

Women Building Peace

SCR 1325 Sixth Year Anniversary

(New York, 23-27 October 2006)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gina Torry

Ph: 1-212-682-3633 Fax: 1-212-682-5354

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security has invited leading civil society women peacebuilders to partner in advancing the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 during a week of advocacy at United Nations Headquarters.

Ms. Barbara Bangura – Sierra Leone

Barbara Bangura, one of the founding members and the Regional Adviser of the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) in Sierra Leone, is currently the National Coordinator of Grassroots Empowerment for Self Reliance (GEMS), a women's organization formed in Sierra Leone in 1998 to transform the dignity and respect of marginalized women in society to ensure self reliance through development, by working with grassroots rural women towards achieving a well developed society where men and women work together constructively as partners in development. Ms. Bangura has advocated tirelessly for women's inclusion and participation in the processes of peacebuilding. In 2001, she was the Secretary-General for the Network on Collaborative Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone (NCP-SL), in 2003 she was the Country Coordinator for the Women in Peacebuilding Network in Sierra Leone (WIPNET-SL) and from 2004 – 2006 she served as a Regional Adviser for Women in Peacebuilding Network in Accra, Ghana. Ms. Bangura is actively involved in peacebuilding and non-violence sensitization and training workshops for women. She is a member of several peacebuilding networks, including the Women's Committee on the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (WACOTREC).

Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls - Fiji

Ms. Bhagwan Rolls is the Coordinator of femLINKpacific. Ms. Rolls is a leading advocate of women, peace and security. She has presented numerous papers and conducted training on a range of issues including women's media advocacy, and the implementation of UN commitments to women, peace and security, especially through UN Security Council resolution 1325, and has undertaken women's media assignments in Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste to address women's under-reported contributions to peace in these conflict areas of the Pacific region. She is presently the AMARC-Women's International focal point for the Pacific region, as well as the Vice President of AMARC Asia Pacific Board. AMARC is the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters. She has served on the Reference Group of the AUSAID Pacific Media Communications Facility, is the Pacific region's coordinator for the (WACC) Global Media Monitoring Project and is also a member of the Gender Caucus (Steering Committee) for the World Summit on the Information Society.

Ms. Safaa Elagib Adam – Sudan

Ms. Elagib Adam is currently the Secretary-General and Gender Advisor of the Community Development Association (CDA), which she joined in 1992. The Community Development Association is based in Khartoum, Sudan. The Community Development Association (CDA) is a non-governmental organization working on sustainable development and peace – with a special focus on the western states of Sudan. Ms. Elagib Adam has worked extensively in the area of gender and peacebuilding, including as a National Expert for German Development Services and with OXFAM UK as a Deputy Relief Coordinator. Her professional training and experience includes participation at many peacebuilding consultations and dialogues including: The Civil Society Forum of the Donors Conference and Gender Symposium for Sudan (Oslo, 2005); Expert Group Meeting on Understanding the Darfur Conflict (Addis, Ababa); and a workshop on Women's Human Rights and Gender-Based Violence (UNHCR, Geneva, 2004). In 2005, Ms. Elagib Adam participated as a Gender Expert in the 7th round of Darfur Peace Negotiation in Abuja. She was also among the 1000 women nominated in 2005 for the Nobel Peace Prize by the project Peacewomen across the Globe.

Thin Thin Aung - Burma

Ms. Aung is the Women's League of Burma Presidium Board Member for the Women's Rights and Welfare Association of Burma (WRWAB). She is a founding member of both the Women's League of Burma (WLB) and WRWAB. In her capacity as a Presidium Board Member, Thin Thin Aung is the coordinator of WLB's Political Empowerment Program. As one of the Women's League of Burma's representatives to the Burma Freedom and Democracy movement's Federal Constitution Drafting and Coordinating Committee, Thin Thin Aung is Secretary for Constitutional Education. Additionally, she is one of the founders of the Mizzima News Service. Thin Thin Aung is a member of the '88 Generation having fled Burma following the violent crackdown on student democracy activists by the military regime.