



PRIO

Nobel Days in Oslo

During a grand ceremony in the Oslo Town Hall on 10 December, the Nobel Peace Prize for 2011 was awarded to Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and grassroots activists Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakkol Karman of Yemen

PRIO Gender, Peace
and Security Update

Issue 3-4 2011

The PRIO Gender Peace and Security Update is an electronic newsletter published by PRIO's Gender Team in response to growing interest among the public for information about women, peace and security issues. The newsletter will keep readers informed of the latest developments both internationally and in Norway in relation to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions.



Nobel Peace Prize laureates Tawakkol Karman, Leymah Gbowee and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Oslo City hall. Photo: Harry Wad.

“My sisters, my daughters, my friends, find your voices!”

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2011

Johnson Sirleaf, Gbowee and Karman were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for “their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work. We cannot achieve democracy and lasting peace in the world unless women obtain the same opportunities as men to influence developments at all levels of society.”

The laureates were celebrated for three

full days during a number of both official and unofficial events. The current issue of the *PRIO Gender, Peace and Security Update* highlights some of the events that took place in Oslo, with a particular focus on those events organized by civil society. This year’s Nobel Peace Prize not only recognized the efforts of three remarkable and courageous women. But it also recognized UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which states that women should be included in all efforts at resolving conflict and building peace. Internationally, the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize is celebrated as a welcome addition to the ongoing process of implementing Resolution 1325 – a process that has moved slowly. According to Anne-Marie Goetz of UN Women, “the Nobel Peace Prize is an extraordinary acknowledgement of women’s political agency.” In this spir-

it, the Nobel Peace Prize was celebrated in Oslo by national and international women's activists, politicians and policy makers.



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Photo: Espen Rasmussen for the Laureate Exhibition 2011 at the Nobel Peace Center.

Upon accepting the prize, each of the laureates gave their Nobel lecture. For the full text of these lectures visit:

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf:

http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en_GB/laureates/laureates-2011/sirleaf-2011/

Leymah Gbowee:

http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en_GB/laureates/laureates-2011/gbowee-2011/

Tawakkol Karman:

http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en_GB/laureates/laureates-2011/karman-2011/

The presentation speech given by Chairman of the Nobel Committee Thorbjørn Jagland:

http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en_GB/laureates/laureates-2011/presentation-2011/ ■

“This Nobel Peace Prize is not mine, it is ours. And we shall carry it high”.

Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, at PRIO film event

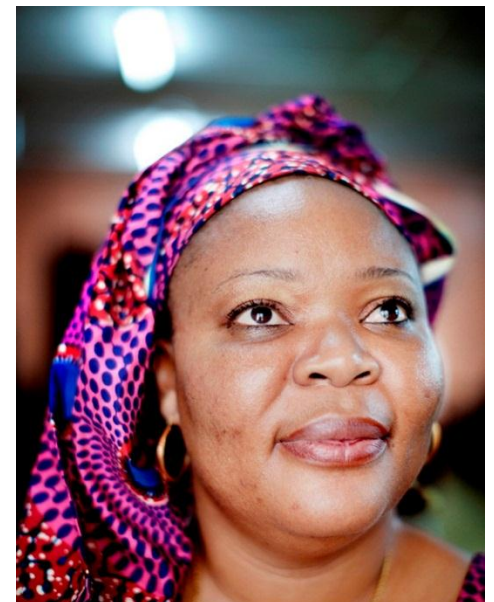
On 9 December, the day before the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, PRIO hosted a special screening of ‘Pray the Devil Back to Hell’ at Vika Kino in Oslo. The film tells the amazing story of how Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee mobilized a large number of women to end the war in Liberia. The screening gathered almost to 300 excited people from all walks of life, including members of the Liberian diaspora in Norway, students, women’s activists and ambassadors.

PRIO was particularly proud and honored to welcome the Nobel Laureate herself, Leymah Gbowee, to the screening. All though she could not stay for the whole event, Gbowee made an appearance to greet the audience with a moving and deeply engaged speech. Among the other distinguished guests contributing to the program were Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jonas Gahr Støre and Michelle Bachelet, Director of UN Women. The film’s producer and director Abigail Disney and Gini Reticker also participated.

PRIO Director Kristian Berg Harpviken opened the event, recalling the screening of ‘Pray’ organized by PRIO in January 2009. Also at that time, well before Gbowee was a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, there was a huge interest in the film in Oslo. Defying the snowy weather in January, people lined up outside the movie theatre for tickets. Since then the film has toured the world and become an eye opener for policy makers, students and researchers alike on the

importance of women’s contributions to peace.

The floor was then given to Leymah Gbowee. She reminded the audience that there are two ways to think about peace and war: the myth vs. the reality. The film ‘Pray the Devil Back to Hell’ challenged the myth of women in Africa being victims – that they are just bystanders, passively being raped and abused. In reality, women are those who keep society together when the men have gone out to fight. Yes, they have been raped and abused, but they do not give up; they stand up and keep the society going.



Leymah Gbowee. Photo: Espen Rasmussen for the Laureate Exhibition 2011 at the Nobel Peace Center.

Gbowee challenged the audience to think about what each and every one of us can do to contribute to a better world. She challenged us to look in our own backyards. “Are there any underprivileged or immigrants in your community?” she asked. “You should start there. By joining the local we interact with the global. The main question should be: How can we all be ambassadors for peace?”

Gbowee ended her speech by stating that the Peace Prize is for all women

and minorities. “This Nobel Peace Prize is not mine, it is ours. And we shall carry it high”. Gbowee left the film theater with standing ovations from the audience. It was truly a moving moment.

Foreign Minister Støre then took the floor and warned the audience that the film we were just about to see was probably one of the most moving films ever made. He said that the story of Leymah Gbowee is one of “a woman whose courage and optimism exceed that of most people”. The film demonstrates “the enormous power in people coming together in non-violent protest, in the unwavering commitment to peace, democracy, justice and human rights, for all”. He also emphasized how the story of Leymah Gbowee is a testimony to women’s potential in other parts of the world, with a special reference to the ongoing processes in the “Arab Spring” countries.

Støre admitted that Leymah Gbowee’s story is a reminder for politicians like himself, and for governments around the world, to look for the real agents of peace. These you would often find behind the formal channels and beyond the media spotlight. Thus, films like ‘Pray the Devil Back to Hell’ are needed to draw attention to the stories of these extraordinary women. “Film is a powerful medium – images are often more powerful than words – so films have the potential to reach far wider audiences than many a political statement,” he said. That is also why the Norwegian government is one of the key sponsors of Abigail Disney and Gini Reticker’s new documentary series ‘Women, War and Peace’.

The Minister also promised that the Norwegian government will continue to look for ways to give women a voice and enhance their visibility in all the peace and transition processes in which Norway is involved.

The final guest speaker, Michelle Bachelet, Director of UN Women, also emphasized the phenomenal impact ‘Pray the Devil Back to Hell’ has had around the world. What she believed is most important is how the film has inspired and empowered women who are in situations of great risk and danger to build coalitions and speak out against repression. She praised Abigail Disney and Gini Reticker for making a film that has changed our thinking about women and peacebuilding. Most of all, however, Bachelet praised Leymah Gbowee. “Leymah’s achievements and those of all the Liberian women peace activists, simply take one’s breath away. I know what it means to confront powerful people. I know what courage that requires. But I do not think many of us truly know the terrors that Liberian women endured, resisted and survived. Our respect and awe goes out to them”. With those final words the screening of the film started.



Filmmakers Abigail Disney and Gini Reticker. Photo: Ana Elisa Fuentes.

After the screening Helga Hernes, Senior Advisor at PRIO, moderated a conversation with the two filmmakers Abigail Disney and Gini Reticker. They shared with the audience their reflections and thoughts on how the film was made, why they found it important to make such a film and what impact this

film has had on our understanding of the role of women in war and peace. The two filmmakers have toured the world, screening the film more than 50 times. Many of the screenings have been in conflict or post-conflict areas. In these areas the film has made a particularly strong impact on the audience, and has resonated with women around the world. The first screening of the film outside Liberia was in Srebrenica. The reception of the film inspired the filmmakers to make the ‘Women, War and Peace’ series of films documenting similar stories of women’s courage and mobilization for peace around the world. This documentary series was broadcasted on PBS earlier this fall.

<http://praythediabacktohell.com> ■

“Be optimistic!”

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Tawakkol Karman, at FOKUS event.

The day after the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony, Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS) held a seminar on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 under the headline ‘Women, peace and security: What impact will the Nobel Peace Prize have on future work?’ The seminar, which was divided into two panels, took place at *Det Norske Teatret* in Oslo.

The first panel, moderated by PRIO director Kristian Berg Harpviken and the director of FOKUS Gro Lindstad, focused on where we are today in terms of implementing Resolution 1325 and what needs to be done in the years to come to make sure that this resolution is more than a piece of paper. Anne Marie Goetz, the chief advisor for peace and security at *UN Women*, opened the panel by stating that we “cannot approach peace without an inclusive perspective.” For her, the core element of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is that inclusive peacemaking is more sustainable in the long term. Inclusive

means involving a broad spectrum of civil society. This is the least implemented element of Resolution 1325. Women's involvement is not recognized. Goetz also mentioned the three UN resolutions on sexual violence. These have often been criticized for focusing only on one form of violence – sexualized violence against women in war and conflicts – and seeing women only as victims, a criticism Goetz also considered to be well founded. Nevertheless, she emphasized that “sexual violence in conflict is a serious crisis.” The fact that this form of violence now is recognized as a tactic of war requires a security response. But it also requires a political response – it has to be addressed by mediators.

The next three speakers used the opportunity to talk about how important Resolution 1325 has been to empowering women in peacebuilding processes in their home countries: Bandana Rana, the president of *SATHI-Nepal*, an NGO dedicated to changing traditional views of violence against women; Harriette Williams, the New York Representative and Advocacy Officer at *Femmes Africa Soliddarité* (FAS), an international NGO working throughout Africa to empower women and help them take leadership in building peace in their communities; and Mavic Carrera-Balleza, the president of the *World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters- Women's International Network*, who also manages projects that use local-language broadcasting programs to inform communities in Africa and Asia about UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

They all stressed that women are not just passive victims, but rather keep things going when the men have gone off to fight, in addition to taking part in peace negotiations. The challenge for the future lies, according to Rana, in documenting that women have these experiences and are not simply victims.

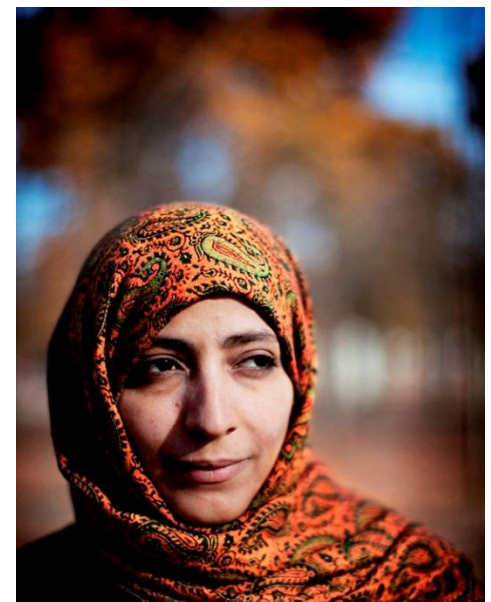
Cabrera-Balleza also pointed out the information problem – in that very few people know about Resolution 1325. And it is not just the communities that don't know about 1325, but also governmental representatives who are working in peace processes and who should be implementing the resolution. Only 32 states, 16% of UN member states, have made national action plans on how to implement Resolution 1325. Such action plans are important in institutionalizing women's participation and making governments accountable.

The most critical voice concerning UN Security Council Resolution 1325 came from Piedad Córdoba, former member of the Colombian Senate and mediator in the conflict between the Colombian central government and the FARC guerrilla. For her, the problem is not that the resolution is in itself unsatisfactory, but rather that it is not legally binding. Córdoba was concerned about the lack of political will to carry out the resolution. She claimed that her country has moved backwards in terms of women's participation in politics and peacebuilding. She also thought it problematic that Resolution 1325 focuses so much on public security rather than security in the private sphere. In many Latin American countries the violence against women in the private sphere is a serious problem – a problem that has grown exponentially. She mentioned her own country, Haiti and Mexico in particular.

The first panel ended with a discussion on how to translate Resolution 1325 and the universal values this resolution embodies so that it resonates in local contexts. Goetz pointed out that at the UN there are still people who claim that Resolution 1325 is externally imposed and ask its proponents to stop meddling in internal affairs. But women in the countries in question are hardly ever asked what they think of the 1325 agenda. One of the most important things the international com-

munity can do, according to Goetz, is to finance women's civil society organizations on the ground. Another crucial thing is education for girls. This is the social equality issue of our time. Education and financing of women's organizations will empower women. If the pressure for women's participation does not come from within the state it will be very difficult to achieve and the demands for 1325 implementation will be seen as illegitimate.

Cabrera-Balleza got the last word in the first panel discussion and asked for a revival of the high level Civil Society Advisory Group, which was established last year to provide the UN Management Group with advice leading up to the 10th Anniversary of Resolution 1325. She argued that this group should be revived to continue providing advice on how to implement Resolution 1325, with a particular focus on women's participation in peace processes.



Tawakkol Karman. Photo: Espen Rasmussen for the Laureate Exhibition 2011 at the Nobel Peace Center.

After a short break where the audience had the opportunity to mingle with the panel participants, the second panel commenced. This panel discussion focused on the Arab spring; what the future holds for women and gender

equality in the Arab countries, and how women can be closely involved in the ongoing processes in these countries. The session was moderated by researcher and author Laila Bokhari.

This panel also included contributions from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Tawakkol Karman; Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, one of the drafters of Resolution 1325 and now the founder of ICAN, a NGO dedicated to supporting women's peace activism in conflict-affected areas; and Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide, the leader of the Committee for Foreign Relations and Defense in the Norwegian Parliament.

From the moment Tawakkol Karman entered the room she stole the show. When asked the first question about how 2011 had been for her, she raised her arms above her head and shouted "victory!" She then added that 2011 has meant a lot to women, to youth, to all people working for human rights. "We didn't finish, we did not achieve all our goals. But we started, we made the first step. And that's the most important." Karman emphasized the importance of being optimistic about the future. She also reminded the audience that we should all be part of the solution, not of the problem. It was important for her to underline that there will be no peace without justice, and justice cannot be achieved under the conditions of a dictatorship.

Many in the Arab countries would claim that Resolution 1325 is a Western agenda. Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini took issue with this view. She reminded the audience of Karman's Nobel lecture where she talked about human rights as universal rights. It is our responsibility to go in and find the 'Tawakuhls' inside countries and acknowledge them. She pointed out that there are women, like Karman, out there who from grassroots movements are struggling for participation. And these people need to be empowered not disempowered. For example, it is important

that we are critical to what is considered to be based in Islam, because often the practice of oppressing women comes from local customs and not the religion itself. There is therefore a tension between the religion and its local interpretation, and we need to look at who holds the power to interpret. According to Naraghi-Anderlini, building a democracy means strengthening the underlying values ensuring the core elements of human rights. And for these processes we should not just look to the West, but find examples from South Africa, Rwanda and Nepal.

Karman also stressed this point of universality by saying that she is a human rights activist fighting for a better future for all the people in Yemen: "I don't think that women can gain rights without men, and I don't think men can gain a social society without women. A bird cannot fly without two wings".

Eriksen Søreide emphasized on the same issue that we should not call this year's Nobel Peace Prize just a prize for women, because that would take the responsibility away from the men, mak-

ing women solely responsible for the implementation of Resolution 1325.

The panel wrapped up by discussing Karman's challenges back in Yemen. Naraghi-Anderlini referred to Egypt and the importance of making a broad constitutional reform. She argued that what is important is to avoid the cementing of discrimination: Making laws now that do not embody the core elements of human rights will make it very difficult to change them later. She therefore stressed the importance of not just having rapid elections, but also of listening to and actively involving as many as possible in the reform process.

Karman underlined that what is really needed in Yemen right now is education and health services for the Yemeni people. She ended with a plea: "Don't laugh at the dream, dreams means goals". This plea was supported by Naraghi-Anderlini, stating that if the people don't know what they want, they will end up with another autocratic state, because that is all they know. A great challenge in the Middle East is that the mindset is not there to express the dream. ■



Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide, Tawakkol Karman and Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini at the Fokus Seminar on 11 December. Photo: Ana Elisa Fuentes.

“I believe in change from within”

Wazhma Frogh, Afghan human rights activist, at CARE/NRC event

The unofficial celebration of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize was kick-started on 8 December with a seminar on ‘Women’s Leadership in Peace and Conflict’ organized by Care Norway and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

The guest speakers were Martha Karua, politician and presidential candidate for the 2012 elections in Kenya; Asha Ahmed Abdalla, politician and member of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia’s legislative branch; and Wazhma Frogh, human rights activist and member of the executive board of the Afghan Women’s Network.

Each of the women shared their stories of how they became politically active and the struggles they have to fight every day to be taken seriously. However, all of them were optimistic about the future. “Something is happening all over the world”, said Martha Karua. Although women still have to struggle to be heard and listened to, “now men at least have to speak the politically correct language on women’s rights.” She was convinced that the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize will help draw attention to the courageous work of women around the world.

Also Asha Ahmed Abdalla was convinced of the importance of this year’s Nobel Peace Prize. “Women in the midst of struggles need inspiration from women such as this year’s laureates,” she said. In a country like Somalia, where women and girl children are believed to make up as much as 60% of the population, it is vital to involve women in peacebuilding efforts. Women are the cornerstones of society. She reminded the audience about the important role of women in the diaspora, particularly their economic importance.



Torchlight procession in Oslo. Photo: Ana Elisa Fuentes.

Wazhma Frogh was particularly concerned about the need to rethink the way peace efforts have been approached in Afghanistan. Too much time and resources have been invested by the international community in the tribal commanders, she said. This simply reinforces a system that is already very conservative. “The peace process has to be about human beings, not about guns”. In her experience, where Afghan women have been allowed to participate, the whole process of war and conflict resolution has really changed. Including women also opens up the door for marginalized men. She said that she was convinced that the Afghan reconciliation process had to be taken back to people’s homes. “I believe in change from within,” she said, “but that is only possible by engaging the grassroots in community dialogue.” Frogh praised the Nobel Peace Prize, which also helps Afghan women to gain recognition and political support at the national level. ■

3000 People in Torchlight Procession

The traditional civil society torchlight procession in honor of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates was this year organized by FOKUS and the Norwegian Peace Council. The procession ended in front of the Grand Hotel, where the laureates stayed while in Oslo. Standing on the hotel balcony, the laureates were greeted by 3 000 people. ■

Tromsø Celebrates the Nobel Peace Prize

Parallel to events in Oslo on 10 December, Tromsø also celebrated the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Upon the Nobel Committee’s announcement in October, a group of women at the University of Tromsø spontaneously decided this year’s awards gave good reason to throw a party. They were

quickly joined by The United Nations Association of Norway, the Women's Front and Tromsø Municipality.

The program included live broadcasting of the award ceremony from Oslo City Hall, and a drum orchestra and torchlight procession through the main street of Tromsø. Speakers at the procession were Randi Rønning Balsvik, professor emerita at the University of Tromsø, and Lydia Kofa, representative of the Liberian Association of Tromsø. The event was chaired by singer/actress Kine Hellebust. Tromsø was also treated to a screening of the film 'Pray the Devil Back to Hell', introduced by Anni Skogman, vice mayor of Tromsø, and Kristin Scharffscher, researcher at the University of Tromsø. ■

Criticism of the 2011 Peace Prize

In contrast to the prizes awarded the two previous years, this year's Nobel Peace prize was met with little controversy. Some criticism was directed at the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to president Johnson Sirleaf just days before she ran for presidential elections in Liberia. The opposition in Liberia, in particular, claimed that this was interference in internal political affairs in their country. For more, see <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/10/world/africa/on-the-campaign-trail-liberias-sirleaf-plays-down-nobel-win.html?ref=liberia>

Dr Shadi Hamid, Research Director at the Brookings Doha Center also called the 2011 peace prize 'tone deaf,' claiming that it undermines the Arab Spring. Making women's rights key to this year's Nobel Peace Prize is to ignore and undermine the fight for freedom and democracy in the Arab world, he was quoted as saying in the Norwegian daily newspaper *Aftenposten*. For more on this, see (in Norwegian only):

<http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/uriks/--En-total-tonedv-avgjrelse-6633695.html>

Criticism was also raised from a gender perspective. Curt Rice, vice president of research and development at the University of Tromsø, argued that giving the prize to three women at the same time devalued their contributions. He writes, "We can't have a disproportionate number of single male prizewinners, and then make up for it by dividing a depreciated award among several women one year. The committee should not improve gender balance by creating a fire sale on female activists." See the entire blog entry at <http://www.curt-rice.com/2011/10/12/the-nobel-peace-prizes-problem-with-women/>.

For the response from the Nobel Committee to Rice's criticism, see: <http://www.curt-rice.com/2011/10/26/the-norwegian-nobel-institutes-reply/> ■

SHEROES:

Nobel Peace Prize laureate exhibition 2011

On Sunday 11 December, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate exhibition 2011, SHEROES, at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, was opened by the three laureates themselves. Through a series of unique photos, the exhibition portrays the three laureates: peace builder [Ellen Johnson Sirleaf](#), peace activist [Leymah Gbowee](#), and human rights activist [Tawakkol Karman](#). The Nobel Peace Center finds these women to be brave heroines – thus SHEROES!

The photos, some of which are shown in this newsletter, are taken by Norwegian photographer Espen Rasmussen. During some hectic days in November, he accompanied the Peace Prize laureates and captured some moments on film.

The exhibition will be open until 2 September 2012.

For more information, visit <http://nobelpeacecenter.org/english/?id=9087488> ■



Nobel Peace Center Director Bente Erichsen with the three laureates at the opening of the Laureate Exhibition 2011. Photo: Charlotte Nexmark / Nobel Peace Center.

International News

The 2011 UN Security Council open debate on “Women, peace and security” took place on 28 October. For Security Council statement, see:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2011/sc10426.doc.htm>

For the full text of the UN Secretary-General’s progress report, see:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2011/598

On 19 December the United States launched its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. For more information and access to the full report, see

<http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/2011/179131.htm>

News from Norway

The second consultative meeting in 2011 of the 1325 Network was organized by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 November. The network consists of the inter-ministerial group on 1325, relevant directorates, research institutes and NGOs. At the meeting, State Secretary Gry Larsen briefed on the status of Norwegian efforts at implementing Resolution 1325 nationally, bilaterally and multilaterally. A discussion on women and the Arab Spring was also part of the program.

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has funded the start-up of a new UN Women project titled *Citizenship, Leadership and Participation: New*

Pathways for Arab Women. The purpose of the project is to strengthen women’s political participation in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Bahrain and the Palestinian territories.

The first annual progress report on Norway’s strategic plan for the period 2011-2013 on the implementation of Resolution 1325 was published by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 20 December. For the full text (in Norwegian only) of the report, see:

http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/ud/ak-tuelt/nyheter/2011/fremdrift_sr1325.html?id=667458

The Standing Committee on Women (SCOW) of the World Veterans Federation organized a two-day meeting/conference in Oslo 16-17 November. The topic of the Special Sessions was UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and its implementation. ■

News from PRIO

Professor Robin May Schott on 27 October gave a lecture on *War Rape and Genocide* at a mini-seminar organized by the PRIO Gender Team. May Schott is professor of Philosophy and a senior researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) in Copenhagen.

Professor Christine Sylvester on 15 November gave a lecture on *Experiencing War* at a mini-seminar organized by the PRIO Gender Team. Sylvester is professor of International Relations at the University of Connecticut, but is currently a guest professor in Political Science at Lund University in Sweden.

A press briefing on UN Security

Council Resolution 1325 was organized on 29 November by the PRIO Gender Team. The briefing was organized in preparation for the upcoming Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony.

Professor Aili Tripp on 23 November gave a lecture on *Women, Power and Peacemaking in Africa* at a mini-seminar organized by the PRIO Gender Team. Tripp is professor of Political Science and Gender and Women Studies at the Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Legacy of Wartime Rape

On 27-28 October, Ingvill Mochmann from GESIS-Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne, in cooperation with the PRIO Gender Team and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a conference on wartime rape. In recent years, it has increasingly been acknowledged that in addition to the devastating personal consequences of rape, widespread sexual violence and rape in war have an immense impact on families, communities and societies at large. Although it is known that pregnancies occur and children are born as a consequence, the existence of rape-related pregnancy in war has found little attention so far in academia, humanitarian interventions, or post-conflict reconciliation efforts. The purpose of the conference was to start mapping key concepts and issues on war rape victims and children born of rape, perpetrators and communities and the dynamic between these actors based on current knowledge. Papers were presented on case studies from countries and regions such as DRC Congo, Sudan and the Balkans.

The conference was opened by Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict. The conference brought together about 50 experts representing academia, the military, NGOs, and policy mak-



SRSR Radhika Coomaraswamy. UN photo.

ing. A conference report will soon be made available on the PRIO webpage.

For more information on the International Network for Interdisciplinary Research on Children Born of War, see <http://www.childrenbornofwar.org/>

Helga Hernes

Gave a lecture on *Gender Aspects of Security* at the MA Course in Gender and Conflict Studies, Bjørknes College, 7 September.

Attended the launch of the *Women in Public Service Project* in Washington DC, 15 December. According to a press release from the US State Department, the project is “an innovative initiative that pairs the power of public service with the Seven Sisters Colleges of Bar-

nard College, Bryn Mawr College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and Wellesley College (...). The Project will identify and educate a new generation of women committed to public service, create an infrastructure of support and mentoring, and help enable more women to enter public service and political leadership.” The project is initiated by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Updates on the project can be found on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/WPSProject> or on Twitter @WPSProject.

Inger Skjelsbæk

Gave a lecture on *The Political Psychology of Sexual Violence* at the MA Course in Gender and Conflict Studies, Bjørknes College, 14 September.

Presented a paper on *28 Convicted Individuals: A social psychological analysis of the sentencing judgments on sexual violence crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)* at the *Legacy of Wartime Rape Conference*, 27 October.

Gave a presentation on *How to Study Sexual Violence Perpetrators in War* at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Copenhagen. The occasion was a public one-day seminar to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, entitled ‘Sexual Violence and the Concept of the Human’, 25 November.

Torunn L. Tryggestad

Gave a lecture on *The UN and Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security: From Idea to Policy*

and Practice at the MA Course in Gender and Conflict Studies, Bjørknes College, 27 September.

Gave a presentation on *UNSCR 1325: Setting Women’s Issues on the UN Peace and Security* at SCOW Conference in Oslo, 17 November.

Has been interviewed by a number of Norwegian journalists to comment on the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

Ragnhild Nordås

Gave a presentation on *The Importance of Facts in Agenda Setting: The SVAC Data Project* at the *Legacy of Wartime Rape Conference*, 28 October. ■

Recent Publications

Skjelsbæk, Inger (2012) *The Political Psychology of War Rape. Studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, War, Politics and Experience Series*, London and New York: Routledge.

Jones, Bruce (series editor) (2011), *Review of Political Missions 2011*, A project of the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University (NYU), CIC/NYU: New York (Includes statistics broken down by gender). ■



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