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).*
## UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</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>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>Human Rights Watch News (<a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a>)</td>
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<td>IWPR</td>
<td>Institute for War and Peace Reporting (<a href="http://www.iwpr.net">www.iwpr.net</a>)</td>
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<td>Pan African News Agency (<a href="http://www.panapress.com">www.panapress.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Reporters Sans Frontieres (<a href="http://www.rsf.org">www.rsf.org</a>).</td>
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<td>UPI</td>
<td>United Press International (<a href="http://www.upi.com">www.upi.com</a>)</td>
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<td>What the Papers Say (<a href="http://www.wps.ru:8101">www.wps.ru:8101</a>)</td>
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UPDATE SUMMARY

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

DRC and Rwanda working together: At a summit held in South Africa, the presidents of the DRC and Rwanda recommitted to completing the repatriation of various Rwandan Interahamwe militia and soldiers currently residing in the DRC. In July 2002, the two governments signed the Pretoria Agreement, which specified the withdrawal of Rwandan troops from the DRC with the assistance of the UN Third Party Verification Mechanism (TPVM). Under the Pretoria Agreement, the members of the TPVM were named as the government of South Africa and the United Nations Secretary-General. At the summit, leaders from both countries and the third parties evaluated repatriation work thus far and concluded that, while some success had been achieved, more work was necessary to complete full repatriation. As a result, the two governments agreed to work bilaterally with the support of the African Union and the UN. It was estimated that if the organizations and countries cooperated fully, work could be completed within the next 12 months. Rwandan troops have been present in the DRC since the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. It was believed that rebels who committed the genocide fled to the DRC shortly after the massacre. Rwandan troops also entered the DRC during the 1998-2000 civil war in the country. The troops remained active in the DRC even after the signing of the Lusaka Peace Accords in 2000, which were supposed to end international involvement in the conflict. (AllAfrica, November 28, 2003)

Mayi-Mayi militia members demobilized: Approximately 700 members of the Mayi-Mayi militia were demobilized in the eastern region of Kindu November 22. Some of the militia members were women and children. The government provided two options for demobilized militia, one was for soldiers to join the national army and the other was for civilians to be reintegrated into society in neighboring towns. Individuals who chose to join the army were sent to Camp Lwama and provided with instructions. Those who selected to join civilian life were photographed and registered with the national government after surrendering their weapons and uniforms. The UN Mission in the DRC warned that although the demobilization of ex-combatants was a positive measure, humanitarian assistance was needed to assist in the training and reintegration of former soldiers, many of whom were children. (IRIN, December 1, 2003)

ERITREA/ETHIOPIA

Movement of troops along border: The UN reported that Eritrea moved troops into the Western border region of Ethiopia, which was a demilitarized Temporary Security Zone. Despite the reports of the UN, the Eritrean government denied moving troops into the area. The UN stated that it was not concerned by the transfer of troops because it was reported that the extra Eritrean Defense Forces were present to assist with harvesting, agricultural projects, and construction. Although the UN would not say it was concerned over the action, it did note that although the region had remained "militarily stable," "political tensions" were running high. Instability was present in the region since the outbreak of war between the two countries in 1998. The border war lasted until 2000 when the two countries signed the Algiers Agreement. Despite the peace agreement, tensions recently resumed concerning the postponed demarcation of the border. (AllAfrica, November 28, 2003)
Mine kills child: A seven-year-old boy was killed near the town of Tserona when an unexploded mine detonated. The death of the child brought the total number of deaths, due to mines and unexploded ordnance in the border region between Eritrea and Ethiopia, to 19 this year. It was estimated that Eritrea had 1,500,000 mines and 300,000 unexploded devices still present on its territory. Ethiopia was said to have two million mines left over from the border war that was waged from 1998 to 2000. The Ethiopian government said it would take at least 20 years to remove all of the mines from its country and asked for $19 million over three years to help with the project. (IRIN, December 1, 2003)

GENDER AND PEACE
Colombian women ride for peace: A caravan for peace made its way through Colombia last week carrying 315 female delegates, a number of international observers, and several reporters. The 96 bus caravan drove to Mocoa the provincial capital of Putumayo. Recently, Putumayo has been the center of violent conflict with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) setting fire to 20 oil wells. The incidents prevented 6,000 barrels of oil a day from being extracted. Putumayo was also a stronghold of FARC supporters with 1800 of its 15,000 combatants active in that area alone. The region was also home to the Self-Defense Forces of Cordoba and Uraba, which was part of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia present in the region since 1998. The goal of the Women’s Peace Caravan was to place attention on the effects of spraying crops used to produce illegal drugs and drug trafficking, the war on women, their families, and the violations of international humanitarian law by all armed forces involved. The women traveled without military or police escort through the dangerous regions of the country. Prior to leaving for the trip, the women sent letters to each active armed group stating their purpose and date that they would be traveling through their area. This Women’s Peace Caravan was the third in the history of Colombia. In 1996, 1,000 women participated and in 2001, around 5,000 women were involved. The women involved came from a variety of organizations including the Colombian branch of Women in Black. (Inter Press Service, November 24, 26, 2003)

International women’s federation meets in Hanoi: The Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF) two-day Direction Committee meeting was held in Hanoi November 21-22. Approximately 30 delegates attended the meeting to discuss the role of WIDF in promoting peace and development. The delegates agreed that the federation needed to promote unity between WIDF and women around the world, especially for women in conflict countries. The delegates discussed measures to promote the federation’s influence and role at international and regional forums, especially those of the UN. WIDF President Marcia de Campos Pereira called for the federation to strengthen activities for peace and development, such as their previous actions “Walking for Peace” and “Milk for Iraqi Children.” She also condemned the U.S.-led war in Iraq for its affliction on the Iraqi people, expressed support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and called for peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Xinhua, November 21, 22, 2003)
GUATEMALA

Jane Fonda pledges action to denounce murder of women: U.S. actress Jane Fonda promised to bring a small “army” to Guatemala to denounce the murder of approximately 700 women in the past three years. Fonda planned to return to Guatemala with her “army” after the November 2004 U.S. elections with the aim of pressuring the government to take action against the killings. Fonda said that most of the murdered women were victims of gang violence, rape, and other crimes. Fonda was in Guatemala City December 1 on behalf of the nonprofit organization V-day, which campaigns around the world to stop violence against women. She met with presidential candidate Alvaro Colom and his wife Sandra Torres, as well as with the wife of Oscar Berger the other candidate in the runoff election scheduled December 28. Guatemala experienced increased crime, especially gang violence, since the end of its 36-year civil war in 1996. (AP, December 1, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

UN says hunger worsens: The UN Food and Agriculture Organization stated that the number of hungry people worldwide swelled in recent years, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, due to war, drought, AIDS, and trade barriers. Between 1999 and 2001, more than 840 million people, or one in seven, went hungry. Between 1995 and 2001, the number of malnourished people across the developing world grew by an average of 4.5 million a year. The DRC was the worst, with 75 percent of its population estimated to be malnourished in the 1999-2001 period. The organization said that these findings would make it impossible to meet its goal of reducing world hunger in half by 2015. They called on rich countries to invest in improving agricultural productivity, conserving natural resources, and expanding access to global markets for farmers in the developing world. (New York Times, November 26, 2003)

The media under attack in Indonesia: The Indonesian government blocked Indonesian and foreign correspondents from covering the military campaign in the province of Aceh, where the military was fighting the armed, separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Journalists uncovered serious human rights abuses: several executions of civilians by the Indonesian military; widespread displacement of civilians; and a lack of basic necessities such as food, healthcare, and access to education. Indonesian security forces verbally and physically intimidated journalists in Aceh. Military officials also arbitrarily detained correspondents in the field. In one case, members of the security force beat an Indonesian radio journalist who was reporting on the plight of the Acehenese civilians fleeing the military campaign. Pressure on Indonesian reporters resulted in the absence of critical reporting on the conflict. (HRW, November 26, 2003)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Ceremony launches unofficial peace plan: The unofficial peace plan, drafted by left wing Israelis and Palestinians, was launched in a ceremony in Geneva December 1. The peace plan entitled “Geneva Accord” was the result of two-and-a-half years of secret negotiations led by former Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin and former Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo. The accord had European backing and
support from the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, although it lacked official status. The Israeli government and main Palestinian factions already rejected the plan. However, Beilin stated that it was a message to those that said the conflict was unsolvable. Meanwhile, Israeli forces killed four Palestinians in Ramallah, including a young boy. Since the start of the Palestinian uprising in September 2000 more than 2,200 Palestinians and 800 Israelis have died. (BBC; New York Times, December 2, 2003)

KOREAN PENINSULA
North Korea rejects U.S. demands: North Korea rejected U.S. demands to renounce its nuclear program before the U.S. provided any security guarantees. A commentary by the official Korean Central News Agency said, “it would rather die than have peace in exchange for slavery.” This announcement came weeks before a new round of six-nation talks was expected to take place December 17-18. North Korea urged the U.S. to accept the principle of “simultaneous action” to resolve the standoff and to drop hostile policy. In addition, North Korea said November 30 that the U.S. would have to pay compensation for the losses incurred when work was stopped on two light-water nuclear reactors. The U.S.-led Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), which had been building the reactors as part of a 1994 agreement with North Korea, announced last month that it would halt construction for a year. KEDO decided to halt construction due to North Korea’s restarting of its nuclear program. (AP, November 30, December 1; Agence France Presse, November 17, December 1, 2003)

North Korea refuses to talk about abductions: North Korea said December 1 that Japan was not qualified to participate in the six-party talks regarding North Korea’s nuclear program scheduled for January because Japan wanted to keep the North Korean abduction of Japanese nationals on the agenda. In a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in September 2002, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il admitted to the abduction of 13 Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s to be trained as North Korean spies. Reconciliation talks stalled because the North Korean government refused to give credible information on the kidnapped victims. North Korea likewise avoided the abduction issue with South Korea. The South Korean government acknowledged that North Korea abducted more than 400 South Koreans, but unlike Japan, the South Korean government was afraid to push the issue for fear that it would jeopardize relations between the two governments. Yun Mi-ryang, who headed a small team working on the kidnappings at the Ministry for Unification in South Korea, said the government tried to take the soft approach with the kidnappings, but still tried to approach the abduction issue at every meeting with the North Koreans. (Agence France Presse, December 1; BBC, November 26; Xinhua, November 25, 2003)

KYRGYZSTAN
Kyrgyz conference on drug trafficking: A conference on drug trafficking and border security organized by the International Organization for Migration was held in Bishkek November 24. The aim of the conference was to establish a dialogue between the Kyrgyz government and the international community. The participants discussed strengthening the borders to guard against international drug smugglers and threat of the drug flow from
Afghanistan. In the past month, there were several arrests of drug traffickers attempting to smuggle drugs to Russia. Kazakh border guards at the Aul customs post in the East Kazakhstan Region seized 22 kg of heroin from the car of three Kyrgyz citizens, while five Kyrgyz citizens were arrested at the same customs post November 13 for trying to smuggle 9.5 kg of heroin and 47 kg of opium into Russia. Kyrgyzstan’s new Drugs Control Agency (DCA) received help from the regional mission of the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes, which provided the DCA with equipment, vehicles, and technology worth $100,000. (BBC Monitoring, October 8, November 6, 21, 26; TASS, November 6, 2003)

MACEDONIA
Prime Minister of Macedonia visits Washington D.C.: A high ranking delegation from Macedonia was in Washington D.C. to report on Macedonia’s recovery from ethnic violence and to seek support for its goal of to join NATO and the European Union. Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski said that the Macedonian parliament adopted the necessary constitutional changes to protect ethnic Albanians. He also said that the economy was recovering, after plunging 4.6 percent during the conflict in 2001 because of a decline in foreign trade. Crvenkovski stressed that Macedonia’s relationship with the United States was its highest priority, and as a sign of friendship, his government signed an agreement to protect American soldiers from politically motivated prosecution by the International Criminal Court. Macedonia also deployed dozens of troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. Macedonia suffered a six-month ethnic Albanian uprising in 2001. The United States, along with NATO and the European Union, brokered a peace deal that guaranteed Albanian minority rights. (The Washington Times, November 25, 2003)

NEPAL
Violence continues across Nepal: Approximately 17 rebel guerrilla fighters were killed December 1 by government security forces in various parts of Nepal. The government forces also seized arms, ammunition, and explosive materials from the guerrillas during search operations. The Maoist rebels walked away from the peace talks August 27 and violence increased. More than 700 rebels and 170 government forces have been killed since the truce ended. The Maoists began fighting their “people’s war” in 1996 with the aim of replacing the current monarchy with a communist republic. The insurgency has claimed more than 8,000 lives. (Xinhua General News Service, December 2, 2003)

SOMALIA
International community grows impatient with pace of peace talks: Foreign Affairs Minister Kalonzo Musyoka warned that the international community was getting impatient with the pace of the Somalia peace talks. Musyoka announced that a 10-day Somalia leaders retreat, scheduled to take place December 8, was the final chance for the many factions to come to an agreement on a lasting solution for peace. Musyoka said that if the leaders, who numbered more than 40, failed to agree during the retreat, there would not be help from the international community to take over the peace talks from Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The peace talks began October 2002 to bring stability to Somalia, which has been without a central government since the ousting of Siad Barre’s regime in 1991. The peace talks were being mediated by IGAD,
which was composed of Somalia’s neighboring countries.  (East African Standard, December 2, 2003)

SUDAN
Peace talks resume: Peace talks between the Sudanese government and the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) resumed December 1 in Naivasha, Kenya. Both sides expressed hope that a final peace accord could be reached before the end of December. The US said a final deal must be reached by the end of the year. There were three unresolved issues: oil revenue, distribution of political power, and the administration of the conflict regions-Abyei, Blue Nile State, and the Nuba Mountains. The SPLA wanted the three areas to be part of the autonomous south, and the government disagreed. Under the current agreement, John Garang, the leader of the SPLA, would become vice president of Sudan. The two sides agreed November 28 to extend a cease-fire for two more months during the period of talks. The 20-year war between the Muslim north and mainly Christian and Animist south has left more than 2 million people dead and millions more displaced. (AFP; BBC, December 1, 2003)

Fighting continues in Darfur: Approximately 210 people have been killed in fighting between militias and a rebel group in western Darfur since November 24. Armed Arab militias burned down and looted three villages, and killed 24 people. In response, the rebel group killed 186 members of the militias. Many of the Arab militia were believed to be from Chad, but armed with weapons, money and support from the Sudanese government. The government has consistently denied the allegations. Thousands of people have been displaced, and those who have not, have been too scared to work in their fields because of the militia. Lack of travel permits as well as general insecurity has prevented aid agencies from supplying humanitarian assistance to the region. The conflict in Darfur began in February and has cost approximately 3,000 lives. (IRIN, November 28, 2003)

UGANDA
U.S. mediates peace talks: The U.S. began mediating peace talks between Uganda and Sudan with the aim of ending the rebel insurgency in Uganda. The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) has been fighting the Ugandan government in the north since 1986 and has been based in Southern Sudan. This was the first time that Uganda and Sudan were involved together to find a solution to the conflict. Sudan pledged total support in uprooting the rebel leader, Joseph Kony, from Sudan. However, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said the army needed more money to defeat the LRA. Donor countries, which funded 50 percent of the country’s total budget, told the government not to spend more than $139 billion on defense. Museveni defended the need to increase defense spending by saying it would enable the army to quickly defeat the LRA. Since the beginning of the conflict, more than 20,000 children have been abducted to fight as soldiers or serve as sex slaves, and more than 1.3 million others have been displaced. (New Vision, December 1; The Monitor, November 29, 2003)