

Peace & Justice Update

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The countries for the *Peace & Justice Update* have been chosen as areas of focus at the institute.

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The Peace & Justice Updates are written by the interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego.

The interns during the fall 2011 term are:

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SOURCE LIST

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Affaires Stratégiques	=	Affaires Stratégiques (http://www.affaires-strategiques.info)
AFP	=	Agence France-Presse (www.afp.com)
Africa Review	=	Africa Review (www.africareview.com)
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AI	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
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BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (www.news.bbc.co.uk)
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CFR	=	Council on Foreign Relations (www.cfr.org)
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CNN	=	Cable News Network (www.cnn.com)
Colombia Reports	=	Colombia Reports (www.colombiareports.com)
CPJ	=	Committee to Protect Journalists (www.cpj.org)
CSM	=	Christian Science Monitor (www.csmonitor.com)
Daily Mirror	=	Daily Mirror (www.dailymirror.lk)
Daily Monitor	=	Daily Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
Daily Nation	=	Daily Nation (www.nation.co.ke)
Daily Observer	=	Daily Observer (http://www.liberianobserver.com)
DNA	=	Daily News Agency (www.dnaindia.com)
DOJ	=	U.S. Department of Justice (www.justice.gov)
DSR Sri Lanka	=	Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (www.priu.gov.lk)
Economist	=	The Economist (www.economist.com)
EFE	=	EFE (www.efe.com)
El Diario de Hoy	=	El Diario de Hoy (www.elsalvador.com)
El Heraldo	=	El Heraldo (www.elheraldo.hn)
El Tiempo	=	El Tiempo (www.eltiempo.com)
Enough	=	Enough (www.enoughproject.org)
Euronews	=	Euronews (www.euronews.net)
Financial Times	=	Financial Times (www.ft.com)
GovTrack	=	GovTrack (www.govtrack.us)
Guardian	=	The Guardian (www.guardian.co.uk)

Guatemala Times	=	Guatemala Times (www.guatemala-times.com)
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Hill	=	The Hill (www.thehill.com)
Himalayan Times	=	The Himalayan Times (www.thehimalayantimes.com)
Hindu	=	The Hindu (www.hindu.com)
Hindustan Times	=	Hindustan Times (www.hindustantimes.com)
Honduras Weekly	=	Honduras Weekly (www.hondurasweekly.com)
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
iAfrica	=	iAfrica (http://iafrica.com)
IANS	=	Indo-Asian News Service (www.ians.in)
IAPA	=	Inter American Press Association (www.sipiapa.org)
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com)
Independent	=	The Independent (www.independent.co.ug)
Informer	=	The Informer (www.theinformer-lr.com)
IPS News Agency	=	Inter Press Service News Agency (www.ipsnews.net)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org)
Jeune Afrique	=	Jeune Afrique (http://www.jeuneafrique.com)
Justice News Flash	=	Justice News Flash (www.justicenewsflash.com)
E-Kantipur	=	Kantipur News (www.ekantipur.com)
Kuwait Times	=	Kuwait Times (http://www.kuwaittimes.net)
LAHT	=	The Latin American Herald Tribune (www.laht.com)
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La Prensa Grafica	=	La Prensa Grafica (www.laprensagrafica.com)
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com)
Latin America Press	=	Latin America Press (www.latinamericapress.org)
LBO	=	Lanka Business Online (www.lankabusinessonline.lk)
Liberian E-Mansion	=	Liberian Executive Mansion (www.emansion.gov.lr)
Miami Herald	=	The Miami Herald (www.miamiherald.com)
Mindanews	=	Mindanews (http://www.mindanews.com)
MSF	=	Médecins Sans Frontière (www.msf.org)
Monitor	=	The Monitor (www.monitor.co.ug)
NACLA	=	North American Congress on Latin America (www.nacla.org)
Nepal News	=	Nepal News (www.nepalnews.com)
New Times	=	The New Times (www.newtimes.co.rw)
New Times BPB	=	New Times Broward-Palm Beach (www.browardpalmbeach.com)
New Vision	=	The New Vision (www.newvision.co.ug)
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Press TV	=	Press TV (www.presstv.ir)
Relief Web	=	Relief Web (www.reliefweb.int)
RSF	=	Reporters without Borders (www.rsf.org)

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Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
Rewmi	=	Rewmi (www.rewmi.com)
RFI	=	Radio France Internationale (www.rfi.fr)
RTT News	=	RTT News (www.rttnews.com)
Sec. Council Report	=	Security Council Report (www.securitycouncilreport.org)
South Asia News	=	South Asia News Magazine (http://www.southasia.net)
State Dept.	=	U.S. Department of State (www.state.gov)
Sudan Tribune	=	Sudan Tribune (www.sudantribune.com)
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TIME	=	Time (www.time.com)
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Times of India	=	Times of India (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)
Times Online	=	Times Online (www.timesonline.co.uk)
UN News	=	UN News Center (www.un.org/news)
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, & Cultural Organization (www.unesco.org)
UNHCR	=	UN High Commissioner for Refugees (www.unhcr.org)
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund (www.unicef.org)
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women (www.unifem.org)
UNMIL	=	United Nations Mission in Liberia (http://unmil.org)
VOA	=	Voice of America News (www.voanews.com)
Web Newswire	=	Web Newswire (www.webnewswire.com)
WPDF	=	World Press Freedom Day 2010 (www.wpdf2010.org)
WSJ	=	The Wall Street Journal (www.wsj.com)
WP	=	The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english)

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

COLOMBIA

Students take to the streets demanding educational equality

Public university students have taken to the streets to protest educational reforms, known as Law 30. The government said the reforms will strengthen the university system, but students say otherwise. The protests have been ongoing for the past month.

According to the government Law 30 will bring in an additional \$3.5 billion dollars to higher education over the next decade, boost enrollment by 600,000 and offer scholarships to top students. Santos also noted that the goal of the reform is to “guarantee more resources for public universities, improve the quality of public education, and facilitate the provision of subsidies to students who can't afford to pay for higher education.”

Students' arguments against the educational reform are numerous and varied. Many students complain the royalties will continue to be a profit-based form of financing which only allows a few to prosper. Many are enraged at the fact that they would study at university for five years and have to continue paying for their schooling 10 years after graduation as a result of the reforms.

Students studying for technological careers- a minority of the student population- would have priority for student loans, causing the rest to suffer. Another complaint is that if students receive a good score on high school examinations, it doesn't guarantee the recognition or financial support that a scholarship would. The belief that education is a fundamental right that the state has a duty to provide is a major driver in the students' protest, and has shaped their views on how they think university education should be reformed.

The National Board for Alternative Education (MANE) has demanded not only congressional withdrawal of Law 30, but also the promised support of Santos to work to propose a new reform that will “respond to the needs of the Colombian nation.”

Teacher and student organizations have also noted that the reforms are “unrealistic and will leave already cash-strapped universities in even worse shape as they try to absorb the additional students.”

Academics have also noted that the reforms would lower educational standards by putting high quality universities on the same level as night schools.

Victor Manuel Gomez, a professor at National University, says that while National University is affordable, it can only accept seven percent of those who apply. He asked, “What happens to the other 93 percent? ... We are creating a system where only the rich can get a quality education.”

President Santos has urged student protesters to return back to school, calling for an end to the protests. Santos spoke with his education minister November 11 about taking Law 30 off the table, but an official congressional vote must happen in order for the law to be withdrawn.

Colombia spends 4.8 percent of its national GDP (Gross Domestic Product) on education and about 35 percent of its population is enrolled in university education according to the Ministry of Education, as compared to Latin America's average of 38 percent.

Sources: *Colombia Reports*, Nov. 14; *Colombia Reports*; *Miami Herald*, Nov. 10; *Colombia Reports*, Nov. 4, 2011.

Please send comments to Felicia Gomez at feliciagomez-12@sandiego.edu.

GUATEMALA

President-elect will face numerous challenges upon taking office

Retired general Otto Pérez Molina defeated Congressman Manuel Baldizón in a second round of presidential elections November 6. His victory represents the first time since the country's 1986 return to democracy that a military leader will serve as the country's head of state.

In a country often plagued by election violence, the second round of elections was tense yet relatively peaceful. There were reports of vote buying, overspending, illegal last-minute campaign advertising, and insufficient transportation for rural voters to arrive at the polls, yet few incidents of targeted violence. However, over the course of the presidential campaign leading up the run-off elections, 43 people were killed in election-related violence.

There were, however, also signs of progress in the elections: Congresswoman Roxana Baldetti was elected the first female vice president and, for the first time, women accounted for more than half of registered voters. However, turnout for both sexes was relatively low, with only 60 percent of registered voters actually casting a ballot.

Many challenges face Pérez Molina's next four years in office. Despite experiencing its lowest levels in seven years, Guatemala's homicide rate is still the highest in the Americas at around 40 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants and violence perpetrated by the Zeta cartel and street gangs such as M-18 and Mara Salvatrucha have led to widespread insecurity. Over 50 percent of the population lives in poverty, impunity is common throughout the country, and corruption permeates the government. While private security guards – which reportedly outnumber police by four to one – protect elites, ordinary Guatemalans are unable to afford such luxuries.

Pérez Molina has pledged to add 10,000 police and revamp the national strategy to combat narco-trafficking, while also continuing social programs begun under the outgoing Álvaro Colom administration. While he has ruled out creating new taxes to pay for some programs, Pérez Molina says he will boost tax collection from 11 to 14 percent of GDP in the next four years by targeting tax evasion.

Such hardline approaches as Pérez Molina's proposed violent crackdown on crime have been tried in the past, however the lack of funds for such measures has often crippled their effectiveness. Some human rights monitors have pointed out that corruption, arbitrary justice, and extrajudicial killings (conditions such as those found in Guatemala) are often the result of harsh policies and

insufficient funds. Many believe Guatemala needs a serious tax reform, in line with the 1996 Peace Accords which required the tax base be raised to 12 percent of GDP by 2000, not just less tax evasion.

Although human rights groups have raised concerns that Pérez Molina may have been involved with atrocities committed during the 36-year long civil war, he has never been indicted on such charges and even was a signatory of the 1996 peace accords. He does, however, take a firm security stance, promising to increase the size of the army and take an “iron fisted” approach to combating violence.

Sources: [Council of the Americas](#), Nov. 10; [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#), Nov. 9; [Reuters](#), Nov. 7, 2011.

Please send comments to Meghan Auker Becker at megtab@sandiego.edu.

HAITI

Report finds deportees face human rights violations upon re-entry to Haiti

An investigation by the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting (FCIR) found that the U.S. government deported at least two Haitians suffering from medical or mental diseases, violating its own policy of seeking alternatives to deportation when there are serious medical and humanitarian concerns. One Haitian who was deported in April suffered from asthma, hypertension, diabetes, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and head trauma while another deported that same month was mentally ill and his papers and psychiatric medications were lost by Haitian authorities his first day in jail.

Since January, the United States has deported approximately 250 Haitians, some ending up in unsanitary and overcrowded prisons, where diseases like cholera spread quickly. One jailed deportee has already died from the disease. Haitian authorities told FCIR that about half of all deportees are immediately placed in jails where they are monitored for as long as 11 days, an act that violates both Haitian law and United Nations treaties when deportees have not been charged with crimes in Haiti.

Following the 2010 Haitian earthquake many countries, including the U.S., suspended deportations due to worsening conditions in the country. However, the Department of Homeland Security resumed deportations just over a year later, on January 20, 2011, the same day the U.S. State Department issued a travel warning urging Americans to avoid Haiti due to health risks and lawlessness.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said deportations to Haiti resumed because detainees were required to be released after 180 days. Without deportation, they said, Haitian nationals with “significant criminal records” would be released back into U.S. communities. However, the FCIR found that three-quarters of all Haitian deportees in recent years had no criminal records at all, and of the remaining, many were convicted of non-violent drug offenses.

“The hypocrisy is stunning,” Rebecca Sharpless of the University of Miami Law School Immigration Clinic said. “U.S. officials have known for a long time that it’s dangerous to send people back to jail

in Haiti. They also knew that the cholera outbreak raised the stakes even higher because cholera and Haitian jails are a deadly combination. Yet they decided to resume deportations anyway.”

Sources: [Florida Center for Investigative Reporting](#); [San Francisco Chronicle](#), Nov. 13; [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#), Feb. 11, 2011.

Please send comments to Meghan Auker Becker at megtab@sandiego.edu.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRAN

Speculation over suspected covert operations follows explosion

An explosion that occurred last week in Iran’s Alghadir missile base in Bid Ganeh leaving 17 Revolutionary Guards dead has left the international media spinning. Among those killed in the blast, just 30 miles away from Tehran, was Major General Hassan Moghaddam, a man referred to by some as the “architect” of the Iran’s ballistic missile development program. Moghaddam had been trained as an engineer in China and North Korea and had spearheaded the Iran’s missile development efforts since 1984.

Funerals were held November 13.

While official reports from the Iranian government have continually cited the explosion as an accident, an inside source leaked that it had been the work of the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad. While no public evidence exists to corroborate such claims, both the Iranian people and the international media have given the story wide coverage, alluding to the event being the work of an undercover operation.

Although the Alghadir explosion remains speculative, three top Iranian nuclear scientists have been killed over the past year and a computer virus by the name of Stuxnet unleashed in a form of “state terrorism,” according to Mahan Abedin, editor of the Jamestown Foundation’s Terrorism Monitor.

With the recently publicized findings of the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on Iran, Israel expressed deep concern over Iran being in an advanced stage of nuclear development and stated that the appropriate measures would be taken to protect itself.

In a statement on the explosion November 13 Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak explained, “I don't know the extent of the explosion but, it would be desirable if they multiplied.”

Despite speculation and allegations, the U.S. and Israel have publicly maintained an adamant position on sanctions to keep Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

Sources: [BBC](#), Nov. 15; [The Guardian](#), Nov. 14, 2011

Please send comments to Andy Paul at ajpaul@sandiego.edu.

SYRIA

Violence erupts amid increasing criticism

With the acceptance of a plan proposed by the pan-Arab organization the Arab League at a November 2 meeting in Cairo, the Syrian government committed itself to end the violence that has been escalating in the country.

The violence has occurred in response to eight months of protest and unrest against President Bashar Al-Assad's twelve-year rule, during which more than 3,500 people have been killed and hundreds of others disappeared during both peaceful protests and clashes with government security forces.

But the events of November 15, dubbed by Al Jazeera "Syria's bloodiest day" left more than 70 dead in less than 24 hours, according to the UK based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Most of the violence occurred in the southern province of Deraa, and some skirmishes continued in the city of Homs, which had seen significant violence the week before.

On November 14 King Abdullah of Jordan, after nearly a month of silence, became the first Arab ruler to urge Al-Assad to relinquish power. Despite calls for political reform in his own country, Abdullah has taken the initiative to add pressure to Al-Assad's government.

"I believe, if I were in his shoes, I would step down. I would step down and make sure whoever comes behind me has the ability to change the status quo that we're seeing," said the Jordanian monarch.

Turkey, although neither an Arab state nor a member of the Arab League, announced November 15 that it would cease efforts at oil extraction in Syria and cut off its power should Al-Assad not comply with popular demands and put an end to the violence.

Turkey currently produces a significant portion of Syria's electrical power, and has now become "determined to implement the most effective sanctions that will not harm the people of Syria," according to Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

Public outcries had also occurred prior to the November 15 violence, as well as threats to suspend Syria from the Arab League, which occurred in a hearing held November 16 in Morocco. Activists representing Yemen also advocated for the suspension of their country from the League until their president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, relinquishes power. The situations in Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt, and the Palestinian Occupied Territories were also on the table.

Despite these efforts, Al-Assad has failed to heed calls from King Abdullah and other regional and international leaders calling upon him to address grievances relinquish power, and as a result violent clashes have continued between government security forces and the Free Syrian Army as well as other groups.

Sources: *The Guardian*, Nov. 16; *The Huffington Post*; *Al Jazeera*, Nov. 15; *BBC*; *Al Jazeera*, Nov. 14, 2011.

Please send comments to Andy Paul at ajpaul@sandiego.edu.

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

INDIA

Children of Tamil Nadu given right to education

The state of Tamil Nadu declared The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act of 2009 November 12. Under the Act, children between the ages of six and 14 are to be guaranteed education.

This came after the government of Delhi approved the publicizing of RTE November 11.

K. Shanmugavelayutham of the Tamil Nadu Forum for Creche and Childcare Services (TN-FORCES) said of the Act; “It means action will follow on all important points in the Act, something we have been urging for quite some time. It also means filling gaps in the original Act.”

With legislation on the way, the release of the RTE makes education a public right.

The plan addresses “school mapping,” and will identify at-risk children and disadvantaged areas. It is to empower local authorities that need to create schools in specific localities; the intent is to build a grassroots movement rather than impose a top down mandate. Previously, private education had marginalized poor, orphaned, HIV-positive, and transgendered children, making the RTE a momentous step in equal access to education. In a figure from UNICEF, the number of children who have not attended school in India has gone down from 25 million in 2003 to 8.1 million in 2009, a figure that is likely to continue dropping with the implemented RTE.

Sources: *The Hindu*, Nov. 16; *UNICEF India*; *The Pioneer*, Nov. 12, 2011.

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NEPAL

Top parties meet regarding Seven-Point deal

A meeting held November 14 between Nepal's three major political parties, the Maoists, United Marxist Leninists (UML) and Nepali Congress (NC) concluded with renewed commitment to the immediate implementation of the Seven-Point agreement, signed November 1. The Seven-Point agreement aims to serve as a compromise between political factions, and to address truth and reconciliation efforts, the reintegration of combatants, and the formation of a new constitution.

While the implementation of the specific programs of the Seven-Point agreement is likely to take time, the leaders of the top parties discussed ways to expedite the process. Held in Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai's office, the November 14 meeting focused on addressing outstanding disagreements over the November 1 plan, according to Maoist Vice Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha.

Further, a November 18 assembly to address the 11th amendment to the new constitution that would allow an expert panel to be formed in order to examine the possibilities of state restructuring was inhibited by inexorable differences between the Maoists and UML.

"There are no dissenting views in the Nepali Congress regarding the formation of the experts' panel. Some of our friends who had registered their reservations on the bill have already withdrawn their amendment proposal," NC leader Bimalendra Nidhi stated of the amendment. "There are differences within the UML and the Maoists. All of us have agreed to finalize the terms of reference of the panel and pass the bill."

To many, this seems like old news in Nepal with the major parties incapable of working together. Skepticism remains as the Maoists have made several efforts to balance power and address outstanding grievances following the conclusion of violent conflict in 2008, as major developments are yet to be seen.

Sources: *Ekantipur*, Nov. 16; *The Himalayan Times*; *The Himalayan Times*, Nov. 14, 2011.

Please send comments to Andy Paul at ajpaul@sandiego.edu.

PHILIPPINES

Philippines rejects new Chinese territorial claim

On November 14, the Philippines rejected China's claim to new territory located less than 50 miles from a Philippine province, the closest point in waters off the main Philippine islands that China has claimed in increasingly tense territorial disputes. Both sides would like control over the potentially resource-rich areas of the South China Sea.

Experts speculated that China's actions were in response to the Philippines' attempts this past summer to assert control over the area. In July, the Philippines invited foreign companies to bid for the right to explore for oil and gas in 15 areas, inciting interest from about 50 investors. However, about half of the proposed areas were claimed by China, prompting the Chinese Embassy to deliver a protest to the Philippine government. Despite the controversy, none of the prospective foreign companies expressed concern over the territorial disputes, rather only requesting security and support from the Philippine government if they were awarded the contract.

In recent years, China has become more aggressive with its territorial claims, leading the Philippines to seek a UN ruling on the disputes, which involve not only China and the Philippines, but also Brunei, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam, all vying for control over all or some of the disputed territory. The Philippines is also seeking support from the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at their annual meeting this weekend. The request, however, is unlikely to be approved as China asserts great control over the association and has made clear it has no desire to discuss the issue at the summit.

The United States has also become involved in the controversy: last year the U.S. announced that it had a vital interest in protecting freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, through which much of the world's trade passes; on November 16, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited the Philippines to discuss the territorial disputes; and even President Barack Obama is scheduled to attend the ASEAN summit the weekend to discuss maritime security.

Many of the contested areas are believed to sit atop large deposits of oil and natural gas. Perhaps the most controversial territory is the Spratleys, a chain of up to 190 islands, reefs, coral outcrops and banks, which is believed to house great stores of oil. Many fear this area could be Asia's next flash point for conflict.

Sources: [Reuters](#), Nov. 15; [Associated Press](#), Nov. 14; [Time](#), Sept. 19, 2011.

Please send comments to Meghan Auker Becker at megtab@sandiego.edu.

SRI LANKA

Norwegian report released on peace process

An internal evaluation report and panel entitled "Pawns of Peace" on Norwegian peace efforts in Sri Lanka, released November 15 in Oslo, is an attempt at a comprehensive evaluation of Norway's roles in Sri Lanka as an international donor, monitor and moderator between 1997 and 2009.

Within the report, strategies for peacebuilding are discussed in depth such as the use of cost-benefit analysis, hard versus soft power by international actors, the shortcomings of aid, and the ethic by which peace can be facilitated.

Further, the report is highly critical of the "military solution" used by the Sinhalese dominated government in the conclusion of the lengthy war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE), and recognizes the peace process as a “failure.” This sentiment has been echoed by India and other members of the international community,

The report refrained from spelling out the spillover of the conflict between Sinhala government troops and the LTTE to the civilian population as genocide.

But the relationship of Tamils in Sri Lanka to a significant mainland population in India and the role of the Indian government was a pertinent issue at the time. “We did not want Indian bullets used against Tamils,” as explained by a senior Indian diplomat in the Norwegian report. However, rules were lenient about where the Sri Lankan government could purchase weapons, namely China, and the contribution of intelligence, “so as to not alienate Rajapaksa and to avoid China and Pakistan from getting a hold,” according to another Indian observer. There is a clear emphasis that India had preferred to deal with a Sri Lankan state rather than the two separate groups. Many Sri Lankan Tamils feel that India turned a blind eye to physical and structural genocide.

Sri Lanka has long been critical of outside peacekeepers, holding the belief that they had and would contribute to the entrenchment of Sri Lanka’s Tamil and Sinhala populations. This view has been maintained by President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who assumed power during the last phase of violence between the government and the LTTE, despite efforts by the UN and the international community to pressure his government into addressing wartime human rights violations and postwar grievances.

Sources: [TamilNet](#), Nov. 16; [Daily Mirror](#), Nov. 15, 2011.

Please send comments to Andy Paul at ajpaul@sandiego.edu.

EAST AFRICA

KENYA

Israel makes a deal to help in the fight against al-Shabab

Israel has agreed to help Kenya in securing its borders from al-Shabab militants, stating that Kenya’s enemies are also Israel’s enemies. The coalition between the two countries will allow Israeli forces to train the Kenyan police in dealing with attacks by al-Shabab militants.

The deal with Israel signifies the strengthening of Kenyan military and new military approaches that can be used when dealing with al-Shabab attacks, as the Israeli military is known as being “one of the best in the world at dealing with terror threats.” Prime Minister Raila Odinga, stated that that partnership between the two countries would enable “Israel to help Kenya’s police forces detect and destroy al-Shabab’s networks in Kenya.” Israel would also provide vehicles for border patrols as well as equipment for sea surveillance which will allow Kenya to monitor offshore piracy.

Israel’s president Shimon Peres, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu emphasized that Kenya is an important ally and a country critical to maintaining stability within the region. Peres asserted that Kenya had consistently shown a very positive attitude towards Israel and that Israel was ready to help, noting that it was ready to make everything available to Kenya including internal security and

food production. Netanyahu also called for more support from the international community in Kenya's efforts to eliminate al-Shabab, especially in patrolling piracy off the coast, saying that it affects all countries.

The two countries signed a memorandum November 14, solidifying their partnership, which outlines the cooperation between the two nations to work towards homeland security in Kenya.

Sources: [BBC](#); [Daily Nation](#); [Washington Post](#), Nov. 14, 2011.

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SOMALIA

AU troops need more funding to continue fighting al-Shabab militants

A \$10 million dollar funding gap has delayed the deployment of reinforcements and lifesaving equipment to African Union (AU) troops stationed in Somalia. Many high commanders have complained that the lack of funding has significantly limited advances against al-Shabab and has cost many lives.

The AU had a budget of \$472 million dollars in 2011, but most of this money has gone towards paying workers' salaries, travel, and operational costs for the organization. Uganda and Burundi, the primary contributors of forces to the AU, are supposed to receive funding from a U.N.-administered fund which would pay for equipment such as tanks, armored vehicles, ambulances and fuel trucks, as well as essentials such as soap and bedding for soldiers. Neither Uganda nor Burundi have received funds for their equipment since March 2011, which totals a loss of more than \$10 million dollars in funding according to Lieutenant Colonel Paddy Ankunda, a spokesman for the AU force.

Ankunda stated that "the delays in paying for equipment have also discouraged other countries from contributing to the AU force." He also noted that more troops would have been deployed "if the international community gave assurances on sufficient logistical and equipment support as well as reimbursement." One such example is that of Uganda, which has delayed its mission to send four helicopters to aid Kenya due to the fact that it doesn't have the money to maintain them. The Ugandan government said that it would cost \$20 million to deploy, fuel, and maintain the helicopters for a year. Due to the lack of funding, the AU is currently unable to provide air support to wounded soldiers.

Many of the resources needed by AU troops are ready but due to the lack of funding, troops have had to cut back significantly in their mission in Somalia against al-Shabab. Fewer troops on the ground mean less of an ability to maintain "operational momentum."

Sources: [AP](#).Nov. 12, 2011.

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