



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**October 27, 2006**  
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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 ( <a href="http://www.adnki.com">www.adnki.com</a> )
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus ( <a href="http://www.africafocus.org">www.africafocus.org</a> )
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse ( <a href="http://www.afp.com">www.afp.com</a> )
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media ( <a href="http://www.allafrica.com">www.allafrica.com</a> )
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune ( <a href="http://www.asiantribune.com">www.asiantribune.com</a> )
AP	=	Associated Press ( <a href="http://www.ap.org">www.ap.org</a> )
B92	=	B92 Net ( <a href="http://www.b92.net/eng/">www.b92.net/eng/</a> )
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development ( <a href="http://www.awid.org">www.awid.org</a> )
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation ( <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk">http://news.bbc.co.uk</a> )
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports ( <a href="http://www.monitor.bbc.co.uk">www.monitor.bbc.co.uk</a> )
CBC News	=	CBC News ( <a href="http://www.cbc.ca">www.cbc.ca</a> )
eKantipur	=	eKantipur.com ( <a href="http://www.kantipuronline.com">www.kantipuronline.com</a> )
ECIKS	=	The Economic Initiative for Kosova ( <a href="http://www.eciks.org">www.eciks.org</a> )
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network ( <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk">www.guardian.co.uk</a> )
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch ( <a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a> )
ICC	=	International Criminal Court ( <a href="http://www.icc-cpi.int">www.icc-cpi.int</a> )
ICG	=	International Crisis Group ( <a href="http://www.crisisweb.org">www.crisisweb.org</a> )
icWales	=	icWales.co.uk ( <a href="http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/">http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/</a> )
IndiaTimes	=	India Times ( <a href="http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com">www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com</a> )
Independent	=	The Independent ( <a href="http://www.independent.co.uk">www.independent.co.uk</a> )
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network ( <a href="http://www.irinnews.org">www.irinnews.org</a> )
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting ( <a href="http://www.iwpr.net">www.iwpr.net</a> )
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post ( <a href="http://www.nepalnews.com.np">www.nepalnews.com.np</a> )
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times ( <a href="http://www.khaleejtimes.com">www.khaleejtimes.com</a> )
Jurist	=	The Jurist ( <a href="http://jurist.law.pitt.edu">http://jurist.law.pitt.edu</a> )
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times ( <a href="http://www.latimes.com">www.latimes.com</a> )
Makfax	=	Macedonian Independent News Agency ( <a href="http://www.makfax.com">www.makfax.com</a> )
Monitor	=	The Monitor ( <a href="http://www.monitor.co.ug">www.monitor.co.ug</a> )
Nepal News	=	Nepal News ( <a href="http://www.nepalnews.com">www.nepalnews.com</a> )
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times ( <a href="http://www.nepalitimes.com">www.nepalitimes.com</a> )
New Vision	=	New Vision ( <a href="http://www.newvision.co.ug">www.newvision.co.ug</a> )
New Zealand Herald	=	The New Zealand Herald ( <a href="http://www.nzherald.co.nz">www.nzherald.co.nz</a> )
NYT	=	The New York Times ( <a href="http://www.nytimes.com">www.nytimes.com</a> )
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency ( <a href="http://www.panapress.com">www.panapress.com</a> )
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain ( <a href="http://www.oxfam.org.uk">www.oxfam.org.uk</a> )
Reuters	=	Reuters ( <a href="http://www.reuters.com">www.reuters.com</a> )
RFE/RL	=	Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty ( <a href="http://www.rferl.org">www.rferl.org</a> )
SD Union Tribune	=	The San Diego Union Tribune ( <a href="http://www.signonsandiego.com">www.signonsandiego.com</a> )
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance ( <a href="http://www.seapabkk.org">www.seapabkk.org</a> )
SERBIANNA	=	Serbianna.com ( <a href="http://www.serbianna.com">www.serbianna.com</a> )
SMH	=	Sydney Morning Herald ( <a href="http://www.smh.com">www.smh.com</a> )
SETimes	=	Southeast European Times ( <a href="http://www.setimes.com">www.setimes.com</a> )
ST	=	Sudan Tribune ( <a href="http://www.sudantribune.com">www.sudantribune.com</a> )
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage ( <a href="http://www.un.org">www.un.org</a> )
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization ( <a href="http://www.unesco.org">www.unesco.org</a> )
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ( <a href="http://www.unhcr.ch">www.unhcr.ch</a> )
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund ( <a href="http://www.unicef.org">www.unicef.org</a> )
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women ( <a href="http://www.unifem.org">www.unifem.org</a> )
VOA	=	Voice of America ( <a href="http://www.voanews.com">www.voanews.com</a> )
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency ( <a href="http://www.xinhuanet.com/english">www.xinhuanet.com/english</a> )
WP	=	The Washington Post ( <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">www.washingtonpost.com</a> )

## **UPDATE SUMMARY**

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## UPDATES

### AFGHANISTAN

NATO air strikes and artillery fire kill civilians: The spokesman for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Major Luke Knittig, reported October 27 that civilians may have suffered more from strikes than did the Taliban forces. Knittig was answering questions about NATO raids in two districts, Panjawayi and Pashmul, in the southern province of Kandahar October 24 that killed 48 Taliban rebels. In a preliminary report, NATO officials have acknowledged 12 civilian deaths resulting from the strikes, but local officials have reported that civilian deaths range between 50 and 90. President Hamid Karzai appointed a commission to examine the incident and NATO officials indicated they would fully cooperate with the investigation. ISAF's British commander, British Lieutenant General David Richards estimated October 8 that "two in three Afghans might soon back the militants' cause if there is no visible improvement in their lives." The United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) joined NATO in expressing serious concern over the reported civilian deaths. (IRIN, October 26; RFE/RL, October 27, 2006)

Taliban promises more attacks as UNHCR begins registering Afghan refugees: Taliban leader Mullah Omar sent a message to a Pakistan news agency October 22 on the eve of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan claiming the Taliban intended to increase attacks on foreign forces. The same day, a Swedish-funded aid agency was set on fire in an attack by suspected Taliban militants. In an effort to gather information on the refugees fleeing the violence in Afghanistan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began registering all Afghan refugees documented within Pakistan in a census done in February and March of 2005. Some 13,000 Afghan refugees have been registered so far, and the process is expected to move more quickly after Eid. The registration exercise would provide Afghan refugees with UNHCR identity cards valid for three years. (IRIN, October 23; RFE/RL, Xinhua News Agency, October 22, 2006)

### KOSOVO

Islamic leader urges independence: On October 23, the head of the Kosovo Islamic community, Mufti Naim Ternava, stated that independence for the province was the only acceptable outcome of talks expected to end later this year. During an address to worshippers celebrating the Eid al-Fitr feast at the Sultan Mehmet Faith mosque in Priština, Ternava said, "We are waiting for the United Nations Security Council to make its decision. The will and desire of the people should be respected. Independence is the only option." Although most of Kosovo's two million ethnic Albanians are Muslim, religious leaders traditionally have had limited influence and according to Ismail Hasani, religion professor at Priština University, "Just 8-10 percent of people regularly attend prayers since Albanians are too busy dealing with their economic, political, and social status. The Islamic religion is accepted as a vehicle of culture and tradition." Kosovo Islamic leaders have rarely addressed political issues in the past. (B92, WP, October 23, 2006.)

Kosovo signs free trade agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina: On October 19, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) signed an interim free trade agreement with Kosovo. The agreement was

signed in Brussels by BiH Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Ril and the Head of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Economic Policy, Andreas Wittkowsky. This was the fourth free trade agreement made by UNMIK on Kosovo's behalf. Agreements with Albania and Macedonia were already in force, and an agreement with Croatia was scheduled to become effective November 1, 2006. The agreement with BiH was expected to enter into force in December 2006. According to the signatories, the agreement was symbolic in nature. Ril commented, "In regards to finance and economy, this deal is not so important. However, the deal is particularly significant in terms of building good relations between the countries in the region." (ECIKS, October 22; Makfax, October 20, 2006.)

## NEPAL

Nepalese king evades human rights violations questions: On October 12, King Gyanendra was sent a questionnaire regarding his involvement in suppressing the April people's movement, but failed to respond to it by the deadline of October 18. Gyanendra is one of 274 people being investigated by the High-Level Probe Commission (HLPC). HLPC stated it would be responsible for initiating legal action if a royal statement was not issued regarding the questionnaire by October 18. In the 238-year history of the monarchy, this was the first time a king had ever been questioned about his actions. This development towards accountability was related to the May 19 House of Representatives Proclamation that began a secularization process with steps such as changing the national anthem, the official title of the Nepalese government from "His Majesty's Government" to "Government of Nepal," and the title of the army. This decision came after King Gyanendra claimed a state of emergency and suspended parliament on February 1, 2005. In protest, people took the streets and broke the shoot-to-kill curfew Gyanendra had imposed. The HLPC has continued to investigate the possibility of human rights violations during the 15-month royal coup, which effectively ended with the people's movement of April 2006. The king was the last entity investigated; the six-month long investigation was scheduled to conclude October 27 but has been extended through November 11. (eKantipur, October 18; SD Union Tribune, April 28, 2006)

Peace talks resumed, arms management issue blocked progress: Talks between the Maoists and the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) government ended October 12 with a decision to hold constituent assembly elections by mid-June of 2007. Other anticipated topics included the fate of the monarchy, the interim legislation and government, and arms management. Arms management proved a point of contention between the two parties, and at the conclusion of the talks, no progress has been made regarding this issue. The government would have the Maoists disarm before joining the interim government, but the Maoists expressed "strong dissatisfaction" over the SPA's proposition. The Maoists agreed to position their armies and arms in a temporary canton and submit to United Nations monitoring, but the SPA would like to see more stringent measures. These talks are the latest in a series beginning with the 25-point ceasefire agreement signed in May between the two groups. Currently, the SPA and Maoists are attempting to reconcile and to form an interim government in which both sides have representation. The talks were postponed and scheduled to reconvene October 24 after the conclusion of Tihar, the Festival of Lights. (eKantipur, October 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 24, 2006)

## SERBIA

Constitution referendum to be held October 28, 29: According to poll results released October 20 by the Centre for Free Elections and Democracy, the majority of Serbian voters plan to pass a draft constitution in a referendum scheduled for October 28 and 29. Among other critics, the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights voiced its concerns “about [the] fact that many problems exist with the constitution which the international community has not reacted to,” said executive director Aaron Rhodes. International observers and analysts, such as the Federation, have assessed the draft constitution and identified disturbing flaws. Analysts charge that the draft constitution is designed more for bolstering politicians’ assurances that they are doing everything they can to hold on to the autonomous province of Kosovo rather than for reforming toward true democracy. A worrisome feature of the new constitution is the fact that courts are placed under the control of the government and parliament, which could hinder integration of international agreements into law, and which allows for the possibility of a parliamentary dictatorship. Furthermore, Rhodes said, “the constitution is full of contradictions regarding minority rights and religious freedoms. Rights are guaranteed, but the Parliament can take them away if it wants to.” The draft constitution is a “recipe” for system centralization, said Rhodes. Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica countered such criticisms by stating a failure to adopt the constitution would have “somber and unforeseeable consequences.” Serb party leaders, usually divided by political rivalries, have supported and promoted the constitution in a surprising exhibit of unity. Koštunica explained the unusual phenomenon as “Serbia [doing] its part,” and that “we cannot expect... others [to] respect us if we are not united and we do not adopt the constitution and do not confirm through our internal laws that Kosovo is a part of Serbia.” Koštunica also stated that the “issue of the constitution is the issue of the future of the country and I am sure that Serbia will make the right decision, at it has always done throughout its history.” In related news, the Kosovo parliament adopted a declaration as of October 19 condemning the inclusion of Kosovo in the new Serbian constitution. (B92, NYT, October 24; SETimes, October 20, 23, 2006)

Mladić arrest and extradition possible says Tadić: Carla Del Ponte, the chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), has long been critical of Serbian investigative attempts to locate and arrest war crimes fugitive General Ratko Mladić, whom she pinpointed as hiding “in or around” Belgrade. In an October 21 interview with the French daily *Libération*, Del Ponte again sharply criticized Serbia’s “real lack of political will” in apprehending Mladić. Del Ponte stated that the tribunal had focused on Mladić more than his fellow-indictee Radovan Karadžić because of Mladić’s notable role in the Srebrenica massacre of some 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys. “The priority is Mladić because the Srebrenica trial with seven defendants has started and it’s an opportune moment to put him into the larger trial,” Del Ponte said. President Boris Tadić was interviewed the same day (October 21) by the Associated Press and affirmed that there was “no dilemma” in that “Mladić must be arrested and extradited to the Hague tribunal.” Tadić further added that a government led by his Democratic Party, which pending the planned elections in December of this year has the potential to be the leading power in the future government, could finish the job of arresting Mladić. Tadić continued by saying that the current conservative government of Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica had been “directly responsible” for the failure to capture and arrest the fugitive general – Serbia’s main precondition before being allowed to continue with pre-membership talks with the European Union. (AFP, icWales, October 21, 2006; SETimes, October 22, 2006)

## SUDAN

UN envoy in Sudan expelled by al-Bashir: On October 22, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir gave Jan Pronk, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's special representative to Sudan, three days to leave the country after Pronk published criticism of Sudan's army in the Darfur region on his personal Internet blog October 14. In the blog, Pronk accused the army of ties to the Janjaweed militia and criticized al-Bashir's decision to block the deployment of 20,000 UN peacekeepers in Darfur. A UN Security Council resolution passed August 31 calls for the peacekeepers' deployment. The Sudanese government gave Pronk a letter addressed to Annan, along with the information that the UN envoy's mission in Sudan was considered terminated. Pronk returned to New York October 23 to consult with Annan, but he stressed that his trip was not in response to al-Bashir's orders. Southern Sudan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia expressed disapproval of the expulsion. Pronk's criticisms were in reference to the three-year conflict in Darfur that has resulted in the deaths of 200,000 people due to fighting, famine, and disease. Though al-Bashir has refused the presence of UN peacekeeping troops with the claim that it was an attempt to re-colonize Sudan, he has allowed African Union troops to enter the region. The troops' mandate, previously set to expire September 30, was recently extended to the end of December. (ST, October 23, 2006)

Oil wealth in Sudan causes U.S. embargoes to have little effect: In response to human rights violations and the conflict in Darfur, the United States and Western countries have imposed trade sanctions on Sudan. However, due to oil revenues the country's economy is booming. Foreign direct investment, primarily from the Middle East and Asia, has gone from \$128 million in 2000 to \$2.3 billion in 2006. While western Sudan evokes images of arid landscapes and starving people, in the eastern portion of the country high-rise buildings are sprouting up. Sudan's GDP grew 8 percent in 2005 and the International Monetary Fund predicts a 12 percent increase this year. The support from countries like China, Kuwait, and India makes possible Sudanese President al-Bashir's continued rejection of United Nations peacekeepers in Darfur despite increased death tolls. (NYT, October 24, 2006)

## UGANDA

Museveni pays a controversial visit to the peace talks in Juba: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni flew to Southern Sudan's capital city, Juba October 21 to help the peace talks between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels and the government of Uganda to recover from a downward spiral of ceasefire violations. Most recently, in the week of October 16, 39 people were killed in two separate incidents in Southern Sudan that were allegedly carried out by the LRA. Sudan's government, based in Khartoum, objected to Museveni's visit to Southern Sudan. Sudanese government spokesman Ali al-Sadek said the visit threatens the picture of a unified Sudan. Despite Museveni's stated efforts to save the peace process, the relations between the two delegations remained grim. Josephine Apia, the LRA deputy delegation head, refused to shake hands with Museveni and traded accusations with him of who should be held responsible for the civilian deaths in Northern Uganda. (Monitor, October 23, 2006)

LRA wants to continue ceasefire agreement: On October 24, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) delegates presented a position paper at peace talks in Juba asking for the August 25 cease-fire to be officially extended for another six weeks. They expressed concern with the Ugandan

People's Defense Forces (UPDF) fighting with their troops from strategic military bases in Southern Sudan as the LRA rebels moved back towards the designated safety points at Owiny-Ki-bul and Ri-Kwangba. A UPDF officer was killed last week in a clash with LRA rebels, and the LRA delegation said it hoped to avoid similar incidents in the future. A review of the cease-fire indicated both parties violated the terms of the agreement. The LRA also asked that the safety zone at Ri-Kwangba be the designated safety spot. The Ugandan government delegation rejected this request, saying Ri-Kwangba is too close to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and that the LRA was simply trying to make an escape across the border into the DRC. To allay the LRA's fears of UPDF deployment, Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) troops are to be deployed around Owiny-Ki-bul. The delegations were expected to tackle soon the issue of accountability for war crimes. (IRIN, October 26; Monitor, New Vision, October 25, 2006)