



Peace & Justice Update
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The countries for the Peace & Justice Updates have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute.

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SOURCE LIST

Andina	=	Agencia Peruana de Noticias (www.andina.com.pe)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africanfocus.org)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allafrica.com)
Aljazeera	=	Aljazeera (www.english.aljazeera.net)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
APN	=	Asia-Pacific News (www.apn.btbttravel.com)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (www.news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk)
Bloomberg	=	Bloomberg (www.bloomberg.com)
Business Day	=	Business Day (www.businessday.co.za)
California Now	=	California Now (www.canow.org)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
CENS	=	China Economic News Service (www.cens.com)
CFR	=	Council on Foreign Relations (www.cfr.org)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
CNN	=	CNN (www.cnn.com)
Colombia Reports	=	Colombia Reports (www.colombiareports.com)
Daily Dispatch Online	=	Daily Dispatch Online (www.dispatch.co.za)
Daily Star	=	The Daily Star (www.thedailystar.net)
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.de/index.html)
DREF	=	International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (www.ifrc.org/dref)
Economist	=	The Economist (www.economist.com)
EFE	=	EFE (www.efe.com)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
Guatemala Times	=	The Guatemala Times (www.guatemala-times.com)
Himalayan Times	=	The Himalayan Times (www.thehimalayantimes.com)
Holiday	=	The Holiday (www.weeklyholiday.net)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
IANS	=	Indo-Asian News Service (www.ians.in)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
IDMC	=	Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (www.internal-displacement.org)
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
India Times	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
Inside Costa Rica	=	Inside Costa Rica (http://insidecostarica.com)
IOL	=	IOL South Africa News (www.iol.co.za)
IPS News Agency	=	Inter Press Service News Agency (www.ipsnews.net)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)

IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Jurist	=	The Jurist (www.jurist.law.pitt.edu)
Kaiser	=	The Henry J. Kaiser Foundation (www.kaisernetwork.org)
Kantipur Online	=	The Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
KBC	=	Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (www.kbc.co.ke)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Living in Peru	=	Living in Peru (www.livinginperu.com)
Media Club	=	Media Club (www.medioclubsouthafrica.com)
Media for Freedom	=	Media for Freedom (www.mediaforfreedom.com)
Medical News Today	=	Medical News Today (www.medicalnewstoday.com)
Mercopress	=	Mercopress (www.mercopress.com)
Miami Herald	=	Miami Herald (www.miamiherald.com)
Mongabay	=	Mongabay (www.mongabay.com)
Monitor	=	Monitor Online (www.monitor.co.ug)
MONUC	=	MONUC (www.monuc.org)
Nations Online	=	Nations Online (www.nationsonline.org)
Nepal Monitor	=	Nepal Monitor (www.nepalmonitor.com)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
New Age	=	The New Age Daily (www.newagebd.com)
New Nation	=	The New Nation (http://nation.ittefaq.com)
New Vision	=	New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
OSAC	=	Overseas Security Advisory Council (www.osac.gov)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain (www.oxfam.org.uk)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Prensa Latina	=	Prensa Latina (www.plenglish.com)
Prensa Libre	=	Prensa Libre (www.prensalibre.com)
Radio Nuevitas	=	Radio Nuevitas (www.radionuevitas.co.cu)
Resolve Uganda	=	Resolve Uganda (www.resolveuganda.org)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières (www.rsf.org)
SABC	=	South African Broadcasting Corporation (www.sabc.co.za)
SA Terrorism Portal	=	South Asian Terrorism Portal (www.satp.org)
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance (www.seapabkk.org)
Sky News	=	Sky News (www.news.sky.com/skynews)
ST	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
Star Online	=	The Star Online (www.thestar.com.my)
TSN	=	Tanzania Standard Newspapers (www.dailynews.habarileo.co.tz)
Telegraph	=	Telegraph (www.telegraph.co.uk)
Times of India	=	Times of India (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
UDW	=	Upside Down World (www.upsidedownworld.org)
UN News	=	UN News Center (www.un.org/news)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (www.unesco.org)
UNHCR	=	UN High Commissioner for Refugees (www.unhcr.org)
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)

UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women (www.unifem.org)
USDS	=	U.S. Department of State (www.state.gov)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Web India	=	Web India (www.webindia123.com)
Winnipeg Sun	=	Winnipeg Sun (www.winnipegsun.com)
WP	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english)
Zee News	=	Zee News (www.zeenews.com)

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BANGLADESH

Tensions escalate between Bangladesh and Burma in the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh will send diplomats to Burma to cool tensions over a territorial dispute in the Bay of Bengal. On November 1 and 2, Burmese naval vessels reportedly began exploring the area, which is thought to be rich in oil and gas – natural resources needed by both countries. Bangladesh has announced that the area explored by Burmese vessels, 50 nautical miles southwest of St. Martin’s Island, is within its boundaries. Bangladesh has diplomatically protested the “incursion,” and has demanded that the Burmese withdraw their vessels until the maritime boundaries can be agreed upon through diplomatic negotiations. The Burmese brigade reportedly consisted of four exploration ships escorted by two naval ships. Burma has yet to make a public statement on the issue. Bangladeshi and Burmese ships are now holding their positions, facing one another. According to the *BBC*, “the Bangladeshi diplomatic mission is being dispatched to Rangoon in an effort to defuse the escalating row,” though “neither side is likely to back down easily.” (*BBC*, November 3, 2008).

Emergency rule relaxed in time for December elections. The Caretaker Government (CTG) announced November 3 that troops stationed throughout the country will be withdrawn immediately and the existing state of emergency will be relaxed. Political parties will now be able to hold meetings and rallies prior to the parliamentary and upazila (local) elections in December. The CTG also removed restrictions on electronic and print media. Under emergency power rules, the media was not allowed to publish or broadcast reports on political parties’ assemblies, public meetings, rallies, processions and political statements “that might have gone against the government.” Both major political parties, the Awami League (AL) and the four-party alliance of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) are still preparing for the elections. The AL announced November 3 that the party will compete in all 300 electoral constituencies and “has completed all primary works for contesting the national elections.” The AL, however, has called for deferring local polls. AL’s party leader, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, announced that she will compete in the upcoming elections. Hasina returned to Bangladesh November 6 after spending four months in the U.S. for medical treatment. She was detained last year after the CTG assumed power, and currently faces pending extortion and corruption cases in Bangladesh. Though the BNP has not yet publicly announced that it will participate in the upcoming elections, party insiders report that they are “positive about the elections” and will soon announce their decision. Bangladesh has been ruled by the CTG since January 2007 when the national elections became violent; this is the third time in three decades that the country is being ruled by a military backed CTG. (*BBC*, November 5, 6; *Daily Star*, November 4; *New Age*, November 4, 2008).

COLOMBIA

Illegal killings gain attention from the United Nations. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, announced November 1 that the Colombian government should undertake further investigations into the illegal killings of civilians by the Colombian army to preclude the intervention from the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Colombian army recently dismissed 27 army officials, including three generals, for their involvement in the practice of extrajudicial killings – killing civilians to inflate the number of combat kills of leftist guerrillas. The 28th official to lose his job over the human rights issue is Commander of the Colombian army, General Mario Montoya. Montoya resigned and urged the public not to come to conclusions too swiftly concerning the dismissed army personnel. At the end of a one week fact-finding trip Pillay stated, “an offense becomes a crime against humanity when it is widespread and systematic against

[the] civilian population. We are observing and keeping track of the number of extrajudicial killings, which do appear to be systematic and widespread.” Pillay added that, “it is only when a country is unable or unwilling to investigate these serious crimes that the International Criminal Court would have the power to intervene.” Colombian President Álvaro Uribe stated that a military inquiry into the practice of extrajudicial killings indicated that the dismissed army personnel are at least guilty of “negligence that included allowing the collusion of members of the army with criminals in the murder of innocents.” According to Colombia’s Inspector General, 2,300 security officials are under investigation for the practice of extrajudicial killings. Colombia’s Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council at the United Nations is set for early December 2008. ([BBC](#), November 4; [Colombia Reports](#), October 29; [OHCHR](#), 2008; [Washington Post](#), November 1, 2008).

Uribe administration faces gains and losses in 44-year guerrilla war. Recent announcements from the leftist guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and right-wing paramilitary groups have alternately furthered and impeded the peace process for Colombia’s 44-year civil conflict. FARC rebels agreed October 28 to meet with 150 Colombian leaders, a self-appointed group of Colombian public figures, to discuss the possible release of hostages in the FARC’s custody; these include intellectuals, politicians, journalists and leaders of social service organizations. The FARC released a statement on a pro-rebel website indicating that the meeting “is the beginning of an exchange to discuss the issues surrounding a political end to the conflict ... humanitarian exchange and peace.” There is no word yet as to whether the meeting has taken place. On the other end of the spectrum, right-wing paramilitary leaders from United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) have announced that they will no longer cooperate with the Colombian justice system because in their view, promises by the Colombian government have not been realized despite the AUC’s demobilization. Former paramilitary fighters take issue with the government for transferring many demobilized fighters to a Bogotá prison where FARC guerrillas are also held; the FARC and the AUC have been enemies since the 1970s when the AUC formed to combat the FARC. Paramilitary fighters say that they are refusing to speak with officials tasked with implementing the Justice and Peace law. The law allows the fighters to make confessions about crimes and to disarm in exchange for protection from extradition charges. Under the law, paramilitarism is defined as a political crime, safeguarding commanders from extradition on trafficking charges. Over 31,000 AUC fighters have demobilized since 2003. ([CNN](#), October 28; [Colombia Reports](#), November 3; [NYT](#), October 29, 2008, June 23, 2005; [U.S. Department of State](#), March 2008).

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Developing situation: The situation in the eastern DRC continues to change. The information contained in this story should only be considered accurate as of November 7, 2008.

Ceasefire on the verge of collapse.

Fresh fighting between the rebel National Congress for the People’s Defense (CNDP), led by former general Laurent Nkunda, and pro-government militias has threatened to end an already fragile ceasefire. The most recent fighting began November 4 when the Pareco Mai Mai militia – with unconfirmed support from the Rwandan Liberation Democratic Forces (FDLR), a Hutu rebel group, and the Congolese Army (FARDC) – attacked positions held by the CNDP near the towns of Rutshuru and Kiwanja, located 45 miles north of the provincial capital of Goma.¹ The Pareco Mai

¹ A detailed map of the region can be found on page 15.

Mai militia is a community based pro-government militia that was recently accused by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) of forcibly recruiting child soldiers in the area. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) has a small base in Rutshuru, but a MONUC spokesperson claimed that its troops were outnumbered and unable to intervene. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the fighting disrupted the distribution of aid to refugees in the area, and most aid workers were evacuated from the town. The UN is also investigating reports that both the CNDP and Pareco Mai Mai militia committed reprisal killings during the fighting in Kiwanja. Fighting was also occurring in Nyanzale, 50 miles northwest of Goma, where CNDP rebels overran FARDC troops and seized one of three army bases located in Nord Kivu. In addition, several news outlets reported November 7 that new clashes were occurring in Kibati, located only four miles north of Goma. Unconfirmed reports from two UN officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated that Angolan soldiers were fighting alongside the FARDC in the area. MONUC recently doubled the size of its contingent in Goma, a major hub for MONUC and humanitarian groups operating in the region, and the head of UN peacekeeping operations, Alain Le Roy, announced that the Indian and Uruguayan troops operating in the city have been ordered to open fire if the rebels proceed south and try to enter the city.

Rwandan and Angolan role questioned.

If the presence of Angolan troops is confirmed, it would represent a major escalation in the conflict and could draw in other countries. The government in Kinshasa initially requested assistance from Angola on October 29, and the Angolan troops are reported to have arrived November 3. Angola is a staunch ally of President Joseph Kabila, and its army is one of the largest in sub-Saharan Africa. Its government supported the DRC from 1998-2003, although it recently stated that it had no intention of directly intervening in the latest fighting. The government in Kinshasa also continues to accuse Rwanda of providing assistance to Nkunda and his rebels. While Rwandan officials consistently deny the claims, there is increasing evidence that Rwanda is providing tanks, artillery, and possibly soldiers to aid Nkunda. Marking a major shift, the UN for the first time publicly stated that Rwanda was overtly involved in the fighting. This is based on reports from Uruguayan peacekeepers operating near Kibumba who witnessed Rwandan forces firing tank and artillery shells across the border and at FARDC troops. In addition, General Jorge Rosales, the commander of the Uruguayan peacekeeping contingent in the country, filed a field report stating that the CNDP was using tanks and heavy artillery from Rwanda, and that Rwandan soldiers were "integrated in the rebel [CNDP] forces."

Negotiations are slow to progress.

The CNDP has accused the government in Kinshasa of "[launching] the war on its people" by failing to hold direct talks with Nkunda. While the government in Kinshasa has agreed to negotiate with all armed groups operating in Nord Kivu, it has refused to hold direct talks with the CNDP. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has offered to personally mediate the negotiations if the warring factions can be brought together for peace talks. Ban also announced that former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo had accepted a position as UN special envoy to the region. In addition to the role of the UN, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete, the current chairman of the African Union, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, French Foreign Secretary Bernard Kouchner, and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer have all been playing a role in attempting to facilitate negotiations. Western countries continue to rule out the prospect of sending in EU troops, claiming that the 17,000 MONUC troops should handle the situation. MONUC officials counter that, while they do have the largest peacekeeping force in the world, they are spread thin across several battle fronts, citing the example of a recent surge in

violence by the Lord's Resistance Army near the town of Dungu in Ituri Province. MONUC military spokesman Jean-Paul Dietrich summed up the frustration, stating "When we move to one place, we become more vulnerable somewhere else." MONUC officials also argue that it is very difficult for their troops to fire back due to the presence of large numbers of civilians scattered throughout the province.

Humanitarian crisis continues.

The UN has estimated that 1.6 million people are displaced in Nord Kivu, with 250,000 directly affected by the recent fighting. UNHCR has estimated that approximately 8,000 Congolese refugees have fled into Uganda, and another 2,000 into Rwanda. Despite the efforts of the UN and aid agencies, the vast majority of the displaced refugees in North Kivu are only receiving sporadic food and water. The UN was able to send a convoy, escorted by 50 peacekeepers, from Goma to Rutshuru on November 3, but it only carried water and medical supplies. There were plans to send additional convoys to the area, but the recent fighting near Rutshuru and Kiwanja has made this impossible. The World Food Programme (WFP) has been attempting to distribute 10-day rations of food to people in camps near Goma, but aid agencies are now concerned about recent cholera outbreaks in the camps. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that they are receiving a steady increase in medical supplies from foreign governments, although more is still required. Aid agencies in the province are currently operating at their own risk, as the UN announced October 29 that it could no longer guarantee their security.

Sources for all articles: (AFP, November 3, 4, 6, 7; AP, November 3, 4, 6, 7; BBC, November 4, 6; Bloomberg, November 6; HRW, November 6; MercoPress, November 6; MONUC, October 31; Reuters, November 7; UN News Service, November 4, 2008)

GUATEMALA

New laboratory equipped to identify *desaparecidos* prepares to open. A new DNA laboratory dedicated to the identification of thousands of people who were disappeared during the civil war is set to open. It will be the second such laboratory in Latin America, following the one which opened earlier this year in Argentina. The disappeared are described as those who were commonly abducted, tortured and murdered by government officials during the civil wars in Latin America. The Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG), a private non-profit organization, started working on the laboratory eight years ago and has put \$1.85 million into the project. The technology will be the same as that used in the identification of the victims of the September 11 attacks. DNA will need to be collected from the family members of the victims in order to match the DNA of the unidentified bodies. Fredy Peccarelli, director of the FAFG, stated, "The country and the family members deserve to know what happened to these people." Peccarelli among others working on the laboratory have received death threats for carrying out exhumations and processing the bodies of the victims. Estuardo Galeano, legal coordinator for Grupo de Apoyo Mútuo, a human rights organization founded by women whose husbands had been disappeared, said that some families may be hesitant about donating a DNA sample as they would rather not know what happened. The United Nations' Truth Commission in a 1999 report found that 200,000 Guatemalans were killed or disappeared during the war. Of the victims, 45,000 are estimated to have been disappeared and many of these victims were university students and professors, activists and union organizers who were often labeled communists or political subversives by the police and military. (Miami Herald, October 31, 2008)

In-country adoptions are now being promoted. Guatemala has recently launched a campaign recruiting foster and adoptive parents within the country. The campaign is an experiment to see whether Guatemala can internally take care of the abandoned children. The United Nations and potential adoptive parents in the United States have expressed criticism, stating that many children will end up in inadequate situations if they are unable to find temporary or permanent homes. If adoptive and foster parents are not recruited, then the children will be moved to government care. So far only approximately 50 families have participated in the program since its start earlier this year. It is difficult to find families able and willing to be adoptive or foster parents. About 60 percent of Guatemala's population lives in poverty. Moreover, the idea that only biological children are true members of their family is prevalent. Because of the lack of participants, the requirements have been changed; single mothers are now allowed to participate and the maximum age was raised from 55 to 65 years. Prior to the campaign, many adoptions were being made from the United States with almost 5,000 children adopted last year alone. The practice ended in December 2007 when Guatemala established a law whereby adoptions are to be processed by the government instead of by private parties. After the law was passed, the U.S. State Department halted all further adoptions from Guatemala. The private-based system many times allowed abuses such as payment to birth mothers in exchange for relinquishing their parental rights. (Guardian UK, October 30, 2008)

NEPAL

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon completes two-day visit. UN Secretary-General (UNSG) Ban Ki-moon recently completed a visit, October 31-November 1, to assess the progress of the two-year old peace process. In a statement released upon his arrival, Ban congratulated the people of Nepal for "a remarkable political-social transformation through a home-grown peace process." During his visit, Ban became the first UNSG to address the Constituent Assembly (CA), where he emphasized the importance of drafting a new constitution and described it as "a tremendous opportunity to lay the foundation for a stable Nepal for generations to come." In addition to his CA address, Ban also met with several senior political leaders during his visit. One of the major topics discussed was the issue of the rehabilitation and integration of former Maoist combatants, which he stated was "the most immediate challenge" for the country. Ban applauded the recent establishment of the Army Integration Special Committee (AISC) and stated that although the final integration decision must be made "by the Nepali people and the government," the UN was willing to provide assistance, as needed. While acknowledging that substantial disagreement would occur, Ban urged the leaders of all of the political parties to "look beyond party lines" when working on the major issues facing the country, including army integration and the drafting of the new constitution. The future role of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) was also discussed. UNMIN played a significant role in assisting with the historic elections held in April 2008, as well as monitoring the status of the 19,000-plus former Maoist soldiers, who have been confined to 28 cantonment camps since 2006. While Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal publicly expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the role of the UN in the peace process, Nepali Congress (NC) president and former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala expressed several grievances with Ban during their discussions. Koirala claimed that UNMIN has not fulfilled its responsibilities and he cited the recent instance of Maoist leaders and their bodyguards entering the Constituent Assembly while in possession of UN-registered weapons. Under the terms of the 2006 peace agreement, the weapons of the Maoist fighters are to remain within the UNMIN-monitored cantonments scattered across the country. Koirala also complained about the process which the government had taken in forming the AISC. Despite Koirala's objections, Ban reported that all key members of government expressed an interest in extending

UNMIN, currently set to expire in January. While Ban emphasized the importance of the peace process being Nepali-driven, he hinted that extending UNMIN was possible pending further negotiations within the UN Security Council. ([AFP](#), October 31; [Kantipur Report](#), November 1; [Kathmandu Post](#), November 1; [Nepal News](#), October 29, 30, 31, November 1; [Nepali Times](#), November 1; [Reuters](#), November 1; [UN News Center](#), November 1, 2008)

Government recalls ambassadors as part of “reshuffle.” The government announced plans to recall the ambassadors to two key partners, India and the U.S., as part of a larger government “reshuffle” of the civil service, home administration, and the Nepal Police. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) stated that Durgesh Man Singh, the ambassador to India, and Suresh Chandra Chalise, the ambassador to the U.S., had received notice to return to Nepal within one month. According to unidentified sources within the MoFA, the ambassador to the United Kingdom was also expected to be recalled. It has been reported that the coalition-leading Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) has decided to recall all of the current ambassadors who were appointed when the opposition Nepali Congress (NC) led the government. While the ambassadorships are political appointments, the action does go in contrast to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal’s previous declaration that the CPN-M would not recall any ambassadors based solely on their political affiliation. Both Singh and Chalise were appointed by the NC and have close ties to that party. The CPN-M supported the appointment of Singh to the position in January 2008. *The Kathmandu Post* reported that the recalled ambassadors will be replaced by either members of the CPN-M, the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum, or career members of the MoFA. A second round of recalls is also expected, with reports indicating that the ambassadors to Israel, Qatar, Thailand, and Pakistan would be recalled. The moves come at a time when relations between the CPN-M and NC have soured. Over the past several weeks, the NC has been extremely vocal in its criticism of Dahal’s government, culminating in a major rally October 25 in which senior party leaders were very critical of the CPN-M’s stance on the issues of army integration and the drafting of the constitution. The NC has also accused the CPN-M of imposing “totalitarian rule” and has called the Maoists “the main obstacle in the peace process.” The recall of Singh has the potential to be the most significant move, as it comes at a time when Nepal and India are attempting to improve bilateral relations and negotiate agreements in the areas of security and terrorism, border management, flood control, water rights, human trafficking, and trade. ([Kantipur Report](#), November 3; [Kathmandu Post](#), November 1, 3; [Nepal News](#), October 31, November 3; [The Times of India](#), November 3, 2008)

PERU

Peru declares state of emergency after sending troops to contain mining law violence. On November 5, Peru declared a 30-day state of emergency in the south after violent protests continued in the province of Tacna, where 20 have been injured and 35 are in police custody. Prime Minister Yehude Simon and Interior Minister Remigio Hernani presented the measure as the protests were entering their fifth day November 1. Thousands of protesters opposing a new mining law blocked roads and cut off the water supply. Troops were placed at the airport and public service installations, and are to remain in place until November 7. The Ministry of Defense said that “the armed forces are authorized to intervene to help the national police provide security in the department of Tacna, where diverse organizations and social agitators are preparing acts of violence.” The provinces of Tacna and Moquegua have been locked in a dispute over how to distribute the millions of dollars in taxes paid by the Southern Copper Corporation (SCC). Under the current system, Tacna receives 80 percent of the taxes paid by the SCC, while Moquegua receives 20 percent. New legislation was passed on October 30 overhauling the way the taxes would be divided – by how much mineral

wealth a mine produces rather than how much dirt a mine moves – and will direct more money to the province of Moquegua. The bill was passed by a large majority in Congress and it is expected President Alan García will sign it into law. The political leaders in both provinces claim they need the revenue to provide basic services like water, electricity and education. Despite seven years of economic growth, some 40 percent of Peruvians currently live in poverty; mining accounts for more than 50 percent of Peru's export earnings. Due to the current financial crisis some of the mining companies – especially the smaller ones such as Inca Peru, a Peru-focused junior metals company – are struggling to bring projects into production and have had to postpone their work. However, not all companies have said they will be stalling their plans; companies such as the SCC are continuing to develop as planned. (AFP, November 4, 5; Reuters, November 1, 3; NYT, November 2, 2008)

APEC Finance Deputies' Meeting begins. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Finance Deputies' Meeting, which brings together vice-ministers of finance and high-level officials from 21 economies, began in Trujillo, Peru, November 3. The finance deputies began their first session analyzing the global financial crisis, in addition to the rising food prices at both regional and local levels. Peru's Vice-Minister of Finance, Eduardo Moron, chaired the meeting and stated, "Our country has no motives to go to the 'Emergency Room' of the International Monetary Fund ... where countries go when having an acute economic crisis. This is because we have ... sustainable economic growth. However, we still should be prudent in the face of the situation and the rise in prices." The minister also mentioned that the Peruvian government has halted the use of protectionist measures and is instead hoping for success with an open economy and permanent interaction with other Asia-Pacific markets. More than 120 delegates from the 21 APEC economies have arrived in Peru; the largest delegation is from China, followed by Indonesia. The Finance Deputies' Meeting's purpose is to prepare for the 15th APEC Ministers Meeting, scheduled to be held in Lima November 21 and 22. (Andina; Xinhua, November 4, 2008)

SOUTH AFRICA

Breakaway Faction holds National Convention. On November 1 and 2, the breakaway faction of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party met in Johannesburg for a National Convention. The convention was aimed at assessing the goals of the new group and determining whether it has enough support to indeed break off and officially form a new party in December. The turnout was greater than expected, with over 5,000 political leaders and observers. The convention was co-convened by former Defense Minister and former ANC Chairman, Mosiuoa Lekota and former Premier of Gauteng province, Mbhazima Shilowa. Lekota officially resigned from the ANC last week. Former Deputy Defense Minister, Mluleki George, and many other dissident ANC members were also present. Various opposition parties of South Africa participated in the convention and pledged their support for a joint coalition. One of the main objectives of the new party is electoral reform; it aims to change the current electoral rules so that the president will be directly elected by the people instead of being nominated by the ruling party. The party is projected to potentially have enough support to break the ANC's two-thirds majority, needed to amend the constitution. The opposition group discussed possible names of the new party and has narrowed the choices to South African National Congress or South African National Convention (SANC). The ANC has argued that the possible names are very similar and may confuse voters. The split resulted from rising tensions in the ANC that reached their peak after former President Thabo Mbeki was forced to step down in September. (Aljazeera, November 1; Bloomberg, November 4; IOL, November 2; Times, October 31, November 1; Zee News, November 1, 2008)

Number of AIDS orphans continues to grow. The number of children orphaned by AIDS in South Africa has increased in recent years. Currently, there are approximately 1.5 million orphans, a third of whom are in foster care. Moreover, only about 2,000 were adopted in 2007. According to social development minister, Zola Skweyiya, the adoption rate in the country has decreased by 13 percent in one year. Skweyiya reports that cases of abuse, exploitation, abandonment and neglect of AIDS orphans continue to grow steadily, but the number adopted continues to decrease. The South African government is only able to provide aid to approximately 238,000 AIDS orphans, but Skweyiya stated that an additional 20,000 are in the care of older siblings. The government is encouraging families in the country to adopt the children and provide them with permanent, stable homes, which foster care cannot ensure. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is rampant in South Africa, with the largest number of AIDS orphans and cases of HIV/AIDS in the world; there are currently 5.5 million South Africans estimated to be infected by HIV. (AFP, October 27)

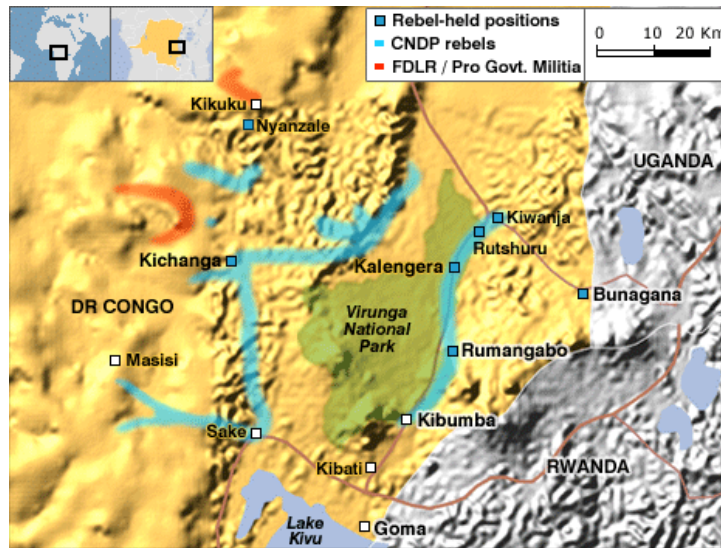
UGANDA

Famine, loss of cattle drives Karamoja children to the streets of Kampala. In the semi-arid region of Karamoja, cattle have been the main resource for the Karamojong people, but due to raids and disease, many have been lost and poverty has been on the rise. Migration to the urban centers has thus increased as the Karamojong resort to other means to survive. According to *Informational Regional Integration Networks*, it is estimated that 90 percent of children on Kampala's streets under the age of five are from Karamoja. The State Minister for Youth and Children's Affairs, James Kinobe, described the mass exodus of children from Karamoja as not only being about the pull factor of "easy money," gained through begging, but also having push factors. "The information we have is that some people go and bring these children from their villages and use them to beg on the streets, then share the proceeds. This is unacceptable," stated Kinobe. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is currently working to advocate to the local and national Ugandan authorities to address key factors which subject children to hazardous labor, exploitation and abuse. Kinobe is urging the Kampala City Council to pass a law against giving money to children on the streets. Some of the children have been placed in a probation center where they are receiving social orientation lessons and given resettlement kits filled with blankets, clothes and soap, all before they are returned to Karamoja. Kinobe said it is the income which keeps them coming back to the streets and "there is an organized racket that exploits the children as those retrieved from the streets are brought back to the streets." However, UNICEF has said the cause of migration from Karamoja to urban centers was not only about money; "the past three years of successive shocks – droughts, floods and insecurity – have not only heightened poverty in an already food-insecure sub-region, but also led to [a] pronounced trend of out-migration to urban centers and a host of protection concerns for separated children." According to a report released by the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), a fund created by the International Federation of Red Cross, nearly 80 percent of the total population in the Karamoja region is currently highly food insecure. (DREF, Septemeber 23; IRIN, November 3, 2008)

Ugandan government and LRA rebels hold meeting in Kampala over delayed peace process. The United Nations special envoy to the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas, Joachim Chissano, called for a meeting in Kampala between Ugandan government officials and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel delegation to reignite the stalled Juba peace talks. The two day meeting began November 5. The intermittent peace process has dragged out for more than two years as Joseph Kony, the LRA leader, has failed numerous times to sign the final peace agreement (FPA). The FPA

aims to end the two-decade long war in the north, which has displaced two million people from their homes and killed thousands of others. Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda stated at the meeting, “What the government of Uganda wants is one thing, for Kony to sign and stop harassing innocent civilians in Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Central African Republic.” Rugunda also stated, without elaborating further, that if the LRA cannot meet the government’s obligation “they are opening the door for other things.” Chief LRA negotiator David Nyekorach-Matsanga said that he is hopeful Kony will sign the FPA before the end of the year. He also renewed the calls for the International Criminal Court to drop the indictment against Kony, which the LRA claims is an obstacle to peace. The proposed renewal of the talks comes at a time when the rebels are carrying out attacks in Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. On November 2, the UN said Congolese soldiers had killed nine LRA rebels after they had attacked a village in the northeast DRC; 30 to 50 LRA rebels launched the attack. (New Vision, November 3; Reuters, November 5, 2008)

North Kivu Province
Map current as of November 7, 2008



Source: BBC News