



Gender and Security Sector Reform Ticker:

October 2008

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A) Announcements:

- 1. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 - 8th Anniversary - Encourage Follow Up, Funding, Activism**

Last October mark 8 years since the UN Security Council passed its landmark resolution on women, peace and security. As in previous years, planning is underway in countries worldwide and among the New York-based international community including UN agencies, governments and civil society on what debates, seminars and discussions will take place to give new impetus to the implementation of SCR 1325 and to identify new issues and challenges. In the United Nations, the Inter Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security plays a critical role in the advocacy for and coordination of the United Nations systems joint response to women, peace and security, in partnership with Member States and non-governmental organizations. The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) coordinates the work of the Inter Agency Task Force and is also responsible for the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary General detailing progress made in the system-wide plan for implementation of SCR 1325.

<http://www.iwtc.org/gnets/343.html>

The 2008 Report of the Secretary General will be available on the OSAGI website once released. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/>

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2. UN-INSTRAW virtual discussion “Planning for Action: Good Practices on Implementing UNSCR 1325 on a National Level” started 3rd -21st of November

In light of the 8th year anniversary of the adoption of UN-Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, UN-INSTRAW will bring together key policy makers, governmental representatives and civil society actors from all over the world in a three week virtual dialogue. The aim of the discussion is to highlight existing efforts and strengthen the replication of good practices between member states, which plan to, are in the process of or have already published a national action plan on women, peace and security.

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/gps/general/implementation-of-un-scr-1325.html>

[B\) Call for papers/ applications:](#)

1. “Justice Sector Reform: Applying Human Rights Based Approaches”, International Human Rights Network (IHRN), Maynooth, Ireland

The aim of this IHRN training programme is to enhance skills of participants in applying Human Rights Based Approaches to Justice Sector Reform. It will facilitate the development of knowledge and skills regarding:

- legal principles, policies and practice underpinning human rights based approaches to justice sector reform;
- inter-linkages between sector actors (law enforcement, judicial, corrections, etc.);
- relationship between the justice sector and related terms such as 'security sector', 'rule of law', 'good governance';
- Human Rights Based needs assessment, programme design, implementation, as well as mentoring, monitoring & evaluation;
- Programming tools and checklists (including Human Rights Based benchmarks and indicators of change);
- Case studies from national contexts as well as international field missions (including conflict and post-conflict).

www.ihrnetwork.org/200709-programmes_203.htm

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C) Reports and Publications:

1. UK: "Trafficking - Research on Health Consequences of Women & Adolescents Trafficked in Europe"

Trafficking is a severe form of violence against women and a serious violation of human rights. Women and adolescents who are trafficked suffer some of the most unspeakable acts of abuse, exploitation and degradation. The damage to their health and well-being is often profound and enduring. Yet, to date, little data has been available on the range and extent of the physical and psychological health damage experienced by women who are trafficked. This report presents some of the first-ever statistical data on the health consequences of women who have been trafficked.

[http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hpu/docs/Stolen%20Smiles%20-%20Trafficking%20and%20Health%20\(2006\).pdf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hpu/docs/Stolen%20Smiles%20-%20Trafficking%20and%20Health%20(2006).pdf)

2. "Rwanda Project", The Initiative for Inclusive Security Women's Rights, Political Leadership, Peace & Security

Since the end of the civil war and 1994 genocide, Rwandan women have made remarkable contributions to rebuild their society. They also made unprecedented political gains, achieving near parity in the legislature's lower chamber. But what effect did their presence have on this society in transition? Inclusive Security's three-year Rwanda Project revealed that women leaders: drafted the only substantive bill to emerge from the legislative rather than the executive branch, a far-reaching law to combat gender-based violence; spearheaded efforts to eliminate discrimination and enhance human rights protections; and fostered cross-party and male-female collaboration through the Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians and by involving men in efforts to craft legislation. The following papers and policy briefs elaborate on these extraordinary achievements.

http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/478_rwanda_project.cfm

3. Azerbaijan: "Defense Sector Management and Reform", International Crisis Group

The latest policy briefing from the International Crisis Group, examines the difficulties the country faces in upgrading its military. Oil wealth has been poured into a defense budget that has increased more than ten-fold in five years, raising concerns President Ilham Aliyev might eventually choose war with Armenia to recover Nagorno-Karabakh. But reforms could also make the army more accountable, less corrupt and a contributor to democratization.

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5751&l=1>

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D) News:

1. Iran: "Iran Women Say No to Polygamy. Women Achieve Temporary Victory Over Iran Family Protection Bill"

The Iranian "Family Protection Bill," which is anything but protective of families, has brought together one of the largest coalitions to oppose a bill since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This rare and temporary victory has energized young women activists in Iran.

<http://womennewsnetwork.net/2008/09/23/iran-women-say-no-to-polygamy/>

2. Canada: "Aboriginal Girls & Women Victims Of Prostitution Trafficking"

On the street corners of Canada's largest cities, thousands of women are bought and sold every night.

Most of them, experts say, are aboriginal and an alarming number are trafficked. In a four-part series running across the country this week, Sun Media looks at Canada's hidden trade in people; at the failure of this country to live up to its international obligations on human trafficking, to prosecute human traffickers and meaningfully help victims.

Aboriginal trafficking has been identified as a unique problem in government reports, non-governmental newsletters and at human trafficking conferences.

<http://winnipegsun.com/News/Canada/2008/09/29/pf-6915541.html>

3. Rwanda: "Rwanda Sets World Record For Women In Parliament"

Women took 56 percent of contested seats in Rwanda's parliamentary election last month, setting a new world record for female representation in Parliament.

Elections held at the end of September saw Rwandan women taking 56.25 percent of the contested parliamentary seats something that has never happened in Africa or the world. These polls have set Rwanda on the world record having 44 parliamentary seats taken up by women

<http://www.awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Library/Rwanda-sets-world-record-for-women-in-parliament>

4. Liberia: "Gender Minister Indicts Judges"

Gender and Development Minister Varbah Gayflor has accused judges of paying less attention to cases arising out of gender based violence (GBV).

She said whenever GBV cases were taken to court judges would rather defend the perpetrators instead of victims by asking critical questions

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200809040845.html>

5. East Timor: "Justice For All?"

As parliament debates its first penal code, one East Timorese official is pushing for village justice. But even as the legislature moves to finalize the nation's first penal code this month, a minor government official is on a crusade to formalize terra bandu. Usually terra bandu is traditional law used to protect natural resources, but the state secretary for the environment says it can do more.

State Secretary Abilio Lima has already convinced about one third of the nation's one million people that everything from cattle rustling to rape are crimes best resolved outside courtrooms by water buffalo justice.

http://www.asiasentinel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1454&Itemid=205

6. USA: "Los Angeles Police Fail To Use Funds To Test Rape Kits"

The Los Angeles Police Department should make it a priority to reduce its huge backlog in testing evidence in rape cases, Human Rights Watch said after release of an audit that shows the number of untested rape kits (a tool that the police use for examining rape victims in order to collect physical evidence against the offender) continues to grow despite nearly \$4 million in federal grants the LAPD has received for that purpose.

<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2008/10/20/usdom20011.htm>

7. Chile: "Campaign Against Police Violence"

A report on human rights revealed the persistence of abuses, unnecessary use of force, and brutality by police agents against the vulnerable populations on the basis of the requests put forward by the human rights organizations of Chile. The report will be used as a basis for the campaign against police violence "Alto Ahí!", launched in Santiago and whose objectives are: the introduction of integral reforms in the

military justice pursuant to the international evolution of human rights, the repeal of the decree that regulates the conditions for exerting the right of peaceful gathering without previous consent and without weapons, the introduction of legislative reforms related to the control of police acts. The campaign has also set up a website (www.altoahi.cl) to file complaints.

<http://www.ciudadaniasx.org/content/view/622/119/> (article in Spanish)

8. Yemen: "Women in Prison"

Oxfam funds the *Yemeni Women's Union (YWU)* to provide free legal support to poor women in prisons, courts and police stations through 36 volunteer lawyers, in five districts. As a result, 450 female prisoners were released in 2004 and 2005. Until 2006, women prisoners who completed their sentence were forbidden to leave prison unless a male guardian collected them, a law which was overturned by the Ministry of the Interior following an advocacy campaign by Oxfam and WNC.

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/downloads/FP2P/FP2P_Yemen_%20adv_on_viol_ag_women_CS_ENGLISH.pdf

9. West Bank and Gaza Strip: "Justice in the West Bank Can Take a Lifetime"

The wheels of justice turn slowly in the Palestinian court system, so slowly that some cases can take a lifetime. Literally. It could take up to 50 years in some criminal courts to get a final judgment at the current rate of hearings, a European Union study found. And on average, criminal courts in the Israeli-occupied West Bank take 14 years to fully resolve serious cases.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LS273018.htm>

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