



Gender and Security Sector Reform Ticker:

August 2008

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A) Announcements:

1. Security Council Adopts Resolution 1820 to End Sexual Violence Against Civilians in Armed Conflict

On June 19, the Security Council under the Presidency of the United States held an Open Debate on women, peace and security. An Open Debate – in which non-Council members have an opportunity to address the Council – is not unusual in relation to this theme on their agenda. Each October for the last seven years there has been such a debate to mark the anniversary of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325. This debate was different however. For one this was June – and it was quite heartening that the Security Council was taking up this theme outside of what has become an almost habitual anniversary occasion. Another difference was that the outcome of the debate was not another Presidential Statement but a rather more binding document – a resolution that builds on SCR 1325 of October 2000 (some 7 1/2 years and 495 Security Council resolutions later). At the conclusion of the Open Debate, the Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflict, which was, through a procedural provision also co-sponsored by some 32 other UN member states. As with most negotiated texts, provisos, passive language and sovereignty concerns make commitments weaker than they might have been. Certainly there are vital issues like the provision of comprehensive services to survivors and commitment of resources that are not comprehensively covered. In part this is because some of these issues must be taken up elsewhere in the UN system and by national governments.

<http://www.peacewomen.org:80/news/1325News/1325ENewsindex.html>

2. Model of National Action Plan Developed by ECPAT International (End Child Pornography and Trafficking) to Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children

ECPAT International has developed a Model National Plan of Action that may be used by governments which have made a commitment to implement the Agenda for Action. It could also be useful for non-governmental organisations when lobbying governments for a National Plan and it can help to identify gaps in existing governmental programmes and initiatives. The Plan focuses on all factors which may lead to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) such as low self esteem among girls and boys, sexual abuse in the family, drug and substance abuse, consumerism, deteriorating family values and poverty. The making of such a National Plan of Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, requires governmental and child-care agencies concerned with the protection of children to get together and analyse the situation for children in their country, to find out what needs to be done and to design strategies to fill the needs.

http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/model_plan2.asp

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B) Call for papers/ applications:

1. Applications for a training course on “Coordination of Multi-Sectoral Response to Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings”, Ghent, Belgium.

This two-week intensive course is specifically designed to train qualified experts in gender-based violence (GBV) from various backgrounds in the coordination of multi-sectoral prevention of and response to GBV in humanitarian settings

The course is targeting a mixed group of UN, NGO, Government and academic professionals from different countries/regions, with varied professional backgrounds and a diversity of experiences. The maximum number of participants is 25

men/women. The number of participants from the North is restricted to 5 men/women.

Academic partners and government representative participants should respond to additional selection criteria. Participants (currently or previously) associated with ICRH, UNFPA, UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict and the IASC and its partners are encouraged to apply. For more details contact: Marleen Bosmans at marleen.bosmans@ugent.be or Bethany Aquilina Blum at blum@unfpa.org

2. Executive Director at Peace X Peace

Peace X Peace is an international women-led organization that connects women over the internet to promote dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflict and to support actions that improve the status of women and families. At www.peacexpeace.org, women share their experience and expertise as other women connect with them across cultures for mutual benefit. To Apply: resumes, cover letters, and recommendations can be submitted to: execsearch@peacexpeace.org. Please include writing samples. Submissions will be reviewed until August 5, with priority given to those received before July 24.es and expertise as other women connect with them across cultures for mutual benefit.

3. Researcher at Amnesty International, London

To conduct research, provide policy advice and political judgment, and contribute to the development and implementation of effective research, advocacy and campaigning strategies on the human rights impact of violence against women (VAW), in order to support AI work on this issue and the Stop Violence against Women Campaign (SVAW).

To apply:

https://secure.amnesty.org/web/hrpjobs.nsf/application?openform&job_title=Researcher%20-%20Svaw%20Team&RefNo=HRP/08/09

4. Executive Director at Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University, USA

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is seeking an Executive Director for the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL or Global Center). A catalyst for change, CWGL helps forge networks of feminist advocates around the globe to advance women's leadership, women's human rights and social justice worldwide. To apply: lvv@rci.rutgers.edu. Also see www.cwgl.rutgers.edu.

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[C\) Reports and Publications:](#)

1. "Small Arms and Light Weapons: Selected UN Documents. 2008 Edition", Office for Disarmament Affairs.

The international community's concern with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) derives from the recognition that illicit SALW have a major adverse humanitarian impact that cannot be ignored. Small arms play a prominent role in all present-day conflicts, resulting in thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions of people; the proliferation of illicit SALW threatens to disrupt peacebuilding and development efforts; and it is small arms that are used by criminal gangs that spread insecurity and fear in our cities. This updated publication includes documents which have covered new ground recently, such as the 2007 report by the United Nations Expert Group on illicit brokering in small arms, and the 2008 Secretary-General's report on small arms to the Security Council.

http://disarmament.un.org/ddapublications/SALW/Small_Arms_2008-full.pdf

2. "Reforming Pakistan's Police", International Crisis Group.

Six years after it promulgated its 2002 Police Order governing the functioning of the force, the military government of President Pervez Musharraf had established very few public safety commissions, supposedly the cornerstone of the accountability process, and those that existed lacked enforcement mechanisms. The police remained political pawns, with transfers and promotions used to reward those willing to follow illegal orders and to punish the few officers who dared to challenge their military masters. As an institution, it was widely distrusted and disliked by citizens. Police reform should be high on the agenda of the democratically-elected governments that have now taken power at the centre and the provinces. Unlike the military did for years, they cannot afford to ignore the demands of constituents for safety and security.

"Reforming Pakistan's Police", the latest report from the International Crisis Group, says the current force is incapable of combating crime, upholding the law, or protecting citizens and the state against militant violence. A change in mindset and legislation is needed urgently, because the transition to democracy could falter if deteriorating security gives the military a new opportunity to intervene and justify derailing the democratic process on the grounds of good governance.

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5570&l=1>

3. "A Way Forward to Combat Human Trafficking", The Vienna Forum and the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT).

The adoption of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and other related United Nations instruments precipitated intense activity around the world to stop human trafficking. The Trafficking Protocol, along with individual country programmes and laws, is the basis on which future actions to fight human trafficking must be built, with the human rights of the trafficked persons at the centre of anti-trafficking efforts. This report describes the discussions, activities and accomplishments of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008. Twenty-eight panels, workshops, special sessions and side events were held as part of the Forum with a view to exploring the themes of vulnerability, impact and action and to offering an opportunity for dialogue on preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

<http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/vf/ebook2.pdf>

4. "The Law Is There, Let's Use It. Ending Domestic Violence in Venezuela", Amnesty International.

"I thought that, when we formalized our engagement by marrying, he would change... but I was completely wrong and I learned that over the years. It also took me such a long time [to report the violence]... for cultural reasons, the way in which many people here in Venezuela are brought up. That marriage is for life, and that you don't do your dirty washing in public and don't talk about it to anyone. So, that is the first reason, and the second reason is that the victim of violence is isolated by their aggressor. They isolate you from your friends, from your family, from any contact where they think you could be talking about what is happening to you...And, finally, the third reason, which is no less significant and, for me, is the most important, is that you are paralyzed with fear. Fear that that person knows that you are reacting by defending yourself, and that fear just gets worse because obviously as time goes by the violence gets worse as well. So, it's like

all these things converging and it means that it is more difficult for some people to react and defend themselves than others...”

In March 2007, the government passed a law that defines violence against women as a human rights violation and reaffirms the responsibility of the state and its officials to eradicate it. The law replaced one passed in 1999 that, although positive, failed to be fully implemented. It sets out measures to prevent violence against women, to protect women at risk and to punish those responsible. It also requires the authorities to implement a far reaching programme to raise awareness and challenge public attitudes which condone or conceal this under-reported crime. However, there has been a gap between what the law has promised and its implementation in practice. This report focuses on the 2007 law. Although the law covers many different aspects and manifestations of violence against women, this report concentrates on the specific issue of violence against women in the family.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR53/001/2008/en/7ca044fd-4daa-11dd-b4c6-7b3441f92ab8/amr530012008eng.pdf>

5. “Room to Maneuver: Lessons from Gender Mainstreaming in the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations”, The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

The United Nations is mandated to mainstream gender issues and concerns through its agencies and operations. An essential part of this effort must be to focus on the impact of gender mainstreaming on the lives of women, girls, boys and men affected by armed conflict. This requires, among other things, an understanding of the activities and capacity of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in terms of its mandate to protect and assist refugees, and its designation as the lead agency for the UN's humanitarian response to protect conflict generated internally displaced persons (IDPs). This paper explores the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations' (DPKO) efforts to mainstream gender in providing security specifically in situations of displacement, and identifies opportunities to reinforce these efforts. This includes areas of potential synergy between UNHCR and DPKO, including where they can learn and benefit from each other's approaches to mainstreaming, and foster greater collaboration. DPKO uses UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security as its gender mainstreaming framework, using this consistently across DPKO and UNHCR could inform more complementarily where there is organisational overlap. UNHCR and DPKO should pay closer attention to information sharing, coordination and collaboration, including joining forces to build awareness on gender mainstreaming among field level UN staff and partners as a means for effective, coordinated gender mainstreaming. It is hoped that this desk study, along with those previously released (see other Women's Commission reports) will enhance coordination and complementarity of approaches, and generate ideas within all organisations attempting to mainstream gender on how to further strengthen their approaches.

<http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/dpko.pdf>

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D) News:

1. South Africa: “Justice Ministers Consider Southern African Development Community (SADC) Gender Protocol”

Justice ministers from southern Africa met recently to consider the regional draft Protocol on Gender and Development in the last stage of consultations before it is presented to Heads of State and Government at their Summit in August.

The draft Protocol will be discussed by the Standing Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) who meet from 10-12 August and 14-15 August respectively before it is presented to Heads of State and Government when they meet 16-17 August in South Africa.

<http://www.awid.org/eng/Women-s-Rights-in-the-News/Women-s-Rights-in-the-News/Justice-ministers-consider-SADC-gender-protocol>

2. Uganda: "Poverty, Wars and Alcohol Perpetuate Domestic Violence"

Armed conflict, poverty, alcohol abuse and cultural attitudes are responsible for the high incidence of domestic violence in Ugandan communities, according to a report presented to parliament by jurists. The law is not much help in cases of abuse, according to the report. Richard Lumu, a Kampala-based lawyer specialising in family matters, said Uganda lacks specific legislation on domestic violence, something the Uganda Law Reform Commission would like to change. The report further notes that the attitudes of judges and judicial officers and their response to domestic violence often frustrates battered women because the perpetrators may be treated leniently.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79259>

3. Guinea-Bissau: "Deployment of EU in Guinea-Bissau"

The EU civilian mission to Guinea Bissau, entitled "EU SSR Guinea-Bissau" was deployed on 16 June 2008 and is the first ESDP mission in the field of Security Sector Reform bringing together the defence, justice and police sectors. The Head of Mission is the Spanish General Juan Esteban Verástegui, who will head the mission until its foreseen closure in June 2009. A recent International Crisis Group briefing suggested that Guinea-Bissau was "in need of a state." Indeed, the proliferation of criminal networks, insufficient law enforcement structures and the persisting problem of an inadequate prison system continue to weaken this West African country's democratization efforts. A reform of the army and police is desperately needed and has now been internationally recognised as a top priority.

http://www.eplo.org/documents/EPLOCPNL_3-06.pdf

4. Democratic Republic of Congo: "Building a State for Congolese People"

Across the country and in various activities, the Congolese state and its institutions are only minimally present or effective. Peace agreements ended much of the fighting that devastated the eastern half of this country for nearly a decade — but a number of armed groups continue to operate there, perpetuating insecurity, causing major population displacements and threatening to reignite a wider war. National elections have put in office a government with some political legitimacy.

Yet reforms of key state organs — police, army, courts, civil administration, state enterprises, local government councils, tax agencies — have only just begun. So have efforts to get the government to open up to dialogue with ordinary citizens.

<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol21no4/214-congo-building-a-state.html>

5. Afghanistan: "IOM Engages Religious Leaders to Combat Human Trafficking & Welcomes New Counter Trafficking Law"

On July 22nd, IOM and the Afghan Ministry of Hajj and Endowment have held a first-ever roundtable with religious leaders to discuss human trafficking in Afghanistan in the context of Islam. A total of 40 clerics from Kabul and 20 other provinces have taken part in the event in Kabul, which has followed the introduction of Afghanistan's first counter trafficking law last week.

Roundtable participants have been encouraged to raise awareness of human trafficking issues among vulnerable groups in their respective communities through discussion and prayer.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7GSDRN?OpenDocument>

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