



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 (english.aljazeera.net/HomePage)
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/)
eKantipur	=	eKantipur (www.kantipuronline.com)
einnews	=	The Russia News Service – (http://www.einnews.com)
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)
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)
PLO	=	PLO Negotiation Affairs (www.nad-plo.org/)
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)
Scoop	=	Scoop Independent News (http://www.scoop.co.nz/)
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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UPDATES

GEORGIA

UNOMIG releases preliminary findings on Sept. 20 clash between Georgia and Abkhazia: Georgian forces shot and killed two Abkhaz militiamen and captured seven others in the Kodori Gorge region of breakaway Abkhazia (an area divided in two, with the northern portion under Georgia's control) Sept. 20. According to Georgian Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili, the incident resulted when Abkhaz rebels crossed into the Georgian section of the Kodori Gorge and opened fire on its policemen. Abkhazia's leader Sergei Bagapsh argued, however, that the incident took place on Abkhazian-controlled territory and was instigated by Georgian military. The U.N. Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) has been investigating the incident, and issued a progress report Oct. 11. According to the UNOMIG report, "DNA analysis and the testimonies of the witnesses from both sides in relation to the place of the incident are fully consistent and they indicate that the incident occurred on the Abkhaz side of the administrative boundary, 300 meters from that boundary." UNOMIG also stated it had received strong evidence that there was "movement of Abkhaz elements deep within Georgian territory," but has cautioned that it could not confirm or refute this information until more analysis has been done. The Sept. 20 clash follows a long period of territorial conflict between the two regions stretching back to Abkhazia's de facto independence from Georgia in the early 1990s. According to U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, "the clash is the most serious incident involving the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in many years." (Civil.ge, Sept. 20, 21, 22, 24; Oct. 11; Reuters, Sept. 20; The Messenger, Sept. 22; Oct. 15)

U.N. observer mission extended in Georgia: The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Oct. 15 to extend the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until April 15, 2008. The UNOMIG has been monitoring the 1993 cease-fire agreement between Abkhazia and Georgia. The mission (consisting of 133 military observers and 19 international police) cited several recent incidents of violence that have increased tensions between the two regions and issued a resolution with which both Georgian and Russian leaders are in agreement. According to President Mikheil Saakashvili, "The resolution is a diplomatic breakthrough because the U.N. acknowledged for the first time the property rights of displaced people from Abkhazia." Russia's ambassador to the U.N., Vitaly Churkin, also lauded the resolution for stressing "the importance of close and effective cooperation between the UNOMIG and Russian peacekeepers, as they play an important stabilizing role in the conflict zone." The Georgian government has often viewed Russia as a protagonist to the conflict in Abkhazia, so the mutual acceptance of a resolution which legitimized some of the concerns of Georgia and Russia has been significant. (Civil.ge, Oct. 16; AP, Oct. 16)

INDONESIA

Requests made for West Papuans to be advocated for at Pacific Islands Forum: The Indonesian Human Rights Commission (IHRC) has urged the New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark to advocate for the West Papuans at the Pacific Islands Forum to take place the week of Oct. 14. This forum (between heads of government of all independent and self-governing Pacific Island countries) has been held to provide member nations with an opportunity to discuss joint political views and to cooperate with each other. IHRC also wrote to each of the 16 Pacific Island Forum leaders to urge that West Papuan representatives be given observer status at the Forum, and to call for a human rights fact-finding mission to West Papua. These appeals were backed by other non governmental organizations such as Pax Christi, Peace Movement Aotearoa, and Christian World Service. The press release from IHRC read, "It is way past time for West Papua to have a seat at the Forum

table... why no welcome mat for the West Papuans who are so much in need of regional support and so clearly part of the Pacific in terms of geography, history, culture and ethnicity.” The press release also stated that the 2006 representations made for West Papua at the Forum were not heeded by the Indonesia government since repressive tactics had continued. In addition, few foreign journalists have visited West Papua because of its limited and constrained access. Those who have been able to enter West Papua have been tightly monitored by the Security Forces. The IHRC argued in the press release that granting observer status to West Papua would have given new visibility to the issues within this region of Indonesia and could have allowed the Forum to become a mediator between the West Papuans and the Indonesian government. (Scoop, Oct. 9, 2007)

Three Papuans shot by police: On Oct. 14, a police officer shot and injured three civilians in the Sarmi District of Papua. The reasons for the shooting have not yet been determined. Lukas Boleba, one of the victims, said Oct. 15 that the shootings occurred at midnight. Apparently, the three civilians came out of the forest and asked a truck driver for a ride. The truck driver was unaware that the three were fellow-employees, and having noticed that they were armed, he refused out of fear. He drove to the nearest police station and reported having seen three armed men. Policemen arrived at the location of the three civilians and during the resulting confrontation, one policeman fired his SS-1 gun at the men, shooting and injuring them. Robby W. Rumansar, Deputy head of Sarmi’s Regional Legislative Council regretted the incident and asked the Papuan police to investigate the case and take serious action against the policeman who fired the shots. (Antara News, Oct. 15, 2007)

KOSOVO

Serbia rejects military intervention in Kosovo: Serbian Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardžić stated Oct. 11 that Serbia would not stage a military intervention in the case of a unilateral proclamation of independence in Kosovo, but rather would back Serbs and other non-Albanians more strongly. “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,” Samardžić underlined. He added Oct. 12, however, that if Washington were to implement a plan for Kosovo in contravention of U.N. Resolution 1244, it would amount to an attempt to break up Serbia by pursuing a policy of “violence and force.” The news came as Wolfgang Ischinger, the German envoy to the Serb-Kosovar negotiations, expressed criticism of Washington’s approach to the Kosovo crisis Oct. 11, saying, “All the statements which give the impression that the solution has already been determined are of no help.” U.S. officials have indicated in the recent past that they will support a Kosovar unilateral declaration of independence. (B92, Oct. 11,12, 2007)

Second round of Serb-Kosovar talks end: The second round of negotiations over the disputed province of Kosovo ended Oct. 14 in Brussels with little said about the outcome and with a new round of talks, scheduled for Oct. 22 in Vienna. The Contact Group (the mediating group in the talks comprised of the U.S., U.K., France, Russia, Italy, and Germany) stated that Belgrade and Priština had clarified their respective proposals: Belgrade’s proposal consisted of autonomy for Kosovo within Serbia while Priština offered “friendship and cooperation between two independent states.” According to the Contact Group statement, both sides emphasized that they would refrain from provocative moves or statements that might threaten security in the region and the negotiating process. However, a Priština newspaper reported Oct. 13 that Kosovo’s status will likely be decided outside the U.N. The daily newspaper *Zeri* quoted unidentified diplomats saying, “The chances that

Russia will use its veto are growing more realistic. This is why Western countries are not too willing to test their chances at the U.N. Security Council.” A Russian veto at the Security Council would negate U.N. authorization for Kosovo’s independence. (B92, Oct. 14, 2007)

NEPAL

UNHCHR raises concerns with Maoist leaders over human rights abuses: U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) representative, Richard Bennett, met with Maoist leaders Prachanda and Baburam Bhattarai Oct. 14 to express concern over various cases of human rights abuses perpetrated by Maoist cadres against opposition groups and individuals the cadres allege are criminals. Bennett listed various instances where cadres of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-M) and affiliated groups used violence and intimidation as a means to power, highlighting the recent abduction of journalist Birendra Shah (missing since Oct. 4) as an example of the lack of respect shown by Maoists for the right to freedom of expression and opinion in Nepal. The UNHCHR has been monitoring the development of the United Revolutionary People’s Council (URPC) since the CPN-M started using it as a way of resolving local problems and ensuring “the justice of the people.” Bennett sought clarification from the Maoist leaders on the URPC’s exact role and was assured by Prachanda that the councils that function within the URPC do not function as “parallel authorities.” Despite the CPN-M’s continued condemnation of the abduction of Shah (and other journalists in recent months) Bennett pointed out that any human rights abuses committed by Maoist-affiliated groups would still reflect poorly on the CPN-M’s commitment to a comprehensive peace agreement and damage the public’s confidence. (eKantipur, Oct. 7, 12, 16)

Nepal’s government-funded technology and industrial sectors face steady decline: The Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) has been losing many of its scientists to private research institutes at home and abroad. According to NAST’s Chief of Promotion Division, “Over 50 scientists, engineers and nearly 100 researchers have quit NAST to join private research institutes within the country because the government has not provided enough financial incentives and other facilities needed for research work.” The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology has stated that while the scientists’ exit is troubling, “the country’s current priority lies in conflict-related areas and the government isn’t in a position to create more financial incentives for scientists to stay.” The decline can also be seen within the industrial sector. According to Bijaya Sarawagi, the immediate past president of Birgunj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, “more than 52 industries along the industrial corridor are on the brink of closure.” Labor disputes between Maoist and Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) trade unions have continued to play a primary role in the closures of most industries. (eKantipur, Oct. 10, 12)

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Israel issues order to confiscate land in East Jerusalem: Israel issued an order Sept. 24 to expropriate over 1,100 square kilometers of land in East Jerusalem, leading to castigation from Palestinian negotiators and some criticism from Washington. Palestinian negotiators expressed outrage over the order, which they characterized as “highly provocative” in the context of a peace summit planned for November in the U.S. The Israeli daily Ha’aretz reported that the order is designed to create a Palestinian road to bypass a major Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem and reconnect Palestinian West Bank towns, currently blocked off by the Israeli separation barrier. The road would also “free up” land in the West Bank for a major Israeli settlement project called E-1, disconnecting it from Palestinians, Ha’aretz stated. Israeli officials denied any connection between the order and the E-1 project, which has elicited international condemnation and has been frozen temporarily due mainly

to American objections. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed some criticism over the confiscation, but according to Ha'aretz, "Rice has no intention of imposing on Israel 'anything that will not be acceptable to it,' " in the upcoming negotiations. Israel annexed East Jerusalem in 1967, and international bodies including the World Court have deemed the annexation and settlement within East Jerusalem and the West Bank illegal. (Al-Jazeera, Oct. 10; Ha'aretz, Oct. 12, 15; New York Times, Oct. 16; PLO Negotiation Affairs, Oct. 11)

Israeli minister says military operation in Gaza inevitable: Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Avigdor Lieberman told U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice Oct. 15 that an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) operation in the Gaza Strip "to destroy the terrorist infrastructure" was inevitable, echoing earlier statements by Defense Minister Ehud Barak. Lieberman explained that an operation modeled on Operation Defensive Shield (an Israeli invasion of the West Bank in 2002) was needed. Lieberman also warned Rice against pressuring Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to take steps which, in his view, would cause the downfall of Olmert's government. Israeli officials have warned that if Olmert made certain compromises with the Palestinians, he could fail to hold together his political coalition, which includes Lieberman's nationalist party. Himr Namad, a senior aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, however, said that compromising the upcoming negotiations on the basis of Olmert's coalition was dangerous and implied Israel was not serious about peace. (Jerusalem Post, Oct. 16; New York Times, Oct. 4; Yediot Ahranot, Sept. 26)

SIERRA LEONE

President Koroma names his cabinet: President Ernest Bai Koroma announced the final ten names of his twenty-member cabinet Oct. 13. His selections had both international experience, through the U.N., as well as domestic service on their records. Kelvin Lewis, editor of the national *Awoko* newspaper, stated he was pleased that Koroma had held to his promise to appoint newcomers to politics, noting that only two named had previously held ministerial posts. Yet Frances Fortune, head of the Sierra Leone based nongovernmental organization Election Watch, expressed unease at the nominations, asserting that the large number of northerners nominated was not representative of the nation. This would be expected to hinder efforts towards national reconciliation in the divided country. Fortune was also disappointed that only three women were nominated. Despite Koroma's promises for a government of inclusion, no name from the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), the main opposition party, appeared on the list. Parliament, controlled by Koroma's All People's Congress (APC) party, has been expected to approve all appointments the week of Oct. 14. Since independence in 1961, the APC and SLPP have alternated in power, with Koroma's party most recently in the opposition. (Reuters, Oct. 13; Voice of America, Oct. 15)

Efforts for peace paying off: A senior U.N. peacebuilding official completed his week-long visit to Sierra Leone Oct. 15. Dutch Ambassador Frank Majoor, chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) Sierra Leone program, extolled the country's recent efforts in consolidating stability but cautioned that much work still remains. The PBC, created in 2005 to help post-conflict countries avoid a relapse into violence, is a consortium of international donors, international financial institutions, troop contributor countries, U.N. bodies and selected national governments. Sierra Leone was selected as one of the first two countries on the PBC's agenda. In Sierra Leone, Majoor met with President Ernest Bai Koroma, Vice President Sam Sumana, parliamentarians, members of the U.N. country-level staff and civil society representatives to obtain a first-hand account of the situation following last month's elections. He described the elections as a "turning point," specifically lauding the security provided by the military and police. Majoor also advanced discussion on the development of Sierra Leone's commitment to the PBC's Cooperation

Framework: a plan to improve issues such as human rights, youth employment, security reform and good governance. Majoor stressed the critical role the PBC can play in the removal of impediments to peace, notably through gender empowerment, infrastructure development and education reform. (UN News Service, Oct. 8 and Oct. 16)

UGANDA

Dispute breaks out between LRA's top leaders: According to New Vision, top leaders of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Joseph Kony and his deputy Vincent Otti, have disputed over the peace process. New Vision stated that reliable sources revealed to them that the clash began Oct. 11 and lasted for days. "There was a bad shoot-out between forces loyal to Kony and those loyal to Otti," an anonymous source told the newspaper. Sources also reported that Kony later tried to gain control over the situation by withdrawing "... the satellite phones from Otti and his followers and [putting Otti and his followers] under some kind of house arrest." The dispute between the two leaders was said to be over the direction of the peace process and the \$600,000 the LRA demanded for carrying out consultations as part of the talks. Members of the LRA peace team, James Obita and Nyekorach Masanga, have traveled from Nairobi to mediate between the two sides. The LRA and the Ugandan government have been engaged in peace talks since 2006 in an effort to end the 21 year war. (New Vision, Oct. 18)

US\$606 million plan to be implemented in Northern Uganda: President Yoweri Museveni announced Oct. 15 the launching of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan to build roads and schools as well as set up businesses and other rehabilitation projects in Northern Uganda over the course of three years. "The goal of the plan is stabilization in order to consolidate peace, recovery and rehabilitation of the North," said Museveni. Thirty percent of the plan will be funded by Uganda and the rest by U.N. agencies and other donors. However, some leaders have been skeptical, saying that previous plans for the region have failed. "We have heard these kind of promises before and we have never seen any significant change in the north," said Wafula Oguttu, spokesman for Uganda's main opposition party, the Forum for Democratic Change. Norbert Mao, a senior local government official in Gulu said that the proposed budget would not be enough to have a significant effect. Several people in the North have been opposed to the government giving out land to investors in order to develop factories and businesses. During the peace negotiations, representatives of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army claimed that their insurgency was prompted by the government's marginalization of northern Uganda. (The Monitor, Oct. 17; New Vision, Oct. 15; IHT; Oct. 16)