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).

This will be the last Peace & Justice update of the Fall 2003 term. Updates will resume in February 2003. We wish all of our readers a happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday.
UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Associated Press (<a href="http://www.ap.org">www.ap.org</a>)</td>
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<td>AFP</td>
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<td>CDC News</td>
<td>Center for Disease Control News (<a href="http://www.thebody.com">www.thebody.com</a>)</td>
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<td>CNN</td>
<td>Cable News Network (<a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a>)</td>
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<td>CPJ</td>
<td>Committee to Protect Journalists (<a href="http://www.cpj.org">www.cpj.org</a>)</td>
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<td>DPA</td>
<td>Deutsche Presse-Agentur (<a href="http://www.dpa.com">www.dpa.com</a>)</td>
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<td>HRW News</td>
<td>Human Rights Watch News (<a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a>)</td>
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<td>IRIN</td>
<td>Integrated Regional Information Network (<a href="http://www.irinnews.org">www.irinnews.org</a>) (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: <a href="http://www.unog.ch">www.unog.ch</a>)</td>
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<td>IWPR</td>
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<td>PANA</td>
<td>Pan African News Agency (<a href="http://www.pananews.com">www.pananews.com</a>)</td>
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UPDATE SUMMARY

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)
UN urges the DRC to initiate new disarmament program: The UN Security Council encouraged the government of the DRC to implement a national disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program to assist with the reintroduction of ex-combatants into society. Additionally, the Security Council stressed the need to accelerate reform of the armed and police forces. Although the Security Council noted that much progress had been made in the DRC, it stated that the government needed to implement more programs to facilitate the post-conflict stage of development. One program that the Security Council urged the government to pursue was the formation and implementation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It also stressed that institutions that would enable an Independent Electoral Commission and a High Authority for Media to work efficiently in the country should be established. The DRC has been in a protracted civil war which has killed more than three million people since 1998. In 2000, the Lusaka Peace Accords were signed, officially ending the activities of foreign countries in the conflict. In August, the government of the DRC began efforts to end the existing conflicts within the country as well as to rebuild the government and civil society. (IRIN, December 12, 2003)

ERITREA/ETHIOPIA
Special envoy to be appointed: The UN announced December 12 that a qualified individual would be assigned to assist in resolving the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Although the UN did not announce who the individual would be, speculation from diplomats and international actors indicated that former Canadian foreign minister Dr. Lloyd Axworthy would be appointed. When asked about the position, Dr. Axworthy stated, “I’m available if necessary.” Dr. Axworthy was best known for his role in creating a global treaty to ban anti-personnel landmines. The assistance of a special envoy was needed due to the stalemate that developed between the two countries regarding demarcation of the disputed border. The countries waged a three-year war which claimed approximately 77,000 lives. Demarcation was to have begun in October; however, Ethiopia raised concerns about the proposed border and refused to cooperate. Despite several meetings by the Boundary Commission since October, little progress was made in resolving the issue. (AllAfrica; IRIN, December 12, 2003)

Violence erupts in Gambella: An estimated 30 people were killed in the Ethiopian town of Gambella December 13 and 14. Violence erupted between ethnic groups that comprise the mainly refugee population of the area. Gambella, home to approximately 87,000 refugees, experienced ethnic violence between Anuak and Nuer tribes in the past. The recent violence began December 13 when seven men, including a policeman and three government officials, were shot and killed. It was believed that the men were murdered by members of the Anuak ethnic group. In reprisal killings the following day, 14 Anuaks died. The Ministry of Defense began an investigation into the incidents and military troops were deployed to the area to restore calm. (AllAfrica; IRIN, December 16, 2003)
GENDER AND PEACE
Liberian women seek reform: Women from the umbrella organization Concerned Women of Liberia publicly criticized the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) as inadequately addressing the issues of demobilization, disarmament, rehabilitation, and reintegration (DDRR). The women represented various organizations including the Liberia Women Initiative, the Government of Liberia, the Women in Peace-Building Network, and the Christian Community. The women told journalists that UNMIL’s DDRR program did not provide adequate instruction on information dissemination regarding the disarmament process for former combatants. Furthermore, the women said that the DDRR program did not incorporate local individuals which created cultural and language barriers between ex-combatants and peacekeepers. UNMIL had not established an identification system to accurately record which combatants had participated in the program. Representatives from Concerned Women of Liberia suggested that local individuals with the requisite experience be allowed to assist in the DDRR program. The women also urged UNMIL to incorporate women into high level positions of the DDRR program. (AllAfrica, December 12, 2003)

Women leaders draw up action plan: Women from 27 countries, including cabinet ministers from four continents, gathered at a forum in Washington, D.C., December 11 to create an action plan to promote women’s participation in politics. The plan agreed on by participants at the forum, hosted by the National Democratic Institute, identified four goals for politicians and governments: removing restrictions on women’s political participation; increasing the numbers of women elected to office at all levels; ensuring the inclusion of women in leadership positions in political parties; and encouraging governments to create agencies, departments, or ministries to allow for the full equality of women and men. Some of the key messages of the forum were that women deserved equality and that societies and the world at large would be better off with more women involved in the decision-making processes. (BBC, December 11, 2003)

GUATEMALA
Gunmen murder priest: Father Jose Maria Ruiz Furlan was shot dead as he left a church in a poor Guatemala City neighborhood. Ruiz, age 72, was known as a faithful defender of the rights of the poor. Supporters gathered at his house to demand justice. Ruiz ran for mayor of Guatemala City twice, which caused problems in his relationship with the Roman Catholic Church because they criticized his involvement in politics. Church officials removed him in 1995 but he was readmitted in 1999. This came at a time when Guatemala had yet to recover from the murder of human rights activist Bishop Juan Gerardi. Gerardi, head of the church's human rights office, was bludgeoned to death in April 1998, days after presenting a report blaming the military for atrocities committed during Guatemala's 36-year civil war. (BBC, December 15, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
Rwandan genocide witnesses are killed: Ibuka, an organization representing survivors of the genocide in Rwanda, urged the Rwandan government to halt the murder and intimidation of potential witnesses. The witnesses were scheduled to testify in the gacaca courts, which were created to clear the backlog of pending genocide trials. Those on trial
were accused of participating in the killings of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994. Ibuka claimed that one or two genocide survivors were killed every month, and that at least three potential witnesses were killed in November. Ibuka said that in the most recent case a man was killed and dismembered in front of his family as a warning to other potential witnesses. Police spokesman Damas Gatari stated that a number of suspects were detained in connection with the murders. (BBC, December 16, 2003)

Government soldiers and rebels rape women in Burundi: An NGO that cares for victims of sexual abuse, Nturengaho (HALT), said it registered 446 cases of girls and women raped during 2003, and government soldiers and rebels were among the perpetrators. HALT said many rapes resulted in unwanted pregnancy, even in girls as young as 10 years old. HALT hosted a two-day workshop that highlighted the problem and attempted to mobilize representatives of the army and former rebel movements against rape. A countrywide campaign against rape ran from November 25 to December 10. (IRIN, December 12, 2003)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE
Violence continues on both sides: Seven Israelis were reportedly injured by Palestinian gunmen in the West Bank near Joseph’s tomb, a disputed holy site. The Israeli army had previously banned Jewish pilgrims from visiting the site without military escort for security reasons. A Jewish seminary on the site was evacuated October 2000 in response to heavy fighting when the second intifada began. In Gaza, Israeli soldiers shot dead two unarmed Palestinians trying to break through a fence and enter Israel. Israeli troops also tore down Palestinian buildings in southern Gaza that the Israeli military said were linked to mortar attacks a day earlier. Despite an overall decline in violence during the past two months, Israeli-Palestinian confrontations have remained an almost daily event, while peace efforts continued to be stalled. (BBC, December 12; New York Times, December 15, 2003)

KOREAN PENINSULA
Six-party talks pushed back until 2004: The State Department said December 15 that the second round of six-nation talks over North Korea’s nuclear program would be rescheduled for sometime early next year. The talks, which would involve the U.S., North Korea, China, South Korea, Japan, and Russia, had been scheduled for December 17-18. Though State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said it was technically not possible to hold the talks this week due to the approaching holidays, the announcement came as North Korea rejected the U.S. plan to resolve the conflict. The North Korean government-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun said December 15 that North Korea was rejecting the offer because the U.S. was not ready to promise “simultaneous” assurances if North Korea abandoned its nuclear program, and that the U.S. still wanted North Korea to make the first move. The paper warned the U.S. that “delaying tactics” could force North Korea to escalate its nuclear “deterrent” program. The first round of six-party talks was held in late August, but left the conflict, which has been ongoing since October 2002, unresolved. (BBC, December 15; Washington Post, December 14; Xinhua, December 15, 2003)
U.S. considers sending food aid to North Korea: Reversing its earlier refusal to send 66,000 tons of food aid to North Korea in protest over North Korea’s failure to allow international monitors to observe distribution, Bush administration officials said December 11 that the U.S. was considering releasing the aid. Administration officials said pleas by the UN and concerns of a winter famine in North Korea prompted the decision. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said that North Korea had refused access to the World Food Program to all vulnerable North Koreans and had restricted the Program’s ability to monitor distribution of its food aid. The U.S. has already sent 44,000 of the promised 100,000 tons of aid for 2003 to North Korea. Administration officials had previously expressed concern that the aid was going to the military instead of civilians in need. Japan also withheld aid to North Korea in anger over North Korea’s refusal to talk about the abductions of Japanese in the past as well as other political disputes. The World Food Program said the decrease in aid donations would force it to reduce its donations in North Korea by approximately 2.2 million people. The current level of donations was only 62 percent of that requested by the UN, which estimates that 13.2 million North Koreans are malnourished. (New York Times, December 11, 16, 2003)

South Korean government decides to send troops to Iraq: National Security Advisor Ra Jong-yil said the government would soon present a bill to the National Assembly authorizing the deployment of 3,000 additional troops to Iraq. The 3,000 troops would be in addition to the 675 medical and engineering personnel already in Iraq. The total 3,700 South Korean military deployments would be independently responsible for a designated area in Iraq where they would support Iraqi soldiers and police. The final decision by President Roh Moo-Hyun was difficult in the face of several large street protests that drew thousands of anti-war protestors, with one recent protest following the killing of two civilian South Korean electricians last month. The President made the decision at the request of the U.S. government, which originally asked for a 5,000 combat troop deployment to aid coalition forces. (New York Times, December 17, 2003)

KYRGYSTAN

Uzbek police detained during raid in Kyrgyzstan: A team of 10 Uzbek law enforcement officers from the Namangen region of Uzbekistan attempted to seize Alymbek Batyraliev, a Kyrgyz national, in the Aksy district in southern Kyrgyzstan. An hour prior to the attempted arrest of Batyraliev, they searched the home of a farmer in a nearby village looking for a man named Mansur. The uniformed officials beat Batyraliev and attempted to drag him into their cars when approximately 20 people rushed the officials. Kyrgyz border guards detained all but one of the Uzbek police officers as they tried to flee into Uzbekistan. The prosecutor and police chief of the Yangi-Kurgan district, part of the Namangen region, were among the detainees. The Uzbek officials did not clear the operation with Kyrgyz authorities and the prosecutor’s superior, District Prosecutor Kylych Toktогulov, said he did not sanction either the search or the attempted arrest. The Uzbek officials were released without charge the next day, after the chief of police in the Namangen region spoke with the Jalalabad region prosecutor. There were numerous unsanctioned raids of this kind in the past, and the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry expressed its concern to the Uzbek government over unlawful actions by various Uzbek authorities on
several occasions. The main target of these raids was believed to be suspected Islamic militants. Human rights activist Azimjan Askarov estimated that 100 of the 250 Kyrgyz citizens in Uzbek jails were abducted in Kyrgyzstan. (Eurasianet.org, December 15; IWPR, December 13, 2003)

MACEDONIA

EU police mission begins in Macedonia: The European Union officially launched a new police training mission in Macedonia December 15. The mission, known as Proxima, began after three years of military peacekeeping operations ended. The NATO peacekeeping troops arrived in Macedonia in 2001 after a seven-month conflict between ethnic Albanian rebels and government troops, which claimed approximately 150 lives. EU foreign policy envoy Javier Solana said that the mission and the departure of foreign troops signified progress toward stabilization and normalization. He also said that Proxima marked an important shift to police work designed to fight the country’s increase of organized crime. Macedonia, and the Balkans in general, are known as a hub for criminal activity, including the trade of weapons, drugs, and people into Western Europe. This criminal activity has replaced ethnic tensions as the main security threat in Macedonia. (EU Business, December 15, 2003)

NEPAL

Attacks continue across Nepal: Nepali security forces attacked a shelter of Maoist rebels in the western district of Dailekh December 14. Approximately 40 rebels were killed, but there were no reported security force casualties. The fighting began when guerrillas attacked a patrolling security team. In a separate incident 150 kilometers east of Kathmandu, 11 policemen were killed and four others wounded when their vehicle hit a landmine. More than 700 rebels have been killed in clashes with government security forces since the Maoists declared an end to the cease-fire August 27. The Maoist insurgency, whose aim is to replace the current monarchy with a communist republic, has claimed the lives of more than 8,000 since 1996. (DPA, December 14; The Independent; Xinhua, December 15, 2003)

SOMALIA

Fighting resumes in Galgadud Region: Approximately 60 people were killed and another 90 wounded in renewed fighting in the Galgadud Region December 16. The fighting between the Darod subclan of the Marehan and the Dir subclan of Fiqi Muhumud was concentrated in and around the village of Herale. Herale was also the scene of serious fighting between the two sides that left more than 50 people dead in November. A neutral clan member stated that the violence had escalated from “revenge killings” to a “land war.” Mediation efforts on the part of elders and religious leaders from neutral clans have failed. Such clan rivalries have plagued the country since the overthrow of Siad Barre’s regime left the country without a central government more than a decade ago. Peace talks ongoing since October 2002 have been unable to resolve the situation. (IRIN, December 17, 2003)
SUDAN

International intervention is urged in Darfur: The United Nations envoy accused the Sudanese government of preventing food and medical supplies from reaching Darfur in an effort to hide alleged human rights abuses. Members of Sudan’s National Assembly from Darfur appealed for international intervention to end the violence and displacement. An official from the Justice and Equality Movement accused the Sudanese government of targeting civilians in an air raid that left 25 dead. The Sudanese government denied supporting the militias, known as Janjaweed, and urged all tribes in Darfur to defend themselves against the militias. The MPs demanded that the Darfur issue be discussed at peace talks currently underway between the government and the main rebel group, Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). Since the outbreak of violence in February, approximately 670,000 people have been displaced, 70,000 of whom fled across the border into Chad. (BBC, December 12; IRIN, December 15, 2003)

Peace agreement is expected by December 19: Sudanese First Vice President Ali Uthman Taha, and the leader of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), Dr. John Garang, planned to sign a framework agreement regarding wealth sharing by December 19. The two sides met together in two separate meetings focused only on the issue of wealth sharing. The negotiations, held in Kenya, have attempted to end the 20-year civil war between the Muslim north and mostly Christian and animist south that has left more than 2 million people dead. (BBC Monitoring, December 14, 2003)

UGANDA

U.S. decides against sending troops into Uganda: United States Ambassador Jimmy Kolker responded to requests by Uganda for aid by saying that the U.S. would not send troops and fighter planes to fight the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda. However, the U.S. would increase funding for humanitarian relief assistance and for efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. The LRA has been fighting the Ugandan army in an attempt to replace the current government with one based on the Biblical Ten Commandments. Since the conflict began in 1984, the LRA has abducted approximately 20,000 children who are forced to either fight or are used as sex slaves. (BBC Monitoring, December 15; DPA, December 14, 2003)