



## **Gender and Security Sector Reform Ticker:**

July 2009

Below please find news and announcements on Gender and Security Sector Reform (GSSR). The summaries of the different articles and topics are below the table of contents.

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### **A. Announcements:**

#### **1. Job Announcement: Gender and Security Project Officer, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)**

The Special Programmes Department of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) is looking for an experienced, motivated, and flexible individual who will undertake a wide range of tasks related to gender and security sector reform, with a focus on the Balkan region. DCAF is a foundation contributing to the process of democratization of the defence and security sector in countries around the world, including those in transition to democracy or affected by crisis or war. For more information on DCAF, see [www.dcaf.ch](http://www.dcaf.ch)

For more information on the Gender and Security Project Officer position please contact Marijke Stutz-de Ridder at [m.stutz-de-ridder@dcaf.ch](mailto:m.stutz-de-ridder@dcaf.ch)

#### **2. E-Discussion on Women in Local Governments: 10 – 24 August 2009**

iKnow Politics will host an E-Discussion on Women in Local Governments from 10 – 24 August 2009. iKnow Politics invites participation from women and men who are leaders in local governments, civil society organizations, academics and practitioners working with women in communities and local governments to share their experiences on a variety of questions relating to the themes of enabling participation, strategies for constituency building and political success, the impact of women in local government, and mayors.

To sign up for the discussion, please see:

<http://www.iknowpolitics.org/en/view/ediscussion/11063>

### **3. Sweden: Call for applications for course on Security Sector Reform: September 2009**

The Folke Bernadotte Academy will host a course on Security Sector Reform 14 – 18 September 2009. In this course, participants will acquire an understanding of the definitions of SSR and how the concept has developed. The guiding principles of SSR will be explored as well as concepts for how to develop an integrated approach to SSR in peace operations. The specific challenges and opportunities arising in post-conflict situations will be analyzed bearing in mind the importance of sustainability. The participants will gain insight in several of the key areas of SSR and specific program design, while remaining aware of the holistic approach needed in security sector.

Please see the website below for more information:

[http://www.folkebernadotteacademy.se/roach/Course\\_on\\_Security\\_Sector\\_Reform.do?pageId=280](http://www.folkebernadotteacademy.se/roach/Course_on_Security_Sector_Reform.do?pageId=280)

### **4. United Kingdom: Event on “What Threatens? Building Bridges in Security and Conflict Studies”: September 2009**

On 22 September 2009, the University of Birmingham, UK will hold a conference entitled “What Threatens? Building Bridges in Security and Conflict Studies.” The conference will address the links between traditional and critical approaches to security, the relationship between theory and policy, and new developments in the fields of security and conflict studies. Please see the following website for more information:

<http://www.ssrnetwork.net/events/details.php?id=232>

### **5. Sweden: Gender Field Advisor Course, October 2009**

The Swedish Armed Forces International Center will hold a Gender Field Advisor Course in October 2009. A Gender Advisor is the commanders’/head of missions’ strongest resource in the implementation of gender awareness into any operation/mission. The Gender Field Advisor Course is a basic course designed to train individuals to function in the role of Gender Advisor on operational and tactical levels in all kind of security, police and humanitarian operations/missions.

Please see the following website for more information:

<http://www.mil.se/en/Organisation/Centres/Swedish-Armed-Forces-International-Centre/Courses-at-SWEDINT/Gender-Field-Advisor-Course-/>

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## **B. Reports and Publications:**

### **1. Latest addition to DCAF’s Gender and SSR Training Resource Package released July 2009**

The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) has released the latest addition to its Gender and SSR Training Resource Package, entitled “National Security Policy-Making and Gender.” The publication includes key messages for training, eleven training exercises, topics and tips for facilitating discussions and case studies from Jamaica and Israel.

The publication can be downloaded at: <http://www.dcaf.ch/gender-security-sector-reform/training.cfm?navsub1=37&navsub2=2&nav1=3>

## **2. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launches its report *Transnational Trafficking and the Rule of Law in West Africa: A Threat Assessment***

In July 2009, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched its report *Transnational Trafficking and the Rule of Law in West Africa: A Threat Assessment*. The report examines transnational trafficking flows, looking at the potential impact on the rule of law, with an eye to facilitate comparison and prioritization.

To access the publication, please see:

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/d86db66e#/d86db66e/1>

## **3. Utilising Temporary Special Measures to Promote Gender Balance in Pacific Legislatures: A Guide to Options**

In March 2009, the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Centre and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat released a joint publication entitled *Utilising Temporary Special Measures to Promote Gender Balance in Pacific Legislatures: A Guide to Options*. The publication is designed as a reference for governments, members of Pacific legislatures, political parties, women candidates and civil society advocates who want to understand the possible options for temporary special measures that could be introduced in the Pacific.

The publication can be downloaded at:

<http://www.undppc.org.fj/pages.cfm/publications/democratic-governance-reports>

## **4. The Council of Europe releases the *Handbook for Parliamentarians: Parliaments United in Combating Domestic Violence Against Women***

The Council of Europe's Parliamentary has launched the *Handbook for Parliamentarians: Parliaments United in Combating Domestic Violence Against Women*. The handbook is a practical tool for parliamentarians. It sets out practical ideas for elected representatives who want to back the campaign and help fight the scourge of domestic violence against women. It comprises an overview of the problem, questions and answers, good practices for parliaments and a select bibliography of Council of Europe work regarding this matter.

To access the publication, please click here:

<http://portal.coe.ge/downloads/violence/8.%20Manuel%20Parlementaires%20A5%20Gb.pdf>

## **5. Berlin: Conference report on "Engendering Security Sector Reform" from 7 November 2008**

In 2009, a report was released entitled "Engendering Security Reform" which documents the proceedings of a workshop held at the Free University Berlin on 7 November 2008. The idea for the workshop arose from a project on Security Sector Reform financed by the German Foundation for Peace Research that focused specifically on normative aspects of the SSR paradigm and the contribution of SSR to broader efforts towards democratization and participation. The workshop brought together practitioners to discuss the progress made thus far with integrating gender into SSR, as well as to identify the issues that require further attention, providing a space for debate on conceptual and practical issues.

Participants included a small group of academics and practitioners working on gender and SSR. The papers presented at the workshop were reworked to take account of the points that arose in discussion, and are reproduced in the report, which can be found at:

[http://www.ssrnetwork.net/uploaded\\_files/4534.pdf](http://www.ssrnetwork.net/uploaded_files/4534.pdf)

#### **6. United Nations and Inter-Parliamentary Union Launch Publication *Combating Trafficking in Persons: A Handbook for Parliamentarians***

8 April 2009 the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, in the framework of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), launched the publication *Combating Trafficking in Persons: A Handbook for Parliamentarians*. The Handbook is intended to inspire Parliamentarians to enact sound laws and adopt good practices that will strengthen national responses to human trafficking. The Handbook also contains a compilation of international laws and good practices developed to combat human trafficking and offers guidance on how national legislation can be brought in line with international standards.

The publication is available at: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/UN\\_Handbook\\_engl\\_core\\_low.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/UN_Handbook_engl_core_low.pdf)

#### **7. Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights Watch releases report entitled "Soldiers Who Rape, Commanders Who Condone"**

16 July 2009 Human Rights Watch released the report, "Soldiers Who Rape, Commanders Who Condone: Sexual Violence and Military Reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo." The report documents persistent sexual violence by the army, and the limited impact of government and donor efforts to address the problem. The report looks closely at the conduct of the army's 14<sup>th</sup> brigade as an example of the wider problem of sexual violence by soldiers. The brigade has been implicated in many acts of sexual violence in North and South Kivu provinces, often in the context of massive looting and other attacks on civilians. Despite ample information about the situation, military, political and judicial authorities have failed to take decisive action to prevent rape.

The report is available at: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/07/16/soldiers-who-rape-commanders-who-condone-0>

#### **8. UNDAW/DESA and UNECA expert group meeting on "Good practices in legislation to address harmful practices against women" held in May 2009**

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDAW/DESA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) convened an expert group meeting on good practices in legislation to address harmful practices, held at the United Nations at Addis Ababa, from 25 to 28 May 2009. The expert group meeting was a follow-up to an expert group meeting organized by UNDAW/DESA and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) in Vienna, from 26 to 28 May 2008, on good practices in legislation on violence against women. That meeting prepared a model framework for legislation on violence against women, including detailed recommendations, commentaries and examples of promising practices.

Background papers can be accessed at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-egms-gplahpaw.htm>

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### **C. News:**

#### **1. United Nations: "Ban urges tougher steps to end widespread sexual violence in armed conflict"**

27 July 2009 The systematic use of sexual violence as a weapon, mainly against women, is rife in armed conflicts in Africa, Asia and Europe, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned today in his latest report on the scourge, calling for States to strengthen prevention and protection measures against the crime. "In a number of contemporary conflicts, sexual violence has taken on particularly brutal dimensions, sometimes as means of pursuing military, political, social and economic objectives," Mr. Ban wrote in his report to the Security Council.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31602&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=>

#### **2. Democratic Republic of Congo: "UN team looking into alleged sexual misconduct by blue helmets in DR Congo"**

24 July 2009 A fact-finding team has been dispatched by the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to investigate rumours of sexual misconduct surrounding some blue helmets stationed in the country's far east. General Babacar Gaye, Force Commander of the mission, known as MONUC, voiced hope that the investigation will shed light on persistent allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse leveled against peacekeepers.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31574&Cr=monuc&Cr1=>

#### **3. Democratic Republic of Congo: "UN expert evaluates the prison system in the DRC"**

23 July 2009 Dmitri Titov, Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions at the Department of UN Peacekeeping Operations in New York, is on a working visit to the DRC to evaluate the DRC prison system and to assess the progress achieved. One of the strong points of his visit to North Kivu was his visit to the Central Prison of Goma where, a few weeks ago, prisoners mutinied and raped 22 women.

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=4854>

#### **4. Haiti: "Women 'More Protected' to Report Sexual Violence"**

22 July 2009 It has been five years since the UN sent peacekeepers to Haiti following the forced departure of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The country, while not in a state of war, remains one of the world's most unstable. Kidnappings, criminal violence, gang warfare and violent armed confrontation with the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has increased the number of reported cases of sexual violence against women and girls.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47753>

## **5. Afghanistan: "Justice key to ensuring human rights for all Afghans"**

21 July 2009 The top United Nations envoy to Afghanistan today called for strengthening the country's justice system, which he stressed is fundamental for ensuring the rule of law and respect for human rights. "The lack of proper access to justice leads to daily violations of human rights and to an atmosphere of impunity," Kai Eide, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, said at a human rights conference held in the capital, Kabul. "Laws are of critical importance. However, they will only be effective in protecting the individual if the mechanisms for enforcement exist, including a well functioning justice system," he added.

<http://unama.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1741&ctl=Details&mid=1882&ItemID=4815>

## **6. United States: "New Policy Permits Asylum for Battered Women"**

July 15, 2009: The Obama administration has opened the way for foreign women who are victims of severe domestic beatings and sexual abuse to receive asylum in the United States. The action reverses a Bush administration stance in a protracted and passionate legal battle over the possibilities for battered women to become refugees. In addition to meeting other strict conditions for asylum, abused women will need to show that they are treated by their abuser as subordinates and little better than property, according to an immigration court filing by the administration, and that domestic abuse is widely tolerated in their country. They must show that they could not find protection from institutions at home or by moving to another place within their own country.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/16/us/16asylum.html>

## **7. Afghanistan: "Security a Challenge for Female Presidential Election Candidates"**

1 July 2009 Two female contenders for the Afghan presidential elections complain that the deteriorated security situation challenges their campaigns. Shahla Atta and Frozan Fana, the only two female presidential candidates, urged the Afghan government to provide a satisfactory security situation to enable them to launch their campaigns on the outskirts of Kabul city.

[http://quqnoos.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=3273&Itemid=48](http://quqnoos.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3273&Itemid=48)

## **8. UNODC launches Model Law against Trafficking in Persons in June 2009**

30 June 2009 The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the Model Law against Trafficking in persons, which was developed in response to the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to promote and assist the efforts of Member States to become party to and implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. The Model Law has been developed to assist States in implementing the provisions contained in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention.

For more information see: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/news-and-events.html>

To access the Model Law see: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/UNODC Model Law on Trafficking in Persons.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/UNODC_Model_Law_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf)

### **9. Mozambique: Assembly Passes Bill Against Domestic Violence**

29 June 2008 The Mozambican parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, passed the first reading of a bill on domestic violence against women, severely increasing the penalties for such violence. Up until now, there has been no such crime on the Mozambican statute book. When a husband beat up his wife, this was treated as a simple case of assault. The bill states that in any case of domestic violence, the minimum and maximum prison terms established for crimes such as assault and causing grievous bodily harm will be increased by a third. But, after assessing the family situation, the court may replace a prison sentence by a period of community work.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906291384.html>

### **10. Liberia: "UN Supports Liberian Security Forces with New Training Facility"**

24 June 2009 The handing over of new training facilities to the Liberian National Police (LNP) signals a boost in efforts to achieve a fully-functional democratic security force in the West African nation, said the top United Nations envoy to Liberia. During the handover ceremony, Ellen Margrethe Løj, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Liberia and head of the UN Mission on Liberia, underscored the need to recruit more women to the LNP to create some much needed trust among the country's population, and contribute to a well run police force.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31259&Cr=liberia&Cr1=>

### **11. Bangladesh: "Bangladesh Parliament to more than Double Seats for Women"**

12 June 2009 Bangladesh is set to double the number of reserved seats for women in parliament. "The number of reserved seats for women in parliament will be increased to 100 and there will be direct election to these seats," said Finance Minister A M A Muhith. At present, only 45 seats are reserved for women in the Bangladesh parliament.

<http://www.zeenews.com/news538850.html>

### **12. Peru: "Peru to ban gay police officers"**

14 May 2009 Peru has announced that it will ban homosexuals from the police force for damaging the image of the institution. The law states that any police officer who has sexual relations with someone of the same gender will be indefinitely suspended from the police force. The same applies to officers who have extra-marital relations – their actions are also deemed to cause scandal and denigrate the institution's image.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8049368.stm>