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

**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 Summer 2003 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Greg Anglea (University of California, San Diego), Carolina Cometto (Pomona College), and Abigail Ross (University of Southern California).*
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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)
CDC News  =  Center for Disease Control News (www.thebody.com)
CNN  =  Cable News Network (www.cnn.com)
DPA  =  Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.com)
HRW News  =  Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
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)
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)
BURMA/MYANMAR

U.S. approves Burma sanctions: The Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 was passed July 16 in the House of Representatives by a vote of 418 to 2. The bill sanctioned Burma’s military junta by imposing trade restrictions, freezing the regime’s financial assets in the U.S., and installing a visa ban on regime members seeking to enter the U.S. The Senate passed similar legislation in June 2003. Both the House and Senate bills, which will be submitted for Bush’s signature, were introduced in protest over the junta’s recent repression of the pro-democracy opposition and its May 30 detention of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. A statement released by the Burmese military junta July 16, entitled “Sanctions Used as Weapons of Mass Destruction,” stated that the sanctions would deprive people of job opportunities and harm health care and education in the impoverished nation. Burma’s textile and clothing industry would be most affected by the measures. The junta sent Bush a petition July 14 signed by 350,000 textile workers appealing against the ban on imports which the Myanmar Times stated would threaten annual exports worth $356 million. The sanctions were welcomed, however, by some opposition groups in exile. The military has been in control since 1962, despite Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy’s victory in the 1990 elections. Suu Kyi has been placed under house arrest periodically for the last ten years. (AFP, July 14, 16; BBC, July 16, 17, 2003)

Dispute on Burma’s ASEAN status: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad warned July 20 that Burma might face expulsion from the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN) if its junta persisted in defying international pressure to release opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has been one of the region’s main apologists for the Burmese junta, stated that the regime should be given more time to solve its internal problems. He added that although Mahatir has the right to express his own opinion, ASEAN has not made a decision on this issue. ASEAN currently includes ten countries, and it was formed in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand to promote political and economic cooperation and regional stability. (AFP, DPA, July 21, 2003)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Vice-presidents sworn in; new government fails to meet: The four vice-presidents of the new two-year transitional government, former Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Yerodia Ndombasi, leader of the Mouvement de Liberation du Congo (MLC) Jean-Pierre Bemba, leader of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie movement (RCD) Azarias Ruberwa, and political opposition representative Arthur Z’ahidi Ngoma, were sworn into office July 17 in the capital, Kinshasa. The inaugural meeting of the new government was scheduled for July 19, but it did not occur as ministers from the two main rebel groups, MLC and RCD, refused to take part in the oath of office ceremony. The rebels accused President Kabila of attempting to extend his powers under the transitional government. They stated that they would not swear allegiance to Kabila, but would agree to pledge allegiance to the institutions and the laws of the country instead. The transitional government is expected to govern the country until democratic elections

1 The updates refer to Burma/Myanmar in recognition of the country prior to the military takeover and name change to Myanmar.
scheduled for 2005. It was established as part of the 2002 Pretoria Agreement that sought
an end to the conflict in the DRC. The conflict began in 1998 when then-President
Laurent Desire Kabila’s main political sponsors, Rwanda and Uganda, turned against him
and began supporting an anti-government rebellion. (BBC, July 16, 17, 19; IRIN, July 17, 18, 2003)

**ICC examines situation in DRC:** The International Criminal Court stated July 16 that it is
looking into allegations of war crimes in the DRC, especially in the northeastern province
of Ituri. Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo of Argentina stated that the crimes reported
included ethnic massacres, summary executions, kidnapping, torture, ritual
cannibalization, and forced recruitment of children. He stressed that he was following
the situation in the DRC closely, but that the court was not yet beginning a formal
investigation. Before intervening, the court is required to establish that national
authorities concerned were unwilling or unable to investigate. The court has received
nearly 500 communications from 66 countries since the Rome Statute of the ICC entered
into force July 1, 2002. Moreno Ocampo has designated Ituri as the site of an especially
worrisome humanitarian crisis where more than 5,000 people have died since July 2002.
(BBC, 16, July; IRIN, July 17, 2003).

**Fighting continues in Ituri:** Following an investigation, MONUC (UN Organization
Mission in the DRC) revealed that fighting in Tchomia on July 15 resulted in major
destruction of property, including the pillage of the local hospital and the torching of 250
homes. The attack was reportedly committed by an ethnic Lendu militia. MONUC stated
that 80 civilians had been killed and another 80 abducted by the militia. Two women
who had been raped and 20 wounded civilians and soldiers were evacuated to
neighboring Uganda for treatment. Fighting also broke out in Kansenyi July 18 and 19,
and according to MONUC, three people were killed, another three were abducted, and the
majority of the population fled for their lives. Tchomia and Kasenyi are 45 km and 52
km east of Bunia, where ethnic strife between Hema and Lendu militias caused between
200,000 and 350,000 people to flee when fighting escalated in May. The 1,400 troops of
the French-led UN mission in Bunia were not mandated to act outside of the town limits,
and were scheduled to pull out of the DRC September 1. They should be replaced by a
Bangladeshi-led force of approximately 3,800 troops who began to arrive July 16 and are
expected to arrive progressively until August 15. MONUC has been unable to deploy
military observers outside of Bunia due to continued insecurity. The EU foreign affairs
and security chief, Javier Solana, has recently called on the UN Security Council to
authorize a stronger mandate for MONUC that provides for a larger force with the
necessary equipment and military resources. Fighting in the northeast of the DRC has
continued despite a peace agreement implemented in April 2003. (IRIN, July 21; New
Vision (Kampala) July 18, 2003)

**ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA**
Commission criticizes treatment of POWs: The independent Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims
Commission announced July 8 that prisoners-of-war (POWs) in both Eritrea and Ethiopia
were mistreated under international law. Both countries were faulted for failing to
protect POWs from abuse, endangering their health through inadequate food and medical
care, and depriving them of footwear in long walks toward detainment areas. Ethiopia was also found liable for subjecting POWs to “enforced indoctrination” from July 1998 to November 2002, and for delaying the repatriation of approximately 1,287 refugees. Eritrea was accused of prohibiting Red Cross access to POWs in order to cover unlawful acts against Ethiopian soldiers, failing to protect Ethiopian POWs from death following capture, and subjecting POWs to unlawful conditions of labor. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims commission was established by the Algiers Peace Agreement of December 2002 to provide binding arbitration on claims of loss, damage and injury by governments and nationals of Eritrea and Ethiopia, following their 1998-2000 border war which resulted in tens of thousands of deaths. (BBC, July 9; IRIN, July 11; PANA, July 9, 2003)

Eritrean students form peace movement: An internet email group, eristudmvtyahoo.com, was set up July 9 by Eritrean students in South Africa who mobilized against the alleged dictatorship in Eritrea. The Eritrean Student’s Movement or “Peace Seekers” called for the release of prisoners in Eritrea, a peaceful transition to democratic governance, and the implementation of the 1997 ratified Eritrean constitution. They used anonymous web-based efforts to avoid retaliation by the Eritrean government. Eritrean President Isayas has imprisoned students who challenged him and in June stated in a message to their families that he would treat the students the same manner that the U.S. treated prisoners it detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The student email group was created following the June 27 nighttime roundups of Eritrean youth in Asmara by the government; in addition President Isayas had commanded all 11th graders to voluntarily report to be shipped to the government military compound in western Eritrea by June 30. The Eritrean government has not improved its human rights record since 2002, and reports of abuses have continued to draw negative attention from the international community. (BBC, June 30, July 3, 10, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
AIDS money falls short of initial pledge: The U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee approved $2 billion July 16 towards President Bush’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Bush pledged $15 billion over five years, and signed legislation May 2003 that called for $3 billion in the 2004 fiscal year. In July he asked Congress to appropriate only $2 billion. An amendment put forth to raise the money to $3 billion was defeated by a 33-28 vote within the House Appropriations Committee, and a similar attempt to raise the funding to $2.3 billion was defeated by one vote. White House Office of National AIDS Policy director, Joseph O’Neil, requested only $2 billion be appropriated, with $200 million going to the UN-created Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Instead, lawmakers increased allocation for the Global Fund to $500 million. The remainder of the money will go to 11 countries in Africa, as well as Haiti and Guyana in the Caribbean. Criticism arose over the exclusivity of the AIDS relief package, and the meager amount given to the already established Global Fund, in contrast to the growing cost of occupation in Iraq, which Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld admitted July 11 to be $4 billion per month. In Botswana July 11, Bush stated that America would respond to the AIDS epidemic, “as generously as we can.” AIDS kills 7,000 people per day in Africa alone, and has now claimed more lives than both

U.S. withdraws military aid over ICC dispute: President Bush withheld $48 million in military aid to 35 countries who refused to sign Article 98 agreements with the U.S. July 1. Article 98 stated that neither the U.S. nor the signing country would relinquish each other’s citizens to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Military aid was cut-off to Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominica, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, St Vincent and Grenadines, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Zambia. A U.S. law passed 2002 stated at least 27 foreign states were exempted from military aid cut-off, including 18 members of NATO, and America’s two largest recipients of military aid, Israel and Egypt. In addition, six nations received full waivers, and sixteen received waivers until November 1 or January 1. The exemptions and temporary waivers were applied through the terms of the congressional law, citing U.S. national interest. As of July 1, Article 98 agreements had been reached with 51 nations, 44 publicly and seven secretly. Countries from the Caribbean, Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia have accused the U.S. of using its power to undermine the legitimacy of the court, blackmail, and coerce smaller nations. The Bush administration has argued the court leaves American citizens and troops, stationed in 140 nations worldwide, vulnerable to politically motivated prosecutions. Human Rights Watch accused U.S. ambassadors July 3 of “acting like schoolyard bullies.” The EU has come out strongly against the campaign for Article 98 agreements. The ICC was created by the Rome Statute in 1998, and inaugurated March 11, 2003 when its first 18 judges were sworn in. (AP, July 2; BBC, July 13, 14; Business World (Philippines), July 11; Financial Times, July 10, 11, 16; The Independent (London), July 3; The Toronto Star, July 3, 2003).

MACEDONIA

Gunmen kill four: Masked gunmen opened fire and threw a grenade at a coffee shop July 9 in the capital Skopje killing four people. The drive-by shooting occurred in an area occupied mainly by ethnic Albanians. Officials, however, stated that the crime appeared to be related to organized crime and was not ethnically motivated. One of the dead was identified as Neziri Ridvan, an ethnic Albanian leader of a criminal gang who was allegedly involved in the murder of a policeman two years ago in the same shopping center. Macedonia has been plagued by sporadic violence since the end of the February 2001 ethnic Albanian insurgency. (BBC, Reuters, July 9, 2003).

EU funds program for Balkan cooperation: The European Commission has approved $35.7 million for the creation of a program titled the Regional Action Program for 2003 aimed at strengthening regional cooperation between Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Macedonia. The program should work to strengthen cooperation in border control, establishment of institutions, democratic stabilization, development of regional infrastructure, and environmental protection. (BBC, ONASA News Agency, July 18, 2003)
NEPAL

Maoist leaders close offices, go underground: Maoist negotiating leaders, including Dr Baburam Bhattarai, closed their office in Kathmandu indefinitely July 20, and have gone underground. Shortly after, the government announced it would guarantee “safe-passage” for Maoist negotiators in the event that the peace talks failed. Maoist leader Bharat Dhungana, arrested and released July 17, released a press statement July 20 stating that a lack of “reliable government assurances,” and the presence of “round-the-clock surveillance” of Maoist leaders led to an undesirable environment for negotiations, and justified the closure of the office. He added that during his detainment he was “blindfolded, handcuffed, and tortured for two-hours” by government forces. The Maoists had threatened July 13 not to sit for a third round of peace talks unless previous agreements were honored. Key issues were the limitation of army deployment and release of captured top Maoist leaders. The government responded by issuing a formal invitation to peace talks, written not by Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, but by Information Minister Kamal Thapa. The letter failed to clearly state the government’s position on any of the key issues, as was requested by Maoist leader Ram Bahadur Thapa, alias Badal, during informal negotiations July 11. Upon receiving the letter, the Maoist leaders announced they would state their decision at a later date. Ominously, that decision has yet to come. Maoist rebels have fought the government for control of the nation since 1996, claiming approximately 8,000 lives. A cease-fire was signed between the Maoists and government forces January 2003. (BBC, July 21; Himalayan Times, July 13, 20; Kathmandu Post, July 17, 20, 2003)

Cease-fire appears on the verge of collapse: Violence by both Maoists and government forces has further weakened the legitimacy of the January 2003 cease-fire. Nepal News and the Himalayan Times reported July 20 that between 30 and 50 armed Maoists attacked a police post in Parsa, chasing off the three constables and 25 personnel, and seizing a dozen guns. The attack came a week after a Maoist-signed letter warned of such violence if the post was not abandoned. Nepal News cited local eye-witness reports and police sources, but both the Maoist Secretary in Parsa and the Nepali Home Ministry denied such attacks as ever taking place. The Maoist abducted two army personnel and three locals from Makwanpur July 12, and took them into the jungle. In addition, they threatened a reporter with the Kantipur Daily July 14, demanding he leave rebel-controlled Nepal within 36 hours. He had escaped abduction by Maoists only two weeks earlier. Also, an alleged group of Maoists beat a district committee member of the Communist Party Nepal – United Marxist-Leninist to death July 16. In response to increased Maoist activity, and the closure of the Maoist contact office in Kathmandu, Nepali security forces were placed on high-alert in both Western Nepal and Kathmandu July 21, intensifying security check-ups. Attempts to reestablish negotiations between the Maoists and government officials have begun to fall apart in recent weeks. (BBC, July 21; CEHURDES, July 20; Himalayan Times, July 20; Kathmandu Post, July 15, 20; Nepal News, July 16, 20, 21, 2003.)

Government tells EC to be ready for elections: In a letter received July 15 by the Election Commission (EC), Prime Minister Thapa urged the commission to complete its
preparations, and create favorable conditions for governmental elections. Communist Party Nepal – United Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) leader Madhav Kumar Nepal criticized the idea of holding elections in the current atmosphere; where the lack of Maoist inclusion in the political process and increased rebel violence have further destabilized Nepali society. King Gyanendra has stated that such factors led to the suspension of parliament in the first place. He urged the formation of an all-party government, including the five agitating parties, to redesign the constitution; he contended the constitution in its current form is not suitable for governance, making elections futile. King Gyanendra dissolved parliament October 2002. Current Prime Minister Thapa’s cabinet does not include any members from the five agitating parties, CPN-UML, Nepali Congress, People’s Front Nepal, Nepal Workers and Peasants Party, and Democratic Nepali Congress. (Kathmandu Post, July 16; Nepal News, July 16, 2003)

SUDAN
Peace talks face setback: Peace talks between the government and rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Nakuru, Kenya came to a stalemate July 12 following disagreements over a draft peace agreement suggested July 6 by mediator General Lazarus Sumbeiywo. President Omar Hassan al-Bashir rejected the draft as unacceptably biased July 14 and told mediators that if they insisted on keeping it they could “go to hell.” The government, whose goal has been to unify Sudan, asked mediators July 14 to bring an entirely new draft agreement to peace talks scheduled to continue July 23. They contended that the current draft agreement promoted an eventual secession by the South from the North, and was against the spirit of previous peace agreements. A spokesperson for the SPLM/A, which favors eventual secession, stated July 12 that the SPLM/A was happy with the draft as a basis for negotiations, but was concerned that the government was not willing to compromise. Mediator Sumbeiywo stated that the government’s rejection of the draft proposal was a “setback” but said that the Sudan peace process was on course and an agreement was likely by August. Following a 19-year civil war between the government in the primarily Islamic north and the SPLM/A in the mainly animist and Christian south, the government and the SPLM/A agreed July 2002 to allow southern Sudan six years of administrative autonomy without being subject to Islamic law, followed by a referendum to determine secession from, or unity with, northern Sudan. (AFP, July 12, 13, 14; BBC, July 14, 15; DPA, July 12, 16; The East African Standard (Nairobi), July 16; The Nation (Nairobi), July 11, 16; Reuters, July 11, 13, 14, 2003)

U.S. advises on peace process: U.S. peace envoy and former Senator John Danforth advocated self-determination for Southern Sudan within the framework of a unified Sudan during his July 16-17 visit to Khartoum. Danforth was sent to deliver a letter from U.S. President Bush to President Omar al-Bashir, SPLM/A leader John Garang and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mediator Lazarus Sumbeiywo that proposed ways to renew the peace process. In a meeting with al-Bashir July 17, Danforth pressured the government to move forward in the peace process and indicated that the U.S., which currently lists Sudan on its list of states that sponsor terrorism, would normalize relations with Sudan if a peace agreement was signed. His visit followed a
breakdown in peace talks between Sudan’s government and the SPLM/A over key issues, and his proposals were to be considered in the next round of peace talks to be held July 23 in Kenya. Requests by local groups for international pressure to be put on mediating parties rose in recent weeks as the government and SPLM/A entered their final rounds of peace talks. The final agreement to determine how the transitional government would work was to be created during the July 6-12 session, but was delayed by governmental claims that mediator proposals were biased. (AFP, July 16; BBC, July 17; DPA, July 15, 17, 2003)

UGANDA
U.S. HIV/AIDS initiative criticized: African leaders and aid organizations questioned Bush’s promise to spend $15 billion over the next five years to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean. During Bush’s July 11 visit to Uganda, Representative of the Uganda Coalition for Access to Essential Medicines, Dr. Florence Mahoro, appealed to President Bush to guarantee the $15 billion pledge, which was threatened by a July 11 U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee vote to reduce proposed AIDS initiatives from $3 billion to $2 billion for the 2003-2004 year. Mahoro also pleaded for the U.S. to relax copyright laws that prevented poor countries from buying generic drugs, which would reduce costs by 80 percent. Criticisms on this issue also came from American and international newspapers which argued that the majority of AIDS money would line the coffers of U.S. and European pharmaceutical companies. In addition, the decision to reserve most funding for a parallel bureaucracy and to allocate only $200 million per year to the functional but under-funded UN Global AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Fund was critiqued as resulting in unnecessary delays of desperately needed aid. Strict conditions of the initiative would further delay aid, which could limit the first wave of assistance to only four or five African nations. Critics noted that, instead of Bush’s AIDS pledge, Africa would be better assisted should the U.S. end subsidies to its own farmers that currently price African agricultural products out of world markets; the subsidies are targeted at an electoral base that overwhelmingly voted for Bush in the last election. President Bush announced the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief during his January 28 State of the Union Address, and endorsed Uganda’s use of the A, B, C, D education program (Abstain, change Behavior, use Condoms, or Die) as a model of how to reduce AIDS rates. Critics of the program emphasized the fact that because of limited economic and legal rights women often have no choice in sexual behavior. (AFP, July 11; BBC, July 8, 13; The Monitor (Kampala), July 11; NYT, July 12, 2003)

Children march for peace: Approximately 20,000 children called on all peace-loving people in the world July 14 to help end the civil war and abductions by rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The demonstration included children from primary and secondary schools around Kitgum who marched and waved signs that asked for peace, protection, and learning rather than war, in the first mass action by northern Ugandan children. Religious leaders and local politicians also participated in the march, which was timed to coincide with the visit of Archbishop Christophe Pierre. Responding to placards which pleaded for protection, Ugandan government representatives stated July 14 that the government was not to blame for the crisis and said it was the LRA terrorists who were responsible. Following renewed fighting late May, 20,000 to 40,000 children
began sleeping in the streets of Kitgum and Gulu to avoid abduction by the LRA, which abducted at least 8,400 children since May 2003 to provide soldiers and sex slaves for their army, killed and maimed thousands of civilians, and displaced over 800,000 others since Joseph Kony reorganized it in 1988 from its earlier form as the Holy Spirit Movement/Army, founded in 1986. (AFP, July 14; BBC, July 14; DPA, July 14; The Monitor (Kampala), July 15, 2003)

Critics question Museveni’s push for third term: Consultations by members of parliament aimed at extending President Yoweri Museveni’s term past its constitutional end in 2006 have been condemned by leading east African authorities and Ugandan religious and opposition leaders. Government proponents of a third term claimed July 8 that an extension for Museveni was needed for a smooth transition to fully-fledged multi-party politics. This rationale was dismissed as flimsy by delegates of the East Africa Conference on Political Succession in Kampala, July 10, who argued that prolonged power would endanger democratic governance by creating the opportunity for extended dictatorship. A Ugandan group of church leaders declared July 14 that they disapproved of legal amendments allowing an extension for Museveni. In an effort to bring in international pressure, opposition presidential candidate Muhammad Kibirige Mayanja appealed July 10 to U.S. President George W. Bush to push Museveni not run for a third term. Bush’s support for Museveni, who headed the most successful AIDS-reduction program in Africa, has helped Museveni rebuff pressure not to consider running for a third (unconstitutional) term in office. (Africa News, July 8, 9, 10, 11, 14; AP, July 11; The Monitor (Kampala), July 13, 2003)