

MONTHLY ACTION POINTS

ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL: DECEMBER 2009

NGO | WORKING GROUP
ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENCY FOR DECEMBER : BURKINA FASO

BURKINA FASO'S SUPPORT FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Burkina Faso's 2008-2009 Security Council membership has included a particular focus on mediation and negotiation processes. During Burkina Faso's Security Council Presidency in September, 2008, a Presidential Statement was issued that included an emphasis on the importance of including women in mediation and negotiation efforts.

Burkina Faso's relevant international commitments include: Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (*Ratified 16 April 2004*); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): (*Acceded 14 October 1987; ratified the Optional Protocol 10 Oct 2005*)

Action Previously Requested by the Security Council

The Security Council and Member States should follow up on the recommendation in Security Council resolution 1888 on Women Peace and Security for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG). We encourage the Security Council to ensure the SRSG and her/his office has the expertise, credibility, and authority to effectively discharge the mandate. Effectively addressing sexual violence requires a holistic approach that includes taking into account issues of prevention, protection, women's participation, and access to services for survivors of sexual violence.

The Security Council should also continue to follow up on the recommendations in Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1889, including the deployment of a team of experts focused on ending impunity for sexual violence (1888 OP8); the Secretary-General's upcoming proposals to strengthen the UN response to sexual violence in conflict (1888 OP26); and the Secretary-General's forthcoming set of universal indicators to track implementation of 1325 (1889 OP17).

Country Situations

All mandate renewals and sections of country reports must address the protection and promotion of women's human rights in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820 (OP 9), 1888 (OP 11), and 1889 (OP 5) and SC Presidential Statement 2009/1. The absence of specific reporting on women does not imply that there are no women peace and security concerns in the country. Member States should inquire about any such lack of information.

Afghanistan

The resolutions authorizing mandates of the UN mission and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan explicitly refer to the resolutions on Women Peace and Security. However, relevant reporting has been uneven. Firstly, the quarterly report on ISAF operations is overdue. Secondly, although the last UN Secretary-General report (S/2009/475) condemned the severe legislative restrictions on women's rights, the benchmarks in this report did not address the root causes of these restrictions including the need for women's empowerment, nor women's specific security concerns.

- The next UN Secretary-General report on Afghanistan is due mid-December, and presents an opportunity to review good practices regarding reporting on women peace and security in country situations.

Democratic Republic of Congo

As noted in November's NGOWG MAP, the situation for women and girls in the DRC remains dire. In December's review of the MONUC mandate, the Security Council has the opportunity to address some of the difficulties and concerns regarding the implementation of MONUC's previous mandate. Specific action by the Council should include:

- Women protection advisors (WPAs) in the role of monitoring, reporting, and devising protection strategies. WPAs would liaise with MONUC's joint protection teams and Congolese NGOs working on issues of concern to women and girls; gather information on the risks facing women and girls; devise protection strategies to mitigate these risks; ensure communication with the work of child protection advisors; and harness a system-wide UN response to implement those strategies.
- Regarding operation Kimia II, any continuation of MONUC's support to FARDC must be conditional upon compliance by FARDC units and commanders with human rights law and international humanitarian law. The impact of Kimia II on civilian populations must be taken into account, as per the priority the Council has given to protection of civilians in the MONUC mandate.
- The arms embargo should be strictly enforced and should apply to all those suspected of committing violations of human rights or international humanitarian law. The Sanctions Committee should act promptly on the findings of the group of experts. When selecting individuals targeted for sanctions the Security Council should follow a process that is transparent and based on clear criteria and a uniformly applied standard of evidence. Those subject to sanctions must have direct access to an effective, independent, review mechanism.
- Vetting and training of integrated forces, including, human rights and protection training should be mandatory.
- The mandate renewal should include an explicit obligation to support and protect human rights defenders.

- Those indicted at national and international levels should be arrested for international crimes, including crimes of sexual violence.

Guinea

The Secretary-General's Commission of Inquiry has been appointed and is investigating the situation in Guinea. The Security Council should support this commission's specific attention to the reports of targeted violence against women in its investigation. The commission should involve civil society, and ensure that adequate security measures are provided to protect witnesses, victims and their families, staff and others associated with the inquiry. The commission's findings and recommendations should be officially proclaimed and disseminated publicly without undue delay. The recommendations should include measures for redress and guarantees of non-repetition. Women should be represented during talks regarding power-sharing in the country. These talks should include women's rights and interests.

Golan Heights; Cyprus

The only women, peace and security emphasis of the UN mandates in both the Golan Heights and Cyprus has been on sexual exploitation and abuse by the troops monitoring the cease fire. In both countries, any future mandate renewal should require comprehensive and robust gender-specific awareness training for these troops. In addition, as landmines and unexploded ordinance pose huge risks to civilians, especially women and girls, the Security Council should ask for an update on that situation, particularly how these missions are ensuring adequate health care for those maimed by landmines.

NGOWG ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY RESOURCES

- Amnesty International, *Human Rights Council adopts UPR outcome on Afghanistan: AI urges implementation of the Action Plan for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation*, September 2009 - www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA11/013/2009/en
- Amnesty International, WebAction - *Afghan government must take firm action to protect women human rights defenders*, March 2009 www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/afghan-government-must-take-firm-action-protect-women-human-rights-defenders
- Amnesty International, *DRC: More prosecutions should follow for war crimes in the Kivus*, November 2009, www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR62/019/2009/en
- Amnesty International, *DRC: Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review*, April 2009, www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR62/009/2009/en
- International Rescue Committee, *DRC's Protracted Conflict: A Tough Transition To Peace For Women*, January 2008 www.theirc.org/sites/default/files/migrated/resources/2007/drc_revised-jan-08-kw-3.pdf
- Amnesty International, *DRC and Guinea case studies: Stopping the Terror Trade: How human rights rules in an arms trade treaty can help deliver real security*, October 2009, www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT30/006/2009/en
- Amnesty International, *Guinea: Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review: May 2010*. November 2009 - www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR29/007/2009/en
- Amnesty International, *Guinée: Quel sort pour les civils et militaires dont on est sans nouvelles?* October 2009, www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR29/006/2009/fr
- NGOWG on Women, Peace and Security, *Open Letter to Security Council Members Regarding the Situation in Guinea*, October 2009, http://womenpeacesecurity.org/media/pdf-Guinea_Letter_13October09.pdf
- Femmes Africa Solidarité and UNDP - *Women Movement for Peace and Security in Africa*: www.fasngo.org/assets/files/Women%20Movement%20for%20Peace%20and%20Security%20in%20Africa.pdf
- International Alert, *Women's Political Participation - Great Lakes Region*, www.international-alert.org/pdf/Women_political_participation_GL.pdf
- Women's Refugee Commission, *Displaced Women and Girls At Risk: Risk Factors, Protection Solutions and Resource Tools*, <http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/docs/womrisk.pdf>
- *PeaceWomen Security Council 1325 Monitor*: http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325_Monitor/countryindex.htm