



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)
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)

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GEORGIA

UNC protestors forcefully dispersed: state of emergency declared: Mass protests led by leaders of the United National Council (UNC) ended Nov. 7 when protestors were forcefully dispersed by riot police. According to Georgian officials, the incident began when crowds blocked Rustaveli Avenue (the capital city's main thoroughfare) and refused to budge after repeated warnings. Patrol police earlier that morning began evicting a small group of protestors outside the parliament building. The eviction triggered widespread anger and opposition leaders called for supporters to rally in larger numbers outside of parliament. By noon, at least 3,000 protestors had gathered and were cordoned off by police from blocking Rustaveli Avenue. As crowds began filing into the street and pushing the police back, riot patrols opened fire on the crowds with water cannons, rubber bullets and tear gas. A total of 508 people were taken to the hospital, 94 of whom remained there by the end of the day. In a televised address to the nation, President Mikheil Saakashvili stated that the civic unrest was a byproduct of a "masterminded plot by Russia, implemented with the help of some radical opposition parties." According to Saakashvili, "taped audio and video materials released by the interior ministry Nov. 7 show some opposition leaders were cooperating with the Russian counter-intelligence service and that the protests were intended to undermine security in Georgia by encouraging a state coup." The president declared a state of emergency and imposed restrictions on demonstrations and strikes, as well as the dissemination of information from all private television stations (except for newspaper and online media sources). The state of emergency (passed by parliament Nov. 9) was to last until Nov. 22. Numerous international entities have condemned the Georgian authorities' response to the protests. According to Holly Cartner, Europe and Central Asia director at Human Rights Watch, "Firing rubber bullets at peaceful demonstrators is a complete abuse of the use of force. The government does not have a carte blanche to restrict fundamental freedoms just because it is in crisis." ([Civil.ge](#), Nov. 7-13, 2007)

Snap elections declared; Saakashvili faces widespread criticism: In response to protestors' demands, President Mikheil Saakashvili has planned snap presidential elections for Jan. 5, 2008 and has proposed to hold a plebiscite in parallel with the elections, which will determine whether or not to hold parliamentary polls in the spring of 2008. Saakashvili has been opposed to holding them in the spring because of a perceived risk that Russia could manipulate Georgia's elections if they coincide with Russia's presidential elections in March. Opposition groups welcomed the decision, but claimed the president has used the state of emergency for his own political advantage. According to Tina Khidasheli of the opposition Republican Party, "With elections less than two months away, we still have the state of emergency to contend with and the media remains restricted." Ex-defense minister Irakli Okruashvili emphasized similar sentiments in an interview with Reuters Nov. 9, saying "There won't be enough time and sources to conduct campaigns because all of the opposition media is shut down." The only television station currently operating in the region is the Georgian Public Broadcaster, state owned and operated. Opposition leaders have refused to engage in conversation with ruling officials until the media restrictions are lifted, but government leaders have argued that one of the stations in particular (Imedi TV) was the propaganda wing for alleged coup plotters. While the details surrounding the alleged "conspiracy against the state" are still being investigated, Saakashvili has continued to be bombarded with criticisms from numerous groups and organizations for his alleged application of inherently undemocratic methods in a supposedly democratic state. ([Civil.ge](#), Nov. 7-13, 2007)

INDONESIA

U.N. envoy on torture visits Indonesia: U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture and Cruelty, Manfred Nowak, arrived on a visit to Indonesia Nov. 10 and was expected to remain until Nov. 23 to assess conditions there. His task has been to travel throughout the archipelago for an information-gathering exercise on “tortuous, cruel, inhuman and degrading human acts.” He held a meeting with Indonesia’s National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas Ham) Nov. 12 to ask for input on cases of torture potentially still occurring in Indonesia. The Chairman for Internal Affairs of Komnas, Ridha Saleh, said, “We recommend that he goes to the Jakarta Provincial Police, the Attorney General’s Office, prisons in East Java and several conflict areas like Papua, Poso and Aceh.” Nowak was invited by the Indonesian government. According to Rafendi Djamin, a representative of the Indonesian Human Rights Working Group, Nowak’s visit benefited the government because it demonstrated its commitment to eliminating torture. However, human rights groups demanded Nov. 8 that the government ensure that Nowak be given full access to all regions and information necessary. According to a survey recently conducted by the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute, 74.4 percent of inmates interviewed claimed they had been tortured by police officers during investigations, while another 4.5 percent said they had been tortured by prison guards. Nowak is expected to depart to Papua Nov. 15. (The Jakarta Post, Nov. 9, Nov. 13, 2007)

Conflicting perspectives on the status of human rights remain: Marty Natalegawa, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, delivered a statement at the United Nations General Assembly Oct. 30, in which he claimed that Indonesia has made progress with its human rights agenda. Natalegawa characterized the government as a vibrant democracy and lauded it for adding a universal Bill of Rights to the Constitution, establishing a Constitutional Court, and enacting a National Plan of Action on Human Rights 2004-2009. He also claimed the existence of strong ties between the government and civil society in the promotion of human rights. However, The Free West Papua Campaign (UK) did not agree. Nov. 10 marked the sixth anniversary of the death of Theys Eluay, the former leader of the West Papuan independence movement, strangled to death by Indonesian soldiers. Richard Samuelson, Co-Director of the Campaign stated, “Now in 2007... Indonesia still has the same violent response to any West Papuan who dares to call for independence through dialogue and democracy.” Samuelson urged that Eluay be remembered as a hero and that Yudhoyono demonstrate his commitment to democracy by upholding human rights in West Papua. (The Jakarta Post, Nov. 6; FWPC, Nov. 10, 2007)

KOSOVO

PDK President says West will recognize Kosovo independence: Hashim Thaçi, President of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) and former leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) asserted Nov. 11 that Western powers would recognize the independence of Kosovo in December. Thaçi told Reuters news agency, “We have assurances that the independence of Kosovo will be recognized internationally.” He also said, “Based on meetings I had with world leaders, I can confirm that it is only a question of when independence will be recognized.” Thaçi added that Kosovo would declare independence shortly after Dec. 10, the scheduled end of the mediated talks between Serb and Kosovar negotiators. Russian officials, who have traditionally supported the Serb position of not permitting an independent state in Kosovo, continued to stress that Dec. 10 would not become an artificial deadline. They also indicated in the past that they would veto any U.N. Security Council resolution affirming an independent state in Kosovo, which would nullify U.N. authorization for such a move. (B92, Nov. 12, 2007)

Militant Albanian group active in Kosovo: The Albanian National Army (ANA), an outlawed paramilitary group designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), has been active in Kosovo, according to mid-November reports from the Associated Press. The group was reportedly patrolling northern Kosovo towns along the boundary with Serbia proper, armed with AK-47 rifles and other light weapons. They claimed they were patrolling the towns in order to prevent Serb incursions into the area. One ANA commander told AP that they were “disillusioned with Kosovo's political leaders and considered the international-mediated talks on the province’s future to be a failure.” The news came a month after the Czar Lazar Guards, a Serb paramilitary group considered an enemy by the ANA, threatened to attack U.N. and NATO institutions if Kosovo declared independence. The ANA has had about 12,000 members, including intellectuals, students, professors, and farmers, according to a Kosovo daily paper. (B92, Nov. 13, 2007)

NEPAL

National Human Rights Commission report claims that human rights conditions in Nepal have not improved: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a statement Nov. 7 highlighting the absence of any noteworthy achievements in the human rights situation in Nepal since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) between the government and the Maoists in 2006. Though acts of killing and abductions perpetrated by Maoists have decreased, the NHRC stated that “the human rights situation could not improve due to atrocities, acts of abductions, beatings, property seizure and donation campaigns being carried out in some places by the Young Communist League (YCL) (a Maoist sister organization). In a report that monitored 37 districts of Nepal, the NHRC stated that it had received “726 complaints related to human rights violations, the highest number of which (141) were related to abduction/disappearance.” The NHRC also found that 140 complaints were related to torture and mistreatment and 102 were related to killings. (eKantipur, Nov. 7, 2007)

Nepali press remains under attack: Despite the restoration of democracy in Nepal in April 2006, Nepali journalists have faced an onslaught of arrests, intimidation, abduction, extortion, physical torture and murders by government groups, the Maoists and various other violent groups. According to the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ), “Between May 2006 and Nov. 7, 2007, 619 journalists and media houses across the country faced intimidation from the government, Maoists, and regional and ethnic groups agitating against the government.” The FNJ stated, “114 of the journalists among them were either threatened or mistreated while on assignment and 126 others were displaced from their job within the last ten months.” Attacks against media personnel have become an increasing human rights concern in Nepal, motivated by what FNJ President Bishnu Nisthuri has claimed is “the inability of agitating groups in the Terai and eastern region to tolerate harsh criticism in the press.” (eKantipur, Nov. 10, 2007)

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Palestinians mourn after Arafat rally ends in violence: At least seven Palestinians were killed Nov. 12 after a rally to commemorate the life of Palestinian icon Yasser Arafat ended in armed clashes between Hamas security forces and supporters of the rival Fatah political party. Fatah accused Hamas of instigating the violence by firing on a civilian crowd, while Hamas claimed that armed Fatah gunmen fired the first shots from rooftops. Doctors at two Gaza hospitals said that all of the dead and most of the wounded were Fatah supporters. Palestinians throughout the occupied territories began three days of mourning Nov. 13 for the victims. The news came as a newly released Palestinian survey showed that support for Fatah had significantly risen while support for Hamas

had declined. The United States and Israel froze Palestinian funds and international connections after the 2006 election of Hamas, in the hope that Palestinians would become dissatisfied with Hamas to the point of calling new elections and returning Fatah to power, according to the New York Times. (Al-Jazeera, Nov. 13; New York Times, Feb. 14, 2006; Nov. 12, 2007)

New York Times reports dampening expectations on peace talks: Israeli and American officials have been so busy dampening expectations for the conference between Israelis and Palestinians (scheduled for the end of November in Annapolis), that they are no longer referring to it as a conference anymore, but rather a “meeting,” according to a New York Times diplomatic memo Nov. 12. Steven Erlanger of the Times wrote that the conference “looks to be thin on content, mostly serving as a stage to begin formal negotiations on a peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas.” He added that Palestinian negotiators wanted to be very specific on the issue of future borders, but vague on the issue of the right of Palestinians to return to their homes in present-day Israel. On the other hand, Israel wanted specifics on rejecting this “right of return,” but wanted more ambiguity on the issue of borders and land swaps. The conference had originally been organized for the end of the year with the professed goal of reaching a peace agreement upon its end. (New York Times, Nov. 12, 2007)

SIERRA LEONE

Fighting endemic corruption a top priority for Koroma: In a letter from Human Rights Watch to President Ernest Bai Koroma, the newly elected leader was urged to address pressing human rights concerns in Sierra Leone. The letter, sent on the eve of his formal inauguration Nov. 14, highlighted the “vicious cycle of corruption, economic decline, violence and impunity” which the country has faced. President Koroma has already taken steps in the fight against corruption by auditing the entire government in order to identify problems. The results were dismal: “Every ministry audited has proven to be very corrupt. So our country is behind because of corruption,” explained Koroma. The audit also encountered critical inadequacies in the health care, tax collection and security sectors. “The time of turning a blind eye has passed,” said Peter Takirambudde, Africa Director at Human Rights Watch, adding that the new administration must address the problem of corruption swiftly and seriously. Among the recommended reforms, Human Rights Watch requested that Koroma increase the capacity and independence of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Human Rights Watch affirmed that this institution is vital to keeping government officials accountable, but its success has often been hindered by the manipulations of powerful political forces. Sierra Leone emerged 2002 from an 11-year civil war which was catalyzed by the rise of corruption in government coupled with inequitable distribution of the country’s vast natural resources. (BBC, Nov. 14; Human Rights Watch, Nov. 14; Voice of America Nov. 14, 2007)

China, Sierra Leone strengthening ties: Zhai Jun, the People’s Republic of China (PRC’s) special envoy to Sierra Leone, visited Freetown Nov. 7. He conveyed President Hu Jintao’s congratulations for a successful election and reiterated the PRC’s dedication to development Sierra Leone’s development. Zhai commented that the PRC has hoped to strengthen the 36 years of strong diplomatic ties between the countries and establish deeper bilateral ties rooted in mutual trust and cooperation. President Koroma pledged his commitment to a stronger relationship with the PRC and reiterated that his government holds closely to the “one-China” policy, having refused to establish ties with Taiwan. The PRC has also announced the cancellation of \$22 million worth of debt owed by Sierra Leone. This money would be transferred to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries fund of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to be used in various areas of development, according to Sierra Leone’s Foreign Minister Zainab Bangura. The funds have

been allotted to focus on priority development projects, most notably the increased capacity of the energy sector. The PRC has commissioned a team of experts with the mandate to assess the short and long term power supply needs of Freetown. (Awareness Times, Nov. 9; The New Citizen, Nov. 9; China View, Nov. 8, 2007)

UGANDA

LRA delegates ask for forgiveness and receive it: Members of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) delegation, which has recently visited Kampala, began consultations with the victims of the over 20-year insurgency in order to hear their views. The consultations have been a part of the third agenda item in the adjourned peace talks, which is accountability and reconciliation. They have asked to be tried by their own tribal customs rather than face the International Criminal Court. Human rights campaigners have argued that rebels should be given jail sentences, while many Ugandans have maintained that they should face traditional Ugandan justice which involves rituals and ceremonies, rather than Uganda's laws and courts. LRA spokesman Martin Ojul said, "I ask forgiveness, that we forget what happened and focus on the future." According to Kenneth Oketta, the prime minister of the Acholi Cultural Institution, "They are willing to forgive them because they are desperate, and they have learned that during the last... year, the success for peace is the LRA because when they stopped fighting after signing the cessation of hostilities, there has been a lot of peace and people are home..." He said that the consultations were marked by candid exchanges. (VOA, Nov. 12; Herald Tribune, Nov. 11; The Monitor, Nov. 11; Al-Jazeera, Nov. 12).

Fate of LRA Deputy is still unknown: Claims have circulated that the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) deputy commander Vincent Otti was killed by the LRA leader Joseph Kony Oct. 8 after a split between them. Martin Ojul, the spokesman for the LRA delegation currently in Uganda, said, "This rumor circulating that Otti is dead is propaganda. Vincent is alive and lives together with his boss, Kony. Leaders of southern Sudan and some Members of Parliament in Uganda are in touch with [Otti]." However, he did not name the MPs. The Chairman of Gulu District in northern Uganda, Norbert Mau, said that after he spoke with Kony on the phone Nov. 8, Kony detained Otti, on suspicion of espionage. In the conversation, Mau quoted Kony as having said, "I have not killed anybody. I should not be [pressured] to let a prisoner speak on national media... Civilians have no right to put pressure on me." Unlike his negotiators, Kony did not deny the existence of a rift in LRA. (VOA, Nov. 9; The Monitor, Nov. 12, 2007)