

MONTHLY ACTION POINTS

ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL: JANUARY 2010

NGO | WORKING GROUP
ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY

PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR JANUARY: CHINA

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

China's support for the women, peace and security agenda during its permanent Security Council membership has been to emphasize the need for women's agency and empowerment, including in peace processes, as integral to implementing SCR 1325. During its most recent Security Council Presidency in October 2008, China urged the Council to "step up its efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts so that the root causes of women's suffering in war can be removed and their rights and interest protected to the greatest extent possible."

China's relevant international commitments include: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): (*Ratified 4 November 1980*)

RECOMMENDED SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION POINTS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Action Previously Requested by the Security Council

The Security Council and Member States should follow up on the recommendations in Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1889 on Women Peace and Security, particularly the recommendation in 1888 (OP 4) to appoint 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, which requires a holistic approach that includes prevention, protection, women's participation, and access to services for survivors of sexual violence.

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.

Chad/CAR

In view of concerns about violence against refugee women, the next MINURCAT **report** should include information about: efforts to ensure that women take part in initiatives to ensure their safety; increased resources for services for survivors; ending impunity for rape and other violence against women and girls inside and outside refugee camps; and concrete steps to provide better security, including regular patrols inside and outside the camps and a more strenuous vetting process for recruitment of national and international security forces.

Cote D'Ivoire

The upcoming **report** on UNOCI should address how current challenges with disarmament programs are impacting women and girls. In the upcoming **mandate renewal** for UNOCI, action by the Security Council could include:

- Prioritizing women's participation in post-conflict recovery, in peace talks and in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs as well as other UN-led stabilization processes.
- The monitoring and investigation of human rights violations to end impunity, including for sexual violence, and mechanisms for accountability; and judicial reform align domestic laws with international human rights and humanitarian law.
- Resources must be made available to ensure basic quality medical care for survivors, and for training of police, judges, and prosecutors to change the attitudes and practices that prevent women from seeking help.
- Concrete means to better implement UNOCI's mandate to address gender-based violence, and in particular sexual violence.

Guinea

The situation in Guinea remains insecure. The UN Commission of Inquiry's recent report on the September 28th acts of violence should be made public, and the results acted upon to ensure full reparations for victims, including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation. In addition, the Council should support women's inclusion in the ongoing power sharing talks, and ensure their rights are addressed in any agreements reached.

Nepal

The upcoming **report** on UNMIN should include analysis and recommendations on protection issues around women and girls, and women's rights and needs in the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement. In the upcoming **mandate renewal** for UNMIN, action by the Security Council could include:

- Ensuring women and girls associated with demobilized soldiers or who may be combatants themselves have equal participation in demobilization and rehabilitation programs.

- Ensuring that the release of disqualified combatants from the cantonments, which include girls, is done in a timely manner that conforms to the UN's guidelines for demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration of child soldiers.
- UNMIN should ensure that the government takes all appropriate measures as per national and international law to end impunity, including for crimes against women and girls.
- Strengthening the vetting of peacekeepers to ensure that human rights violators are barred from UN peacekeeping missions.

Somalia

The AMISOM **report** is due in the Council in January, and planning is underway for a UN mission in Somalia. In light of the grave humanitarian situation in Somalia, the Security Council's discussion on such a mandate should:

- Take immediate steps to protect civilians, particularly women, such as disarmament and small arms embargo enforcement.
- Provide necessary measures to ensure the rights of women and women's rights defenders.
- Provide well-resourced and politically-supported gender advice in the mission to meet the needs of women in Somalia, and to engage with civil society members in the country, including supporting women's inclusion in all levels of decision making.
- Ensure that all peacekeeping troops deployed to the region are trained regarding specific mandates on women, peace and security, and on protection.

Sudan / Darfur

Recent reporting has been uneven, including the lack of reference to women in the benchmarks and indicators of progress for the period 2009-2011 in Annex I of the current SG's report on UNMIS. The forthcoming **reports** on UNMIS and UNAMID should provide concrete examples of if/how women were meaningfully included in the civil society consultation process in Darfur, and in peace agreement dialogues; articulate how women are participating in government, including the structures that constitute the CPA, and the barriers and obstacles to progress in this respect; provide concrete progress benchmarks to demonstrate an increase in the capacity of security forces to respond to gender-based violence; and a regular system of information collection, analysis, and sharing to ensure public reporting on the current situation in Darfur, including humanitarian needs and civilian protection. This information could be gender disaggregated.

NGOWG ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY RESOURCES

- Amnesty International, *Chad: "No place for us here" Violence against refugee women and eastern Chad*, September 2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR20/008/2009/en>.
- Amnesty International, *Cote d'Ivoire. Silence and impunity: the only response to sexual violence against women*, December 2008, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR31/002/2008/en>.
- Human Rights Watch, *My Heart is Cut*, April 2007, <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2007/08/01/my-heart-cut-0>
- Amnesty International, *Somalia: Unlawful killings and torture demonstrate Al Shabaab's contempt for the lives of civilians*, November 2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR52/009/2009/en>.
- Human Rights Watch, *Bloody Monday: The September 28 Massacre and Rapes by Security Forces in Guinea*, December 2009, <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/12/16/bloody-monday-0>
- The Women's Refugee Commission, *Don't Call it Shangri-La: Economic Programs for Displaced Populations in Nepal*, May 2008, http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/docs/np_econ.pdf
- Amnesty International, *Nepal: Government fails to protect women human rights activists from violent attacks*, April 2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/nepal-government-fails-protect-women-human-rights-activists-violent-att-1>
- Amnesty International, *Nepal: Major accused of torturing girl to death must be arrested*, December 2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/nepal>
- Amnesty International, *Somalia: Amnesty International calls for accountability and safeguards on arms transfers to Somalia's Transitional Federal Government*, August 2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR52/006/2009/en>
- Women's Refugee Commission, *Peril or Protection: The Link Between Livelihoods and Gender-Based Violence in Displacement Settings*, November 2008, http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/stories/GBV_livelihoods_FINAL2.pdf