



Gender and Security Sector Reform Ticker:

September 2008

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A) Announcements:

1. Lebanon: "Government Pledges To Legislate To End Violence Against Women"

In an unprecedented and surprising development, the Ministerial Statement pledged to end violence against women, promising to work towards legislation in favor of women's rights.

This is the second time in the history of the Lebanese government that women have been included the Ministerial Statement, and the first time ever that mention has been made to violence against women with an explicit promise for legal reform.

This came as a response to a letter sent by Kafa to the cabinet calling on them to uphold the state's responsibilities to the international agreements it has ratified, particularly the Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Statement adopted all of the letter's recommendations.

In January 2008, Lebanon submitted its third periodic report to the CEDAW committee, and Kafa was there to push the committee into recommending to the state that the issue of violence against women be given priority. Sure enough, the committee's concluding comments to the Lebanese state made explicit reference to legislation on the issue.

<http://protect.kafa.org.lb:80/?q=node/49> - Arabic & English Translations

2. UN-Envoy: "Advancing Women's Rights Critical to Liberia's Development"

The top United Nations official in Liberia has called for furthering the rights of women as a crucial element in advancing peace and development in the West African nation that is recovering from a decade-long civil war.

Addressing participants at the start of a five-day national women's conference in the capital, Monrovia, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj, yesterday highlighted the need to take the message of women's empowerment and the advancement of human rights to the community level.

"When discussing these issues, ensure that they are not only discussed with intellectual women in Monrovia; make sure that all women of Liberia are involved in these efforts," she told the gathering.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26596&Cr=liberia&Cr1=>

3. International conference hosted by the Joan Kroc Institute "Crafting Security" starts the 24th of September

An international working conference to probe and address global acquiescence to impunity, gender violence and exclusion that continues to obstruct peacebuilding and deny human security is held the **September 24 - 26, 2008 at the [Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice](#)** in San Diego, CA.

Bringing together representatives of the international community, academia and practitioners thus conference aim of the conference is to address the following issues:

- Greater gender equity and participation of women in decision making.
- Peacekeeping and peace building practices that deal with systemic sexual violence.
- Adherence to rules of engagement that prevent the targeting of women and children.
- Awareness of the need to address the true scope of conflict-based sexual violence.
- Attention to rule of law and transitional justice mechanisms that addresses impunity.

The conference is co-convened by the IPJ, Global Justice Center, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

<http://peace.sandiego.edu/events/womenpeace/info.php>

4. International Day of Peace: [Gender Equality Key to Effective Peacekeeping](#) (UN-INSTRAW Press release attached)

On the International Day of Peace, September 21st 2008, the UN System turns its attention to the role of peacekeepers in promoting and strengthening human rights. Adding its voice to multitude calling for an end to war and conflict throughout the world, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) emphasizes the crucial role that gender equality plays in making peacekeeping more effective, sustainable and just.

In order to examine the state, impact and long-term effectiveness of gender training for peacekeepers in UN missions, UN-INSTRAW developed a working paper on [Gender Training for Peacekeepers: A preliminary overview of United Nations peace support operations](#). The paper analyzes the strategies and methodologies used to deliver gender training and the training tools and materials that are currently available, as well as new opportunities for research and policy-making.

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/7.html>

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B) Call for papers/ applications:

1. Procurement Notice by UNDP

UNDP wishes to commission a research/training institution to conduct capacity building on gender-aware macro- and microeconomics to ensure full capacity of Makerere University lecturers to teach these courses of the Master of Arts in Gender Analysis in Economics in August 2009. Capacity building will initially be conducted for two Makerere University lecturers for two months during spring 2009. Deadline October 10.

[RFP for the provision of support to the Gender and Economic Policy Initiative \(part 1 of 2\)](#).

[ANNEXES to the RFP- PART 2 of 2](#)

2. OSCE Conference on “Human Dimension Implementation Meeting”

This year’s OSCE Conference on Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Europe’s largest human rights and democracy conference, opens on 29 September 2008 in Warsaw, Poland.

http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2008.html

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C) Reports and Publications:

1. “Building Community-Based Partnerships for Local Action on Women’s Safety”, Women in the City International

This is a guide for community-based women’s groups to create partnerships with their local municipal government. Partnerships between community-based women’s groups and municipal governments are beneficial because together they can do important work to create safer and more inclusive communities for women and girls

in all their diversity. The guide contains also six examples of current projects in various sites.

<http://www.femmesetvilles.org/pdf-general/WICI%20partnership%20en.pdf>

2. "Women's Struggle for Justice and Safety: Violence in the Family in Mexico", Amnesty International

Violence in the family is the most common form of gender-based violence experienced by women worldwide. According to UN estimates, one in three women is subjected to physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime. In Mexico, in a 2006 national survey almost one in four women said that they had suffered physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner.¹

Few cases of violence against women are reported, fewer still result in the prosecution or conviction of those responsible or restitution for victims. The most well documented pattern of violence against women in Mexico is that involving the murder over the past 15 years of more than 430 women and girls, with more than 30 others still missing in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua City, Chihuahua state. Many of the murdered women were victims of abduction and sexual violence. However, a significant proportion was also victims of violence in the family.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR41/021/2008/en/4d96a226-5194-11dd-ad62-d31ddb019522/amr410212008eng.pdf>

3. "The Security Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean", Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Chile

Security is one of the most urgent problems in Latin America and the Caribbean today. The topic is a central concern of citizens in practically all of the countries. The principal goal of the Report on the Security Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean is to contribute to the understanding of the political and institutional processes taking place in the region related to the security sector since the return of the democracy.

http://www.ssrnetwork.net/documents/Publications/FLACSO-Report_on_SSR_in_LAC.pdf

4. "Enhancing the EU Response to Women & Armed Conflict with Particular Reference to Development Policy", European Centre for Development Policy Management

Women's multiple and diverse roles in conflict are hidden, poorly understood and, at times, consciously or unconsciously dismissed. Women are usually perceived as victims and analysis tends to examine exclusively this idea.

This study concentrates on women as both being affected by and affecting armed conflict. It focuses on women, rather than gender, and armed conflict but does recognise the importance of gender analysis as a tool to promote a better response to women and armed conflict (WAC).

Specifically the report looks into the EU's response to WAC, and in particular development cooperation. It identifies and discusses international approaches and legal obligations to WAC, provides an overview and assessment of the EU response and concludes with findings and recommendations. Examples or cases from Sierra Leone, Uganda, the DRC, Kosovo and Burundi are included as well as thematic cases on sexual and gender based violence, local advocates for accountability on WAC, national action plans associated with WAC and regional approaches to WAC.

[http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/BFA813732ADF4AE3C125744200313063/\\$FILE/Sherriff_WAC%20study_DP84_April08.pdf](http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/BFA813732ADF4AE3C125744200313063/$FILE/Sherriff_WAC%20study_DP84_April08.pdf)

5. "Securing the Future. A Primer on Security Sector Reform in Conflict Countries", United States Institute of Peace

This report serves as a primer toward understanding security sector reform (SSR) in societies emerging from conflict—a rapidly expanding field of urgent importance. The report provides background on SSR today. It is based on statements by panelists at a public forum held at the United States Institute of Peace on May 22, 2008, and on interviews conducted by the author with government agencies, commercial contract firms, international organizations, and host governments that participate in the SSR programs.

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr209.pdf>

6. "The Private Military Services Industry", SIPRI

The trend towards increased outsourcing of military activities has led to a rapid expansion of the military services segment of the arms industry in recent decades. Military services as defined here include technical services such as information technology and equipment maintenance, operational support such as facilities management and logistics, and actual armed 'security' in conflict zones. Some of the demand for the latter comes not from 'outsourcing' as such, but from internal conflict situations where state capacity is weak or absent. This paper discusses the background to the growth of the military services industry and presents an overview of the different types of military service, the size of the market and the companies involved.

http://books.sipri.org/product_info?c_product_id=361

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D) News:

1. "Cyber-crime legislations and gender"

This edition of GenderIT.org examines the issue of cybercrime legislation through a gendered perspective and its implication on women, in collaboration with the ICT Policy Monitor Latin America and the Caribbean team of the Association for Progressive Communications. The focus of this edition was catalysed by issues and questions raised by our readers on the increasing pervasiveness of cybercrime legislations in different regions, and their potential impact on women's communication rights. As always, the researchers began to investigate the issue with many questions: What is meant by "cybercrime"? In what kinds of spaces would cybercrimes be considered as being committed? How do they differentiate and affect ideas of the public and the private? How can this affect women as users and developers of the internet, e-mail, cell phones and other information and communication technologies (ICT)? Can cybercrime restrict the exercise of individual rights to privacy, freedom of expression and civil liberties? Can the rhetoric of fighting cybercrimes in effect be used to restrict the exercise of women's communication rights? How can the issue of cybercrimes be analysed from a feminist perspective? Is this issue currently part of the women's movement's agenda? How the criminalisation of online sexual expression and practices as well as the sex trade affect the sexual rights of women?

<http://www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=f--e--1&x=96162>

2. Iran: "Iranians Suspend Death by Stoning"

A judiciary spokesman said four people sentenced to die by stoning had had their sentences commuted and that all other cases had been put under review. Lawyers and human rights campaigners have said at least eight women and a man are awaiting the punishment.

Stoning is the penalty for crimes such as adultery under Iranian law, but it is rarely carried out. The last such execution was reportedly last year. Amnesty International called on Iran in January to abolish what it called a "horrific practice, designed to increase the suffering" of those condemned.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7543791.stm

3. UK: "Muslim Institute Launches Model Muslim Marriage Contract"

The Muslim Institute, Britain's foremost Muslim think-tank, is to launch a new standard marriage contract (nikah) for British Muslims wishing to marry under Muslim law. The launch took place on 8 August 2008. The new standard contract reflects a consensus effort to protect the rights of both parties to a Muslim nikah (non-registry marriage) and that are guaranteed under the Shari'ah. The contract has been drafted after lengthy consultations with religious leaders, community organisations and women's groups across the country, and comes with guidelines to facilitate its use. In particular, the new contract provides women entering a Muslim marriage with written proof of their marriage and of the terms and conditions agreed between the spouses. In the absence of such proof, women have faced particular difficulties in securing the financial rights guaranteed to them under the Shari'a upon divorce.

[http://www.wluml.org/english/newsfulltxt.shtml?cmd\[157\]=x-157-562251](http://www.wluml.org/english/newsfulltxt.shtml?cmd[157]=x-157-562251)

4. Afghanistan: "Afghan Women Jailed for Being Victims of Rape"

In Lashkar Gah, the majority of female prisoners are serving 20-year sentences for being forced to have sex. Two-thirds of the women in Lashkar Gah's medieval-looking jail have been convicted of illegal sexual relations, but most are simply rape victims – mirroring the situation nationwide. The system does not distinguish between those who have been attacked and those who have chosen to run off with a man.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/the-afghan-women-jailed-for-being-victims-of-rape-900658.html>

5. Sierra Leone: "Police in Sierra Leone adopt UN-drafted guidelines on sexual abuse"

Sierra Leonean police have adopted new policy guidelines on sexual abuse and exploitation that have been drafted by United Nations officials as part of their efforts to reduce the widespread levels of violence against women and girls in the West African country.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27503>

6. Palestine: "In Hamas' Gaza, Policewomen Bridge Tradition & Modernity"

In her year on the vice squad, Lt. Mariam al-Bursh has been on narcotics busts, interrogated male drug dealers and fought off a female assailant with her fists. The 27-year-old is one of 53 women serving in the 11,000-strong Hamas police force, established after the Islamic militants seized Gaza by force more than a year ago.

Since taking power, Hamas has put some educated, motivated women in government jobs, promoted athletics for women, and boosted their presence on male-dominated TV.

Hamas says it wants to recruit the best and brightest, regardless of gender, and improve women's status in Gaza's conservative society.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/aug/23/in-hamas-gaza-policewomen-have-to-cover-up/>

7. Afghanistan: “Rebuilding the Security Sector—Progress and Ownership”

This conference, hosted by SIPRI and the Estonian Embassy in Stockholm, was convened to take stock of the ongoing efforts to increase Afghan ownership of the security sector—in particular the transfer of responsibility to the Afghan security forces—within the context of a continually deteriorating security situation.

<http://www.sipri.org/contents/update/08/09/>

8. Haiti: Remodeling Haitian Law

Haiti is currently experiencing numerous challenges to the rule of law, including chronic poverty, street crime, drug trafficking and other serious crimes. According to Haitian officials, the country’s criminal laws—some of which has not been updated since 1860—do not address the spate of crime the country faces and fail to comply with international human rights law. There is considerable support within the justice system and beyond to reform the Haiti’s criminal laws.

To assist with this effort, since 2002, USIP’s Rule of Law Center of Innovation and the Irish Centre for Human Rights have spearheaded the Model Codes for Post-Conflict Criminal Justice Project in cooperation with the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime and more than 200 criminal justice experts from around the world.

http://www.usip.org/in_the_field/haiti/index.html?utm_source=bronto&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Remodeling+Haitian+Law&utm_content=npopovic%40un-instraw.org&utm_campaign=USIP+Weekly+Bulletin+September+19%2C+2008

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