officially ended in 2002 and claimed approximately 65,000 lives. (Colombo, Sunday Observer, October 10; SLMM, October 4, 2004)

The LTTE travel to Geneva: A fifteen-member delegation from the LTTE traveled to Switzerland October 1 to attend a conference hosted by the Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey to discuss a Federalist government and stalled peace talks. Officials from the government of Sri Lanka and members of the European based Tamil population also attended the conference. Switzerland was the home of 38,000 displaced Sri Lankans, which included 22,000 Tamils. Calmy-Rey will be traveling to Sri Lanka on a peace initiative to stimulate peace talks between the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE. Norway had led the mediation process of peace talks since they brokered the cease-fire agreement of 2002, but growing unrest with Norway from both parties has brought Switzerland to the table. Switzerland's decentralized form of government has been an interest of Sri Lanka’s since it was first proposed during the cease-fire agreement. Both sides have seen it as a positive alternative to Sri Lanka's current British parliamentary form of government. (AFP, October 8; Asian Tribune, September 28, Colombo Page, SwissInfo, October 7, 2004, September 9, 2003, December 7, 2002)

Landmine clearing continues: The LTTE and the Sri Lankan government have cooperated in an attempt to remove landmines and unexploded ordinance. Sri Lanka is contaminated with an estimated 700,000 landmines located primarily in the north and east of the country. Approximately 15-20 casualties occur from landmines daily. As of January 2004 175,000 mines were disassembled. The removal of landmines has been an ongoing project since the cease-fire between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government was reached in 2002. The government has shared landmine maps, which identify 3,000 minefields, with non-governmental organizations working to clear the fields. The LTTE cooperated in the effort by allowing their defense lines to be cleared. The clearing of landmines was necessary for the resettlement of displaced persons. On September 24, 2004 Sri Lanka became a party to the treaty on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which prohibited the use of landmines on civilians. More than 80 countries currently have a problem with landmines killing civilians; Sri Lanka is among the 10 most affected. (Colombo Page, ICBL, October 6; Reuters, October 5, 2004)