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1. Research Coordinator, Violence against Women Project, The Netherlands
2. Researcher on LGBT Rights, Johannesburg or Nairobi Office, Human Rights Watch
3. Deputy Regional Programme Manager / UN Women / Suva, Fiji

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: NEPAL WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE CONSTITUTION

The Women's Campaign for Democratic and Progressive Constitution led their 23rd day of peaceful campaign to advocate for equality and non discrimination in the areas of disability, sexual orientation, land rights, squatter rights, natural resources and workers rights. The campaign has been organizing sit in protests in front of the Constituent Assembly from the 14th of April and has used new media for the widespread dissemination of the campaign's objectives. Stella Tamang, Founding Director of Bikalpa Gyan Tatha Bikas Kendra, a Branch of IFOR in Nepal, is amongst the activists involved in this campaign.

On the morning of the 24th the government declared the area around the Constituent Assembly as a 'prohibited zone'. 21 Women Human Rights Defenders entered the zone, and protested peacefully. The police intervened, and started baton charging the women. The detained defenders claim that when the women police made hesitant gestures to the male police, it created anger amongst the male, and they started charging the women vehemently with their batons. Most of the women sustained injuries, while one defender who was standing behind the group was chased all the way outside of the prohibited zone, and when she tried to take seek refuge inside the house, she was mercilessly dragged out, and charged repeatedly with batons.

All the 21 defenders were arrested and then detained at the Baneshwor Police Station. Some of the injured have been taken to the hospital upon the request made by the activists to the police personnels.

The Women's Campaign for Democratic and Progressive Constitution, as well as IFOR/WPP, condemn the violence used.

Read more and view the video on the protests here: <http://www.worecnepal.org/video/women-human-rights-defenders-thrased-and-detained-0>

VOICE FROM THE FIELD: 'MY MIND IS NOT A MILITARY TARGET' (VIDEO)

The International campaign entitled 'My Mind is Not a Military Target' came as an initiative to search for political support for Colombian conscientious objectors who are facing challenging circumstances in a period of transition through newly acknowledged rights. Being the third largest investor in war, Colombia has been sustaining war only through the recruitment of young men. The rights of these young men and soldiers are currently being negotiated by the Colombian government. One example of the new laws to be implemented is that the young men should do community service twice as long as military service. When a conscientious objector is imprisoned or recruited by the military, the network of conscientious objectors is activated.

Please visit the website of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Austria to view this video: http://www.versoehnungsbund.at/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=123

VOICE FROM THE FIELD: LAUNCH OF POLICY ADVOCACY HANDBOOK: "PEACE TALKS: LOCALIZING UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 IN OUR PACIFIC REGION"

On June 2011 the Pacific Media and Policy Network on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 launched the network's policy advocacy handbook: "Peace Talks: Localizing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in our Pacific Region.

This handbook is an outcome of a process which started in 2006. It's a tool for their goal to train a group of women who will be confident to represent their communities at high level meetings and in planning for human security and keeping the peace in the region.

The handbook is a product of the Pacific which provides:

- Materials and information that can be used by individual people or civil society organizations to learn about UNSCR1325 and to train others about how UNSCR1325 can be made more useful in the Pacific
- Trainers and workshop participants more skills and confidence to campaign for UNSCR1325 at the national and regional levels
- Assistance for members of women's NGOs find ways to start and keep up talks with parts of government and other agencies working on peace and human security, so that they can know more about women's efforts already taking place on peace; and also encourage governments to make commitments to UNSCR1325 and other international policies such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), especially as they affect women's security

Please read more on <http://www.ifor.org/WPP/> . For a direct link to the statement, please use: <http://www.ifor.org/WPP/Peace%20Talks%20handbook-Femlinkpacific-01.06.2011.pdf>

Please keep track of the FemLINKPACIFIC website for a downloadable version of the handbook: <http://www.femlinkpacific.org.fj/>

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

The WPP is happy to share with you that we are on Facebook as well! Please find us there to remain updated regularly on news and resources related to women, gender, peace, and conflict resolution and gender sensitive active nonviolence. Find us under: IFOR Women Peacemakers Program or use the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=587816573#!/pages/IFOR-Women-Peacemakers-Program/116880715001196>

CALLS

1. Call for Action: Repeal of Saudi Arabia's Fatwa on Women's Driving of Automobiles and immediate release of Manal al-Sherif

Equality Now is deeply concerned about Saudi Arabia's Fatwa on Women's Driving of Automobiles (Shaikh Abdel Aziz Bin Abdallah Bin Baz), 1990, and the recent arrest of Saudi women's rights activist Manal al-Sherif who was detained on 22 May 2011 in the eastern city of Dammam. According to reports, she was one of the organizers of an online campaign protesting Saudi Arabia's driving ban and twice drove an automobile to further their cause.

Please find more information on:

http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6208/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=7007

2. Call for Action: Syrian activist held incommunicado

Syrian civil society activist Amjad Baiazy has been held incommunicado since his arrest at Syria's Damascus International Airport on 12 May. Amjad Baiazy's arrest and detention is probably linked to the current violent government clampdown on public protests which has seen hundreds of people killed by the security forces since mid-March. Amnesty International believes that he may be a

prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression. He is at serious risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

For information on how to act, please visit:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/019/2011/en>

3. Call for Nominations: European Institute for Gender Equality call for nominations: "Women Inspiring Europe"

Deadline: 10 June 2011

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is a European agency which supports the EU and its Member States in their efforts to promote gender equality, to fight discrimination based on sex and to raise awareness about gender equality issues. Nominate a woman whom you or your organization find remarkable, admire her triumphs and successes. Each nomination needs to be completed in English, has to include a short biography about the nominee, her contact details and, wherever possible, a high resolution photo. The nominee can also nominate herself. If doing so, however, she will need to include a reference from an organization she has worked with before or who is aware of her successes.

For more information, please access: <http://womenlobby.org/spip.php?article1638&lang=en>

4. Call for Proposals: 2012 AWID Forum (deadline has been extended)

New deadline: June 3rd, 2011

Through the 2012 Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) Forum, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) aims to explore how economic power is impacting on women and the planet, and to facilitate connections among the very diverse groups working on these issues from both human rights and justice approaches so that together we contribute to stronger, more effective strategies to advance women's rights and justice.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Announcements>

5. Call for Contributions: NGO consultations on the UN and Resolution 1325: Results by 2020

Deadline 10 June, 2011

In October 2010 the UN Security Council marked its 10th anniversary of the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 resolution on women, peace and security. Few goals have been met and efforts have been inconsistent. As the Resolution approaches its 11th anniversary, the UN plans to set new goals for the next 10 years on women, peace and security. The NGO Working Group (NGOWG) wants to ensure that civil society voices are heard and are therefore calling for NGOs to give their inputs.

Please find details for submission on your organization's inputs on <http://womenlobby.org/spip.php?article1699&lang=en>, or give your input directly by clicking the 'online survey' button.

RESOURCES

1. IFOR/WPP May publication "Faith-based peacebuilding: The need for a gender perspective"

Every year, IFOR's WPP celebrates the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament with a public event and a publication. This year, the event and publication focus on "Faith-based Peacebuilding: The Need for a Gender Perspective". The 2011 May 24 Pack looks at the point where religion, women's rights and peacebuilding intersect.

Here, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) shares the outcomes of its research on religious fundamentalism and how that impacts women's rights worldwide. Women peace activists and women religious leaders from different corners of the world share their stories of frustration as well as inspiration, and tell of the need to be creative and patient in terms of changing the patriarchal features of religions. Several of the women featured in this May 24 Pack share how progressive male allies have been crucial in terms of supporting and sustaining them in their work for peace and justice in faith-based settings.

Download the May 24 Pack here: http://www.ifor.org/WPP/wppmaterials_newsletters.html

On May 26, 2011, approximately 70 people gathered in The Hague to celebrate this day and discuss faith-based and interfaith peace building, women's roles in this, strategies to deal with the obstacles women face in their peace work and the relevance of including a gender perspective in debates about religion and peacebuilding. The seminar brought together a respected group of gender and peace activists, academics, NGO representatives and media.

For more information on the speakers, and to view some pictures of the day, please visit:

http://www.ifor.org/WPP/networking_documentation.htm

A report on the seminar will be downloadable soon.

2. IFOR/WPP Report: (Inter)faith peacebuilding: The need for a gender perspective: An International Consultation: Sept 13-15 2010

September 2010, the WPP brought together 35 women activists from 21 different countries, representing a variety of religion-inspired and secular organizations. The group consisted of a mix of progressive female theologians, women's-rights activists and grassroots peacebuilders. The main goal of the Consultation was to create a safe space for the women to formulate their own analysis as well as to come up with recommendations in terms of advancing a gender perspective in faith-based peacebuilding.

Download the report on: http://www.ifor.org/WPP/mainstreaming_consultation2010.html

3. Islam and Nonviolence: Bacha Khan – Lessons from South Asia for an Arab Spring

People power and the use of mass nonviolent action are not new to Muslims. Even before Gandhi, political and spiritual leader Abdul Ghaffar Khan now more widely referred to as Bacha Khan was drawing on Islamic and tribal teachings to train nonviolent soldiers in 1920s India (now Pakistan) to rely on their honour, courage and the truthfulness of their cause to confront the powerfully armed British Empire.

Read the full article written by Ali Gohar and Lisa Schirch here: <http://peacelogs.com/lessons-from-south-asia-for-an-arab-spring/>

4. We must not make war safe for women

Women in war are in constant danger of being raped. Intrinsicly part of war, rape may lead to women's social exclusion, stigma and psychological consequences. As long as women are not equal

to men in governance and as long as women are considered the weaker sex, women will always be subject to serious abuse. In order to protect women from rape, women must come together and abolish war.

To read the full article by Cora Weiss, please visit: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/cora-weiss/we-must-not-make-war-safe-for-women>

5. If this is 'peace', when does it start for women?

This is an article based on reflections made during the Nobel Women's Initiative conference at Montebello. The issues brought up are about post-conflict 'peace' and justice. How, she asks, can rape victims during war ever have peace of mind? Justice is brought to offenders in court, but justice excludes punishment for rape. 'The only justice', Bakira says now, 'is that the crime is named. Even if he only got one year for the rapes, the crime must be named.'

To read the full article by Jenny Morgan, please visit: http://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/jenny-morgan/if-this-is-peace-when-does-it-start-for-women?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_content=201210&utm_campaign=Nightly_%272011-05-27%2005%3a30%3a00%27

6. Amnesty International Releases Checklist on Justice for violence against women

Amnesty International has released a check list on justice for violence against women. The questions are designed to help activists and advocates to identify obstacles to justice and are intended to aid in the removal or reform of laws and policies that are detrimental to the attainment of justice for survivors of violence against women.

Please find the checklist here:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ACT77/002/2010/en/4c736156-f18a-40c7-95a9-9e8677c562b9/act770022010en.pdf>

7. Religion and Development: a practitioners' guide

The Knowledge Centre Religion and Development (KCRD) aims to share knowledge and stimulate religious empathy, by combining practical experiences with respect to religion in development processes with academic reflection.

The Practitioners' Guide "Religion and Development" centres on practical experiences of development professionals, supplemented by theoretical considerations. It stimulates readers to reflect on the topic of 'religion and development'. The book is available in both Dutch and English.

For an online (English) version, please go to <http://www.religion-and-development.nl/practitioners-guide>.

8. Promise of more space for women in decision-making

In Sierra Leone's highly patriarchal society, where institutionalised gender inequalities are exacerbated by discriminatory customs, one group is singing its way towards changing this. The Grassroots Empowerment for Self Reliance (GEMS), supported by the Governance and Transparency Fund of the UK Department for International Development, is working to change the status quo and raise awareness around the proposed legislation to have 30 percent female representation in all levels of government, using radio jingles.

To read the full article by Mohamed Fofanah, please visit:
<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=55627>

JOB OPENINGS

1. Research Coordinator, Violence against Women Project

Impunity Watch is seeking a suitably qualified candidate to coordinate the research aspect of its project relating to impunity for violence against women. This is a part-time, fixed-term contract, requiring an engagement of 24 hours per week until July 2012. A 1 July 2011 start date is preferred, but the position remains open until filled. The position is based at Impunity Watch's Utrecht offices, but long-distance engagement may also be considered.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.impunitywatch.org/en/publication/86>

2. Researcher on LGBT Rights, Johannesburg or Nairobi Office, Human Rights Watch

Deadline 20 June, 2011

Human Rights Watch' Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender ("LGBT") Rights program is seeking a Researcher. The Researcher will focus on human rights abuses related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in sub-Saharan Africa under the supervision of the Director of the LGBT Rights program, who will provide guidance on the choice of research and advocacy projects.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.hrw.org/en/employment/2011/05/20/researcher-lgbt-rights>

3. Deputy Regional Programme Manager / UN Women / Suva, Fiji

Deadline: June 09, 2011

Grounded in the vision of equality, UN Women will work for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. The Deputy Regional Programme Manager (DRPM) for Gender Equality in Political Governance (GEPG) will deputize the Regional Programme Manager (RPM) on all core programme management functions as required and will provide executive and administrative backup to the RPM. The DRPM will work directly with MNOs to progress gender equality at parliamentary level and will liaise with national, multilateral, bilateral partners in implementing parliamentary, electoral and leadership programmes.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.awid.org/Get-Involved/Jobs-Around-the-World/Deputy-Regional-Programme-Manager>

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