



Peace & Justice Update
February 6, 2003
(Volume 5, Number 3)

The countries for the Peace and Justice updates have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute. The International Human Rights section is intended to focus on aspects of international law. For information on specific cases of human rights abuses, please visit www.hrw.org or www.amnesty.org

Source information: Information presented in this update is condensed from wire and newspaper reports from Lexis/Nexis and from electronic sites on the World Wide Web. Complete biographical information is unavailable from these services, but every attempt has been made to properly cite information and give credit to source materials. This update is intended for use by IPJ staff and associates for informational purposes only. As the material in this update is condensed, and does not directly quote the primary source, information from the update should not be quoted.

The Peace & Justice updates are written by the Spring 2003 interns at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. The interns are Keelia Bannon (Saint Mary's College of California), Anna Gabriele (University of San Diego), and Diana Vlasova (University of San Diego).

UPDATE SUMMARY

CHECHNYA

Lord Judd resigns over Chechnya; Russia decides on security measures

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Violence in east threatens peace process; Progress continues with Inter-Congolese dialogue

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Eritrea accuses Ethiopia of violations

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Selection process for ICC judges begins

MACEDONIA

Security situation is improving

NEPAL

Government, Maoists declare ceasefire; Maoists establish negotiating team; Political parties question ceasefire

PHILIPPINES

Peace negotiations in process; Rebels reject peace proposal

UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
CNN	=	Cable News Network (www.cnn.com)
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.com)
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org) (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: www.unog.ch)
NCN	=	New Congo Net (www.marekinc.com/NCN.html)
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency (www.panapress.com)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

CHECHNYA

Lord Judd resigns over Chechnya: European human rights official for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Lord Frank Judd, announced January 30 that he would resign to protest Moscow's refusal to postpone a referendum for a new constitution in Chechnya. After a visit to Chechnya January 20, Judd called for a delay saying that the Chechen voters were insufficiently educated about the referendum, and the security situation prevented proper preparations for the vote. PACE passed a resolution January 31 calling for tighter security, greater transparency, and guaranteed voter access during the March 23 plebiscite, but did not include Judd's recommendation to postpone the vote. Judd told television reporters that during the January 29 vote on the resolution he was so concerned with an amendment submitted by the Russian delegation that he failed to notice the omission of his call for postponement. The referendum and new constitution were proposed to end the conflict that began in October 1999, when Russian troops entered the capital of Grozny in response to a wave of terrorist bombings in Russia, allegedly carried out by Chechen rebels. (chechnyafree.ru, [Moscow Times](http://www.moscowtimes.ru), [Russian Press Digest](http://www.russianpressdigest.com), January 31, 2003)

Russia decides on security measures: President of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Bruce George, said during a January 27 meeting with head of the State Duma Committee on Defense Adrei Nikolayev that Russia had the right to decide independently how to establish peace in Chechnya during the March 23 referendum for a new constitution. Nikolayev said that there were no longer combat operations going on in Chechnya, and that this had provided the opportunity to launch preparations for the referendum. The Chechen and Russian armies would patrol all administration buildings, polling stations, and temporary residence stations for displaced people during the preparations for the referendum. Russian troops withdrew from Chechnya in 1996 after a botched 20-month campaign against the rebels, which left the region with de facto independence. They returned in 1999 after rebel raids in a neighboring region and a series of apartment-house bombings that killed more than 300 people. ([ITAR-TASS](http://itar-tass.com), February 3, 2003)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Violence in east threatens peace process: The International Crisis Group (ICG) warned February 3 that ongoing fighting between rebel groups in the eastern Kivu province has threatened the country's peace process. ICG asserted that unless a peace process was created specifically for the eastern DRC that addresses regional security, governance, and provides a strategy for mediation, there would be little chance for sustainable peace. The UN Organization Mission in the DRC was alarmed by the movement of troops in eastern DRC, specifically the activity of the Rwandan army in the Ituri province and the Congolese rebel factions supported by Uganda's People's Defense Force. There were also reports of Rwandan soldiers in the eastern Kivu province, but Rwanda denied the allegations. Rival groups signed a power-sharing pact December 2002 in Pretoria, South Africa, but violence has continued in the Kivu province. The threatened reconciliation process was initiated to end the conflict in the DRC, which began in August 1998 when

President Laurent Désiré Kabila's main sponsors, Rwanda and Uganda, turned against him and began supporting an anti-government rebellion, which Kabila countered with the assistance of troops supported by Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. More than 3 million people have died in the four-year war. ([AFP](#), January 24; [IRIN](#), February 3, 2003)

Progress continues with Inter-Congolese dialogue: Ketumile Masire, facilitator of the Inter-Congolese dialogue, stated January 29 the conclusion of the talks would be announced after solutions to final points were developed by UN special envoy for the peace process in DRC Moustapha Niasse. Niasse was charged January 28 with reporting on the discussions that centered around the constitution, military issues, and security for leaders during the transition process. Masire announced that final talks would occur before February 17, and the time between the end of the dialogue and the establishment of the transitional government would be short, due to dangers of delaying the peace process. The 1999 Lusaka agreement signed by the DRC government, Rwanda, Uganda, the Congolese Rally for Democracy, and the Movement for Liberation of the Congo called for an Inter-Congolese dialogue to resolve the conflict. ([IRIN](#), January 29, 2003)

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Eritrea accuses Ethiopia of violations: The 15th session of the Military Coordination Committee (MCC) of Eritrea and Ethiopia was held January 29 in Nairobi, Kenya regarding the border demarcation in the security zone and liberation movements. The Eritrean delegation led by Brigadier-General Abrahaley Kifle, commissioner for coordination with the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), said that the main reason for the fighting in the security zone was Ethiopia's continuous violation of the December 12 2000 Algiers Agreement. Kifle also stated that Ethiopia threatened to shoot down an UNMEE helicopter and to surround the UNMEE headquarters. UNMEE was established December 2000 as part of the Algiers peace agreement that called on both Eritrea and Ethiopia to terminate military hostilities and refrain from the threat or use of force against each other. Hostilities began in 1998 over a border dispute between the two nations. The MCC was created to provide a forum for military leaders to present details surrounding the peace process. ([Asia Africa Intelligence Wire](#), [BBC](#), February 3, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Selection process fore ICC judges begins: The 87 nations who have thus far ratified the Rome Treaty began electing the first 18 judges February 3-7 at the UN in New York, U.S., for the International Criminal Court (ICC). All voters were required to include fair consideration of gender, regional representation, and qualifications, and were not to follow a standard of "vote-trading," in which candidates were considered based on agreements between states as opposed to individual credentials. The 18 elected judges would be inaugurated March 11 at the ICC official headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands. War crimes committed after July 1, 2002 would be subject to the ICC. ([Human Rights Internet](#), February 4; [HRW News](#), January 31; [Newsday.com](#), February 4, 2003)

MACEDONIA

Security situation is improving: Director of the Intelligence Agency of Macedonia, Dosta Dimovska stated that the security situation in the country has continued to improve due to the cooperation between security services in the country. Despite the news of improvement there were reports February 4 of violence in western Macedonia. An Albanian attempting to cross the border illegally was killed by a patrolman near the Albanian border. In a separate incident, two ethnic Albanians were seriously wounded by unidentified attackers in the village of Dobroste near Tetovo. Approximately 50 people have been killed and dozens wounded in the Albanian dominated western Macedonia since the end of the 2001 conflict. Ethnic Albanian rebels took up arms against the Macedonian government to fight for the rights of the ethnic Albanian minority in February 2001. The seven-month conflict ended with the signing of the Ohrid Agreement. (DPA, February 4; Financial Times, January 29, 2003)

NEPAL

Government, Maoists declare ceasefire: Maoist rebels and the government announced January 29 a mutual ceasefire to facilitate the process for peace negotiations. Kathmandu's popular Nepali daily, the Samacharpatra, stated the ceasefire was a direct result of private talks held January 27 between the King of Nepal Shri Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Devand and Maoist leaders at the palace in central Kathmandu. In addition, the report noted that the government composed a letter to the rebels expressing the cancellation of bounties on the heads of Maoist leaders, arrest warrants issued by the International Police Organization, and the designation of the group as terrorists. Although a senior leader of Prime Minister Chand's Rastriya Prajatantra Party believed the ceasefire to be a direct intervention by the king, both the palace and government appointed chief negotiator for peace talks, Narayan Singh Pun, denied any secret meetings between the king and the Maoists. Maoists have demanded a conference representing all parties in order to form an interim government for the election of a constituent assembly to thereby draft a new constitution and establish a people's republic. The ceasefire was the second attempt to establish consensus and restore peace in the seven-year struggle by Maoists to overthrow Nepal's constitutional monarchy. (AFP, January 30; Financial Times, New York Times January 31, 2003)

Maoists establish negotiating team: In a statement issued February 2, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Pushpa Kamal Dahal known as Prachanda, announced the creation of a five-member negotiating team constituted for peace talks with the government. Members of the dialogue committee included Maoist political leader and spokesperson Dr. Baburam Bahattari, Ram Bahadur Thapa, Matrika Yadav, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, and Deb Bahadur Gurung. Along with the announcement of the five, Maoists called off a two-day strike scheduled to occur February 21 to protest King Gyanendra's dismissal of the elected government. The government had already appointed cabinet minister Narayan Sigh Pun as head of its official negotiation team. Neither the Maoists nor the government had stated where the peace talks were going to be held. (BBC, Nepalnews.com, February 2, 2003)

Political parties question ceasefire: Although cabinet minister Pun said the peace process began several weeks ago, political officials were cautious in accepting the January 29 ceasefire as an act of sincerity. Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala said January 31 that the ceasefire could have been a conspiracy against the political parties by the government and Maoists. Former Prime Minister and President of the Nepali Congress (Democratic), Shor Bahadur Deuba, also said January 31 that the ceasefire could be a ploy by Maoists to consolidate their position and be informed of modern weapon imports to Nepal. The last attempt to maintain a ceasefire collapsed November 2001 when Maoist leader Prachanda unilaterally suspended peace talks. (Asia Times, February 4; Nepalnews.com, January 31, 2003)

PHILIPPINES

Peace negotiations in process: The Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF) took actions towards establishing peace by submitting individual proposals January 29 for a peace agenda. The MILF completed its proposal in preparation of peace negotiations scheduled to begin in 2003. MILF spokesman Muhammad Ameen stated that the proposal was aimed at solving the conflict in the southern areas of Mindanao and Bangsamoro. The government proposal was reportedly based on the constitution, the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act, laws that created the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and the 1996 peace pact between the MILF and the government. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo asserted that her government would resolve the conflict before her term was to end in 2004. Salem Adam, Ambassador to Libya, a country that helped to broker the 1996 peace agreement, commended the President's efforts in working with the MILF. The MILF, a rebel group in the southern Philippines, has been involved in fighting with the government over the creation of an independent Muslim state since 1978. (Financial Times, January 27; Japan Economic Newswire, January 29, 2003)

Rebels reject peace proposal: Gregario Rosal, spokesperson for both the political wing of the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) and the military wing of the National Peoples Army (NPA) stated January 29 that the communist rebels would not accept the government's proposed peace agreement. Rosal also said that the rebels were considering withdrawing from ongoing peace negotiations after asserting that the government's proposal disregarded any progress made in the 1991 peace talks. Philippine defense chief Angelo Reyes said that the rejection of the proposal signaled the end of negotiations. The NPA and the NDF have been waging a 33-year Maoist guerrilla campaign for communism against the government. (Financial Times, January 29, 2003)