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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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ADNKI	=	ADNKI (www.adnki.com)
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)
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune (www.asiantribune.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
B92	=	B92 Net (www.b92.net/eng/)
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development (www.awid.org)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk)
CBC News	=	CBC News (www.cbc.ca)
CIA	=	CIA - The World Factbook (www.cia.gov)
EU	=	European Union (www.europa.eu.int)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (www.guardian.co.uk)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
IndiaTimes	=	India Times (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.uk)
IPS News Agency	=	Inter Press Service News Agency (http://ipsnews.net)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Kantipur Online	=	The Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com)
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post (www.nepalnews.com.np)
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times (www.khaleejtimes.com)
Jurist	=	The Jurist (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Makfax	=	Macedonian Independent News Agency (www.makfax.com)
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)
New Zealand Herald	=	The New Zealand Herald (www.nzherald.co.nz)
News24	=	News24 (www.news24.com)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Panfrican News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain (www.oxfam.org.uk)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières (www.rsf.org)
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance (www.seapabkk.org)
SERBIANNA	=	Serbianna.com (www.serbianna.com)
SMH	=	Sydney Morning Herald (www.smh.com)
ST	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (www.unesco.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)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english)
WP	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Web India	=	Web India (www.webindia123.com)

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AFGHANISTAN

Al Qaeda leaders reestablish power in Pakistan: United States intelligence sources have located al-Qaeda training compounds in the tribal region of North Waziristan in Pakistan. Intelligence officials announced the uncovering of evidence that Osama bin Laden and his lieutenant Ayman al-Zawahri have started to build training camps in the mountainous area bordering Afghanistan. Capable of training 10-20 men, the compounds have been operated by Arab, Pakistani and Afghan militants allied with al Qaeda. The discovery has raised concerns among intelligence officials that terrorist networks and leaders have been regaining strength, despite U.S. efforts to weaken them. It has also prompted debate within the Bush administration about how to address the threat posed by the compounds. Some officials advocate American strikes against the camps while others argue that such attacks would injure civilians. The tribal border region has been a haven for militant activity since a U.S. and British-led military campaign ousted the Taliban from Afghanistan at the end of 2001. (NYT, February 19, 2007).

Musharraf announces plan to build Afghanistan-Pakistan border fence: International pleas to stop Taliban militants from taking refuge in Pakistan have pressured Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to begin construction on a fence along the 1,470-mile Afghan-Pakistani border. The construction would be completed in two phases, the first of which would create a 22-mile long fence along the tribal region of North Waziristan in Pakistan, while the second would entail the use of landmines and fencing along the 150-mile border in Baluchistan province. Musharraf announced his proposal amid escalating violence in the area, which has included a doubling in the use of roadside bombs since 2006. The announcement has generated widespread and severe skepticism. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has complained that the fence would divide Afghan families spread across both sides of the frontier and that the mines would harm civilians. Karzai has also suggested that building a fence would fail to prevent terrorists from seeking sanctuary in the tribal Pakistani regions, claiming that the source of the problem is Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Pakistani police acquiescence to the presence of Taliban networks in the area. Terrorist experts have also questioned Pakistan's commitment to combating terrorism and have accused Pakistan of secretly supporting Taliban-led guerrillas. Pakistan's tribal region has been a refuge for militant Taliban and al Qaeda insurgents since they were ousted by a U.S. and British-led campaign in 2001. (NYT, February 19, 2007).

GUATEMALA

Rigoberta Menchú chooses Together for Guatemala to back her presidential bid: Quiché Maya Indian leader Rigoberta Menchú announced on February 22 that she had chosen the left-leaning political party Encuentro por Guatemala (EG)—which roughly translates as Together for Guatemala—to back her presidential bid. Menchú, who announced her decision to run for president in early February, had already gained support from the indigenous-led Winaq movement, but Winaq would not have time to register as a political party before the September 2007 elections. Menchú met with Nineth Montenegro, general secretary of the EG, and Ricardo Cajas, head of Winaq, earlier this week to discuss necessary compromises for an alliance to occur, such as how to divide the number of legislative seats that each party would receive. The EG was founded a year ago by Montenegro and has since gathered the 15,220 affiliates required to become a political party, although it still needs the Electoral Supreme Court's approval in order to register as an official party. Menchú's decision to ally herself with the EG has separated her from the traditional leftist political party—and former rebel army—Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) with which she had met earlier in the week to discuss a possible coalition. Both Montenegro and Menchú became active in politics after their family members were tortured and killed by the Guatemalan army during the 36-year civil that claimed over 200,000

lives. They hoped that Nobel laureate Menchú's presidential bid would "give hope to young people and women" as she would become Latin America's first indigenous woman head of state. (PrensaLibre, February 20; WP, February 22, 2007)

Guatemalan policemen charged with the murder of Salvadoran representatives to the Central American Parliament: Four Guatemalan policemen have been arrested for the February 19 murder of three Salvadoran diplomats and their driver in El Jocotillo just outside of Guatemala City. Among those arrested was Luis Arturo Herrera, head of the Guatemalan National Police organized crime unit. Eduardo D'Aubuisson, William Pichinite, and José Ramón González—all members of El Salvador's governing party, the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance—were being escorted by Guatemalan police to a meeting of the Central American Parliament when they were kidnapped and brutally murdered. One of the victims, Eduardo D'Aubuisson, was the son of the late Salvadoran right-wing leader Roberto D'Aubuisson, who is widely seen to have been behind the death squads that killed thousands of civilians during that country's civil war, including Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1980. The murders took place on the 16th anniversary of Roberto D'Aubuisson's death, which prompted Guatemalan President Oscar Berger to announce that the possibility of the murders being politically related would not be ruled out. Vice President Eduardo Stein stated that the murders would have a negative impact on Guatemala as the country prepared for important international assemblies and forums such as the International Olympic Committee meetings that would take place in Guatemala City in July. The Central American Parliament is comprised of representatives from five of the seven Central American countries, including Guatemala, and was created to pull the fractured region together after the end of the tumultuous civil wars that plagued Central America during the 1980s. Guatemala and El Salvador both experienced civil war and government repression resulting in massive losses during the 1980s; after signing peace accords in the 1990s, both have made efforts to create more legitimate and democratic governments. (WP, February 20; PrensaLibre, February 21; NYT, February 20, 22, 2007)

KOSOVO

Serbia resists Kosovo autonomy: In a February 14 parliamentary vote, Serbia rejected a United Nations proposal to grant conditional statehood to its southern province, raising concerns that it would be unwilling to compromise over Kosovo's status in ongoing talks in Vienna, Austria. The February 2 proposal, which calls for limited self-governance for Kosovo, has drawn strong criticism from Kosovo Serbs and Albanians, as well as Belgrade. Minister of Public Administration Zoran Lončar further hinted at Serbia's refusal to budge on the Kosovo issue by predicting that any attempt by the U.N. Security Council to impose a solution would be blocked by China and Serbian ally Russia and other members of the Council. Lončar issued his February 17 comments amid speculation that Serbia's non-cooperation would prompt the Security Council to resolve the Kosovo issue on its own by directly imposing the terms of the U.N. proposal; but because permanent members Russia and China wield veto power, any decision on Kosovo would require their support, which has not been forthcoming so far. Kosovo became an international protectorate in 1999, after a NATO air campaign ended conflict between ethnic Serbs and Albanians. (WP, February 16; WP, February 17)

U.N. commander resigns over deaths: Commander of U.N. police in Kosovo Stephen Curtis resigned February 14 after violent clashes between police and demonstrators led to the deaths of two protestors and severe injury to another. Over 3,000 ethnic Albanians marched February 10 in opposition to a U.N. proposal for limited autonomy for Kosovo, but were dispersed by U.N. police using tear gas and rubber bullets. Two were killed after being hit by rubber bullets, and another remained in critical condition. The police actions and deaths elicited criticism by some international organizations and the Kosovo government, which have put pressure on the U.N. to accept responsibility for the incident. The mission's most senior official, Joachim Rucker, responded by pressuring Curtis to resign and appointing an international prosecutor to investigate the deaths. Curtis's resignation follows on the

heels of a February 12 resignation by Kosovo Interior Minister Fatmir Rexhepi, who held himself personally accountable for the deaths. The protests were organized by Albanian political movement Vetevendosja in response to the February 2 proposal, which many Albanians feel does not go far enough in granting Kosovo autonomy. Albanians constitute the ethnic majority in Kosovo, which has been administered by the U.N. since the end of a 1999 conflict between Serbs and Albanian separatists. (NYT, February 14, 15, 2007)

Former prime minister recalled to The Hague: Former Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj was to stand trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity after being summoned by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) located at The Hague. Haradinaj is charged with having ordered the murder, torture, and rape of ethnic Serbs while serving as a guerrilla commander in the 1999 conflict between ethnic Serbs and Kosovo Albanians. When indicted in 2005, Haradinaj resigned as Prime Minister and surrendered voluntarily to The Hague, but was later provisionally released until March 1, 2007, when he was expected to return to stand trial. An influential politician who has developed a reputation for diplomacy and moderation, Haradinaj has urged his supporters to remain calm and refrain from jeopardizing Kosovo's prospects for independence. His return date coincides with ongoing talks over the status of Kosovo and follows recent demonstrations by Kosovo Albanians against a U.N. proposal to grant limited autonomy to the province. Haradinaj, current Prime Minister Agim Ceku, U.N. Governor Joachim Rucker, and others have all expressed concern over the potential for further civil unrest if Kosovo's bid for independence is sidelined much longer. Though a province of Serbia, Kosovo has been administered by the U.N. since a NATO air campaign ended the 1999 conflict, which killed over 10,000 and displaced millions. The ICTY was established in 1994 to prosecute perpetrators of atrocities during the Bosnian war, and its mandate has since been extended to include crimes committed in Kosovo. (ICTY, Reuters, February 23, 2007)

NEPAL

King's address in defense of 2005 royal takeover sparks reactions from political parties and civil society: King Gyanendra defended his February 1, 2005 takeover of the government saying he was "compelled ... in accordance with the people's aspiration to reactivate the elected bodies by maintaining law and order following the dissolution of the House of Representatives." In his Democracy Day address February 19, the king also pointed out that the dissolution of the House had been a recommendation from the then-current Prime Minister, who was "unable to conduct general elections" within the stipulated timeframe—a task which he declared subsequent governments also failed to complete. The king's statement hinted at looming controversies regarding the mid-June Constituent Assembly elections, while also suggesting that the current government was incompetent. In reaction to the king's remarks, students held a sit-in in front of Singha Durbar, the official seat of government which now houses both chambers of the Parliament of Nepal, while others vandalized statues of royals and chanted anti-monarchical slogans. Civil society leader Devendra Raj Pandey accused the king of taking this opportunity to "conspire against the people," and claimed that demonstrations would continue until Nepal was declared a democratic republic. Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist) Chairman Prachanda called the king's address a "challenge" to supporters of democracy adding that it showed "reactionary elements [were] still trying to wreak havoc in the country and might still indulge in one final conspiracy to impose autocratic rule." On February 20 Deputy Prime Minister Amik Serchan urged all the political parties to declare Nepal a democratic republic through the interim parliament, stating that "the nation [would] be in danger if the monarchy exists." King Gyanendra, who escaped unharmed after his motorcade was stoned as he drove to a pilgrimage site in Kathmandu February 16, was forced to relinquish power April 24, 2006 after a massive popular uprising. The Maoists and an alliance of seven major political parties have pledged to hold the Constituent Assembly elections in mid-June in order to rewrite Nepal's Constitution. (BBC, February 19, 2007; Kantipur, February 19, 20, 2007; The New York Times, February 17, 2007).

New uprisings on the horizon due to unrepresented minorities: After Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's February 8 statement on the need for proportional representation for the Madhesi people, the government granted 49 percent of the 330 seats in Parliament to the Madhesis, relative to the 48.4 percent of the population that they make up, while 51 percent of the seats would be divided among the 55 hilly and Himalayan districts that comprise 51.6 percent of the population. In response, different indigenous groups have now taken to the streets alleging misrepresentation within the Madhesi community and beyond. Other indigenous groups such as the janajatis have been excluded from the Hindu caste structure due to their isolation and have claimed to be demographically misrepresented by the Madhesis. The Sherpa, ethnic groups of the most mountainous region of Nepal, said they "will have strikes and [they] will also talk." (IRIN, February 18, 2007; Kantipur, February 20, 2007; Nepali Times, February 16, 2007).

SOMALIA

Mogadishu erupts in artillery battle: Pre-dawn mortar attacks between insurgents and government forces killed and wounded a number of civilians and provoked an exodus from the capital city in the heaviest day of fighting since the government's December 26 takeover. The February 20 shelling began when unknown assailants fired on several key targets, including the city's main sea port, the presidential palace, and government and Ethiopian military barracks. Both these initial mortar attacks and the government's artillery response landed in residential areas, causing 15 deaths and wounding over 40, all civilians. Mogadishu residents, many of whom sought cover under concrete structures when the shelling started, have started to flee the city. The attacks occurred amid increased efforts by government forces to boost security measures in the capital city, as well as preparations to deploy a contingent of African Union troops in Somalia to stabilize the country. Though the identity of the attackers is unknown, the Somali government blames militant Islamists, who had vowed an insurgency against the current government. Prior to their December 26 ouster by Somali and Ethiopian forces, the Union of Islamic Courts had governed Somalia for six months and had attempted to implement Sharia law. (BBC, Reuters, February 20; WP, February 21, 2007).

Somali government boosts security efforts: The Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) responded February 19 to increasing insecurity in Mogadishu by establishing a joint police and military unit to help quell the violence that has engulfed the capital city in recent weeks. The new heavily-armed rapid reaction force will respond to the near-daily rocket attacks that have killed dozens of Mogadishu residents since the TFG's December 26 overthrow of the Union of Islamic Courts. In addition, government forces have increased patrols and set up checkpoints throughout Mogadishu in order to prevent the attacks, which have been made possible by a recent influx of weapons into the city. The security efforts come amid a plan to deploy 8,000 African Union troops to Somalia to replace Ethiopian forces, which have maintained a presence in the country since assisting the TFG in driving out the Courts. Though no one has claimed responsibility for the recent violence, the government attributed it to members of the Courts, many of whom are traditional adversaries of the clans comprising the TFG. The Courts had controlled Somalia for six months prior to their ouster and still retain strong support among many segments of the population who oppose the presence of Ethiopian forces in the country. (BBC, WP, February 19, 2007).

SRI LANKA

UK expresses desire for greater role in peace talks: The United Kingdom announced February 15 that it would like to play a bigger role in peace negotiations between the Sri Lankan government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Britain's task would include speaking with the LTTE, which has been labeled terrorist by both the British and Sri Lankan government. British foreign officer

Kim Howells arrived in Sri Lanka to perform a three-day assessment of the state of eastern Sri Lanka, where renewed fighting has displaced thousands of families. President Mahinda Rajapakse has consented to the UK's proposal, including its calls for direct dialogue with the LTTE. Britain and other nations have expressed concern over the Sri Lankan government's renewed confidence in its strategy to destroy the rebels' military capabilities. Both the government and the LTTE have been responsible for massive deaths and displacement of Sri Lankan citizens since the civil war began in 1983. (Reuters, February 15, 2007).

UK questions allocation of aid given to Sri Lankan government: The United Kingdom has requested assurances that the Sri Lankan government is fulfilling human rights and defense spending conditions the UK has placed on its aid. Britain's inquiry comes amid Sri Lanka's refusal to heed international appeals to end the twenty-four year civil war between the government and Tamil rebel groups. In 2005, Britain offered the equivalent of \$79.9 million in debt relief to Sri Lanka over the next ten years, to be distributed at a rate of \$7.99 million per year. The 2005 aid package was contingent upon Sri Lanka's fulfillment of conditions pertaining to human rights and defense spending. In 2004, Sri Lanka received foreign aid amounting to \$519.1 million, and in 2006 the United Nations ranked the country 93rd out of 177 countries in terms of human development. British Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn, requested confirmation that the conditions were being met upon distribution of the next installment of the aid package. Since a ceasefire in 2002, government and rebel forces alike have blatantly violated the truce, generating international concern as the killing and displacement of Sri Lankan civilians have continued to escalate. (Reuters, February 18, 2007).

SUDAN

Top two ruling parties consent to uphold two-year old peace agreement: President Hassan Omar al-Bashir of the National Congress Party (NCP) and Vice President Salva Kiir of the southern Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have agreed to meet in order to resolve differences which have put at risk the 2005 peace agreement between the government and the SPLM. The 2005 agreement, made between then-Vice President Ali Osman Taha and then-SPLM leader, the late John Garang, ended the 22-year long civil war between the Khartoum government and rebels in the south of Sudan. Al-Bashir and Kiir will meet in order to revitalize the agreement, as well as to restore jointly-run government institutions. Plans to reopen talks on the agreement follow a contentious January 9 meeting between the al-Bashir government and the SPLM, held in Nigeria, in which the two sides accused each other of violating the terms of the agreement. The main points of contention between the government and SPLM include the presence of armed militias alongside armed forces in both movements and accusations of SPLM corruption over the disappearance of government money under their watch. The war that ended in 2005 was virtually the longest-running conflict on the African continent and killed two million people since 1983. (ST, February 18, 2007).

Darfur rebel conference further delayed due to development of new faction: In hopes of forging an agreement reuniting them, rebel groups in Sudan's western Darfur region have agreed on a conference, to be held on a date still to be determined. According to Jar el-Neby, commander of the National Redemption Front (NRF), a rebel faction that has recently broken away from the NRF has issued a request to take part in the conference, which if granted will delay the talks indefinitely. Neby has commented that participation in the conference by the new faction will bring much to the negotiating table. This will not have been the first time that new rebel factions have delayed a conference. The new faction broke off due to disagreement within the NRF over whether or not to accept a ceasefire negotiated January 2007. Because of dissent and failure to negotiate with Khartoum, rebel groups have subverted a peace settlement to the civil war that has plagued the region since 2003, claiming the lives of over 200,000 people and displacing another 2.5 million. (Reuters, February 18, 2007).

UGANDA

Lord's Resistance Army rebels to return to peace talks: Riek Machar, vice-president of the autonomous government of southern Sudan and chief mediator of the peace talks between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) said Tuesday that he had been given assurance that LRA representatives would come back to the peace talks in the south Sudanese capital, Juba. The top mediator explained that the cause for the talks' delay had stemmed from differences of opinion within the LRA—differences between those who wanted to return to the talks and those who did not. Machar went on to say that those groups had reunited and subsequently decided to return to the peace talks. Although there was no set date for when the talks would resume, Machar stated that after the LRA delegates arrived in Juba he would travel with them to meet their leaders in order to “set a schedule for the resumption of the talks.” In January, LRA delegates walked out of peace negotiations that started in August of 2006 after Sudanese President Hassan Omar al-Bashir vowed to eject the LRA from Sudan. ([Reuters](#), February 20, 2007).

Clashes between the army and Karamojong “warriors” leave fifty-seven dead: Clashes between the army and warriors belonging to the pastoralist Karamojong community in north-eastern Uganda have killed 57 people since February 12, including four soldiers. The fighting started when a gang of armed warriors, in their quest to recuperate stolen cattle originally recovered by the army, ambushed a group of soldiers and killed four of them. Lieutenant Henry Obbo, army spokesman in charge of north-eastern Uganda, said that this incident then led to heavy fighting between the military and the herdsmen, which ultimately caused the deaths; Obbo told Reuters, “We pursued these people, [and] killed 45 in one battle.” The drought-prone Karamoja region has suffered banditry and inter-clan warfare for decades and is known as Uganda's forgotten conflict zone. ([BBC](#), [IRIN](#), February 15, 2007).

