



**Peace & Justice Update**  
**December 8, 2006**  
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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 ( <a href="http://www.adnki.com">www.adnki.com</a> )
AfricaFocus	=	AfricaFocus ( <a href="http://www.africafocus.org">www.africafocus.org</a> )
Al-Jazeera	=	Al Jazeera English ( <a href="http://www.english.aljazeera.net">www.english.aljazeera.net</a> )
AI	=	Amnesty International ( <a href="http://www.amnesty.org">www.amnesty.org</a> )
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media ( <a href="http://www.allafrica.com">www.allafrica.com</a> )
Asian Tribune	=	Asian Tribune ( <a href="http://www.asiantribune.com">www.asiantribune.com</a> )
AP	=	Associated Press ( <a href="http://www.ap.org">www.ap.org</a> )
B92	=	B92 Net ( <a href="http://www.b92.net/eng/">www.b92.net/eng/</a> )
AWID	=	Association for Women's Rights in Development ( <a href="http://www.awid.org">www.awid.org</a> )
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation ( <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk">http://news.bbc.co.uk</a> )
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports ( <a href="http://www.monitor.bbc.co.uk">www.monitor.bbc.co.uk</a> )
CBC News	=	CBC News ( <a href="http://www.cbc.ca">www.cbc.ca</a> )
EU	=	European Union ( <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int">www.europa.eu.int</a> )
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network ( <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk">www.guardian.co.uk</a> )
HRW	=	Human Rights Watch ( <a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a> )
ICC	=	International Criminal Court ( <a href="http://www.icc-cpi.int">www.icc-cpi.int</a> )
ICG	=	International Crisis Group ( <a href="http://www.crisisweb.org">www.crisisweb.org</a> )
IndiaTimes	=	India Times ( <a href="http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com">www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com</a> )
Independent	=	The Independent ( <a href="http://www.independent.co.uk">www.independent.co.uk</a> )
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network ( <a href="http://www.irinnews.org">www.irinnews.org</a> )
IWPR	=	Institute for War & Peace Reporting ( <a href="http://www.iwpr.net">www.iwpr.net</a> )
Kantipur Online	=	The Kantipur Online ( <a href="http://www.kantipuronline.com">www.kantipuronline.com</a> )
Kathmandu Post	=	The Kathmandu Post ( <a href="http://www.nepalnews.com.np">www.nepalnews.com.np</a> )
Khaleej Times	=	Khaleej Times ( <a href="http://www.khaleejtimes.com">www.khaleejtimes.com</a> )
Jurist	=	The Jurist ( <a href="http://jurist.law.pitt.edu">http://jurist.law.pitt.edu</a> )
LA Times	=	Los Angeles Times ( <a href="http://www.latimes.com">www.latimes.com</a> )
Makfax	=	Macedonian Independent News Agency ( <a href="http://www.makfax.com">www.makfax.com</a> )
Monitor	=	The Monitor ( <a href="http://www.monitor.co.ug">www.monitor.co.ug</a> )
Nepal News	=	Nepal News ( <a href="http://www.nepalnews.com">www.nepalnews.com</a> )
Nepali Times	=	Nepali Times ( <a href="http://www.nepalitimes.com">www.nepalitimes.com</a> )
New Vision	=	New Vision ( <a href="http://www.newvision.co.ug">www.newvision.co.ug</a> )
New Zealand Herald	=	The New Zealand Herald ( <a href="http://www.nzherald.co.nz">www.nzherald.co.nz</a> )
News24	=	News24 ( <a href="http://www.news24.com">www.news24.com</a> )
NYT	=	The New York Times ( <a href="http://www.nytimes.com">www.nytimes.com</a> )
PANA	=	Panafrican News Agency ( <a href="http://www.panapress.com">www.panapress.com</a> )
Oxfam Great Britain	=	Oxfam Great Britain ( <a href="http://www.oxfam.org.uk">www.oxfam.org.uk</a> )
Reuters	=	Reuters ( <a href="http://www.reuters.com">www.reuters.com</a> )
RSF	=	Reporters sans frontières ( <a href="http://www.rsf.org">www.rsf.org</a> )
SEAPA	=	Southeast Asian Press Alliance ( <a href="http://www.seapabkk.org">www.seapabkk.org</a> )
SERBIANNA	=	Serbianna.com ( <a href="http://www.serbianna.com">www.serbianna.com</a> )
SMH	=	Sydney Morning Herald ( <a href="http://www.smh.com">www.smh.com</a> )
ST	=	Sudan Tribune ( <a href="http://www.sudantribune.com">www.sudantribune.com</a> )
UN News Center	=	UN News Center Homepage ( <a href="http://www.un.org">www.un.org</a> )
UNESCO	=	UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization ( <a href="http://www.unesco.org">www.unesco.org</a> )
UNHCHR	=	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ( <a href="http://www.unhcr.ch">www.unhcr.ch</a> )
UNICEF	=	UN Children's Fund ( <a href="http://www.unicef.org">www.unicef.org</a> )
UNIFEM	=	UN Development Fund for Women ( <a href="http://www.unifem.org">www.unifem.org</a> )
VOA	=	Voice of America ( <a href="http://www.voanews.com">www.voanews.com</a> )
WP	=	The Washington Post ( <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">www.washingtonpost.com</a> )
Web India	=	Web India ( <a href="http://www.webindia123.com">www.webindia123.com</a> )

## **UPDATE SUMMARY**

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## UPDATES

### AFGHANISTAN

Suicide bombers attack Kandahar: Kandahar city, capital of southeastern Kandahar province, has suffered six suicide bomb attacks in the last eight days, earning it the nickname “bomb city.” A Taliban fighter blew himself up in front of a security company December 6, killing at least six people. A suicide bomber driving a car rigged with explosives attacked a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) convoy December 4. Although NATO personnel escaped injury, two civilians were killed and three others wounded. A suicide bomber also attacked a British convoy December 3, killing three civilians and injuring three British soldiers. NATO reported that since January 1, 2006, about 227 Afghans and 17 foreign troops have been killed in suicide bomb attacks. (Al Jazeera, December 6; BBC, December 5, 6; RFERL, December 4, 2006).

NATO troops battle Taliban fighters: A North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) spokesman reported up to 80 Taliban casualties following a four-hour battle December 3 in southern Afghanistan. A British marine was killed and another injured in a separate battle in Helmand province December 5, in which the Taliban withstood air strikes and artillery fire during 10 hours of fighting. The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) also reported the loss of a civilian helicopter December 3. The Taliban claimed it had shot down the NATO-chartered helicopter, but ISAF stated in a press release that they were conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the crash. The helicopter was owned by DynCorp International, a United States-based security and logistics firm. ABC and BBC news services recently polled 1,036 Afghans in face-to-face interviews and found out only 43 percent of the population believed their country was heading in the right direction. (Al-Jazeera, December 3, 4; BBC, December 3, 6,7; ISAF, RFERL, December 4, 2006)

### KOSOVO

Russia threatens to use veto power if compromise not met: On December 4, Russian ambassador to Serbia Aleksandar Alekseyev stated that if a solution to Kosovo’s status was not found that was acceptable to both Belgrade and Priština, then Russia was prepared to use its veto power in the United Nations Security Council to block Kosovo independence. Alekseyev’s statement came days after Kosovo Prime Minister Agim Çeku concluded a world tour in Moscow. On his tour, Çeku tried to persuade other world leaders that independence was the only solution to the Kosovo status negotiations. Alekseyev stated that “the Kosovo problem must be solved in line with... international law... the principles of European security, and... UN Security Council resolution 1244.” United States Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns expressed surprise at Alekseyev’s statement, saying, “I cannot believe that a permanent member of the Security Council is threatening to veto even though we have not seen Ahtisaari’s proposal yet,” adding that the ambassador “might have been misquoted.” Russia has been one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council since the UN’s creation in San Francisco in 1945. The other permanent members are the United States, Britain, France, and China. (B92, December 4, 5, 2006)

European Union Enlargement Commissioner discusses Kosovo’s future: On December 6, European Union (EU) Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn stated that the Kosovo status

solution must be clear if Kosovo was to begin the process of stabilization and association talks with the EU. Rehn said, "It is also important to always keep in mind that the Kosovo case is *sui generis*. It does not present a precedent which can be used anywhere else in the world." Rehn added that since Kosovo was a special case, it needed a special solution. The European Commission released a report on the Balkan countries November 8 which hinted that the prospect of eventual EU membership was an offer for Kosovo pending its independence. The report added that Kosovo had many areas that needed improvement before the EU admittance process could begin. (B92, December 6, 2006)

## **NEPAL**

Reports of Maoist lawlessness continue: Maoist cadres in Okhaldunga, in the Eastern region of Nepal, continued to hold civilian land, seize crops, and force locals to quarter them, despite a peace deal signed with the government in November. The Maoists leaders have repeatedly promised to respect human rights and refrain from such tactics since the May agreement with the Seven Party Alliance, but December 3 reports circulated that Maoists have continued to violate human rights. A local in the Okhaldhunga region, Rajkumar Shrestha, stated, "[Maoists]... seized my farmland seven years ago. I thought they would release it after signing the peace agreement. But they haven't, they are still holding it." The Maoists have also been accused of forcibly taking rice from poor farmers, and in Nigali, Maoist cadres were reported to continue forcibly residing in the houses of locals. Locals in Maintada retaliated by apprehending and bringing before the local police a Maoist cadre who was accused of injuring and robbing a local business man. (eKantipur, December 4, 2006)

Nepali Congress will not protect monarchy: On December 3, Prime Minister and President of the Nepali Congress (NC) Party Girija Prasad Koirala stated that the NC would not protect the existence of the monarchy in the new government. The message was conveyed to the Nepali people and was to be disseminated during district campaigns of the NC for upcoming constitutional assembly elections. Koirala directed party members to focus in their campaigns on the issues of interim legislature, interim government, peace, and the constitutional assembly. Koirala's statements were in response to accusations that the NC planned on giving a ceremonial role to the king in the new government. The agreement signed between the Seven Party Alliance and the Maoist group on November 8 stated the future of the monarchy would be decided at the first meeting of the constituent assembly. (eKantipur, December 3, 2006)

## **SERBIA**

Support reaffirmed for Serbia and EU admission: Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, announced December 4 that the European Union (EU) would consider the possibility of reinstating stabilization and association meetings with Serbia after the country's January 21 legislative elections. Serbia's stabilization and association talks, a prelude to EU admission, were suspended in March 2006 due to Serbia's failure to arrest and extradite war crimes indictee Ratko Mladić to the International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The apprehension and extradition of Mladić has remained a requirement to resuming pre-membership talks. Despite the conditional policy, international support for Serbia's admission was recently

reaffirmed by country leaders and officials such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, and Italian foreign minister Massimo D'Alema. (B92, December 4, 2006)

Hunger strike continues: Vojislav Seselj, the leader of Serbia's ultranationalist party, the Serbian Radical Party, continued a hunger strike that has lasted since November 11 in protest against the International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) court proceedings. Seselj's strike began when the ICTY denied him free choice of a defense team for trial and instead assigned him a defense lawyer against his expressed wishes. In 2003, Seselj surrendered to the ICTY to answer to charges of war crimes committed during the conflict of the 1990s; he stands accused of plotting with then Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic to purge non-Serbs from parts of Croatia and Bosnia in an effort to create a "Greater Serbia." Seselj pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against him and routinely disrupted pre-trial proceedings by insulting judges and his assigned lawyers, denouncing them as "spies" and "actors posing as lawyers." The defendant has since been transferred to a prison hospital for monitoring, and acquiesced to a health examination by a team of Serbian, French, and Russian doctors December 4. Seselj's trial has been adjourned indefinitely since December 1. Officials were concerned that Seselj might die before the trial's conclusion— a real concern given the doctors' prognosis of an estimated two weeks to live. The ICTY has ordered that Seselj be intravenously force fed if it is deemed to necessary to save his life. (Al-Jazeera, API, December 5, 7, 2006)

## SUDAN

AU extends mandate of troops in Darfur: On December 1, the Sudanese government accepted a second extension of the African Union's (AU) mandate in Sudan, deferring the troops' scheduled departure from the region December 31, until June 30, 2007. Presidential Adviser Majzoub al-Khalifa stated, "The decision supports the government's firm position calling for a continuous stay of the African troops in Darfur rather than transferring their peacekeeping mission to an international force subordinate to the United Nations." Al-Khalifa referred to the August 31 UN Security Council resolution to deploy 20,000 peacekeepers into Darfur, rejected by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Al-Bashir has repeatedly rejected UN offers and stated that the security threats in Darfur were minimal and could be handled by African troops; he has accused the UN of "attempts to re-colonize Sudan." The conflict in the Darfur region began in February 2003 between the Janjaweed, a government-backed militia group, and rebel group forces. (ST, December 2, 2006)

Sudan Liberation Movement threatens to pull out of Darfur Peace Agreement: On December 5, leader of the ex-rebel group Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Minni Minnawi announced that if the government didn't rein in the pro-government Janjaweed militia, the SLM would pull out of the peace agreement signed between the Khartoum government and the SLM in May in Abuja, Nigeria. This announcement came after the Janjaweed began looting Darfur's capital Al Fasher, December 4. The presence of the Janjaweed in the region was in violation of the peace agreement which stipulated that Khartoum would begin enforcing security in the region. The SLM accused the government of supporting the Janjaweed, but the government denied backing the Janjaweed militia force and described them as "rough bandits." African Union troops in the Darfur region were deployed to Al Fasher to stop the fighting and ease tensions. At least two

SLM fighters died and five people were evacuated and reported as gravely injured; the official death toll was yet to be released. According to the United Nations, since the conflict began in early 2003 more than 200,000 people have been killed and over 2.5 million displaced. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir contradicted these claims in November and stated that the number is 9,000. (ST, December 5, 2006)

## UGANDA

Museveni reiterates his commitment: Despite a decision by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to pull out of peace talks, President Yoweri Museveni stated he believed peace in the northern part of the country was still possible. The LRA pulled out of the talks during the week of November 27 claiming the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) army had attacked them and killed three fighters. The alleged attack would have violated the November 1 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed by the government and the LRA. The UPDF denied the attack happened, and accused the LRA of using the story of an attack to cover up their failure to assemble at two designated points in South Sudan, as provided for in the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. As a confidence-building gesture the government planned to fly Kony's mother, Norah Oting, to the LRA hideout in the Democratic Republic of Congo December 6 to ask Kony to recommit to peace efforts. Unfortunately her trip was postponed until she recovers from a cough. Oting has not seen her son since he started fighting the government of Uganda over 20 years ago. In a related development, Vincent Otti, the second-in-command of the LRA, announced December 7 the appointment of James Obita, a member of the LRA who had been living in the United Kingdom, as the new technical advisor to the LRA delegation at the peace talks. Otti said, "The Uganda/LRA peace talks have reached a crucial stage... and the seriousness of the LRA to talk peace [has] added an urgent need for the LRA to enhance its negotiating process in Juba." It was unclear whether Otti's announcement signified the LRA's return to the negotiating table. (IRIN, December 5; Monitor, December 7; New Vision, December 5, 2006)

Mozambique's former president appointed UN envoy: United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan named Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique's former president, as his envoy to resolve the conflict in northern Uganda. Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland had been pushing the UN Security Council to appoint a special envoy over the last several months. President Yoweri Museveni stated he did not object to the envoy's presence although he had opposed such a move in the past. Vincent Otti, the second-in-command of the LRA, welcomed Chissano's appointment saying it increased the chances for peace in the north. Chissano's mission is to address the regional dimension of the conflict, determine the conflict's root causes, and serve as a liaison to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Since the conflict between the government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) erupted in the north over 20 years ago, more than 1.5 million people have been displaced from their homes. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has asked for \$296 million to support the transitional needs of internally displaced people, who started returning to their homes after the LRA and government of Uganda signed a temporary cease-fire agreement in August 2006. (IRIN, December 5; Monitor, December 7, 2006)