The countries for the Peace and Justice updates have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute. The International Human Rights section is intended to focus on aspects of international law. For information on specific cases of human rights abuses, please visit www.hrw.org or www.amnesty.org. The Gender and Peace section highlights events in peace building and human rights that pertain to gender.

**Source information:** Information presented in this update is condensed from wire and newspaper reports from Lexis/Nexis and from electronic sites on the World Wide Web. Complete biographical information is unavailable from these services, but every attempt has been made to properly cite information and give credit to source materials. This update is intended for use by IPJ staff and associates for informational purposes only. As the material in this update is condensed, and does not directly quote the primary source, information from the update should not be quoted.

*The Peace & Justice updates are written by the Fall 2003 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Lara Cunanan (University of Arizona), Kimberly Edmunds (Emory University), Mercede Goates (University of San Diego), Michael James (University of California, San Diego), and Vanessa Lucas (University of San Diego).*
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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP = Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AFP = Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AllAfrica = AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
BBC = British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring = BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/)
CDC News = Center for Disease Control News (www.thebody.com)
CNN = Cable News Network (www.cnn.com)
CPJ = Committee to Protect Journalists (www.cpj.org)
DPA = Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.com)
HRW News = Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
IWPR = Institute for War and Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
IRIN = Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
(UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: (www.unog.ch)
NCN = New Congo Net (www.marekinc.com/NCN.html)
PANA = Pan African News Agency (www.panapress.com)
RSF = Reporters Sans Frontieres (www.rsf.org).
TASS = ITAR-TASS News Agency (www.itar-tass.com/english/)
UPI = United Press International (www.upi.com)
VOA = Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
WPS = What the Papers Say (www.wps.ru:8101)
Xinhua = Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

UN modifies deployment strategy: The UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) devised a new deployment strategy that would place the majority of its peacekeeping forces in the Ituri District. The new “proactive deployment strategy” would remove MONUC troops from the cease-fire line, created under the Lusaka Accord, and place 10,800 of those troops in the Ituri District. The change in location would allow MONUC to actively pursue the Demobilization, Disarmament, Reintegration and Rehabilitation component of its operation as well as provide more protection for civilians. The modified deployment strategy would be completed by mid-December. The Ituri District of the DRC has remained volatile after the signing of the Lusaka Peace Accords in 1999. It was estimated that more than 55,000 people have died in the Ituri District since 1999 and that approximately 3.3 million people died as a result of the DRC’s civil war. (AllAfrica; BBC, November 14, 2003)

Rwandan forces return home: Members of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) returned to Rwanda from the DRC. Approximately 103 members of FDLR, including the leader Paul Rwarakabije, returned November 15 after spending years in the DRC. Upon their return the men would undergo procedures for returning combatants, including participation in a two-month reintegration program. MONUC officials were optimistic that the event would assist in the normalization of relations between the DRC and Rwanda. MONUC planned to increase its efforts regarding the process of Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration. Rwandan forces had been present in the DRC since the late 1990’s when they were involved in the DRC’s protracted civil war. It was believed that many members of the FDLR had been involved in the 1994 Rwandan genocide where 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. (AllAfrica; IRIN, November 17, 2003)

ERITREA/EHTIOPIA

Boundary Commission to discuss demarcation: The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) convened November 19 in London to review the boundary demarcation process. It was the first time that the EEBC had met since late October when it suspended demarcation due to consistent delays in the process. At the meeting, delegates discussed Ethiopia’s conflict with the commission’s 2002 border ruling. Demarcation was scheduled to begin in October; however, persistent complaints and refusals to cooperate from the Ethiopian government stalled the efforts. The commission was created after the signing of the Algiers Agreement in 2000, which formalized the end of the two-year border war between the two countries. (IRIN, November 18, 2003)

GENDER AND PEACE

Women peace activists meet in Vienna: The non-governmental organization (NGO), Women Without Borders, hosted its first international conference addressing the role of women in post-conflict countries. The meeting was attended by approximately 200 women from the Middle and Near East, Africa, and Europe. The goal of the forum was to provide women activists with visibility for their work as well as introduce them to a
broader network of female leaders. Participants attended several workshops, organized by women currently working with NGOs in post-conflict societies. Organizers of the event hoped that it would prompt women to create similar meetings and workshops in their respective countries. (Women’sENews, November 17, 2003)

Resolution on women’s rights introduced to Congress: Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson held a news conference on Capitol Hill November 5 to announce the introduction of the House Resolution 432 to the U.S. House of Representatives on the protection of the lives and rights of women and children during and after war. She was joined by women from war zones and post-conflict areas such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, Palestine, and Argentina, as well as by other prominent Congresswomen who served on the Committee on International Relations. Eddie Johnson said nearly 50 million people around the world were displaced, 80 percent of whom were women and children. She spoke of the use of rape as a tool of war and that at least 800,000 people, mostly women and children, had been trafficked across international borders. The House Resolution 432 called on the U.S. to play a leading role in ensuring that the UN member states fulfill their obligations spelled out in the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. The UN resolution, ratified unanimously October 31, 2000, imposed actions that the UN and all its members needed to take to protect the rights of women in conflicts, and to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making and peace processes. (Peacewomen.org, November 5, 2003)

GUATEMALA
Violence continues after elections: Ricardo de LeAn of the former guerillas’ Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteco was shot dead while jogging in Guatemala City. De LeAn ran for the legislative assembly, but was not elected in the November 9 presidential and legislative contests. Mirador Electoral 2003, an election-monitoring body, said that the current election process was the most violent since electoral rule was restored in Guatemala. Approximately 20 activists of opposition parties were murdered between the official start day of campaigning May 16 and election day. Meanwhile, presidential candidates Oscar Berger and Alvaro Colom began campaigning for the December 28 runoff elections, necessitated because no candidate received over 50 percent of the people’s vote. (Latinnews Daily, November 17, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
Zimbabwe police force breaks up protest: Zimbabwe’s police prevented nationwide demonstrations over price rises and state harassment. Protestors did not want taxes and prices to be increased in the budget. The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions organized the protests. Approximately 60 trade union officials were arrested, and several people were injured. Activists said that the police used batons and dogs to break up the protest. In a similar protest last month, police arrested approximately 140 trade union leaders. The latest inflation figures showed an annual rate of 526%, while the country was suffering from shortages of banknotes, gasoline, basic food, and foreign currency. (BBC, November 18, 2003)
Conscript soldiers in Russia lack adequate food and health care: Conscript soldiers in Russia performing their first year of compulsory military service routinely suffered from lack of food and health care. The diet of conscripts often lacked meat and vegetables. The food was of poor quality, rotten, or bug-infested. Senior conscripts also confiscated the younger conscripts’ most desirable food. Violent hazing in the military discouraged many first-year conscripts from seeking medical care, as they feared repercussions from senior conscripts. The senior conscripts often harassed and beat conscripts after they sought medical care. Also, the conscripts’ commanding officers and doctors denied conscripts’ requests for medical care. Human Rights Watch asked the Russian government to conduct investigations and institute mechanisms to ensure the protection of soldiers’ rights. (HRW, November 14, 2003)

Cambodia faces thousands of landmine victims: Twenty years of war in Cambodia left the country with an excessive number of landmines. Pol Pot, the head of the genocidal Khmer Rouge during the 1970’s, described landmines as his “perfect soldiers”. Democratic elections in 1993 started a period of relative calm in Cambodia, and many displaced people returned home from refugee camps in Thailand. These people became causalities due to the number of landmines left in Cambodia. There were an estimated 40,000 amputees, or “chon pika”, in Cambodia. There was one amputee for every 290 people – one of the highest rates in the world. Many of these amputees felt they had no future, because they were unable to work the land, and they also felt they were treated as outcasts. (BBC, November 18, 2003)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Gunman kills two soldiers at checkpoint: Two Israeli soldiers were killed at a checkpoint in the West Bank November 18 by a Palestinian gunman who approached the soldiers and opened fire. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops raided a refugee camp. A gun battle ensued, wounding nine Palestinians and one Israeli soldier. Despite these and other incidents, truce talks were scheduled to take place November 24 in Cairo, Egypt. However, fighting with each side blaming the other destroyed numerous cease-fire agreements throughout the second Palestinian uprising for statehood that began September 2000. (AP, New York Times, November 18, 2003)

EU demands Israel halt construction: Foreign ministers from 25 current and future European Union (EU) countries issued a strongly worded statement after meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom. They warned that Israeli military actions and restrictive policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were making life “increasingly intolerable” for the Palestinians, fueling extremism, and support of fundamentalist groups. The foreign ministers acknowledged Israel’s right to protect citizens, but urged an end to assassinations, house demolitions as punitive measures, and plans to remove Yasser Arafat. Further, the ministers said the security barrier violated international law and could make a two-state solution impossible. EU officials also condemned terrorist attacks on Israel and demanded Arafat’s Palestinian Authority demonstrate a solid goal of fighting extremist violence. (AP, November 18, 2003)
KOREAN PENINSULA

North Korea ready to abandon nuclear program: A North Korean Foreign Ministry statement said November 17 that the North Korean government was willing to consider the written assurance of non-aggression by President George W. Bush, dropping its longstanding demand for a non-aggression treaty. The statement said North Korea had the “intention to abandon, in practice, the nuclear program” when the “U.S. hostile policy is fundamentally withdrawn.” Ra Jong-Yil, National Security Advisor for President Roh Moo-Hyun, confirmed November 17 that the second round of six-party talks on North Korea’s nuclear program would take place in Beijing December 17-18. North Korea restarted its nuclear program in February and intelligence officials confirmed recently that it made two bombs from reprocessed nuclear rods. (Agence France Presse, November 17; BBC, November 16; BBC Monitoring, November 17, 2003)

U.S. to withdraw troops from North Korean border: After talks with the South Korean Defense Secretary Cho Young-kil, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced November 17 that the U.S. and South Korea agreed to a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at the North-South Korean border. Rumsfeld said the withdrawal process would occur “as soon as possible.” The U.S. 2nd Infantry Division would be moved south from the DMZ, and the 8th Army would move out of the capitol, Seoul. Rumsfeld did not say if some troops would remain in Seoul when the 8th Army headquarters moves out of Seoul. There were 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea to defend against aggression from North Korea. The announcement of the withdrawal followed South Korea’s commitment of 3,000 troops to the occupation of Iraq. (BBC, November 17; CNN, November 18, 2003)

North Korea to expand inter-Korean exchanges: A North Korean official said November 18 that North Korea’s efforts to expand inter-Korean exchanges would continue next year. Kim Song-il, a standing committee member of the North Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation of Korean Nationals, said 5,000 South Koreans visited the North from January to October. The council was established June 1998, and its South Korean counterpart was established three months later. The councils have been working on reconciliation through holding various events, such as family reunions. Eights rounds of reunions have been held, and the ninth was scheduled for February 2004. (BBC Monitoring, November 18; Xinhua, November 6, 2003)

KYRGYZSTAN

New independent publishing house opens: The opening of a new independent publishing house was held November 14. It was funded by Freedom House, a Washington, D.C.-based political and economic rights advocacy group. The publishing house would be managed by the non-profit Center for Supporting Mass Media Foundation, led by a board of supervisors headed by Senator John McCain. Members of the board also included representatives from international organizations, Kyrgyz and U.S. administrations, and journalists. The publishing house would be the only non-government controlled publishing house in Kyrgyzstan, and would provide services at a lower cost. Pro-
government newspaper Vecherniy Bishkek condemned the publishing house as an attempt by the U.S. to influence press content in Kyrgyzstan, while editors from independent Kyrgyz newspapers praised it as a boost for independent media in Kyrgyzstan. (BBC Monitoring, IRIN, November 14, 2003)

Kyrgyz representatives voice torture concerns: Delegates from numerous Kyrgyz non-governmental organizations (NGO) attended the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) conference held in Vienna November 6-7. Delegates from 53 OSCE member states, the European Union, the UN, and over 200 NGOs attended the conference to discuss the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent torture and torture-related issues. The NGO representatives from Kyrgyzstan included the Kyrgyz Human Rights Committee, the Civil Society Against Corruption, the Kylym Shamy (“Candle of the Century”), and the NGO Spravedlivost (“Justice”). The leader of the Civil Society Against Corruption, Tolekan Ismailova, spoke against the use of rubber batons by police officers and criticized the Kyrgyz government for not properly punishing officers who used torture. The leader of Kylym Shamy, Aziza Abdrasulova, showed a video of civilians shot by police during riots in the town of Aksy in 2002. She also protested against the Kyrgyz National Security Service for denying the leader of the Movement of the Mothers of Aksy Tragedy Victims permission to attend the conference. (BBC Monitoring, November 11, 17; OSCE News, November 4, 2003)

Kyrgyzstan refuses to join landmine ban treaty: An international conference on antipersonnel mines was held in Bishkek. It was organized by the International Campaign to Ban Antipersonnel Mines and by the Kyrgyz committee Doctors for Preventing Nuclear War. The chief of the Kyrgyz Border Service’s engineer service, Vladimir Bukhov, said that Kyrgyzstan would continue to use landmines on its border until the Border Service had an appropriate substitute to guard its borders. Bukhov said there were at least 38 mountain passes in Kyrgyzstan that could be used by bandits to infiltrate the country, and that the Border Service was unable to deploy detachments to every pass. The conference was held in Bishkek in response to the numerous deaths due to landmines along the border areas of the southern Batken Region since 1999. (BBC Monitoring, November 12, 2003)

MACEDONIA
Macedonia deepens military connection with Greece and Albania: Macedonia, Greece, and Albania pledged to tighten military cooperation against cross-border organized crime and illegal immigration. Ties between the three countries’ militaries would also be strengthened through joint military exercises and participation in sporting and cultural events. Meetings were planned between the Defense Ministers of each of the countries for every year. Greece said that it would move army units posted on the frontier with the former Soviet bloc countries to its border with longtime rival Turkey. (spacewar.com, November 10, 2003)
NEPAL
Rebels kill Nepali General: A senior Nepalese army officer died in a Maoist ambush in the southern district of Makwanpur. Brigadier-General Sagar Bahadur Pandey was the highest ranking officer killed by the Maoists during the eight-year insurgency. General Panday and three other soldiers died when their vehicle hit a landmine. In a separate incident in the western Nepali district of Banke, three policemen were killed in an attack by Maoists. The police were shot by four men on motorcycles in a marketplace. These two attacks came days after a meeting of Maoists and political parties gathered to form an anti-monarchy alliance. Nepal’s King Gyanendra dismissed the elected government and suspended national elections last year and most political parties have remained opposed to the king’s executive powers. The peace talks failed twice, most recently the Maoists walked out of the peace talks last August over a demand for a new constitution. Since August, more than 1,000 people have died due to the renewed violence. (BBC, November 15, 2003)

SOMALIA
Violence in Galgadud Region: In central Somalia fighting broke out the week of November 10 between the Darod subclan of the Marehan and the Dir subclan of Fiqi Mouhumud. The fighting was concentrated in and around the village of Herale near to the Galgadud Region capital Dusa-Mareb. Approximately 50 people died and more than 150 were wounded. The violence was attributed to revenge killings of a Marehan businessman in May and disagreements over water and grazing areas. The fighting was heightened by the easy availability of weapons and the flat terrain that offered no cover. Hundreds of families were displaced and left without access to wells or water points. Both sides said they were ready to begin the peace talks, but no solid efforts have taken place. Somalia has been plagued by clan warfare since the ousting of Siad Barre’s regime in 1991. The country currently has had no central government and more than year-long peace talks taking place in Kenya have been marred by violence and delays. (IRIN, November 17, 2003)

SUDAN
Darfur region worsens: The situation in the western Sudanese region of Darfur has been deteriorating. The UN warned that the situation may be the worst humanitarian crisis in Sudan since 1998. The insecurity in the region caused the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and in some cases humanitarian aid was nonexistent. Although there had been a cease-fire between the Sudanese government and the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) operating in the area, humanitarian access was uneven due to travel permit restrictions. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, urged authorities to grant full access to humanitarian organizations. Since March, more than 500,000 people were displaced due to fighting in Darfur, and approximately 70,000 fled to Chad. The Sudanese government and the SLM/A extended a cease-fire agreement for one month November 4. (BBC, November 13, IRIN, November 14, 2003)
UN agrees to help rebuild Sudan after the war: The UN said they intended to assist Sudan in post-war reconstructions after a peace deal was signed. The UN agreed to help repatriate refugees, return internally displaced people to their homes, and set up development and reconstruction projects. The Sudanese government and the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) made significant progress towards ending the 20-year civil war between the Muslim north and the mainly Christian and Animist south. More than 1.5 million people were killed and more than four million people were displaced by the conflict. The UN High Commissioner, Ruud Lubbers, said that the UN was ready to begin repatriating approximately 570,000 refugees after a peace deal was signed. (AFP, November 15, 2003)

UGANDA
Museveni promises peace by the end of year: President Museveni said that peace would return to the northern districts of Uganda by December. Museveni held a meeting with MP’s from Teso and Lango, two districts that have seen much of the fighting during the 17-year insurgency by the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Museveni convened the meeting to discuss ways of resolving the conflict and ensuring the return of displaced people to their homes. Museveni stated “Kony and his evil-minded commanders’ days are numbered. I will finish him off, should he not surrender by December.” The military strategy was to deploy forces in the areas that the LRA had used as infiltration routes. The LRA has been fighting the Ugandan government with hopes to overthrow the current regime and replace it with one based on the Biblical Ten Commandments. (BBC, November 17, 2003)

LRA attacks continue, army rescues captives: Government forces have rescued 86 people from LRA rebels and have killed 25 guerillas since November 9. Five government troops were killed and eight injured during battles with the LRA rebels in villages in the northern districts of Uganda. Approximately 14 LRA fighters surrendered and one was captured, and the army seized a cache of weapons which included 10 submachine guns and 200 hand grenades. However, the LRA continued to attack civilian villages. The LRA killed eight people at Alio Catholic Mission November 14, and villagers reported that the rebels killed approximately 60 other people in the same district from November 9-15. The LRA has abducted more than 20,000 children during the last five years. Many boys taken as child soldiers and girls made to be sex slaves, while thousands more people have been killed and more than a million displaced due to the insurgency. (BBC, November 17; DPA, November 16, 2003)