



Peace & Justice Update
November 9, 2007
(Volume 17, Number 5)

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)
Al-Jazeera	=	Al-Jazeera (english.aljazeera.net)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allafrica.com)
American Chronicle	=	American Chronicle (www.americanchronicle.com)
Amnesty International	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
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/)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (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 (canberra.yourguide.com.au)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
Christian Monitor	=	Christian Monitor (www.christianmonitor.org)
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 (www.einnews.com)
eKantipur	=	Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.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)
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 (ipsnews.net)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
IRNA	=	Islamic Republic News Agency (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 Jakarta Post (www.thejakartapost.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 (jurist.law.pitt.edu)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Mehr	=	The Mehr News Agency (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)
The New Citizen	=	The New Citizen (www.thenewcitizen-sl.com)
New Vision	=	New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
Novosti	=	RIA Novosti (en.rian.ru)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Peace Africa	=	Peace Africa (www.allafrica.com/peaceafrica)
PDO	=	People's Daily Online (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 (news.scotsman.com)
SC-SL	=	The Special Court for Sierra Leone (www.sc-sl.org)
Scoop	=	The Scoop Independent News (www.scoop.co.nz)
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance (www.seapabkk.org)
SLCMP	=	Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Program (www.slcmp.org)
The SMH	=	The Sydney Morning Herald (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 (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)

UPDATE SUMMARY

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GEORGIA

Civil unrest increases within Georgia: The United National Council (UNC) (comprised of several political opposition groups) reaffirmed promises made earlier last month of a push to redraw Georgia's political structure when an estimated 30,000 protestors took to the streets of Tbilisi Nov. 2. The UNC issued four demands: adding political party representation to the Central Election Commission; redrawing the plurality voting system by which a portion of members of parliament (MPs) are selected; freeing "political prisoners;" and moving parliamentary elections forward to April 2008 (the date they were scheduled before constitutional amendments last year). Opposition leaders met with Speaker of Parliament Nino Burjanadze Friday evening to discuss their demands, but walked out of the meeting without any agreements reached. According to Burjanadze, the ruling party did not see the necessity of amending the constitution and characterized the requests made by the UNC as unworkable. Meanwhile, reports of blocked roads and aggressive behavior by Georgian police officers poured in from protestors en route to the rally. Georgian MP Giorgi Tsulaia stated that police in Kutaisi (Georgia's second largest city), "asked drivers to stop when they learned they were going to Tbilisi then took away their documents, saying the drivers didn't have the vehicle maintenance tags they needed." Officials within the Saakashvili administration have denied the reports and claimed that they were fabricated by opposition groups as a public relations tactic. For many Georgians, the rally offered an outlet for a growing tide of disappointment in President Saakashvili. According to one Kutaisi resident, "People are hungry, jobless and unable to buy clothes for their children. The president promised that our lives would change after the Rose Revolution, but that hasn't happened and the people won't forgive him." The irony that protestors would be drawing parallels to a revolution that ousted Saakashvili's predecessor because of widespread corruption charges did not escape the president, who stated in a televised interview Nov. 4 that the rallies were "an untalented attempt to imitate the revolution." (The Messenger, Nov. 2, 5; Civil.ge, Nov. 4)

Georgia pushes for Russian peacekeepers' removal: Georgian Ambassador to the United Nations Irakli Alasania demanded at a press briefing in New York Oct. 31 that Russian peacekeepers be withdrawn from the breakaway region of Abkhazia. The demand followed an incident at a Georgian youth camp in Ganmukhuri (a Georgian-controlled village bordering separatist-controlled Abkhazia) Oct. 30, described by the Georgian government as an unprovoked attack against Georgian policemen. Alasania notified the U.N. of a July 2006 parliamentary resolution to withdraw Russian peacekeepers from Abkhazia and urged the enforcement of the resolution, as well as a review of the settlement process. The Georgian government has suggested that an international law enforcement and security force (non-military) replace the Russian peacekeepers, but Abkhazian officials are vehemently opposed. According to de facto Abkhaz foreign minister Sergey Shamba, "Withdrawal of Russian forces would trigger a full-scale war in the South Caucasus." Georgia has emphasized its confidence in using the U.N. to settle conflicts in a peaceful manner, but Alasania noted that "change is inevitable and should happen soon if a meaningful dialogue is expected to be facilitated between Georgia and Russia." (The Messenger, Nov. 5)

INDONESIA

New Zealand called on to act on human rights abuses in Papua: The arrest of West Papuan human rights lawyer Iwanggin Sabar Olif Oct. 18 has caused great concern to Indonesian and international human rights groups. He was arrested for text messaging critical remarks about Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and has since been kept in police custody in Jakarta. The Indonesian Human Rights Committee (IHRC) has said that the New Zealand government bears responsibility to use its leverage with the Indonesian authorities to speak up about Olif's situation

because it provides training to the Indonesian military and police. In a letter addressed to New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston Peters, IHRC insisted, "It is vital that New Zealand responds pro-actively – otherwise New Zealand will be seen to condone provocative actions in blatant breach of international human rights norms." The letter went on to say that because Olif did not compose the text message and because the message had circulated widely in West Papua, "We... suspect that Mr. Olif is being targeted as other human rights defenders have been, for his legitimate human rights work. The events leading to his arrest also suggest that the authorities are intercepting SMS communications between human rights activists which is a worrisome indication of censorship." The New Zealand government held a recent workshop in Jayapura for the West Papua police, which focused on community policing and conflict management, both of which took place before the arrest of Olif. (Scoop, Nov. 6, 2007)

TIME Magazine recognizes Papuan leader: The Oct. 29 issue of TIME magazine reported that Papua Governor Barnabas Suebu was named a Hero of the Environment by TIME and received an award Oct. 25 in the Royal Court of Justice, London, for his commitment to protect Papua's rainforest. According to Neles Tebay, a lecturer at the Fajar Timur School of Philosophy and Theology in Abepura, Papua, Suebu's recognition has posed three challenges to Jakarta. First, Suebu's recognition by TIME has undermined the Indonesian government's attempts to keep international attention off Papua by preventing foreign journalists from visiting the province. Second, Suebu's work runs counter to the Indonesian government's efforts to extract resources such as palm oil and timber from Papua. Third, by drawing attention to Suebu, TIME also shone a light on fundamental problems in Papua including the existence of deep poverty and the fact that the province has the country's highest HIV prevalence rate. TIME also exposed the business and military interests that have profited from Papuan timber. Tebay hoped that Papua, the central government and the international community would collaborate to preserve Papua's forests. (The Jakarta Post, Oct. 31, 2007)

KOSOVO

Belgrade proposes solution based on Hong Kong model: The latest round of direct negotiations between Serb and Kosovar delegates over the future of the southern province ended Nov. 5 in Vienna with a slim chance of compromise, according to Aleksandr Botsan-Kharchenko, the Russian mediator to the talks. The talks included the presidents and prime ministers of both Serbia and Kosovo, and consisted of separate morning talks followed by direct negotiations in the afternoon. Serbian president Boris Tadić proposed a solution based on the model of Hong Kong, which exists as part of China, but with a high degree of autonomy. He stated that this model "provides elements that should be assessed carefully as offering answers to the challenges we are addressing." Skender Hyseni of the delegation from the Kosovar capital, Priština, dismissed the idea as inappropriate, adding that the historical circumstances were completely different in the cases of Hong Kong and Kosovo. The negotiation process is scheduled to end Dec. 10, after which a proposal for a solution is to be submitted to the United Nations. (B92, Nov. 5, 2007)

Germany denies it has already decided to recognize Kosovo: German officials reiterated a position of support for a negotiated solution to the Kosovo dispute Nov. 6, while also denying recent reports that Germany had already decided to recognize Kosovo in the event of a unilateral declaration of independence. The front page story in Koha Ditore, an Albanian daily published in Priština, quoted an unnamed German official Nov. 5 as saying, “We have never said it publicly, but we, as well as our associates, will recognize Kosovar independence. However, it is too early to speak about that, before the process of the Troika is finished, where we expect some differences to be bridged, which will give more arguments to our European partners.” German Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Jaeger rejected these claims on the following day, while government spokesman Ulrich Wilhelm told reporters that success should ultimately be achieved through negotiations. Priština’s indications of a unilateral declaration of Kosovar independence without United Nations sanction have been rhetorically supported by the U.S., while opposed by Russia and other nations. (B92, Nov. 5, 6, 2007)

NEPAL

Maoist proposals backed by the left: political divide within the seven party alliance deepens: A special session of the interim parliament concluded Nov. 4 when major left parties voted to endorse the Maoists’ proposal for a fully proportional representation system for a future constituent assembly and the immediate declaration of a Republic in Nepal. The major left parties included: the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML); CPN-Maoist; the People’s Front Nepal; the CPN-Unified, and the United Left Front. Despite the unification of these parties on the two issues, however, the motion cannot be implemented without an amendment to the interim constitution by a two-thirds majority of the House (a feat unattainable without the support of the Nepali Congress, who has opposed their adoption). The CPN-Maoist announced Nov. 6 that it would begin organizing nationwide actions to pressure the government into enforcing the proposals, beginning with mass assemblies in different parts of the country Nov. 18 (the day before the next regular House session of parliament is scheduled to begin). (eKantipur, Nov. 4-6)

Abducted journalist Shah confirmed dead by Maoists: more abductions continue: The Maoists admitted Nov. 5 that their cadres killed journalist Birendra Humar Shah Oct. 4, after he was abducted from Pipara Bazaar of Bara district on the same day. The Maoists stressed, however, that the murder resulted from a personal vendetta carried out by two Maoist cadres who were operating under the orders of Lal Babu Chaudhary (a commanding officer). Because of this, they argued, the entire party could not be held responsible for the crime. Outraged by this response, the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) launched protest demonstrations in Kathmandu Nov. 6 and demanded the Maoists publicly apologize for the murder. Journalists from various districts in Nepal joined in the protest by blocking the East-West highway at different stretches, boycotting news related to Maoist leaders for the day and burning an effigy of Maoist Chairman Prachandra in front of the party office in Nuwakot district. Abductions continue to plague Nepal and do not appear to be limited to Nepali journalists. On the same day that the Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist admitted its cadres had killed Sah, the Nepal Supreme Court reported that Maoists in Rukum district had abducted two court staffers while they were on duty. (eKantipur, Nov. 5-6)

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Barak says time not right for Gaza invasion: Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak stated Nov. 7 that now was not the time for widespread military action in Gaza, according to the Israeli daily Ha’aretz. On the same day, however, Barak reiterated claims from recent weeks that Israel was “getting closer to a large-scale operation in Gaza and [was] likely to stay there for a long time,” but emphasized that

all other means should first be exhausted. In reports since late September and mid-October, Barak and other Israeli officials had said that an invasion was “drawing near” or was “inevitable” and just a matter of time, and that the operation was necessary to put an end to Palestinian rocket fire from the Gaza Strip. However, Barak told reporters Nov. 6, “We should get to [the point of a broader operation] after we consider and exhaust all the other types of operational possibilities.” Barak also hinted that he did not want to jeopardize the upcoming U.S.-brokered conference in Annapolis between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, according to the Associated Press. (AP, Nov. 6; Ha’aretz, Nov. 6, 7, 2007)

Israeli Prime Minister says summit set for November: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert stated Nov. 6 that the United States-sponsored summit on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to take place in Annapolis, Maryland, would be scheduled for the last week of November. Olmert also said he expected invitations to the conference to be issued in the coming days. This announcement marked the closest any official had come to announcing a precise date for the event, which it appeared might be postponed. U.S. officials had previously made vague statements about the conference, stating that it would take place sometime at the end of the year. A number of Arab governments were also expected to be invited to the summit, including those that do not have relations with Israel, but said they would only attend if there were guarantees of firm progress. The United States and Israel had rejected an initiative adopted unanimously by the Arab League in 2006, which called for full normalization with Israel in exchange for a two-state solution on the 1967 borders. (AP, Nov. 6, 2007)

SIERRA LEONE

Political opposition freed: President Koroma unconditionally released former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) spokesman, Michael Omrie Golley, and two other political prisoners Oct. 4. The three men were indicted January 2006 for the attempted assassination of former Vice-President Solomon Berewa. Golley had been hailed a hero in the country’s quest for peace when he led the RUF to accept and sign a peace agreement that prominent warlords, such as Sam Bockarie, considered treacherous and thus refused to endorse. The treason charges were officially dropped by the Attorney-General’s Office after it established that there was no evidence to substantiate the allegations. The Attorney-General’s action was consistent with a declaration made by Koroma at the opening of Parliament Oct. 5 stating that, “With my government’s devotion to promote transparency and fairness in our judicial system, and in accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations, politically motivated cases will be reviewed speedily. Never again will the judiciary system be manipulated to unfairly silence political opponents.” The incumbent Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) was replaced by Koroma’s All People’s Congress (APC) in September’s elections. The country is still on the road to peace consolidation after an eleven-year civil war ended in 2002. (Concord Times, Nov. 5; The New Citizen, Nov. 2)

Women still suffer in Sierra Leone: At a rally held in the town of Makeni, birthplace of President Ernest Bai Koroma, Nov. 1, Amnesty International (AI) called on the newly elected government of the All People’s Congress (APC) to ensure justice and full compensation for the Sierra Leonean women who had been the victims of sexual violence. AI released a 35-page report entitled, “Getting reparations right for survivors of sexual violence,” documenting the extent to which women have remained stigmatized and have continued to suffer from the after-effects of sexual violence perpetrated during the country’s civil war. Female victims interviewed by AI reiterated this point, speaking of both medical and psychological problems they have continued to face. AI has estimated

that one-third of the total female population suffered rape or other sexual crimes, yet the women still have extremely limited access to help in dealing with the long-term effects. Even though a “Special Fund for War Victims” was stipulated by the 1999 Lomé Peace Accords, the government has continued to stall in its implementation. A reparations process developed through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has begun, but AI has stated it will need the full support of the government in order to be effective. The human rights organization further asserted that reparations needed to be accompanied by justice and called on the government to revoke the amnesty laws included in the Lomé Accords that bar prosecution of anyone accused of war crimes between 1991 and 1999. A properly functioning judicial system, AI stated, should “enable survivors to describe what has happened to them in an environment that protects their dignity and helps to end impunity for the horrific crimes they have suffered.”

([Amnesty International](#), Nov. 1; [BBC](#), Nov. 1; [Christian Monitor](#), Nov. 1)

UGANDA

LRA delegates arrive in Uganda: For the first time in more than 20 years, the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) sent a delegation to Kampala Nov. 1 to meet with government officials and consult various communities before peace talks resume in Juba, South Sudan. Top LRA commanders refused to leave their base in the bush in the Democratic Republic of Congo out of fear of international arrest warrants for war crimes they committed during the 20-year rebellion, and have appointed representatives instead. During a joint press conference held with government officials, chief rebel negotiator Martin Ojul and legal advisor Ayena Odongo called on the U.N. Security Council to issue a 12-month renewable suspension of the indictments, which target LRA leader Joseph Kony and three other top commanders, because, they claimed, “The ICC is an encumbrance to the peace process.” However Ruhakana Rugunda, the government’s lead negotiator in the peace talks, insisted, “Uganda supports the ICC arrest warrants.” He added that the only condition under which the government would seek a review of the indictments would be if it signed a final agreement on accountability that would be acceptable to victims of the conflict, the entire country and the international community. Furthermore, the government and the LRA extended a ceasefire Nov. 3. It had been due to expire at the end of November but was pushed back to January 31, 2008 to give both sides time to finalize a comprehensive deal to end the conflict. An LRA delegation then arrived Nov. 5 in Northern Uganda to hold consultations with victims of the conflict.

([IRIN](#), Nov. 2, Nov. 5; [The Monitor](#), Nov. 2, Nov. 4, Nov. 5; [Reuters](#), Nov. 1; [VOA](#), Nov. 5, 2007)

Silence persists on the fate of deputy rebel commander: Ethnic Acholi leaders in Gulu district have asked the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) leadership to reveal the whereabouts of Vincent Otti, the rebel group’s deputy commander. Otti has been widely rumored to be dead after an alleged split in October with LRA leader Joseph Kony. Top security forces said Nov. 3, “All indicators show that he is dead.” The former LRA director of operations, Opiyo Makasi, told the Sunday edition of [New Vision](#) that Otti was arrested Oct. 2 by Kony. Reports have circulated that he was executed under Kony’s orders. However, a member of the LRA peace team, Yusuf Adek, has claimed that Otti is not dead but bedridden in a hospital in Khartoum due to cholera. Other sources said that Otti is in the hospital in Khartoum being treated for bullet wounds sustained in a battle with fighters loyal to Kony. Major General Gier Chuan Aluong, the South Sudan communications minister who is representing the chief mediator of the Juba peace talks, Riek Machar, said, “The LRA are not being straightforward. They are being cagey. They are not telling us the whole truth. They should tell us whether he died of natural causes or not.” ([The Monitor](#), Nov. 5; [New Vision](#), Nov. 4, 2007)