

MONTHLY ACTION POINTS

ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL: AUGUST 2011

NGO | WORKING GROUP
ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY

PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR AUGUST: INDIA

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

India's stated priorities as an elected member of the Security Council include peacekeeping, reform of the Council and its working methods, and addressing terrorism and other threats to international peace and security.

India's relevant international commitments include: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (9 July 1993)

RECOMMENDED SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION POINTS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Women, Peace and Security

In its regular work, the Council should ensure that all country reports evaluate the level of implementation of SCRs 1325, 1820 (OP 9), 1888 (OP 11), 1889 (OP 5) and 1960 (OP 6, 13), and provide recommendations on further implementation. Member States should inquire about any lack of such reporting. The Council should also consistently and substantively address all relevant women, peace and security elements in its resolutions and mandate renewals.

Peacekeeping

In its expected **discussion** on peacekeeping, the Council should substantively address issues of particular concern regarding women, peace and security, including ensuring sufficient senior-level gender expertise in missions; devoting adequate analysis and recommendations regarding women, peace and security in all country and situation reporting; and consistently addressing all relevant aspects of women, peace and security in mission mandates. The Council should also ensure that policy directives from United Nations Headquarters are translated into concrete action on the ground, particularly in regards to the protection elements of mandates, including by utilizing the Protection of Civilians Aide Memoire (S/PRST/2010/25), which highlights the importance of women's empowerment in protection strategies.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Security Council should ensure adequate **follow-up** is given to the June 2011 mass rape and other crimes against civilians perpetrated in the Fizi area of South Kivu by troops of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In particular, the Council should support a thorough investigation of the situation, and inquire as to what measures are being taken to respond to the health and other needs of the survivors, and to guarantee non-repetition of such crimes. In these discussions, the Council should discuss concrete steps to prevent such attacks in the future, including advancing equality for Congolese women, vetting of reintegrated soldiers by the Government, strengthening rule of law institutions, and bringing suspected perpetrators to justice.

Haiti

In the Council's discussion of the expected **report** on the UN Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), empowerment of women and protection of women and girls should be prioritized. Widespread violence against women has been reported and women continue to go without access to goods and services to meet their basic needs. Reporting to the Council on the situation in Haiti should include information on the following:

- Strengthening of case management capacity within MINUSTAH for identified cases of gender-based violence; and
- Ensuring victims of gender-based violence understand the availability of and access to medical services; and
- Feedback from patrolled camps on the efficacy of patrols and identify ways to improve security for women and girls in the camps.

Libya

In discussions on the **situation** in Libya, the Council should urge all forces acting under its authority to prioritize the protection of civilians. Civilians fleeing Libya should be allowed safe passage and immediate access to whichever country they are able to reach, without discrimination. Attention should be given to the specific concerns of displaced women, including an increased risk of sexual violence. Since mid-February 2011, many people have been forcibly "disappeared" by forces loyal to Colonel al-Gaddafi, and are now at grave risk of torture and other serious human rights abuses. The Council should call on the Libyan authorities to, inter alia: ensure the families and lawyers of those detained are informed immediately of the place of detention and of specific allegations; allow immediate independent access to these places of detention in order to ensure the safety of those detained; and immediately release all those detained solely on account of their opinions or peaceful activities. Furthermore, in areas under rebel control, the Council should ensure that civilians are protected and human rights are being upheld.

Sudan

There is mounting evidence that Sudanese security forces deliberately target civilians for attack and abuse. The reports of civilian casualties, including of women, children and the elderly, along with displacement of civilians has been furthermore identified to be a result of continued aerial bombardment and other attacks against civilians. Additional acts include alleged arrests, abductions, acts of torture, interrogations, forced displacement of thousands and coerced returns, as well as violations of the right to freedom of assembly and expression, disproportionately targeting the Nuba people. In its discussions regarding the **situation** in Sudan, the Security Council should:

- Authorize an assessment mission to Southern Kordofan to investigate the alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties;
- Urge Sudan to accept an international monitoring presence in South Kordofan and Blue Nile to monitor human rights violations;
- Urge all parties to the conflict to allow humanitarian personnel timely and unfettered access to affected civilians to assess needs and meet those needs;
- Follow-up on its responsibilities as guarantors of the CPA; and
- Call on the Government of Sudan to immediately halt aerial bombardments and attacks on civilians and respect international human rights and humanitarian law.

South Sudan

The newly independent Republic of South Sudan, which hosts the recently mandated UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), faces many security challenges and could benefit from support and assistance by international and regional partners. The Abyei conflict is also causing displacement in South Sudan and armed violence within communities has caused significant civilian casualties. In supporting the **implementation** of its resolution S/RES/1996, the Council should:

- Ensure appropriate support for Troop Contributing Countries and Police Contributing Countries in their pre-deployment training of troops, specifically on how to best operationalize the women, peace and security and protection elements of the UNMISS mandate; and
- Support expert capacity in the mission regarding early warning and conflict prevention, and to monitor and report on human rights threats against civilians.

NGOWG ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY RESOURCES

- Amnesty International, *New Mass Rapes in DRC are Result of Horrific Failure of Justice*, June 2011 [[link](#)]
- NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo*, July 2011 [[link](#)]
- Amnesty International, *Libya: Renewed rocket attacks target civilians in Misratah*, June 2011 [[link](#)]
- Human Rights Watch, *Liberia: Protect Refugees Against Sexual Abuse*, April 2011 [[link](#)]
- Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Gaddafi Must Be Held Accountable for Crimes Against Humanity*, July 2011 [[link](#)]
- Human Rights Watch, *Libya's Forgotten Civilians*, June 2011 [[link](#)]
- Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Contact Group Should Press Rebels to Protect Civilians*, July 2011 [[link](#)]
- Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Opposition Forces Should Protect Civilians and Hospitals*, July 2011 [[link](#)]
- Amnesty International & Human Rights Watch, *South Sudan: A Human Rights Agenda*, June 2011 [[link](#)]
- Human Rights Watch, *South Sudan: UN Cost-Cutting Threatens Peacekeeping Mission*, July 2011 [[link](#)]
- Human Rights Watch, *Sudan: African Commission Should Act on Southern Kordofan*, July 2011 [[link](#)]
- Refugees International, *Letter to UNSC Members: Security Council must monitor human rights in Southern Kordofan*, July 2011 [[link](#)]
- Refugees International, *Tens of Thousands of Southern Sudanese Stranded in the North*, July 2011 [[link](#)]
- PeaceWomen, *Security Council 1325 Monitor* [[link](#)]
- PeaceWomen: free iPhone application, *Women, Peace & Security Handbook* [[link](#)]