



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 ABBREVIATIONS

The Age	=	The Age (www.theage.com.au)
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus (www.africafocus.org)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
Al-Jazeera	=	Al-Jazeera (http://english.aljazeera.net)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allafrica.com)
American Chronicle	=	American Chronicle(www.americanchronicle.com)
Antara News	=	Indonesian News Portal (www.antara.co.id/en/)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
The Australian	=	The Australian (www.theaustralian.news.com.au/)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
B92	=	B92 Net (www.b92.net/eng/)
B92 News	=	B92 News (www.b92.net/eng/news)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk)
Cape Times	=	The Cape Times (www.capetimes.co.za)
Canberra Times	=	The Canberra Times (http://canberra.yourguide.com.au)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
Civil.ge	=	UNA Georgia Online Magazine (www.civil.ge)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
Concord Times	=	The Concord Times (www.concordtimesl.com)
Crisis Group	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisgroup.org)
Daily News	=	Daily News, Sri Lanka (www.dailynews.lk)
The East African	=	The East African (www.nationmedia.com/estafrican/current/)
einnews	=	The Russia News Service – (http://www.einnews.com/kyrgyzstan/)
eng24.kg	=	News Agency 24 (http://eng.24.kg/)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Financial Times	=	Financial Times News (www.ft.com)
FR-online.de	=	Frankfurter Rundschau (www.fr-online.de)
FMM	=	Free Media Movement (www.freemediasrilanka.org)
Gazeta	=	Gazeta (www.gazeta.ru/english/)
Georgia Today	=	Georgia Today (www.georgiatoday.ge)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
Ha'aretz	=	Ha'aretz (www.haaretz.com)
The Hindu	=	The Hindu Newspaper (www.hinduonnet.com/)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
Herald Tribune	=	Herald Tribune (www.iht.com/)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
ICTY	=	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (www.un.org/icty)
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com/)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
IPS News Agency	=	Inter Press Service News Agency (http://ipsnews.net)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
IRNA	=	Islamic Republic News Agency - http://www2.irna.ir/en/news
ISN	=	International Relations and Security Network (www.isn.ethz.ch/index.cfm)
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)

The Jakarta Post	=	The Journal of Indonesia Today (www.thejakartapost.com)
Kantipur Online	=	The Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
KL	=	KosovaLive (www.kosovalive.com)
Jerusalem Post	=	Jerusalem Post (www.jpost.com)
Jurist	=	The Jurist (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Mehr	=	The Mehr News Agency - http://www.mehrnews.com/en/
The Messenger	=	The Georgian Messenger (www.messenger.com.ge)
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)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
Novosti	=	RIA Novosti (http://en.rian.ru/)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
Palestine Center	=	Palestine Center News (www.thejerusalemfund.org)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Peace Africa	=	Peace Africa (www.allafrica.com/peaceafrica)
PDO	=	People's Daily Online (http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/)
PINR	=	Power and Interest News Report (www.pinr.com)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain (www.oxfam.org.uk)
RadioFreeEurope	=	RadioFreeEurope, Radio Liberty (www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/)
ReliefWeb	=	Relief Web (www.reliefweb.int)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RNZI	=	Radio New Zealand International (www.rnzi.com)
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières (www.rsf.org)
The Rising Nepal	=	The Rising Nepal (www.gorkhapatra.org)
Russia Today	=	Russia Today (www.russiatoday.ru/)
SDUT	=	San Diego Union Tribune (www.signonsandiego.com)
Scotsman	=	The Scotsman (http://news.scotsman.com)
SC-SL	=	The Special Court for Sierra Leone (www.sc-sl.org)
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance (www.seapabkk.org)
SLCMP	=	Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Program (www.slcmp.org)
The SMH	=	The Sydney Morning Herald (http://www.smh.com.au/)
The Star	=	The Star.com (www.thestar.com/)
TCA	=	Times of Central Asia (www.timesca-europe.com/)
Torres News	=	Torres News (www.torresnews.com.au)
Transparency Int.	=	Transparency International (http://transparency.org/)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (www.unesco.org)
UNFPA	=	United Nations Population Fund (www.unfpa.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)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Web India	=	Web India (www.webindia123.com)
WP	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua (http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-07/08/)
Yediot Ahranot	=	Yediot Ahranot (www.ynetnews.com)

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GEORGIA

Okrushvili's arrest opens the door to political opposition movement: A mass anti-government rally held Sept. 28 in response to the controversial arrest of ex-defense minister Irakli Okruashvili created an opportunity for opposition parties to tap into public discontent with the administration of President Mikheil Saakashvili. In a campaign launched Oct. 6 called, "Georgia Without a President," nine political parties formed an organizing committee called the United National Council (UNC). The UNC, comprised of the Conservative Party, Republican Party, Labor Party, Georgia's Way, Georgia Troupe, On Our Own, Party of The People and Irakli Okruashvili's Movement for United Georgia, has requested three concessions from the Georgian government: moving parliamentary elections forward to April 2008, writing the position of president out of Georgia's constitution and freeing political prisoners. The UNC gave the ruling party (The National Movement Party) one month to consider its demands before it continued with its plans to hold a nation-wide "civil resistance" rally against authorities Nov. 2. The push to redraw the country's political structure comes at a sensitive time for Saakashvili, who has campaigned heavily for Georgia's accession into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary-General, has already cautioned Georgia about "the need for greater transparency on the part of the political establishment." Whether increased political opposition within the Georgian government will influence accession remains unclear. (Civil.ge, Oct. 5; The Messenger, Oct. 2)

Hostilities between Georgia and break-away regions may escalate: In a recent trip to Moscow, the leaders of Abkhazia and South Ossetia (Sergey Bagapsh and Eduard Kokoity, respectively) expressed concern over the growing tide of internal unrest in Georgia. They were also concerned about the period between November and December, when the status of the autonomous province of Kosovo within Serbia (a Russian ally) will be decided. The two leaders warned that hostilities with Georgia may escalate by the end of 2007. In a speech made Oct. 5 at the western Georgian town of Zugdidi (a few kilometers from the breakaway Abkhaz border), President Mikheil Saakashvili legitimated these concerns by emphasizing Georgia's plans to reclaim Abkhazia and his growing impatience with the two regions. According to Saakashvili, "Today we are starting the countdown for the return to Abkhazia." He stated, "Our first step was restoring control over Upper Abkhazia (Kodori Gorge) last year – the second will be made in the center of Gagra" (a town in Abkhazia where Georgian books from the local school were burned last year). Restoring Georgia's territorial integrity has remained a chief political agenda for the Saakashvili administration since 2004, and the President has repeatedly expressed his distrust of recommendations made by international organizations regarding Abkhazian and South Ossetian policies for resolution. (Civil.ge, Oct. 5, 6)

INDONESIA

Debates persist over effectiveness of Papuan autonomy in establishing peace: Indonesian officials visited Papua (an eastern province of Indonesia sharing the island of New Guinea with Papua New Guinea) in Aug. 2007 and concluded that the progress of special autonomy has been working. Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, Widodo A.S., said that the implementation of a special autonomy status in Papua has eased security problems there. Nevertheless, Papuan armed and unarmed separatist movements, such as The Free Papua Organization (OPM), have continued to exist. Dino Kusnadi, spokesman for the Indonesian embassy in Australia who accompanied the delegation that visited Papua, said that reports by human rights groups claiming that special autonomy had failed to improve the conditions of Papuans were false. He stated that there had been an effective working relationship between the local Papuan government and the Indonesian government. Nevertheless, human rights groups continued to assert

that there has been a rise in violence against pro-independence Papuan activists. They referred most recently to an incident in which Yane Waromi, the 17-year-old daughter of prominent Papuan activist Edison Waromi, was kidnapped, drugged and assaulted at gunpoint by a group allegedly linked to Indonesian security forces. Reverend Socrates Sofyan Yoman, chairman of Papua's Baptist Church, said the human rights situation in Papua had declined despite the special autonomy agreement. This agreement was meant to devolve local governance to Papuans, but Reverend Yoman claimed that the Indonesian government increased troops in Papua and human rights abuses continued. (The Age, Oct. 1; RNZI, Oct. 1; Jakarta Post, Oct. 2, 2007).

Controversy breaks out over Australia's deportation of Papuan asylum seekers: The Australian government has been accused of breaching international law after deporting five West Papuans back to Papua New Guinea (PNG) Sept. 18. Under Australian law, refugees can only apply for asylum if they land on the mainland. Islands, however, are part of the exclusion zone and are therefore excised from the mainland. These five asylum seekers landed on Saibai Island, which gave Australia the legal justification to deport them. Asylum Seeker Resource Center coordinator Pamela Curr said that many Papuans had fled into PNG to escape oppression inflicted by the Indonesian military but were now being kicked out of PNG as well. She explained, "Eight-Mile Camp is being shut down in PNG... Clearly there is something going on there and the concern is that the West Papuan people are being squeezed out of PNG and Australia is obviously the place to head. Australia is democratic and a signatory to the international refugee accord." Refugee and Immigration Legal Center spokesman David Manne expressed profound concern for the situation and said that sending the men back to PNG was "scandalous." Katie Gauthier, The National Coordinator for A Just Australia (self-described as a lobby group campaigning for just policies and programs for refugees and asylum seekers), declared, "Without doubt, the removal of these asylum seekers is a breach of international law, and puts Australia at the bottom of the class in human-rights terms." (Torres News, Oct. 8, 2007).

KOSOVO

U.S. issues further statements supporting independent Kosovo: U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Rosemary DiCarlo said Oct. 7 that Kosovo's independence was "an inevitable solution," speaking on a Voice of America Albanian language broadcast. With regard to the current Serb-Kosovar negotiations, she added, "We hope the talks will yield results, but we are determined that the status quo cannot continue and that the process must be finalized." The New York Times also called on the United States and the European Union Oct. 5 to recognize an independent Kosovo, with or without U.N. Security Council authorization. "If Russia continues to oppose the United Nations' plan, Washington and its allies must move ahead anyway and recognize Kosovo in time for the Dec. 10 deadline," the newspaper stated. In another development, Serbia's Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardžić declared Oct. 11, "We are not threatening with military intervention should Kosovo's independence be proclaimed, but it has to be clear to everyone that such an act would represent an open threat to Serbia." (B92, Oct. 7, 11; New York Times, Oct. 5, 2007).

U.N. Secretary General issues report on Kosovo mission: U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated Oct. 4 in his latest report on U.N. operations in Kosovo that no effort should be spared in achieving an acceptable solution for the province's future status. He also warned that delays in resolving the matter "questions the U.N. work in the province and risks instability in the region." According to him, the tensions between Serbs and ethnic Albanians could reach a boiling point unless an agreement was reached soon. The news came as Frank Wisner, the U.S. envoy to the Serb-Kosovo talks, stated the same day that a solution was unlikely this year, adding, "Quite simply,

there is no time for that.” The first round of talks between Serbs and Kosovars over the future status of Kosovo ended Sept. 28 in New York, to be resumed in Brussels Oct. 14. The talks were scheduled to end Dec. 10, after which Kosovo, with the support of the U.S. and members of the European Union, would declare unilateral independence. (B92, Oct. 4, 2007).

NEPAL

Maoists and seven party alliance remain deadlocked over elections: After the seven party alliance failed to meet the electoral commission’s Oct 5. deadline for the nominations for a proportional electoral system, the Nov. 22 constituent assembly elections were postponed indefinitely. Nearly a week later, members of the seven party alliance (SPA) have continued to lock horns over Maoist demands for the declaration of a new republic and a fully proportional electoral system. Within the Nepali Congress (NC), central working committee members have urged party leaders not to compromise on Maoist demands and have suggested that the present situation was an outcome of the party having a “soft corner” for the Maoists. Meanwhile, the Maoists have warned that failure to forge an agreement on these issues could lead to the break-up of the SPA and the collapse of the interim government. Chief Election Commissioner Bhoj Raj Pokharel has urged organizations to exert pressure on the political parties to fix a new date for the constituent assembly elections, adding that while many of the preparations for the elections have been wasted, voter education campaigns and training conducted throughout Nepal could still help in the future. The SPA has planned to meet Oct. 11 in a special parliamentary session to discuss the electoral system and the declaration of a republic. Maoists have stated that if an agreement is reached then it is foreseeable that elections could be held sometime in mid-April 2008. (eKantipur, Oct. 9)

Terai strikes temporarily suspended: During the week of Oct. 4 life in many parts of the Terai region of Nepal was crippled by general strikes, initiated by the Jwala Singh faction of the Jantantric Terai Mukti Morcha (a splinter group of the Maoists) and a faction of the Nepal Sadbhavana Party-Anandi Devi (NSP-A) led by Rajendra Mahato. Large stretches of the Terai and the highways along the eastern border were affected by vandalism, blockades and assaults. The *bandas* also forced many businesses, factories, and schools to shut down. The Mahato faction of the NSP-A imposed the strikes to protest the Election Commission’s decision not to recognize them as the main party after the NSP-A split into two factions (the other led by Anandi Devi Singh). The *bandas* have been temporarily suspended for three days to allow the general public to access essential services, but mass protests have continued to play a large role in the everyday life of Terai residents. (eKantipur, Oct. 4, 9)

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Abbas lays out public position ahead of negotiations: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas stated publicly Oct. 10 his position for negotiations scheduled for November. He called for a full Israeli withdrawal from all territories captured in the 1967 war, adding that Palestinians want to establish a state on the 6,205 square kilometers which make up the West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to documents obtained by the Associated Press, Palestinian negotiators planned to demand that the future borders of a Palestinian state include all of the Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem, and small areas along the West Bank frontier that were part of the demilitarized zone prior to the beginning of the Israeli occupation. The Israeli government spokeswoman Miri Eisin declined comment, but according to the Jerusalem Post, the Palestinian position appeared to exceed anything that Israel would be willing to offer. Palestinian and Israeli negotiating teams have been working on creating a joint vision for a future peace deal in time for the November negotiations. (Jerusalem Post, Oct. 10, 2007).

U.S. policy paper suggests Hamas be included in status talks: Five former Pentagon and State Department officials, under the umbrella of the Israeli Policy Forum (IPF), an advocacy group on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, submitted a six-page paper Sept. 26 to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, making a number of policy recommendations ahead of scheduled negotiations. Included in the policy suggestions was a commitment to a two-state solution “based on the 1967 lines ... a just solution to the refugee question ... two capitals in Jerusalem ... [and] security arrangements, including a non-militarized Palestinian state,” among others. The IPF also warned against dismissing Hamas from the negotiations, adding that they could be a participant in final status talks. The Israeli government position, traditionally supported by the U.S., has been to not withdraw to the pre-June 1967 borders, dismantle Israeli settlements in the West Bank, nor divide Jerusalem into two capitals. (Ha’aretz, Oct. 4; Israel Policy Forum, Sept. 26, 2007).

SIERRA LEONE

Light sentences for militia leaders spark human rights groups’ outrage: Two leaders of the pro-government militia, the Civil Defense Forces (CDF), were sentenced to serve time in prison Oct. 9. The hearing took place Aug. 2 and each was found guilty of four counts of murder, cruel treatment and pillage. Moinina Fofana was sentenced to six years in jail, while Allieu Kondewa received eight years, due to his additional conviction for conscripting child soldiers. The sentences took effect retroactively from the day they were taken into custody in 2003, meaning Fofana could be free in two years. The verdict was considered as a victory for the defense since the prosecuting team had asked for 30-year terms. In response to the outrage voiced by many human rights activists, presiding Judge Bengamine Itoe responded that the sentences were short partly because the CDF had “contributed immensely to re-establishing the rule of law in this country where criminality, anarchy and lawlessness... had become the order of the day.” Albeit, he also said that their brutalities could not go unpunished. The CDF defended the government of former President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah during the country’s 11-year civil war which was fueled by the illegal sale of “blood diamonds” and the conscription of child-soldiers. More than 50,000 people were killed. (AP, Oct. 9; Reuters, Oct. 9).

High tuition, poor conditions prompted protest: Rising fees and inadequate infrastructure prompted a student-led protest at Fourah Bay College Oct. 5. Further fueling the protest was last year’s ban on student union and club activities. This ban was viewed as a debilitating force, removing proper channels through which students could effectively articulate their grievances and interests. Negotiations took place, but they did not produce results. This apparently catalyzed a small group, calling themselves the “Liberals,” to take up the cause and go directly to Deputy Vice Chancellor Redwood Sawyer. In their letter of protest, the students called for a refund of many fees, which they viewed as an unnecessary burden. Further fueling student outrage has been the 300 percent increase made by the administration in housing fees over the past two years with little to no improvement in living conditions. Lack of electricity, inadequate water supply and poor sanitary conditions were emphasized by the students as major hindrances in their learning process. (The Independent, Oct. 5; Lexis Nexis, July 11, 2006).

UGANDA

No blanket amnesty for LRA: The top negotiator in Uganda’s peace talks with the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) has said that only when the LRA renounces its insurgency will the government ask the International Criminal Court (ICC) to drop arrest warrants against the rebels’ top commanders. Ruhakana Ruganda, Uganda’s Interior Minister, demanded that the LRA disarm,

demobilize, deal with issues of impunity from war crimes and sign a final peace deal. Only then would there be any serious approach to drop the ICC charges. He stated, "There shall be no blanket amnesty to the indicted LRA commanders. The LRA commanders have to undergo accountability. The accountability will be done in accordance with both Uganda's formal national laws and with traditional [ethnic reconciliation practices] that have been used to resolve conflicts." Stephen Kagoda, the top civil servant in the interior ministry and a member of Rugunda's negotiating team, described the ICC as an ally of the Ugandan government because the warrants issued by it for the arrest of Joseph Kony, leader of the LRA, and his top commanders have forced the LRA to attend the peace talks in Juba, South Sudan. Rugunda said that he and the government supported the ICC's philosophy that there cannot be impunity for those who have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes. However, Vincent Otti, the LRA second in command, said that the LRA would remain in the bush, even if a peace deal had been reached, unless amnesty were granted to them. Speaking from the rebels' main base in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he said that "The ICC remains a big stumbling block to peace in Uganda." (IWPR, Oct. 8, 2007).

Karamoja region challenges Uganda's stability: According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), Karamoja, a region in northeastern Uganda, has posed a challenge to the country's stability and poverty eradication efforts. A UNICEF briefing note specified that "Mortality and malnutrition levels routinely surpass recognized crisis thresholds. Levels of education, literacy and access to information are extremely low, as is access to potable water and sanitation facilities. Cultural and climatic factors as well as endemic conflict combine to create cyclic humanitarian crises of a disastrous scale and complexity." UNICEF explained that these crises result from a mixture of competing livelihoods, a breakdown of traditional values and social behavior control systems and a history of marginalization and high levels of small arms availability. Each of these factors has contributed to a state of constant violence. "Pressure for disarmament grows in parallel to the increasing armed competition for land, pasture, livestock, and water," says UNICEF. Karamoja is inhabited by approximately one million people, most of whom are cattle herders. (IRIN, Sept. 27, 2007).