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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.

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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)
CDC News	=	Center for Disease Control News (www.thebody.com)
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)
PA	=	The Press Association Limited (http://www.pa.press.net/)
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency (www.panapress.com)
TASS	=	ITAR-TASS News Agency (www.itar-tass.com/english/)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
WPS	=	What the Papers Say (www.wps.ru:8101)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

BURMA/MYANMAR¹

Protests mark anniversary of Burma uprising: Protests against the Burmese military government occurred August 8 in Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, Bangladesh and the UK to note the anniversary of the 1988 pro-democracy uprising. The protestors called for democratic change and the immediate release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi who has been in detention for two months after May 30 clashes between her supporters and a pro-government group. Thirty Burmese exiles held peaceful protests in the Thai capital waving signs saying “Bloody 8888 Free Burma.” The slogan refers to August 8, 1988 when thousands of pro-democracy activists were killed after demonstrating against military rule. In Burma, the anniversary was marked with Buddhist ceremonies and silent prayers. Members of London’s Burmese community marked the event by releasing balloons in Parliament Square to signify the country’s on-going struggle for freedom. On the eve of the anniversary, three protestors were arrested outside the embassy of Burma in Washington D.C. The U.S. Secret Service arrested the women for trying to tie a banner to the embassy building calling for the Burmese ambassador’s expulsion from the U.S. The Burmese military has been in control since 1962, despite Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy’s victory in the 1990 elections. Suu Kyi has been placed under house arrest periodically for the last ten years. (AFP, BBC, August 8; DPA, PA, August 7, 2003)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Committee reaches agreement on division of military regions: A committee monitoring the peace agreement in the DRC announced August 6 an agreement on the division of the country’s 10 military regions among the former warring factions. The Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD-Goma) had previously refused the plan, claiming it would throw the balance of power in favor of the former government of President Joseph Kabila. Azarias Ruberwa, leader of the RCD-Goma and one of the four vice-presidents of the transitional government, announced August 1 that his group was ready accept the committee’s plan. This plan would allocate control of three military regions to the former Kinshasa government, two each to RCD-Goma and the Mouvement de Liberation du Congo (MLC), and one region each to RCD-Kisangani/Mouvement de Liberation, RCD-National, and the Mayi-Mayi militias. In return for its concession, the RCD-Goma demanded that its military officers be posted as deputies in other regions. It was agreed that the three primary parties to the conflict would be entitled to deputy posts in regions other than their own, with four deputy posts allotted to the former government, four to the RCD-Goma, and three to the MLC. Disputes over the formation of a national army have stalled efforts to complete the peace process in the DRC for several weeks. The conflict in the DRC began in 1998 when then-President Laurent Desire Kabila’s main political sponsors, Rwanda and Uganda, turned against him and began supporting an anti-government rebellion. (AFP, August 7; IRIN, August 4, 7, 2003)

¹ The updates refer to Burma/Myanmar in recognition of the country prior to the military takeover and name change to Myanmar.

Violence in eastern DRC continues: William Swing, the head of MONUC (the UN Organization Mission in the DRC) condemned the killings of eleven Congolese civilians August 7 near the village of Baraka in southeastern South Kivu province. Reports indicated that the individuals were killed July 24 by fighters belonging to an alliance of the Forces pour la Defense de la Democratie (FDD), a rebel group from neighboring Burundi, Rwandan former military (ex-FAR), and Congolese Mayi-Mayi militias in the area. Fighting around Baraka reportedly opposes the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD-Goma) against a coalition of FDD, ex-FAR, and Interahamwe (Rwandan Hutu militias). The murder of nine civilians took place August 5 in the village of Nyanda, 20 km north of Bunia in the northeastern Ituri district. The victims were primarily women and children. The antagonists belonged to the Lendu ethnic group and were controlled by the Forces Nationalistes Integriationnistes (FNI), a political-military movement of the DRC. Attacks have persisted in Ituri despite a July 23 agreement among rival militias to disarm, withdraw to rear bases, and participate in joint verification exercises. Ethnic strife and fighting among various rebel militias with some alleged foreign involvement has continued to escalate in the resource-rich eastern DRC. (AFP, August 6; IRIN, August 7, 2003)

Two killed, 60 homes burned in clash near diamond concession: Two were killed and 60 homes burned in a clash between a local militia and the national army August 2 in the village of Mutshima, about 50 km southeast of the town of Tshikapa in Kasai Occidental Province. Most village residents fled the fighting between the army, local police, and a local militia known as the Red Army. Tshikapa mayor Hubert Mbingho stated that the army and police were defending a mining concession against pillage by the Red Army which had attempted to steal diamond chippings and other materials in the diamond concession. Militias frequently attack mining concessions in the region. (BBC, IRIN, August 5, 2003).

WFP appeals for funds: The UN World Food Program (WFP) warned August 8 that approximately 500,000 people faced severe hunger amid continued fighting in eastern DRC because of a huge shortfall in donations. WFP stated that it had received only 5 percent of funding for its June appeal for more than \$38 million to provide 46,000 tons of food assistance to people affected by inter-ethnic fighting in the DRC. Only Italy, Switzerland, and New Zealand had so far responded and less than \$2 million had been made available. WFP food reserves are low and the agency has been unable to reach all people in need. The agency reported that at least half the population of eastern DRC experienced serious food shortages after suffering five years of armed conflict. (IRIN, UN News, August 8, 2003).

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Eritrea obstructs UN information centers: Following the Eritrean government's July 24 request for the UN to close down its two Eritrea information outreach centers, the government sent guards to blockade the buildings. The centers were meant to provide information about the ongoing peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and until blockaded, were utilized by hundreds of people every week. Government officials stated August 6 that the centers were not necessary, and that they did not approve of some of the

reading material made available to young children. UN officials stated August 6 that closing the centers would be a loss, and urged Eritrea's UN representative to convince the Eritrean government to change its mind. The centers were created by the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) which was to monitor the border region between Eritrea and Ethiopia until the border was demarcated. The December 2000 Algiers Peace Agreement ended the two-year border war that resulted in an estimated 70,000 deaths subsequent to Eritrea's 1993 independence from Ethiopia. (IRIN, July 25, August 8, 2003)

Malaria threatens Ethiopia: The World Health Organization (WHO) warned August 8 that a malaria epidemic in Ethiopia that could threaten tens of thousands of lives was imminent, and appealed to the international community for help in shipping drugs to combat the disease. WHO anti-malaria head Gezahegn Tesfaye stated August 5 that risk of contracting the disease was increased by the severe drought which reduced victims' immunities, and by limited prevention funding which could provide mosquito nets and chemically treat infected areas. According to WHO, Ethiopia's health budget must be increased ten times the current five dollars per citizen per year to meet basic health care services. Malaria was the third largest killer in Ethiopia and has claimed the lives of approximately 100,000 people each year. (Addis Tribune, August 8; BBC, DPA, August 9; IRIN, August 11, 2003)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Rwanda's chief prosecutor for war crimes to be removed: According to published reports, the UN Security Council will follow Kofi Annan's August 9 recommendation to remove Carla Del Ponte, the chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal in Rwanda. The tribunal has been prosecuting those accused of leading Rwanda's 1994 genocide. Del Ponte also heads the tribunal in Yugoslavia, where her tenure will continue, and was accused of spending the vast majority of her time in Europe, leaving positions vacant within the Rwanda office, and failing to successfully prosecute several officials for rape when evidence of such crimes was clearly present. Four human rights groups urged the UN to maintain the independence and impartiality of the tribunal as they named a successor. One possible replacement was Del Ponte's deputy, South African lawyer Christopher Bongani Majola. The disorganization and internal conflicts have been such plagues on the tribunal that several cases will have to be handed over to the Rwandan government for prosecution, currently run by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). The RPF have been dominated by Tutsis, who were the primary target of the genocide and war crimes committed by the Hutu elite in 1994. The war crimes tribunal was created in 1994 by the UN to prosecute those responsible for the genocidal actions that left between 500,000 and 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu dead. (All Africa; AFP, August 7; ONASA News Agency, August 6; UPI, August 7, 2003)

Afghan warlords threaten human rights: Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a 101-page report July 29 detailing human rights abuses and threats to democracy from warlords, provincial commanders, and regional rulers. The report found regional armed commanders were guilty of plundering the government for assets, committing sexual abuses, resisting central government, and illegally torturing people. Such acts have not

been penalized by the American–British coalition or by the International Security Assistance Force, now led by NATO. HRW noted that American and British campaigns against terrorism have cooperated with such warlords and commanders partly due to their ability to maintain and provide security in areas outside Kabul. The implicit endorsement has had a negative effect upon the upcoming presentation of the new Afghan constitution to the Grand Assembly (Loya Jirga), and warlords have been accused of delaying local democratic elections. Reactions to the human rights report have ranged from agreement to harsh criticism. Afghan Deputy Head of State Mohammed Karim Kalili met with a U.S.-based independent delegation concerning human rights August 10, stating all spheres of life had improved since the Taliban's removal. The delegation he met with was to deliver their report to the U.S. Congress. The U.S.-British coalition has overseen the reconstruction of the Afghan government since the Taliban was removed October 2001; human rights violations have been steadily reported throughout the process. (AP, August 10; BBC, August 8, Human Rights Watch, August 2, 2003)

Angolan leaders deprive citizens: Human rights within Angola continued to spiral out of control as oil revenues failed to deliver badly needed aid and assistance. Ninety percent of Angola's \$3 to \$5 billion budget comes from oil, among the largest reserves in Africa. Yet a 2001 International Monetary Fund report found that \$1 billion per year goes missing, blaming President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Angola is no longer fighting the rebel group Unita, but decades of conflict have left hundreds of thousands of people displaced within their own country. Health standards within the oil-rich country are horrifying – one in five infants die in childbirth, one-third of children die before their fifth birthday, ninety percent of displaced Angolans drink contaminated water, and half of the population of 13 million are infected with the AIDS virus. The government has been secretive concerning oil revenues, which have been controlled by the Futungo group, comprised of the national petroleum company Sonangol, the National Bank of Angola, and President dos Santos. The \$1 billion which “disappears” each year is five times the \$200 million the UN provided in 2002 for thousands in need of food and aid. In response, the Angolan legislature passed a bill creating the High Authority Against Corruption August 6 to deal with issues such as the accountability of state funds. (All Africa, August 6; Economist, July 17; International Herald Tribune, August 10, 2003)

MACEDONIA

OSCE trains Macedonian police: A total of 350 police cadets graduated August 4 from a training center in Idrizove. The police academy was a component of a program created by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) that calls for the training of 1,000 police from minority ethnic groups, especially ethnic Albanians. The training of the new police was a joint effort between the OSCE and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Macedonia. It is a step toward the fulfillment of a provision of the Ohrid Accord under which 1,000 police from ethnic minority groups were expected to be employed in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Of the 350 cadets who attended a three-month course, 251 were ethnic Albanian, 52 Macedonian, and 47 belonged to other ethnic communities. Some of the graduates included former members of the National Liberation Army (NLA). The NLA took up arms against the government in February

2001 beginning a seven-month struggle for the rights of the ethnic Albanian minority that was settled with the signing of the Ohrid Agreement in August 2001. ([BBC](#), August 4, 2003)

Macedonia to host regional forum: The city of Ohrid in southeastern Macedonia is expected to host a regional forum entitled “Dialogue Among Civilizations” August 29-30 under the auspices of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General Matsuura Koichiro. The forum will gather the presidents of several southeastern European countries, representatives of the United Nations and the European Union, as well as international and non-governmental organizations. The forum’s panel discussions will focus on peace and stability, democracy and civil society, culture and diversity. Koichiro stated the forum was a key moment for consolidating and expanding the positive developments in the region after a ten-year period of ethnic conflict. ([Macedonia Information Agency](#), August 11, 2003)

NEPAL

Maoists want to end the “People’s War” with upcoming talks: Maoist negotiator Dr. Baburam Bhattarai stated August 10 that the third round of talks between government officials and Maoist rebels must be conclusive and end the current war. Also revealing the Maoist agenda, Dr. Bhattarai called for an interim government, roundtable discussions on Nepal’s future, and eventually a constitutional convention. The Maoists have asked King Gyanendra to abdicate and make way for a “new political order.” Since he ascended to the throne June 2001 after a massacre killed much of the Royal family, King Gyanendra has increased his own power, dissolving parliament and firing an elected Prime Minister October 4, 2003. Maoist rebels have fought since 1996 for the removal of the monarchy and installation of a “people’s government.” ([BBC](#), August 8; [Kathmandu Post](#), August 6; [Kyodo News Service](#), August 10; [Nepalnews](#), August 6, 2003)

King will be represented in peace talks: After Maoists demanded that King Gyanendra pledge his support for the upcoming third round of peace talks, Prime Minister Kamal Thapa stated August 9 that his government represents the King. The Maoists replied August 10 that they wanted direct confirmation from the King. This followed a spat regarding an agreement allegedly reached in the second round of talks, limiting the movement of the Nepalese Army. The King later said this was never agreed upon. Maoist negotiator Dr. Bhattarai cited the King’s dissolution of parliament and removal of elected Prime Minister Deuba in October 2002, as evidence of the King’s absolute power, thus requiring his approval for any decisions reached in the upcoming talks. Talks were proposed by government officials to begin mid-August. The Maoists had yet to agree, but said they wanted the third round of negotiations, unlike the previous two, to be held outside of Kathmandu. ([Nepalnews](#), August 9,10,11; [Press Trust of India](#), August 10, 2003)

Maoists, Royal Army continue to clash: Five Maoist rebels were killed in a gun battle after Maoists reportedly fired at a government security patrol August 11. Two Nepalese soldiers were critically wounded. The death toll was the highest since a cease-fire was

reached January 2003 although clashes between the two sides have continued with increasing regularity since July 22. A constable was seriously wounded August 9 when Maoists attacked his two-man security patrol in the Kalikot district. Nepalese human rights group Informal Sector Service Center said at least 48 people have died from violence since the cease-fire was reached. (Nepalnews, August 10, 11; Reuters August 11, 2003)

SUDAN

Peace talks to resume: Despite acrimonious exchanges over a draft peace agreement between the government and rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), both parties agreed to return to Kenya August 11-24 for a seventh round of peace talks. The agreement came despite previous governmental demands for the last draft agreement to be modified before peace talks continued. Exchanges between the parties continued to be tense, with the government questioning the sincerity of rebel leader John Garang. The African Union, the European Union, and the U.S. appealed to both parties to commit to peace in August 7-11 statements. Conclusion of peace talks between the government and SPLM/A have been delayed since the government rejected a mediator-proposed draft agreement as biased July 14. Following a 19-year civil war between the government in the primarily Islamic north and the SPLM/A in the mainly animist and Christian south, the government and the SPLM/A agreed July 2002 to allow southern Sudan six years of administrative autonomy without being subject to Islamic law, followed by a referendum to determine secession from, or unity with, northern Sudan. (AFP, August 7, 9, 10, 11; African Union, August 11, 2003)

Violence in northwest village increases: Security in the northwestern Darfur region has deteriorated rapidly in recent weeks. The western rebel Sudan's Liberation Army (SLA) accused pro-government militias August 11 of killing approximately 300 civilians who sympathized with the rebels in the North Darfur village of Kuttum August 5. The SLA reported August 5 that it had withdrawn from Kuttum after capturing it August 1 and reportedly destroying Kuttum's military authorities. President Omar al-Bashir met with the President of Chad, which borders Sudan's Darfur region, August 10, and stated they had agreed to devote all efforts to end the SLA rebellion. Citizens of Darfur have protested the government's selective application of Islamic law, which they claimed has marginalized, discriminated against, and exploited non-Arab citizens. Such criticisms counter government assertions that northern citizens agree on the use of Islamic law in the north. The SLA, formerly the Darfur Liberation Movement, has fought since February 2003 to replace the Islamist regime with a democratic government that allows Darfur citizens to have a voice in the creation of a new and united Sudan. (AFP, August 6, 11; DPA, August 10; Mideast Mirror, August 7; PANA, July 31, 2003)

President promises political rights: After meeting with opposition figures August 10, President al-Bashir agreed to reform in areas of human rights and political activity. While he pledged to consider releasing political prisoners, he promised to end censorship of the press, stop banning opposition politicians from traveling abroad, and lift the country's state of emergency, which has been in effect since December 1999. Al-Bashir did not give a timeframe under which these promises would be fulfilled. Opposition

Sudanese Democratic Front leader Ghazi Suleiman stated August 10 that the agreement paved the way for democratic reform. Opposition groups have worked toward democratic reform since al-Bashir and the military ousted a democratically elected government February 1989. (AFP, DPA, August 10, 2003)

UGANDA

LRA asks for new peace talks: Rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) commander Charles Tabuley sent a letter dated August 6 to the government and media demanding new peace negotiations. The letter asked western powers to cut military aid to President Museveni and warned that the LRA would begin attacking civilian interests if their peace offer was not welcomed by the government. Minister of Parliament Mike Mukula dismissed the offer August 8 and stated that the LRA needed to be dealt with militarily. The LRA has failed to negotiate peace with four separate facilitating groups in its 15-year history, which has led both civilians and government to lose trust in the sincerity of their purported interest in resolving the conflict. The LRA has killed and maimed thousands of civilians in Northern Uganda and has displaced over 800,000 others since Joseph Kony reorganized it in 1988 from its earlier form as the Holy Spirit Movement/Army, founded in 1986. (The Monitor (Kampala), August 11, 2003)

Government declares war on "political indiscipline": Government spokesperson Dr. Crispus Kiyonga vowed August 8 to arrest active opposition politicians who fail to register their parties and accused the opposition of trying to blackmail the government and cause unnecessary alarm. The statement followed opposition arguments that the leaders of the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM), whose terms expired July 11, were in office illegally. Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Janat Mukwaya stated August 8 that the NRM was legal and still existed. Opposition Uganda People's Congress lawyer Peter Mukidi Walubiri dismissed Kiyonga's accusations and stated that there was no law which allowed him to be arrested for reactivating his party's branches. The NRM has sought to transform itself into a political party in past weeks to compete in future democratic elections. (The Monitor (Kampala), August 6, 7, 8, 9, 2003)