



Peace & Justice Update
November 10, 2006
(Volume 14, Number 06)

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

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 bibliographical 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.

Update subscriptions: Electronic subscriptions to the Peace & Justice Updates are free; simply send an email to updates@sandiego.edu and include the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

The Peace & Justice Updates are written by the Fall 2006 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Morgan Cosby (Point Loma Nazarene University), Jennifer Rhodes (University of San Diego), Marilyn Shapley (University of California, San Diego), and Michelle Takagishi-Almeida (University of California, Irvine).

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/)
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)
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross (www.icrc.org)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Kantipur Online	=	The Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times (www.khaleejtimes.com)
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)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
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)
Sunday Times	=	The Sunday Times (www.timesonline.co.uk)
ST	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.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)

UPDATE SUMMARY

AFGHANISTAN

International warnings paint grim picture; Drug war looms.

KOSOVO

European Commission releases report stating conditions for Balkan countries' EU accession; KFOR conducts military exercise.

NEPAL

Maoists and SPA sign milestone peace deal; U.S. and NHRC condemn Maoist demands to house supporters.

SERBIA

New constitution adopted; NATO Partnership for Peace invitation not likely.

SUDAN

Sudan announces public works team missing in Darfur; UN envoy responds to expulsion.

UGANDA

Peace talks in Juba begin new round of negotiations; Women's coalitions support peace process.

UPDATES

AFGHANISTAN

International warnings paint grim picture: In a November 2 report, the International Crisis Group (ICG) cautioned that current efforts to bring peace would be expensive and time consuming. Some of the problems the ICG highlighted were: Pakistan's ineffectual aid in controlling the border; ongoing opiate farming in the south; fear of violent or ineffectual police; and corrupt judiciaries. The ICG recommended that all parties working for security in Afghanistan take an approach that incorporated anti-insurgency and nation-building strategies. Lending its voice to warnings issued by Human Rights Watch (HRW) during the week of October 30, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued a warning of its own November 6, calling for an end to the use of cluster munitions in the country. Cluster munitions are explosive canisters with submunitions inside that were associated most recently with numerous civilian deaths in Lebanon. HRW pointed out civilian deaths created animosity towards the international forces which might lead to more instability as people switch allegiance. (HRW, October 30; ICG, November 2; ICRC, November 6, 2006).

Drug war looms: Afghanistan produced an estimated 6,100 tons of opium in the 2005-2006 record-breaking harvest, providing 92 percent of the world's opium supply. In October, farmers began planting opium poppies for the 2007 harvest, and an anonymous senior United States official said that early estimates indicated the new harvest would be "roughly at the level of last year (2005-2006)." Taliban militants in the southern provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, and Uruzganart prevented the success of anti-drug measures throughout the country. Prior to 2001, the ruling Taliban had almost eradicated the opium crop. After being deposed by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) -led forces at the end of 2001, the Taliban stopped fighting the drugs and started protecting the fields to fund their insurgency. The government has started planning a program to destroy poppy fields in Helmand province as of December, and British diplomats warned their troops in the area that the eradication program could trigger heavy fighting. In a landmark change of policy, the Afghan government said aerial chemical spraying could be used to destroy opium crops. Local people said clandestine spraying had begun already in Helmand province, as early as last year; they also said the spraying has had a bad affect on other crops, and had pathogenic effects such as skin ailments. A leading member of the parliament, Daud Sultanzoy, told BBC he would fight the aerial spraying on the grounds that Afghanistan "should not become a test ground for western chemicals companies". (AP, November 2; BBC, November 7; Sunday Times, November 5, 2006)

KOSOVO

European Commission releases report stating conditions for Balkan countries' EU accession: On November 8, the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union (EU), released a report on the Balkan countries' progress towards EU membership. The report discussed Croatia, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo. Although Kosovo is a province of Serbia and not an independent state, the report stated that the final status of the province would be determined within a few months. The European

Commission report hinted that the prospect of eventual EU membership was on offer for Kosovo pending its assumed independence, but the Commission made clear much work remained to be done in many key areas before Kosovo could become an EU member. The Commission said that focus on the status issue had delayed reforms in key areas such as the rule of law, the economy, and public administration. Kosovo's institutions remained weak and judicial bodies had made little progress in civil and criminal justice, while corruption and drug trafficking remained widespread. Finally, the report highlighted poor relations between Kosovar Albanians and Kosovar Serbs, referring to a number of violent attacks against Kosovar Serbs since this past summer. United Nations envoy to Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari was scheduled to turn in his final proposal in the next few months. ([BBC](#), [B92](#), November 8, 2006)

KFOR conducts military exercise: On November 7 through 9, the NATO-led multinational peacekeeping force in Kosovo (KFOR) conducted a military exercise. The exercise, codenamed Balkan Hawk VI, aimed to test the sustainability and capabilities of NATO units deployed in Kosovo. KFOR troops plan to remain in Kosovo even after the decision on the province's final status. According to NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, "It is clear that KFOR will have a role to play in a certain period after there is, hopefully, a status settlement [in Kosovo]... [E]verybody in Kosovo should realize that in this important and crucial period it is essential that calm prevails." More than 17,000 NATO troops are currently deployed in Kosovo to back the UN mission peacekeeping administrators there. ([NATO Update](#), October 18; [Makfax](#), November 7, 2006)

NEPAL

Maoists and SPA sign milestone peace deal: On November 8, the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN)-Maoist signed a "historic agreement" laying the foundation for a new government. The agreement gave the Maoists a position in the government, changing their status from a decade-long armed insurgency to a legal political party. Maoist Chairman Prachanda stated that the Maoists would accept Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's leadership in the interim government and would allow an upcoming constituent assembly to decide the fate of the monarchy. However, Prachanda stated that if the constituent assembly decided to give the monarchy anything other than a ceremonial role, the Maoist party would take the issue to the people and accept the people's verdict. The United Nations, United States, India, the media, and party heads commended the SPA and the Maoists for this compromise and India for providing a conducive arrangement for the Baluwarat talks. The constituent assembly elections are scheduled for mid-June 2007. This compromise was six months in the making, beginning with the ceasefire agreement in May. ([eKantipur](#), November 8, 2006)

U.S. and NHRC condemn Maoist demands to house supporters: Residents of Kathmandu Valley were asked to provide food and shelter for Maoist supporters and cadres attending the November 10 Newa Mukti Morcha, a Maoist national convention. Residents have been asked to house 10 cadres each for three days. "Maoists, on one hand, call it voluntary but, on the other, make tacit threats to [compel us to] comply with their demand," a resident stated. According to police sources, the Maoists captured garment factories and the Pashupati Area Development Trust office. The United States embassy and the National Human Rights Commission both expressed disapproval of the Maoists' actions. In response, Pawan Man Shreshtha, president of the Newa

Mukti Morcha stated the Maoists asked residents to provide shelter, but denied any pressure tactics were used and said that if these had occurred, residents could register a complaint at the party's central office. In May, the Maoist group signed a 25-point agreement containing a promise to respect human rights, including not requiring quartering of Maoists and Maoist supporters. Simultaneously, Maoist leaders were meeting with the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) to discuss the formation of the interim government that included representation from both parties. The talks resulted in a peace treaty signed November 8, and within hours Prachanda announced the Newa Mukti Morcha was cancelled. (eKantipur, November 7, 8, 2006)

SERBIA

New constitution adopted: On November 8, the parliament adopted a constitution passed in a referendum on October 28 and 29. The new constitution replaced the Slobodan Milosevic-era creation, which had become outdated as not only political but also geographic landscapes had changed. In a parallel development, the adoption of constitutional law is anticipated but will not take place until Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica and President Boris Tadić reach agreement regarding the date of national elections. Tadić has said he will insist on announcing both parliamentary and presidential elections for December 23. Koštunica proposed that parliamentary elections be held at the end of January or February 4, at the latest, but had not yet proposed a date for presidential elections. Should Tadić and Koštunica reach a joint agreement without changes being made to constitutional law, one of the first obligations of the next parliament will be to adopt the law. Former president of the Serbian Constitutional Court Slobodan Vučetić stated that the adoption of the constitutional law should go “hand in hand” with the adoption of the constitution as it “determines the transitional regime and the period of elections, along with the way and dynamics that the new constitution will be implemented, and the deadlines for the legal system to bring itself into accordance with the constitution.” A second legal option would have been to adopt the constitutional law November 8, along with the constitution, which would have shortened the term for holding elections after announcing the dates, from 45 to 30 days. However, the necessary two-thirds majority was not achieved and it still remains to be seen whether or not an agreement will be reached. (B92, October 31, November 5, 6, 7, 2006)

NATO Partnership for Peace invitation not likely: On November 7, the VII NATO-Serbia conference was held in Belgrade. Under discussion was the fact that Serbia, among two other nations – Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina – were not invited to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Partnership for Peace (PFP) – a fact with which Serbian citizens were “uncomfortable,” stated Defense Minister Zoran Stanković. Stanković added that the Serbian military would like to resume the European integration process and to participate in international peacekeeping missions with more soldiers; he further stated that after the adoption of the new constitution, the parliament was expected to adopt all legal proposals and strategic documents related to the military. Representatives from both NATO and the United States have said that NATO wishes to develop close cooperation with Serbia, a fact that should be aided by Serbia's expressed will to arrest and extradite war crimes indictee, former general Ratko Mladić, to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Frank Boland, Director of NATO Force Planning, stated NATO had yet to decide whether Serbia would be invited to join the PFP, but that NATO would remain firm in its insistence that Serbia complete

its obligations to the ICTY. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer expressed the desire for more substantial action from Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica: “I would much appreciate to hear... Koštunica publicly say Mladić should be arrested. I would appreciate it if he were to say those who support Mladić should be identified and arrested. I wish to see [the] Action Plan implemented in reality, instead of only on paper.” At the conference, Boland stated that the decision to call Serbia to join the PFP had not yet been made and it was uncertain whether or not that it would by the time of the NATO summit scheduled to take place in Riga, Latvia November 28 and 29. (B92, November 3, 7, 2006)

SUDAN

Sudan announces public works team missing in Darfur: On November 5, officials announced a nine-member team working in South Darfur was missing since October 23. The team was in the area working on drilling wells and installing water pumps at the Silaiah displaced persons camp in the area of Shairiya. Ramadan Salim Abu Kalam, State Development Minister, asserted that the ministry could not work in conditions of insecurity and the ministry would not send any other teams until the whereabouts of the nine workers were discovered. Previously, President Omar al-Bashir had announced conditions in the Darfur region were “not that bad” and the government had things under control. Despite these statements, violence in the region has continued to escalate. On October 29, the Janjaweed, a pro-government militia, attacked and killed 63 civilians and injured others. Since 2003, conflict in the Darfur region has caused more than 200,000 deaths and the displacement of 2.5 million people. An August 31 United Nations Security Council Resolution proposed the deployment of UN peacekeepers, but al-Bashir repeatedly rejected a UN presence in Sudan, calling it “an attempt to re-colonize Sudan.” (ST, November 5; IRINnews.org, November 6, 2006)

UN envoy responds to expulsion: On November 4 in his personal website, United Nations envoy Jan Pronk responded to an October 22 order from Khartoum to leave the country and consider his mission in Sudan “terminated.” In his personal blog, Pronk denied the allegations that he “repeatedly abused the powers of his office and violated his terms of engagement.” Pronk stated that he had not expressed any hostility to the Sudanese Government or armed forces and only reported their actions, stating “[I] criticized them when necessary and praised them when appropriate.” After receiving notice of his expulsion from Sudan, Pronk met with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, to whom the Sudanese government gave a formal letter requesting Pronk’s termination. Khartoum has, however, reportedly agreed to work with Pronk’s replacement, yet to be appointed. Pronk’s expulsion was in response to an article on his personal website criticizing the Sudanese army for its handling of the Darfur crisis. (ST, November 4, 2006)

UGANDA

Peace talks in Juba begin new round of negotiations: After signing a new cease-fire agreement with the government the week of October 30, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) delegation at the peace talks in Juba, South Sudan, asked for two weeks to consult with its leadership in the bush. The LRA delegation wanted to reassure northern Ugandan leaders of their intention to fulfill the mandate “to deliver peace” issued by the leader of the LRA, Joseph Kony. The government delegation denied the request, saying it was urgent that they find solutions to the

causes of war which is the second agenda item at the peace talks. The LRA delegation presented a new series of demands November 8, including more security measures to protect LRA combatants and personnel such as the creation of a designated assembly area in northern Uganda. The government argued that previous agreements provided enough protection for LRA combatants and personnel. The government delegation also refused the LRA's request for a ministry led by a minister appointed in consultation with the LRA, local leaders, and the donor community to help reconstruction efforts in the country's war-affected regions. The two delegations were able to reach an agreement about the education of children of LRA combatants and the creation of a special fund for northern Uganda's recovery. In another development in the peace process, Kony asked for a meeting with the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland when Egeland is scheduled to visit the region during the week of November 13. (Monitor, November 3, 6, 8; New Vision, November 5, 2006)

Women's coalitions support peace process: The United Nations Development Fund for Women's (UNIFEM) Women's Peace Torch began a five-day journey to Juba, Southern Sudan as an act of solidarity with the ongoing peace talks between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels and the government of Uganda. The Women's Peace Torch previously traveled to more than 10 African countries to support women involved in peacemaking efforts. As the world observed the 6th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 – which UNIFEM called “a watershed political framework that makes women – and a gender perspective – relevant to negotiating peace agreements, planning refugee camps and peacekeeping operations, and reconstructing war-torn societies,” – the UNIFEM Women's Peace Torch was brought to Uganda by women leaders from Kenya and UNIFEM October 27 to “light the path of enduring peace.” During the week of October 30, the Uganda Women's Network and the Civil Society Women's Peace Coalition in Uganda collected the signatures of members of parliament committed to peace. The Women's Peace Torch left Kampala November 8 to travel through the district of Kitgum to Juba to show solidarity with the theme, “Women of Uganda Want Peace and Peace Needs Women.” The women's coalition called for women's participation in the peace talks and also demanded women's rights issues be addressed, “especially the protection of women against gender-based violence, property rights for displaced women, and women's participation in decision-making and transitional justice.” (Monitor, November 8, 2006; UNIFEM, October 27, November 1, 2006)

