



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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ADNKI	=	ADNKI (www.adnki.com)
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africafocus.org)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allafrica.com)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
B92	=	B92 Net (www.b92.net/eng/)
Boarding.No	=	Boarding.No (http://www.boarding.no/)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune (http://www.iht.com)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Kantipur Online	=	Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com)
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times (www.khaleejtimes.com)
Kosova Press	=	Kosova Press (www.kosovapress.com)
Jurist	=	The Jurist (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Makfax	=	Macedonian Independent News Agency (www.makfax.com)
Monitor	=	The Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News (www.nepalnews.com)
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times (www.nepalitimes.com)
New Vision	=	New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
New Zealand Herald	=	The New Zealand Herald (www.nzherald.co.nz)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
People's Daily News	=	People's Daily News (http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain (www.oxfam.org.uk)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières (www.rsf.org)
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance (www.seapabkk.org)
SERBIANNA	=	Serbianna.com (www.serbianna.com)
SMH	=	Sydney Morning Herald (www.smh.com)
ST	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
Travel Industry Wire	=	Travel Industry Wire (http://www.travelindustrywire.com/)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (www.unesco.org)
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.unhcr.ch)

UNICEF = UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)
UNIFEM = UN Development Fund for Women (www.unifem.org)
VOA = Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Xinhua = Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english)
WP = The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Web India = Web India (www.webindia123.com)

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AFGHANISTAN

Instability continues as Taliban kills women's rights advocate: Safia Amajan, head of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in the province of Kandahar, was shot dead September 26. A man riding a motorcycle killed her as she got into a taxi to head to work. Although no one officially claimed responsibility for Amajan's death, a Taliban fighter reported to Reuters by telephone that Amajan was killed by the Taliban for her work in women's rights in the government. A teacher until the Taliban took power, Amajan was known an advocate of women's education and a critic of the Taliban's suppression of women's rights. The Taliban has targeted a number of southern provincial officials and pro-government clerics over the last two years. In another reported attack, the chief of the Sheikhullahbad district of Paktia province had also been shot September 25 by a group of gunmen who stole a car and motorcycle after killing the district chief. Over the last six months, Kandahar province has been one of the battle fronts between Taliban fighters and led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops. In the southern part of Helmand district in Kandahar also on September 26, 18 people died and more than 17 were injured in what police suspect to be a suicide bomb blast. A separate explosion went off the same day in Kabul, killing one soldier and injuring more than five other soldiers and civilians. (BBC, September 25; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, September 25, 26, 2006)

Musharraf and Karzai blame each other for terrorism in southeast Asia: After delivering their speeches to the General Assembly during the week of September 18, Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf, and Hamid Karzai, president of Afghanistan, each continued to accuse the other of causing terrorism. The heated public debate coincided with meetings September 27 and 28 between both leaders and United States president, George W. Bush. Musharraf has continued to accuse Afghan refugees of bringing terrorism with them to his country. Karzai has countered that a bigger problem is Pakistan's tolerance of the religious schools known as madrassas in which a violent, extreme form of Islam is taught. Karzai continued to question why Musharraf failed to act on knowledge that the Taliban has operated out of the city of Quetta in Pakistan. The poor relations between two neighbors could lead to more conflict in the region. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, September 26; Reuters, September 27, 2006)

KOSOVO

Bridge in northern Kosovo town closed again after attack: On September 25 the bridge over the Ibar River in the northern Kosovo town of Kosovska Mitrovica was reopened after a one-month closure. The bridge had been closed due to an August 26 attack in the Serbian side of town, in which a bomb was thrown into a café, injuring nine. On September 26, the bridge was closed again to civilian traffic after a group of ethnic Albanian teens attacked Aleskandar Curčić, a Serbian man, near the bridge. Curčić was injured and the youths were detained for their involvement in the attack. The Serbian residents of Kosovska Mitrovica urged that the bridge remain closed until the permanent status of Kosovo is determined. The violence that occurred near the bridge comes after Prime Minister Agim Ceku stated in his weekly address that violence in Kosovo does no good to anyone who wants what is best for Kosovo. Ceku's comments were

in response to the September 19 attack on a Serbian family of four who returned to the western town of Klina after a seven-year absence. (B92, Herald Tribune, September 26; KosovaPress, September 25, 2006)

UN Envoy Ahtisaari expects to have Kosovo plan by November: UN envoy to Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari gained support from the United States and other members of the Contact Group, comprised of the United Kingdom, Russia, Italy, Germany, and France, to determine the status of Kosovo by the end of the year. The Contact Group feared that so long as Kosovo's status remained in limbo, violence would increase throughout the province. The six-members of the group stated that they "reaffirmed their commitment that all possible efforts be made to achieve a negotiated settlement in the course of 2006." United States Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Daniel Fried agreed saying, "I have yet to hear any argument why delay would help [the situation]." According to analysts at Radio Free Europe, Ahtisaari is expected to recommend independence for Kosovo, along with strong international guarantees and protections for Serbians and other ethnic minorities. The Serbian government, which does not favor independence for the province, expressed its loss of confidence in the UN envoy and called for him to step down rather than "side with the Albanian separatists." (B92, Radio Liberty, September 25; The Washington Post, September 26, 2006)

NEPAL

Date and agenda set for Government-Maoist peace talks postponed: On September 26, the Seven-Party Alliance (SPA) and Maoist negotiation team set September 28 as the date to resume peace talks; however, the peace summit was announced postponed until September 29, and subsequently postponed again until October 8. The setback was reportedly due to the SPA's inability to come to a consensus on positions about the interim government, the role of King Gyanendra, and the agenda for the summit. Previously, the agenda was reported to include: the management and demobilization of the Maoists; the finalization of the draft interim constitution; and the role of the king during the interim period before the scheduled constituent assembly election. Maoist spokesperson Bahadur Mahara stated, "Discussions to hold summit talks at the earliest are on and [sic] realizing the fact that... holding the talks in haste without proper homework and preparation would not lead to a fruitful results." The Maoists, however, have accused the SPA of not resolving their internal political problems before setting the date for the peace talks to resume; the Nepal Workers and Peasants Party, a member of the SPA, was unaware of the planned peace summit and its agenda. The peace talks between the government and the CPN-Maoist party come after a 25-point ceasefire agreement signed in May and many of the issues to be discussed at the summit concern issues not resolved in that agreement. (eKantipur.com, September 25, 26, 28; Nepalnews.com, People's Daily Online, September 26, 2006)

Helicopter crash kills all aboard including two USAID workers: On September 23, 11:30 a.m., a helicopter took off carrying 24 people, including Nepal State Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation, Gopal Rai, and two United States Agency for International Development workers. Moments after takeoff, locals in the area reported hearing a loud noise and smelling burning fuel. The helicopter was missing for two days and search teams were formed. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Himalayan Mountain Rescue team found the remains of the plane

September 25. All but one of the bodies were burnt beyond recognition. The team air-lifted the bodies to Kathmandu September 27, with transportation delayed due to bad weather, which may have contributed to the crash. A committee was formed to investigate the cause of the crash and was given 15 days to submit its report. The Nepalese government declared September 27 a national day of mourning and a public holiday in honor of Rai and the 23 other conservationists aboard the Sri Airlines helicopter. The crash occurred near Ghunsa, located in the Kanchangjunga Conservation Area where the passengers were working to hand over the conservation area to the local Taplejung community. (eKantipur.com, Nepalnews.com September 23, 24, 25, 26, 2006)

SERBIA

Eleven of General Ratko Mladić's former aides on trial: On September 27, the trial of eleven alleged former aides of Bosnian Serb military general, Ratko Mladić, began behind closed doors at the district courts in Belgrade. The 11 defendants were indicted for aiding and hiding Mladić, who has been charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia with war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The suspects – most of them Bosnian Serbs – are Jovo Djogo, Stanko and Predrag Ristic, Sasa Badnjar, Ratko Vucetic, Marko Lugonja, Blagoje Govedarica, Borislav Ivanovic, and Tatjana, Bojan and Ljiljana Vaskovic, who were arrested over the past several months in what analysts see as a bid by the Serbian government to prove its hunt for Mladić is genuine. Marko Lugonja, allegedly one of Mladić's closest aides, was taken back into custody on September 21, when Serbian police removed him from a flight just as it was about to depart Belgrade's airport for Moscow. Lugonja had been arrested earlier this year in May but later released from custody sometime in mid-July, before being apprehended September 21 as he posed a flight risk. Djogo and Lugonja are the only defendants currently being held in custody while the remaining defendants have had their passports revoked, been placed under house arrest, and had weekly court appearances imposed. The defendants are accused of having sheltered Mladić in several Belgrade apartments between June 2002 and January 2006 and of supplying him with food and cell phones, and assisting in relocations. Since 1995, Mladić has been in hiding from the tribunal at The Hague, which has charged him with wartime atrocities that included the massacre in Srebrenica of some 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys, as well as the three-year siege of Sarajevo. The district judges have banned the media and the public from the trial, saying it concerned state secrets. In related news, the former high-ranking Bosnian Serb leader Momcil Krajisnik was sentenced by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and jailed to 27 years for war crimes committed during the 1992-1995 wars. Due to a lack of evidence of intent, Krajisnik was acquitted of the most serious of charges, genocide or complicity in genocide, and has proclaimed his innocence of the war crimes and crimes against humanity for which he has been sentenced. (United Press International, September 21; BBC News, Associated Press, Times Online, TurkishPress.com, September 27, 2006)

Serbia establishing new relations and revitalizing the old: In another of Serbia's continued efforts for the promotion of stability, growth and opportunity, Bosnian Serb President Dragan Čavić and Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, together with Serbian president Boris Tadić and Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica, signed an agreement on September 26 which established special cooperative relations in the strengthening of political and business affairs between the two governments.

The cooperative agreement focuses on enhancing various fields such as science, culture, sports, education, ecology, information, human rights, crime suppression, defense, the economy and the regulation of dual citizenship between Serbia and the Republika Srpska (RS). The RS, a Bosnian-Serb entity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was created under the Dayton Peace Agreement which brought the 1992-1995 wars to an end. Bosnian Muslim official Sulejman Tihic has contested the agreement, saying the special relations pact countermanded the Bosnian constitution and that it was “bad for internal relations in Bosnia as well as interstate relations in the region.” Representatives of the international community in Bosnia upheld the agreement as “acceptable” since it was similar to an agreement previously signed in March 2001 between the RS and Serbia’s predecessor state, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. (Boarding No., Makfax Online, Travel Industry Wire, September 26; People’s Daily News, September 27, 2006)

SUDAN

AU troops extend stay in Darfur and will gain Sudanese troops: Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has announced plans to deploy 20,000 troops to join African Union (AU) troops already in the Darfur. Army contingents and police forces were to be stationed to keep peace and stability amid the ever growing conflict in the region. In addition, the AU promised an additional 4,000 new troops to add to the current 7,000. On August 31 the UN passed a resolution to deploy 20,000 UN troops to take over peacekeeping missions in Darfur once the AU troops left on their scheduled date of September 30. After al-Bashir repeatedly denied permission for UN troops to enter Sudan, the AU extended its mandate to stay in the region until December 31 with financial support from the Arab League and material and logistical support from the UN, who announced they will send 105 mostly military personnel to support the AU troops. Al-Bashir’s resistance to the UN forces has become increasingly adamant, and he has referred to the UN resolution as “an American-engineered conspiracy to turn the Sudan into another Iraq.” Later, al-Bashir claimed the resolution was an attempt to weaken states in the region in an effort to guarantee Israeli security. The presence of AU troops in the Darfur region is in response to the three-year long fighting in the area between rebel groups and the pro-government Janjaweed militias. Given past reports of governmental support of the Janjaweed, the prospect of 20,000 Sudanese forces in the region has sparked fear in some of the refugee camps. (ST, September 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 2006)

Violence grows in Darfur as peace accord on verge of collapse: Jan Pronk, the UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General in Sudan warned September 20 that the May 5 Darfur peace agreement signed by the Sudanese government and one faction of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) was “in a coma... nearly dead.” The announcement came alongside reports of growing violence in the region. United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, “The violence in Darfur is not subsiding, it is getting worse.” While the UN called Darfur the world’s worst humanitarian disaster, President Omar al-Bashir denied the accusation, claiming that the reported figure of 200,000 people killed was a lie and defying anyone to prove the number. Al-Bashir went on to say that the conflict had not caused more than 10,000 deaths on both the government and rebel sides. The Sudanese president has staunchly opposed UN peacekeeping troops in the region and promised that his government would “rally all political forces, including the opposition around our national cause” of blocking the deployment of UN

forces in the country. The Darfur Ceasefire Commission (CFC) was responsible for monitoring and implementing the agreement, but has failed to stop the increasing violence or disarm the Janjaweed, which are allegedly backed by the government. (ST, September 21, 22, 25, 2006)

UGANDA

Juba peace talks hit a few more bumps: Peace talks in Juba, in southern Sudan, faced collapse all week as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels and the government traded accusations of cease-fire violations. The first problem was the government's statements threatening the LRA rebels who stayed at two designated safe zones in southern Sudan. Although the ceasefire agreement allowed LRA rebels to peacefully leave the two meeting points in southern Sudan should the talks break down, President Yoweri Museveni and General Aronda Nyakairima warned the LRA they could be attacked at the meeting points if the Juba peace talks were not successful. The LRA delegation to the talks threatened to walk out September 23 claiming LRA fighters at Owiny Ki-Bul had been attacked by the Ugandan People's Defense Force (UPDF). A joint team visited Owiny Ki-Bul to assess the claims on September 26 and dismissed them. The LRA negotiation team also demanded the composition of the government delegation be changed. But the LRA's second-in-command, Vincent Otti, said that the LRA negotiating team was not authorized to make that demand. This confirmed the government team's statements that the LRA team was making its own policy decisions without consulting the leaders in the bush. It was reported September 27 the LRA left the designated safety point in Owiny Ki-Bul under the orders of leader Joseph Kony to head to Ituri in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The LRA denied abandoning Owiny Ki-Bul, but the LRA negotiating team said September 27 they would pull out of the Juba peace talks if the UPDF was not pulled back from the area. General Salva Kiir, president of Southern Sudan, held closed door talks with both parties on September 29 to try to repair the misunderstandings, but was not able set a date for the Juba peace talks to resume. (East Africa, IRIN, September 26; IRIN, September 28; Monitor, New Vision, September 27; Monitor, September 29, 2006)

Disarmament in Karamajong not successful: Martin Odwedo, Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, last week informed donors supporting the disarmament program that began in 2001 in the northeastern district of Karamajong, that the disarmament had not been successful. The government had only taken 10,000 guns, and the Karamajong warriors continued to possess up to 40,000 weapons. Karamajong warriors depended on guns to steal cattle in the northern districts of Teso, Lango, and others. Cattle rustling remained a socially acceptable way to live, even after the disarmament began, which explained why some warriors held onto their weapons. Another problem was the allegation of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Ugandan army during the disarmament process. The Karamajong did not wish to give up their weapons while they felt threatened. President Yoweri Museveni said the Karamajong should reconsider their decision to keep so many guns, since they would be wasting money that could instead be used to build up the district's infrastructure. (Monitor, September 25, 2006)