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Gender and Security Sector Reform Newsletter

August and September 2009

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Conferences and Trainings

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe: "Human Dimension Implementation Meeting"

28 September – 9 October 2009: "The OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting" brings together hundreds of government representatives, experts and human rights defenders to review progress made by OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The meeting is the largest yearly human rights gathering in Europe. For more information registration information, please see: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2009.html

MenEngage Africa Symposium: Strengthening Capacity of Civil Society and Government to Work with Men and Boys on Gender-Based Violence and HIV

October 2009: From Cape Town to Kivu to Cairo, from Abidjan to Antananarivo, men are implicated in health and human rights crises across Africa. Men are also essential for their successful resolution –whether it be stopping sexual violence in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; accelerating demilitarisation and disarmament in Central and East Africa; preventing new HIV infections, expanding treatment and reducing the burden of AIDS care borne by women and girls across the entire continent; increasing men's active involvement in the lives of their children; strengthening health systems or promoting a more active sense of citizenship aimed at holding government to account for their commitments.

For more information on the conference, please see:

<http://www.genderjustice.org.za/menengageafricasymposium.html>

International Peace and Development Training Center: "Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation and Post-War Stabilisation, Recovery and Reconciliation"

From 9 – 13 November 2009 the International Peace and Development Training Center will be holding a conference on "Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation and Post-War Stabilisation, Recovery and Reconciliation" training sessions. The program is a five-day intensive training for practitioners and policy makers working in peacebuilding, conflict transformation and post-war stabilization, recovery and reconciliation. It is also relevant for those working in political, gender, security, human rights, development, and humanitarian

fields, donors and diplomats, working in areas affected or threatened by war and armed conflict or in post-war situations. For more information, please see:

<http://www.patrir.ro/training/>

International Peace and Development Training Center: "Improving Sustainable Impact and Effectiveness in Peacebuilding, Development and Post-War Recovery Programs and Operations"

From 16 – 20 November 2009 the International Peace and Development Training Centre will be holding a training session entitled "Improving Sustainable Impact and Effectiveness in Peacebuilding, Development and Post-War Recovery Programs and Operations." The session helps agencies, organizations and practitioners working in conflict, crisis and post-war stabilization and recovery to improve the quality, effectiveness and sustainable impact of their programs, including crisis management and prevention, peacebuilding, social, economic and political stabilization, reconciliation in divided communities, and post-war recovery, rehabilitation and development. For more information, please see:

<http://www.patrir.ro/training/>

Fellowships and Job Openings

[United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\): Democracy Specialist \(Security Sector Reform\)](#)

Applications due: 25 September 2009

The position is located in the Bureau for Democracy Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, Civilian Response Corps. Among other elements, the incumbent plans, develops, and implements program/project development activities that affect broad mission areas in support of reconstruction and stabilization (R&S) activities; formulates and develops innovative program strategies and project proposals to address SSR issues encountered in unstable and post-conflict environments; provides expert advice and guidance on SSR reform to include security sector governance, community policing and security, civil-military relations; national security strategy planning, and policy formulation; and implementation and oversight; and helps integrate and coordinate U.S. interagency efforts as necessary to foster sustainable security. For more information, please see:

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/getjob.aspx?OPMControl=1670612&rc=3&TabNum=1>

[United Nations Development Programme: Access to Justice Officer](#)

Applications due: 28 September 2009

UNDP Somalia's Programme is strongly focused on post-conflict recovery and consolidation of peace. It is composed of three main Programme portfolios: 1) Rule of Law and Security (ROLS); 2) Governance and 3) Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Livelihoods (PRSL). The main goal of the Rule of Law program is to strengthen rule of law and security through the creation and development of competent police, judiciary and custodial corps, bolstered by security initiatives to demobilize militia and downsize standing security forces, control small arms, reduce armed violence and address the challenges of landmines. The incumbent will support ongoing UNDP ROLS Access to Justice initiatives in the north east region, and carry out activities related to the implementation of strategies to strengthen access to justice and

training of law professionals. For more information, please see:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VSBB9>

Call for Applications: Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellowship Program

Applications due: 30 September 2009

The Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellowship Program was founded in 1993 at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., in order to train women's human rights lawyers from Africa who are committed to returning home to their countries in order to advance the status of women and girls in their own countries throughout their careers. Over 50 women's human rights advocates from Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe have participated in the LAWA Program, and we hope to include Fellows from additional countries in the future. For more information and to access the application, see: <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/wlppfp/LAWA/index.html>

Life and Peace Institute: Crisis and Security Management Coordinator

Applications due: 30 September 2009

The Life & Peace Institute (LPI) is an international and ecumenical centre, based in Uppsala, Sweden that supports and promotes non-violent approaches to conflict transformation through a combination of research and action. Through our field offices, we work with local partners in Kenya, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. During the coming months, The Life & Peace Institute intends to strengthen the organisation's crisis preparedness and security management practices. We are therefore looking for a coordinator to manage this effort and to ensure its institutionalisation. The position is part-time, 50% for a period of five months. For more information, please see: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VSCYL>

United Nations Development Programme: Notary Capacity Building Advisor

Applications due: 30 September 2009

The "Strengthening the Justice System in Timor-Leste" Programme was launched in 2003. This project was revised and a new project document was signed in December 2005, focused on institutional capacity development of the justice sector, including the Courts, Prosecution Service, Public Defenders Office, and the Ministry of Justice. Under the coordination of the MoJ, the National Director for Registry and Notary Department and the guidance of the Senior Justice Advisor, the Notary Capacity Building Advisor will conduct the following: develop and implement a notary training plan for national notaries and notaries support staff, in collaboration with the Legal Training Centre (LTC); establish operational notary systems and procedures in the MoJ, in accordance with the Operations Manual; provide advice and legal inputs to the MoJ in all matters concerning notary work. For more information, please see: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VX495>

United Nations Development Programme: National Human Rights Officer

The main objective of the Access to Justice Project of UNDP's Rule of Law and Security Programme is to strengthen access to basic structures for the administration of justice and respect of international human rights standards by all Somalis. The Access to Justice Project

has utilized a multi-pronged approach in its implementation of activities which has emphasized both strengthening the judiciary and the prison system in Somalia. The incumbent will support ongoing UNDP ROLS Access to Justice initiatives in the North-West region of Somalia, and carry out activities related to the implementation of strategies to strengthen access to justice and human rights and gender. Applications are due 1 October 2009. For more information, please see:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VYA78>

Penal Reform International: PRI Regional Director, South Caucasus

Applications due: 5 October 2009

Penal Reform International is an international non-governmental organization working on penal and criminal justice reform worldwide. PRI seeks to achieve penal reform by promoting the development and implementation of international human rights instruments in relation to law enforcement and prison conditions; the elimination of unfair and unethical discrimination in all penal measures; the abolition of the death penalty; the reduction of the use of imprisonment throughout the world; the use of constructive non-custodial sanctions which support the social reintegration of offenders whilst taking into account the interests of victims. Based in Tbilisi, Georgia the Regional Director has responsibility for managing PRI's programmes in the South Caucasus Region. The Director is a member of the management team for PRI and as such will contribute to the organisation's overall strategic development and implement PRI's aims and objectives regionally. For more information, please see:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VWM6W>

Management Systems International: Legal/Access to Justice Advisors

Applications due: 15 October 2009

Management Systems International (MSI) is a global international development firm based in Washington, D.C. providing specialized short- and long-term technical assistance. Today, it has over 100 projects under management worldwide and its technical expertise has been expanded to include implementation of a range of analytical and field projects in democracy and governance, economic growth, organizational capacity building, education, and natural resource management. MSI is seeking Legal and Access to Justice Advisors for an upcoming 3 year USAID access to justice project in Iraq. This would be a task order under the Regional Democracy Initiatives (REDI) IQC, to support and implement democracy and governance programming to missions in the Middle East. This project will focus on providing legal assistance and advocacy to disadvantaged groups (women, youth, ethnic and religious minority groups) and strengthen Iraq's law schools and the bar association. For more information, please see:

<http://tbe.taleo.net/NA8/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=MSI&cws=2&rid=972>

International Rescue Committee: Protection/Gender Officer

Applications due: 31 October 2009

The Protection Surge Capacity Project is a joint initiative between the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The aim of the project is to strengthen UNHCR's protection capacity through the deployment of qualified protection personnel to UNHCR operations worldwide, including protection staff with experience in implementing gender sensitive/responsible protection. In light of needs in

the field, the IRC has created a gender sub-roster within the Surge Roster. This sub-roster will allow the organization to identify and rapidly mobilize qualified individuals with hands on/field based experience capable of not only providing gender advice but operationalising this in refugee and IDP settings. Applications are due 31 October 2009. For more information, please see: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VXJV5>

Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies seeking applicants for Visiting Research Fellowships

Applications due: 1 November 2009

The Kroc Institute's Visiting Research Fellows Program seeks to bring outstanding scholars focused on peace research to the University of Notre Dame for all or part of the 2010-11 academic year. For the 2010-11 academic year, the Institute particularly seeks applications for research focusing on: the comparative study of peace processes or Islam and/or Catholicism in modern conflict settings. For more information, please see: <http://kroc.nd.edu/research/visiting-research-fellowships>

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs: Senior Program Officer, Central and West Africa

Applications due: 15 November 2009

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) seeks a Senior Program Officer with political and organizational expertise to support NDI's democratic development programs in the Great Lakes and Central Africa sub-region. The position will be based in Washington, D.C. The Senior Program Officer will manage democratic development programs in selected countries and assist in developing NDI's Great Lakes and Central Africa portfolio. In an effort to assist countries in Central and West Africa develop and sustain democratic forms of governance, NDI conducts programs throughout the region to support electoral processes, strengthen political parties, increase citizen involvement in political processes and build legislative capacity. The Institute also conducts activities to promote the political participation of women, youth and other marginalized sectors of society. For more information, please see: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VXB7D>

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs: Resident Program Manager

Applications due: 15 November 2009.

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) seeks to hire a Resident Program Manager to implement the constitutional development and civic education components of its Somalia program. NDI is expanding its ongoing governance activities in support to Somalia's legislative and executive branches as these transitional institutions develop their capacities. The position would be based in Nairobi, Kenya, with travel to Djibouti, Somalia and the broader region. This position is funded for one year with possible extension contingent upon availability of funding. For more information, please see: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VXB8R>

Reports, Publications and Tools

ActionAid: "Hate crimes: The rise of 'corrective' rape in South Africa"

South Africa's transition to democracy and its constitutional and human rights framework have been a source of hope and inspiration to millions inside and outside the country. But as the country deals with the challenge of translating promise into reality, it is confronted by a number of challenges and fault lines, among them the prevalence of gender-based violence. The ActionAid report describes some of the most shocking violence that continues to be perpetrated – including instances of 'corrective' rape, where men rape women in order to 'cure' them of their lesbianism. It is a matter of great disquiet that 15 years into democracy these kinds of attacks continue to happen.

http://www.actionaid.org/docs/correctiveraperep_final.pdf

Association for the prevention of torture: Compilation of Torture Laws

The association for the prevention of torture has launched a compilation of existing national laws relevant to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT). It focuses on the criminalization of torture under national laws of States parties to the UNCAT as well as other relevant provisions. For some countries, the tool highlights gender-specific torture laws.

<http://www.apt.ch/content/view/194/160/lang,en/>

Helen Benedict: "The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq"

More American women have fought and died in Iraq than in any war since World War Two, yet as soldiers they are still painfully alone. In Iraq, only one in ten troops is a woman, and she often serves in a unit with few other women or none at all. This isolation, along with the military's deep-seated hostility toward women, causes problems that many female soldiers find as hard to cope with as war itself: degradation, sexual persecution by their comrades, and loneliness, instead of the camaraderie that every soldier depends on for comfort and survival. In *The Lonely Soldier*, Benedict tells the stories of five women who fought in Iraq between 2003 and 2006. She follows them from their childhoods to their enlistments, then takes them through their training, to war and home again, all the while setting the wars events in context.

For more information on the book, please see: <http://www.powells.com/biblio/62-9780807061473-0>

Centro de Planificación y Estudios Sociales: "Access to Justice for Women in Situations of Violence: A Comparative Study of Women's Police Stations in Latin America"

As part of a comparative regional study of Women's Police Stations, the Centro de Planificación y Estudios Sociales has published a comparative study of Women's Police Stations in Latin America. The study addresses access to justice for survivors of violence against women and the exercise and respect for their rights in order to make proposals for improving public policy in this sector. The key question for the mapping research is, how do the WPS contribute to improving access to justice for women in situations of violence?

To access the first part of the study, please see

<http://www.ceplaes.org.ec/AccesoJusticia/docs/MAPEO%20INGLES.pdf>

European Women's Lobby: "Towards a Common European Framework to Monitor Progress in Combating Violence against Women"

In late 2008, the European Women's Lobby published "Towards a Common European Framework to Monitoring Progress in Combating Violence against Women." The publication offers a proposal for a policy framework and indicators for measure success in the fight against Violence against Women in the area of budgets, legal developments, service provision, training of professionals, civil society, data collection and prevention measures. It also presents case studies of models of good practice from Ireland, the UK, Germany, Portugal, Austria, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands regarding domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, prostitution and trafficking in women, Female Genital Mutilation and women's diversity.

To access the publication, please see:

http://www.epacvaw.org/IMG/pdf/Towards_a_common_European_Framework.pdf

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF): "GSSR Training Resource Package: Justice Reform and Gender"

In September 2009, DCAF released the latest addition to its Gender and SSR Training Resource Package, which is on Justice Reform and Gender. The publication includes key messages for training of justice reform and gender; 13 training exercises suitable for use in training on justice reform as well as dedicated gender training; topics and tips for facilitating discussions on justice reform and gender; and case studies from the Central African Republic, Indonesia and Somalia.

To download the resource, please see: <http://www.dcaf.ch/gender-security-sector-reform/training.cfm?navsub1=37&navsub2=2&nav1=3>

International Women's Tribune Centre: "Confronting Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations"

The International Women's Tribune Centre launched a new handbook to support the work of gender justice advocates working at community and national level in conflict-affected countries. *Confronting Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations* provides comprehensive information on international laws and global policies related to sexual violence in both conflict and post-conflict situations, and promotes their use as tools that women can utilize in organizing with others to claim their rights. It also contains selected resources, key contacts, an annotated guide to international conventions and policy documents, and charts showing which countries have ratified different conventions.

Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines: "Advocacy Kit on Gender in Mine Action"

In September 2009, the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines launched the *Advocacy Kit on Gender in Mine Action*. The kit has been developed as a tool to empower local women's grass roots organizations to advocate for gender mainstreaming in mine action in mine affected countries. The organization believes that local women's grass roots organizations hold vital information about women, girls, boys and men in mine affected communities, and that their involvement in the definition of mine action strategies (at the local and international level) and in programme implementation will bring great benefits for those living with the scourge of landmines and for the international mine action community in general.

<http://www.scbl-gender.ch/index.php?id=233#c453>

United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime: "Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners"

The *Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners* is the result of a global cooperative process in which expert representatives from academia, NGOs, international organizations, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges from all over the world contributed their expertise and experiences. In line with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol supplementing the United Nations Organized Crime Convention, the purpose of the *Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners* is to support criminal justice practitioners in the prevention of human trafficking, the protection of its victims, the prosecution of its culprits and in the international cooperation needed to achieve these goals.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/anti-human-trafficking-manual.html>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "Combating Trafficking in Persons in Accordance with the Principles of Islamic Law"

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched a paper on "Combating Trafficking in Persons in Accordance with the Principles of Islamic Law". The purpose of the paper is to analyze the Islamic legal tradition from the perspective on the sources, principles and provisions in Islamic law that help to understand, address and combat trafficking in persons.

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/UNODC Trafficking and Islamic Law - Amended.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/UNODC_Trafficking_and_Islamic_Law_-_Amended.pdf)

United Nations: "Sexual Violence against Children Now Key Feature of Armed Conflict"

4 September 2009: The widespread and systematic rape of girls in war zones is increasingly a characteristic of conflict in many parts of the world, a senior United Nations official warned today in an expansive report on children and armed conflict. "Such violations are often perpetrated in a rule of law vacuum as a result of conflict, and there often exists a prevailing of culture of impunity for such crimes," said Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31959&Cr=children&Cr1=armed+conflict>

News



Afghanistan

"Afghanistan passes 'barbaric' law diminishing women's rights"

14 August 2009: Afghanistan has quietly passed a law permitting Shia men to deny their wives food and sustenance if they refuse to obey their husbands' sexual demands, despite international outrage over an earlier version of the legislation which President Hamid Karzai had promised to review. The new final draft of the legislation also grants guardianship of children exclusively to their fathers and grandfathers, and requires women to get permission from their husbands to work.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/14/afghanistan-womens-rights-rape>



African Nations

“Post-Conflict Security in Need of Women”

17 September 2009: Women need to get involved more actively and more equally in the reform of the security sector in post-conflict states, says Ecoma Alaga, a Gender and Security Sector Reform (SSR) expert of the Women Peace and Security Network Africa. Alaga presented a policy paper in a seminar on SSR and the Protection of Women in Africa on Tuesday, which was attended by leading experts in the field of gender, peacekeeping and SSR. Alaga presented a policy paper in a seminar on SSR and the Protection of Women in Africa on Tuesday, which was attended by leading experts in the field of gender, peacekeeping and SSR. The seminar took place one day after the U.N. General Assembly's unanimous decision to create a new gender entity at the United Nations, which was welcomed by the seminar's chair, Patrick Hayford, director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA).

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48486>



The Bahamas

“Marital rape ban ‘tragically wrong’”

4 September 2009: The Bahamas Christian Council (BCC) said yesterday that the proposed amendment to the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act outlawing marital rape would be "tragically wrong" if made legal in its current form. "Such a law is appropriate to govern sexual intercourse between two persons who are not married to each other because, unlike married people, they have no contract that implies open-ended sexual consent. Therefore, specific moment by moment consent is required by them," said a four-page statement from the Council.

http://www.thenassauguardian.com/national_local/295339469715818.php



Brazil

“Feminism and M-16s: transforming macho policing in Rio”

28 July 2009: A police helicopter rattles through the skies over Rio, black-clad snipers poised at either side. Below, in the Morro da Mineira shanty town, locals scatter for cover, shop-fronts clatter noisily shut and nearly 200 rifle-toting police operatives begin sprinting up the steep hillside, among them Inspector Santos de Mello, a member of the anti-weapons and explosives unit, better known as DRAE. It is mid-afternoon in northern Rio and another normal day on the adrenaline-filled frontline of Brazil's war on drugs has just begun. Normal, that is, apart from one small detail. Inspector Santos de Mello, one of the officers leading the charge, is a woman, part of a growing team of female police officers on the frontline of Rio's drug conflict, and an unlikely flag bearer for Brazil's feminist cause.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/28/rio-female-drugs-policing-brazil>



Colombia

“UN Paints Grim Picture of Child Abuse in Colombian Conflict”

8 September 2009: Despite significant Government efforts, children in Colombia continue to be killed, maimed, tortured, raped, recruited and abducted in the long-running conflict, mainly by illegal armed groups, a new United Nations report warns, calling on all parties to abide by their international obligations. “I am deeply concerned at the continued rape and other forms of sexual violence, in particular against girls, that is perpetrated mainly by illegal armed groups,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon writes in his latest report to the Security Council on children and armed conflict in Colombia, noting that child recruitment by these groups is widespread.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31982&Cr=children&Cr1=armed+conflict>



Guatemala

“Ban Lauds ‘Ground-Breaking’ Efforts of UN-Backed Crime Probe”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reaffirmed his strong support for the independent body set up with United Nations help to investigate the activities of illegal armed groups in Guatemala, lauding its efforts to help strengthen the country's justice sector and rule of law. Marking the second anniversary of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, known by its Spanish acronym CICIG, Mr. Ban commended Commissioner Carlos Castresana and his staff for their "ground-breaking" efforts.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31956&Cr=rule+of+law&Cr1=&Kw1=guatemala&Kw2=crime&Kw3=>



Indonesia

“Aceh Province Passes Adultery Stoning Law”

14 September 2009: Indonesia's province of Aceh has passed a new law making adultery punishable by stoning to death, a member of the province's parliament has said. The law also imposes severe sentences for rape, homosexuality, alcohol consumption and gambling. Opponents had tried to delay the law, saying more debate was needed because it imposes capital punishment.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8254631.stm>



Iran

“First woman in cabinet as Iran MPs back list”

4 September 2009: Iran's parliament yesterday backed a cabinet proposed by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that includes the Islamic republic's first woman minister. The assembly approved 18 of 21 nominees, propelling Ahmadinejad into his second four-year term. The candidates who failed to secure the required majority of votes were two other women nominees and Ahmadinejad's pick for energy minister. The first woman to join a cabinet in the Islamic republic will be Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi at the health ministry. A gynaecologist and former MP, Dastjerdi, 50, was approved despite never having held an executive job in government. Dastjerdi described her selection as an "important step" for Iranian women. "I think today women reached their long-standing dream of having a woman in the cabinet to pursue their demands," she told the parliamentary news service. "This is an important step for women and I hold my head high.

http://www.gulfinthemedi.com/index.php?id=486306&news_type=Top&lang=en



Italy

“Trafficking from Nigeria Rises Sharply”

11 September 2009: An alarming rise has been recorded in the number of Nigerian girls trafficked to Italy. Last year 1,782 young girls from Nigeria arrived in Lampedusa, compared to 166 in 2007, human rights organisations say. Lampedusa, an Italian island 205 km from the Italian coast, located between Tunisia and Sicily, is used as a holding centre for migrants, particularly from Africa. Human trafficking has become the third biggest source of income for criminal organisations globally, following drug and arms, according to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published earlier this year. Close to 80 percent of people trafficked, mostly women, are sexually exploited, the report says.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48405>



Japan

“More Women Report Domestic Violence”

14 August 2009: The latest data from Japan's national police find a 20 percent jump in the number of women reporting domestic violence. But advocates say there is a long way to go in a country that only criminalized family violence in 2001. Japanese women are showing signs of breaking the taboo against reporting cases of domestic violence to the police. A key indicator of that: a healthy jump in the number of women speaking out to protect themselves and their children. Reports of domestic abuse handled by police increased by more than 20 percent last year to a record 25,200 cases, the fifth straight annual rise, according to data from the National Police Agency in March 2009. More than 98 percent of the victims were women.

<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm?aid=4104>



Liberia

“Human Rights Must be Paramount in Policing, UN Envoy Says in Liberia”

7 September 2009: Respect for human rights must be central to police work a senior United Nations official in Liberia has told the new members of an elite unit within the West African country's police force as she warned them never to misuse their strength and power. Eighty officers from the Liberia National Police (LNP) have completed a three-month intensive training programme to join the force's Emergency Response Unit (ERU), joining just over 200 others who have finished their training since courses began in mid-2008. They are tasked with responding to crisis and high-risk situations.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31966&Cr=Liberia&Cr1=>



Mali

“Women's Rights Bill Blocked”

27 August 2009: The president of Mali has announced that he is not going to sign the country's new family law, instead returning it to parliament for review. Muslim groups have been protesting against the law, which gives greater rights to women, ever since parliament adopted it at the start of the month. President Amadou Toumani Toure said he was sending the law back for the sake of national unity. Muslim leaders have called the law the work of the devil and against Islam. More than 90% of Mali's population is Muslim. Some of the provisions that have proved controversial give more rights to women.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8223736.stm>



Pakistan

“Bill Outlawing Domestic Violence Passes National Assembly”

6 August 2009: The bill outlawing domestic violence passed by the National Assembly on Tuesday is a step in the right direction. The abuse of women and children is endemic in the country, particularly in the domestic sphere where some estimates put the figure over 95 per cent for various forms of physical and emotional violence taken together. Once enacted into law, the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill will make Pakistan one of the few dozen countries to adopt specific legislation on the issue. The 28-clause bill lays out provisions for protection orders and monetary and other forms of relief for victims, and punishment in the form of fines and jail terms for those who violate protection orders.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/16-a-step-forward-hs-01>



The Philippines

“President Signs the Magna Carta of Women into Law”

20 August 2009: On 14 August 2009, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law Republic Act 9710 (the Magna Carta of Women). The Magna Carta of Women seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the rights of Filipino women in all spheres of society. The introduction of legislation on women’s rights has been under discussion in the Philippines’ Congress (the bicameral parliament) for the past seven years.

To read more about the law, please see:

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/nation/view/20090814-220278/Arroyo-signs-Magna-Carta-for-women>

To access the law, please see:

http://www.congress.gov.ph/download/billtext_14/hbt04273.pdf



Solomon Islands

“Parliament Strides Towards Gender Equality in Sexual Assault Law”

28 July 2009: No more discriminatory evidence practices in sexual assault law, said the main law making body in the Solomon Islands. With a chorus of support, the Solomon Islands Parliament made important strides towards gender equality in its law by changing four legal practices in its newly passed Evidence Act 2009. The changes should also remove major obstacles to successfully prosecuting offenders in sexual assault cases.

<http://apww.isiswomen.org/list/archive/msg00681.html>



Sudan

“Demining, not just a man’s job”

31 August 2009: The whistle signals the end of the morning shift. As the heat is reaching a peak of 40 degrees, six deminers emerge from the tall grass, taking off their protection equipment and walking back to the rest camp for lunch, each carrying a metal detector under their arm. They are all Sudanese women. " Besta works for Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) Mine Action, an international NGO operating in Southern Sudan. In Sudan, landmines were laid in routes, villages, and agricultural land during the civil war. Men often face the risk of mines and unexploded ordnance while farming, and women mostly face dangers while collecting fire wood or transporting water to their villages. Although successful examples of all-female teams can also be found in Kosovo, Cambodia, setting up a female demining team is a first in Sudan. Its reputation is now inspiring commercial contractors to follow this example.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MYAI-7VF9YD?OpenDocument>

"African Union-UN Peacekeeping Mission Donates Supplies to Women's Prison"

24 August 2009: The joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping mission in Darfur today donated supplies to a women's prison in the western Sudanese region. Following a request made last month for support by the detention centre in Khanaga, the operation, known as UNAMID, has contributed items, including cooking utensils and bedding. It also has approved the construction of accommodations for female prisoners. Today's donation to the prison in North Darfur state is a manifestation of UNAMID's commitment to bolstering national institutions to allow them to better respond to people's needs, the mission said in a press release.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31838&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=>

"African-UN Mission Sets up Unit to Investigate Gender-Based Crimes"

18 August 2009: The police component of the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping operation in Darfur has established a special investigations unit to monitor and report on crimes involving sexual and gender-based violence, a prevalent problem in the western Sudanese region. The peacekeeping force, known as UNAMID, announced today that the seven-member unit has been set up in response to the high rates of sexual and gender-based violence recorded across Darfur in the past two years. Staff members have received specialist training for dealing with such cases.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31790&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=>



Timor-Leste

"Police Take Control of UN-Backed Training Centre"

11 September 2009: Timor-Leste's police force, known as PNTL, has taken over the United Nations-supported police training centre as part of the gradual handover of responsibility by the world body's peacekeeping mission to local law enforcement officers. The Police Training Centre in the capital, Dili, is the fourth place the PNTL has resumed primary responsibility since the process kicked off this May in the district of Lautem, followed by the districts of Oecussi and Manatuto. The facility, also backed by Australia, Japan and Portugal, seeks to provide training and development for police officers.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32023&Cr=timor&Cr1=>



Uganda

"Ugandan Court Asked to Declare Bride Price Unconstitutional"

8 September 2009: Deborah Awori could not stop her husband from selling their 14-year-old daughter away in marriage using the time-honoured tradition of asking for a "bride price". Awori, from Bugayi parish in Busia district, was in the Ugandan Constitutional Court this afternoon testifying in a trial that has asked the court to declare the practice of asking for a "bride price" unconstitutional. In Uganda "bride price" is traditionally the money given as a token of appreciation by grooms to the families of their brides. Awori told the court that she tried in vain to stop her husband from forcefully marrying off their daughter,

Evelyn, so that he could benefit from the "bride price" she received. Awori was kicked out of the matrimonial home and her daughter married off. Women rights activists have petitioned the Constitutional Court to declare this old traditional practice of demanding for payment of a "bride price" unconstitutional.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48364>



United Nations

"Efforts Ongoing to Achieve Robust Peacekeeping, Say Top UN Officials"

15 September 2009: The United Nations is pressing ahead with efforts to boost its peacekeeping capacity, from ensuring sufficient personnel and equipment for operations to providing effective support on the ground, to help transform the lives of people worldwide, top officials said today. The heads of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) described how they are seeking to improve the way they operate through the New Horizons initiative and fresh thinking on a support strategy for field missions.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32067&Cr=peacekeep&Cr1=>

"UN Peacekeeping Missions Urged to Bolster Number of Women Police Officers"

7 August 2009: The ranks of female police officers serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world need an urgent boost to more effectively protect and assist women against the rampant use of sexual abuse as a weapon in armed conflict, the world body's top police advisors stressed today. "The equal participation of female police officers at all levels of the United Nations... empowers the female population in reporting cases of sexual and gender-based crimes," Ann-Marie Orlor, Deputy UN Police Advisor, told reporters in New York.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31715&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=peacekeeping>



United States

"A Move to Register Sex Offenders Globally"

7 September 2009: While the world's attention was focused on Phillip Garrido, who is accused of abducting 11-year-old Jaycee Lee Dugard in 1991 and holding her hostage for 18 years as a sex slave, three other alleged sexual predators were quietly brought back to the U.S. to face prosecution for abusing countless children in Cambodia. The horrifying ordeal of Garrido's victim is now well documented; however, the stories of an estimated 1.8 million other children worldwide who are forced into the multibillion-dollar commercial sex trade every year remain largely unheard.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1920911,00.html>

"G.I. Jane Breaks the Combat Barrier"

15 August 2009: As the convoy rumbled up the road in Iraq, Specialist Veronica Alfaro was struck by the beauty of fireflies dancing in the night. Then she heard the unmistakable

pinging of tracer rounds and, in a Baghdad moment, realized the insects were illuminated bullets. She jumped from behind the wheel of her gun truck, grabbed her medical bag and sprinted 50 yards to a stalled civilian truck. On the way, bullets kicked up dust near her feet. She pulled the badly wounded driver to the ground and got to work. Despite her best efforts, the driver died, but her heroism that January night last year earned Specialist Alfaro a Bronze Star for valor. She had already received a combat action badge for fending off insurgents as a machine gunner.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/16/us/16women.html? r=2&th&emc=th>