

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBER STATES OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL Re: Res 1960

7 January 2011

Subject: UNSCR 1960 and the need for focus on full implementation of UNSCR 1325

Excellency,

In October 2010 the world observed the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women and Peace and Security. An unprecedented number of member-states spoke in the Security Council, the majority declaring their commitment to ensuring the equal and effective participation of women in decision making for the prevention and resolution of wars and violence. Civil society also strongly reaffirmed its determination to realize in the coming years the enormous potential of that resolution in this regard.

We believe it is essential to ensure that regular consultations are undertaken with women's civil society organizations. The implementation of UNSCR 1325 as well as of any subsequent resolutions relating to women and peace and security will only be effective through involvement of women and civil society organizations.

In that context, we are concerned that women's right to full participation in all matters of peace and security is being overlooked as women are increasingly being seen and treated mostly as passive victims of violence and abuse. We call for women's full equality and participation at all levels of decision making as envisaged in UNSCR 1325.

Also, as we enthusiastically welcome the establishment of UN Women, we call upon this new entity to include the full implementation of UNSCR 1325, including its financing and accountability mechanisms, as one of its top priorities. We also note with great satisfaction the appointment of SRSO Margot Wallström who has brought a passionate concern for the plight of women in times of conflict.

Rape is the worst crime that women or men can endure and survive. The trauma lasts a lifetime and has ripple consequences of ostracism from family and community as well as physical damage. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) calls rape during war a crime against humanity. It is at once a crime and a symbol of the continued objectification of women and the denial of the power and agency recognized in UNSCR 1325.

The process of the recent adoption of UNSCR 1960 sponsored by governments without consultation with women on the ground is a case in point. It speaks only of women as victims of sexual abuse during violent conflict and does not mention that if women were recognized as participants in decision making they would be less vulnerable to attack. If governments would involve more women and worked harder to prevent wars there would be less sexual abuse. If small arms were regulated and reduced by involving women in

the decision making there would be less sexual violence. If the UN leadership and its member states involved women more systematically in conflict prevention and resolution - the real focus of 1325 - there would be a marked improvement in peace and security for everyone.

These issues of women's participation, of prevention of violence and reduction of weapons cannot be left out of any resolution on women and peace and security. Reference to the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 must be substantively integral to any subsequent resolutions of the Security Council on women, not just a passing reference in preambular paragraphs to this foundational and fundamental document.

We cannot pluck rape out of war for our attention and let the war go on. We must be passionate about preventing and stopping wars, and about recognizing the equal right of women to seats at all tables where decisions are made. Rape will be reduced when violence is reduced and when women are taken more seriously and treated equally in all decisions on the fate of humanity.

If UN member states, particularly those represented in the Security Council, are serious about their commitments to women's equality and to stopping rape and violence, they would individually and collectively ensure outreach to women and their full participation at all decision making levels in all arenas where issues of peace and security are being decided.

We thank you for your kind attention to these views with regard to your work on women and peace and security. We are willing to meet with you and discuss future course of action on this issue.

Sincerely,



Cabrera-Balleza, Mavic; Global Network of Women Peacebuilders



Naraghi Anderlini, Sanam; International Civil society Action Network
Adamson, Lyn; Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
Adda-Dontoh, Becky; Mothers for Active Non-Violence – Ghana
Akibayashi Kozue; Feminist Scholar/Activist Network on Demilitarization
Alton, Janis and; Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
Basnet Babita; Sancharika Samuha – Nepal
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Dharmadasa, Visaka; Association of War Affected Women – Sri Lanka
van Doggenaar, Jan; ICCO and Kerk in Actie - the Netherlands
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Ministries, United Methodist Church
Edgren-Schori, Maud; Former Gender Advisor in Côte d’Ivoire
Feminist International Radio Endeavour (FIRE) – Costa Rica
Fountain-ISOKO for Good Governance and the Integrated Development – Burundi
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Garlo, Cerue Konah, Liberia
Gautam, Shobha; Institute of Human Rights Communication and National Women
Security Watch Group – Nepal
Guerrero, Patricia; Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas – Colombia
Geuskens, Isabelle; IFOR Women Peacemakers Program - the Netherlands
Grönberg, Helena; Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
Hans, Asha; Sansristi Center for Gender Development – India
Haartje Maren; PeaceWomen Across the Globe
Hara, Hiroko; Japan Women's Watch, Asia Pacific Women's Watch
Holter, Thora; Norwegian Church Aid
International Peace Bureau
Kanyange, Perpetue; Centre Des Femmes Pour La Paix – Burundi
Korir, Selline; Rural Women Peace Link – Kenya
Kottegoda, Sepali; Asia Pacific Women's Watch
Jenkins Tony; International Institute of Peace Education
Lauzon-Gatmaytan, Carmen; Asian Circle 1325 – Philippines
Lynch Jake; International Peace Research Association
MacNichol, Sally N. Rev. Dr.; CONNECT, New York City
Matriano, Estela; World Council for Curriculum and Instruction
Mazali, Rela; Activist and Feminist Writer
McPhedran, Marilou; Institute for International Women’s Rights
Mesa, Manuela; centro de education e investigacion para la paz – Spain
Milner, Michele; University of Central Lancaster – UK/China
Nakamura, Mitchiko; Japan Women's Watch, Asia Pacific Women's Watch
Nario-Galace, Jasmin; Center for Peace Education, Miriam College – Philippines
Nazim, Afifa; Afghan Women’s Network
Nduwayo, Gerard; International Consultant on UNSCR 1325 – Burundi and Great Lakes
Region
Observatorio Género Democracia y Derechos Humanos – Colombia
Okioma, Mary; Women for Justice in Africa – Kenya
Perera, Viola; Women's Media Collective - Sri Lanka
Pratt, Nana; National Organization of Women, Mano River Women’s Peace Network –
Sierra Leone
Price, Lisa S; Independent researcher/writer
Rana, Bandana; Saathi – Nepal

Rasul, Amina; Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy
Reardon, Betty; International Institute of Peace Education
Red Latino Americana y del Caribe para la Democracia – Colombia
Rubimbwa, Robinah; Center for Women in Governance – Uganda
Salamanca, Rosa Emilia; Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica – Colombia
Samuel, Kumudini; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era
Sharpe, Albie; Feminist Scholar/Activist Network on Demilitarization
Schori, Pierre; Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNOCI
Shieh, Vincent; President, World Council for Curriculum and Instruction
Suralaga, Dewi; Cordaid – the Netherlands
Toupin, Sophie; Center for Peace Missions and Humanitarian Studies at the Raoul Dandurand Chair of Strategic and Diplomatic Studies at the University of Quebec at Montreal
Voice of the Voiceless – Liberia
Wenden, Anita; International Peace Research Association
Weiss, Cora; Hague Appeal for Peace
Yiping, Cai; Isis International – Philippines
Zawilski, Valerie; University of Western Ontario, Canada
Zedriga, Lina; Women and Peace and Security Advocate; International Consultant for Kenya NAP on UNSCR 1325
Chowdhury, Anwarul; Ambassador, Former UN Under-Secretary-General and President of the Security Council (March 2000 & June 2001)

(Organizations listed for identification only)

Copy to:

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Dr. Michelle Bachelet, Under Secretary-General, UN Women

Ms. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence

Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Political Affairs

H.E. Mr. John McNee, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada in his capacity as the coordinator of the Friends of 1325 with the request to circulate the letter to all members of the group