



Peace & Justice Update
November 2, 2007
(Volume 17, Number 4)

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)
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)
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)
Global Aging	=	Global Action on Aging (www.globalaging.org)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
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)
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/)

UPDATE SUMMARY

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UGANDA

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LRA commander surrenders to Congolese authorities while LRA denies split.

UPDATES

GEORGIA

JCC negotiations between Georgia and South Ossetia make little headway: Two days of negotiations among Georgia, South Ossetia and Russia ended Oct. 25 after parties failed to reach consensus on preferred methods for achieving a more peaceful relationship between Georgia and South Ossetia. Despite Russian chief negotiator Yuri Popov's assurance that the session was not expected to achieve concrete results, but rather would attempt to achieve a mutually acceptable agenda for future meetings, Georgian officials expressed their impatience with the Joint Control Commission (JCC) and described the talks as "pointless." Davit Bakradze, the Georgian State Minister for Conflict Resolution Issues, stated that the key to conflict resolution lay in the "demilitarization of South Ossetia, disarmament of illegal armed groups and the prevention of arms trafficking." Bakradze added that the two measures needed to achieve these goals were "Georgian control over the Roki Tunnel" (which links the breakaway region with neighboring North Ossetia) and "[t]he establishment of an observation post at Didi Gupta village" (an area located in the north of the conflict zone with a 15-km radius around Tskhinvali). Alternately, South Ossetian negotiators called for an agreement on the non-use of force to be signed by the presidents of both governments. The session marked the first time in over a year that both parties have participated in JCC negotiations. Georgia has repeatedly argued that the JCC format is too "Russian-dominated" and new negotiation formats should be created before any plans for peace can be discussed. Whether or not the failure of last weeks' negotiations would affect future participation within the JCC, however, remained unclear. ([Civil.ge](#), Oct. 24, 25)

Georgian and Russian shootout in Ganmukhuri increases tensions in Abkhaz conflict zone: Russian peacekeepers detained four Georgian servicemen Oct. 30 in the Georgian-administered village of Ganmukhuri on the border of breakaway Abkhazia. According to the Georgian Interior Minister, "Russian peacekeepers, backed by guns and armored vehicles, intruded into the territory near the Ganmukhuri patriotic camp and took several Georgian policemen hostage and brutally beat them." Sergey Chaban, the commander of the Russian troops in the conflict zone, claimed that the incident was provoked by Georgian police officers who threatened to shoot Russian servicemen and burn their vehicles during their routine patrol in the lower zone of the Gali district (on the Abkhaz side of Ganmukhuri) and in the Zugdidi district (on the Georgian side of the border). The incident sparked outrage by Georgian government officials, who condemned the continued presence of Russian peacekeepers in the region. According to Davit Bakradze, the Georgian state minister for conflict resolution, "This provocation may trigger very grave consequences and the entire responsibility for these consequences will lie on the Russian Federation." ([Civil.ge](#), Oct. 30)

INDONESIA

West Papuan human rights lawyer arrested: Sabar Iwanggin, a West Papuan human rights lawyer, was arrested Oct. 18 in Jayapura, Papua's main city, for allegedly text messaging critical remarks about Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Iwanggin has worked for Els-ham West Papua, a prominent human rights organization in the region. The incriminating text read, "The president has an agenda of wiping out Papuans by poisoning food and hiring members of the army as doctors, restaurant workers, and motorcycle taxi drivers to kill Papuans." Human rights activists have called for Iwanggin's immediate release. Matthew Jamieson, a representative of the Institute for Papuan Advocacy and Human Rights said, "It is incredible that the Indonesian police would use personnel from the Detachment 88 [a highly trained anti-terrorism force] to arrest the lawyer Sabar

Iwanggin for his trivial involvement in this text message issue.” Police in Jayapura denied that Iwanggin was arrested by Detachment 88, and said that his arrest was a criminal matter. Witnesses confirmed, however, that he had been arrested by 30 police officers of Detachment 88. Throughout the years, the Indonesian armed forces’ response to Papua’s strong opposition movements has reportedly been harsh and tainted with human rights abuse. (IGN, Oct. 29; MGN, Oct. 29, 2007)

Millionaire takes up West Papuan cause: Australian millionaire businessman Ian Melrose has for several months advocated for West Papua by airing advertisements on television that have been focused on human rights abuses committed by the Indonesian military. The advertisements called for human rights monitors and access for foreign journalists to West Papua in Australia’s new security treaty with Indonesia. According to Melrose, “Because media are not allowed in, none of [the] stories [of human rights abuses] come out.” He said that the advertisements were targeted to be shown in areas where the Australian government held key marginal seats as well as across most capital cities. Declining to stipulate how much the campaigns had cost him, Melrose said, “. . . It doesn’t do any good to hoard [money] if you can do something good with it.” He explained his initiative to take action began when he read about a twelve-year-old girl from East Timor who had choked to death on roundworms. Convinced that it was unacceptable for a child to die of something easily preventable through affordable medication, Melrose decided to raise awareness about other human rights issues in Indonesia. The Prime Minister’s office and the Indonesian Embassy declined to comment on Melrose’s campaign. (Canberra Times, Oct. 21)

KOSOVO

U.S. State Department denies plan to freeze Kosovo status: The United States Department of State stated Oct. 30 that recent news reports about a plan to freeze Kosovo’s status for the next 12 years were false, adding that the U.S. supported the ongoing mediated discussions. News reports from the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) and other sources in Priština had stated that the U.S. was considering a plan that would include freezing Kosovo’s status until 2020, while giving the province seven billion dollars’ worth of aid per year. The reports quoted unnamed U.S. officials close to the State Department, and included the statement, “the idea was that a referendum on status would be held on January 5, 2020.” In denying the veracity of these reports, State Department spokesman Kurtis Cooper said that the proposal put forth in March 2007 by United Nations Special Envoy to the Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari, also known as the Ahtisaari plan, was the best solution to the crisis. Serbs and Kosovars have been engaged in talks in recent weeks, with U.S. envoy Frank Wisner as part of the mediating team. (B92, Oct. 29, 30, 2007)

Kosovo mediators plan to draft specific proposal: According to the Belgrade news agency Tanjug, the three representatives from the Kosovo mediating Contact Group were to have met Oct. 29 in Vienna to discuss the Kosovo negotiating process. Envoys Wolfgang Ischinger of the European Union, Frank Wisner of the United States, and Aleksandr Botsan-Kharchenko of the Russian Federation were to have held a closed-door meeting on future Kosovo talks scheduled for Nov. 5 in Vienna. According to earlier reports, the Contact Group was expected to draft a new proposal for Serb and Kosovar negotiators, based on the complaints and reservations the teams had regarding the existing proposal. According to Ischinger, “The [Contact Group] Troika report will contain a precise name for the proposal and will clearly define relations between Serbia and Kosovo.” Tanjug also reported that Ischinger had a proposal for Kosovo’s future status to be structured according to the model of relations between the former East and West Germany, which the Serbs announced they would reject. (B92, Oct. 29, 30, 2007)

NEPAL

Quotas reserved for marginalized groups in Nepal police force: The Nepal Police (NP) and Armed Police Force (APF) decided Oct. 17 to allocate a 45 percent reservation for women and people from marginalized sections of Nepal society in both security wings. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) praised the decision and issued a statement Oct. 24 that the provisions signal the commitment of political leaders to the inclusion of historically marginalized groups in civil services, which is desperately needed. The OHCHR expressed disappointment, however, with the government's appointment of 28 people to high-level posts. Only three of the 28 belonged to marginalized groups. Chairman Upendra Yadav of the Madhesi People's Rights Forum (MRPF) argued that ratios allocated to Madhesis were particularly unfair. According to Yadav, "Reservations provided were not proportional to the Madhesi population and also failed to recognize Madhesi people who recently obtained citizenship certificates." The push to make civil service positions more inclusive has followed years of charges made by marginalized groups in the Terai region against the NP and APF for acting partially during riots. (eKantipur, Oct. 29)

Nepalese families receive Japanese support: The Japanese government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced Oct. 24 that it would provide \$2.2 million in aid to protect families and children displaced by the decade-long conflict in Nepal. The project, entitled "Strengthening Decentralized Support for Vulnerable and Conflict-Affected Families and Children," aimed to create a child and family protection and support system in five districts of Nepal. According to Axel Weber, the social protection specialist of the ADB's South Asia Development program, "The overall goal of the project is to improve the situation of conflict-affected and vulnerable families and children in a sustainable manner." The project would attempt to do this by helping approximately 4,000 families generate enough income to lift them out of poverty. According to the Community Study and Welfare Centre (CSWC), an NGO advocating the issue of internationally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nepal, between 350,000 and 400,000 Nepalese have been displaced from their villages over the last nine years. CSWC also stated that the IDP situation in Nepal contributes to larger problems, including (but not limited to) increased poverty and the sexual exploitation of large numbers of women and girls forced to provide for their families. (eKantipur, Oct. 29; Globalaging.org, Feb. 2005)

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Israel begins implementation of sanctions against Gaza: Israel imposed fuel sanctions against Gaza Oct. 28, which led to condemnation from human rights groups and reproach from the United Nations. Ten Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups petitioned the Israeli High Court of Justice Oct. 28 for an immediate injunction against proposed fuel and power cuts to the Gaza Strip, which they, along with Human Rights Watch, considered a war crime. The Court responded Oct. 29 by giving Israel ten days to justify the planned embargo. Meanwhile, Israeli Attorney General Menahem Mazuz also approved various sanctions, but put a freeze on the power shortage orders until more work could be done to ensure that the sanctions "would not cause humanitarian harm to the civilian population." U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated Oct. 29 that he believed the sanctions were harmful to the well-being of the entire Gaza population and were unacceptable. Israeli officials have repeatedly stated that the proposed sanctions were a measure to curb rocket fire from Gaza, which has killed two Israelis and injured dozens in the last year, but Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai insisted Oct. 27 that "[The sanctions are] not connected to Qassams (rockets) ... but really to achieve the separation of [the Gaza] territory ... whose application had only been delayed for a simple legalistic check." He also said that Israel plans to paralyze the infrastructure of

Gaza in every possible way and separate itself completely from it in the long term. (AP, Oct. 28; Al-arabiya, Oct. 27; B'Tselem, Oct. 29; Ha'aretz, Oct. 30; Human Rights Watch, Oct. 29; Jerusalem Post, Oct. 29; Yediot Ahranot, Oct. 29, 2007)

Israel and Palestinians threaten escalation of violence: Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak stated Oct. 30 that a large-scale Israel Defense Forces (IDF) operation in Gaza was drawing near. This statement echoed earlier recent statements made by Barak and other Israeli officials, who had said that it was just a matter of time and planning. Meanwhile, senior Hamas member Sheikh Ahmed Hamdan stated that the commander of Hamas's military wing, Muhammad Deif, has planned attacks "in the heart of Israel," and Deif emphasized that Hamas would soon replace its defensive fighting policy with an offensive one. According to Hamdan, Deif also said that the organization had completed its preparations and was only waiting for orders. Deif is responsible for previous suicide bombings in Israel that have led to the deaths of dozens of Israelis. (Ha'aretz, Oct. 30; Yediot Ahranot, Oct. 30, 2007)

SIERRA LEONE

Youth loot Lebanese stores in Freetown: In response to reports that a Sierra Leonean woman had died after being raped by a man of Lebanese origin, young men took to the streets in the capital city of Freetown. Some store owners received threats, but Samir Hassaniyeh, head of the 10,000-strong Lebanese community in Sierra Leone, reported that it was believed that the danger had passed when the shops reopened Oct. 25. Soon after their doors opened, however, youths attacked the Lebanese-owned shops. The rioters stole televisions, radios, and cell phones, and accosted another Lebanese community leader. According to a Reuters news agency report, one of the looters was overheard shouting, "You cannot kill our people We are going to kill the Lebanese." Police officers released tear gas in order to disperse the rioters. The Lebanese community has responded with shock, especially since the man accused of rape was born in Sierra Leone. Since independence from the British in 1961, a substantial Lebanese business community has established itself in Sierra Leone. As in many other countries in West Africa and around the world, the Lebanese shopkeepers have dominated the trade in electrical goods. Their relative wealth has fueled resentment among some of the impoverished people, according to a report by *Financial Times*. Sierra Leone emerged from an 11-year civil war in 2002, which has left many young people unemployed throughout the country. (BBC Oct. 26; Reuters, Oct. 25, Financial Times, Oct. 25)

Koroma stays strong on zero-tolerance: Due to the perceived failures of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), President Koroma released ACC chief Henry Joko-Smart from his duties Oct. 22. According to a *Voice of America* report, experts have asserted that widespread corruption has contributed to the country's stymied progress in development. It was Koroma's platform of a "zero-tolerance stance" on corruption that helped him defeat the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) in September's presidential elections. Joko-Smart's dismissal was expected to be one of the first casualties after the elections, according to the Freetown-based watchdog Network for Justice and Development. Koroma has appointed Abdul Tejan Cole, an experienced human rights lawyer, the new chief of the ACC. Koroma further reiterated his commitment to fight against graft at the swearing-in of the 12 newly-appointed Ministers Oct. 29, stating "Any Minister who fails to live up to expectation and the high standards of the Government will be replaced by another citizen." (Afriquenligne, Oct. 29; Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 23; Voice of America, Oct. 24)

UGANDA

LRA delegation arrives in Kampala: Two members of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) left Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, and arrived in Kampala Oct. 28 to prepare for consultations with victims of the two-decade-long rebellion. Rei Achama and Michael Anywar represented the LRA on the Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team, whose role it has been to monitor the ceasefire signed by the LRA and the government August 2006. The visit was organized to facilitate the process of reconciliation and accountability before a final peace deal is sealed. According to Steven Kagoda, the permanent Secretary of the Internal Affairs Ministry, "They are here to discuss the security arrangements that we shall put in place for the LRA delegation that will be coming for consultations." Kagoda reported that by Nov. 1, an LRA delegation led by Chairman Martin Ojul will have flown to Uganda to begin consultations. The peace talks broke off June 2007 after the parties signed a pact on principles of accountability and reconciliation that required them to conduct consultations. Since the peace talks opened in Juba, delegates have made little progress, but the August 2006 ceasefire agreement has brought some degree of stability to Northern Uganda. (New Vision, Oct. 26, 2007)

LRA commander surrenders to Congolese authorities while LRA denies split: Opiyo Makasi, the rebel Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) operations and logistics commander, walked out of the bush and surrendered to authorities in Orientale province in the north-eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was held there by Congolese authorities and then transferred to the capital, Kinshasa, with his wife Oct. 14. Authorities handed Makasi over to the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Congo (MONUC) Oct. 25, and MONUC's demobilization and repatriation program has planned to prepare his eventual return to Uganda. "The normal procedure is that he will go before the amnesty commission or a representative thereof, and he would be repatriated to Uganda ultimately," said MONUC spokesman Kemal Saiki. Makasi is not one of the four top LRA commanders indicted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Top LRA commanders Joseph Kony and his deputy Vincent Otti were recently reported to have split because of disputes over the peace process. These allegations were refuted by LRA spokesman Godfrey Ayoo, who called them "government propaganda" aimed at tainting the LRA image before the group's planned visit to northern Uganda where they will hold consultations with civil society leaders and people living in displacement camps. Ayoo told the BBC, "The movement is solid." (BBC, Oct. 23; Reuters, Oct. 25)