



Gender and Security Sector Reform Ticker:

July 2008

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1) Announcements:

1. OHCHR calls for government responsibility to apply human rights to victims of human trafficking

Kyung-wha Kang was blunt: "We have not succeeded in eliminating this trade in people for profit," the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights told a panel on

human trafficking at the United Nations General Assembly. "We have not even managed to stem the tide. More people are being trafficked than ever before." That frank assessment gives a clear indication of how much needs to be done before the last woman deceived into a life of sexual slavery is rescued, or the last child held in bondage to a cruel employer is freed. Indeed, an end to human trafficking remains a distant goal as the pool of potential trafficking victims continues to be enlarged by social and economic turmoil, poverty, discrimination and mass displacement. Emphasizing the primacy of human rights in efforts to fight human trafficking, Deputy High Commissioner Kang said in her speech in New York that trafficking is a clear violation of fundamental human rights, such as those to dignity, security and freedom from violence and abuse, to which we are all entitled. Victims of trafficking who have been bought and sold as commodities and terrorized by violence and intimidation are denied this sense of entitlement and cowed into thinking of themselves as less than deserving, Kang said. "They should be actively assisted in retrieving that sense of entitlement."

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/StopTraffic.aspx>

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2) Call for papers/ applications:

1. Pakistan Journal For Women's Studies is accepting submissions for its 2009 Special Issue on the theme "Women Working Beyond Borders".

Pakistan Journal for Women's Studies: Alam-e-Niswan invites submissions for its 2009 Special Issue (vol. 16, no. 1, June 2009) on the theme of "Women Working Beyond Borders." Trafficking of women and girls and their migration to seek waged work has long been an important topic for feminist researchers, theorists, and activists. The number of trafficked and migrant women and girls has been increasing rapidly, especially in the last two decades. This is happening despite our knowledge that trafficking of human beings is a global human rights violation and is a contemporary form of slavery. This special issue solicits writings that explore the issue of trafficked women and migrant women workers and examine the various related themes with an international and comparative perspective. While our empirical and theoretical focus is on trafficked and migrant women workers' experience, we also encourage submissions that draw linkages between women and other social and economic identities.

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2. Call for Proposals: OSI International Women's Program: "Equality and Justice under the Rule of Law."

The Open Society Institute (OSI) aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights and economic, legal and social reform. Initiatives cover a range of activities that seek to promote free and open societies. The mission of IWP is to use grant-making and programmatic efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and girls around the globe where the principles of good governance and respect for the rule of law are absent or destroyed because of conflict. IWP (International Women's Program) invites proposals from local, national, regional or international organizations which focus on one or more of the following objectives: reducing discrimination and violence against women, strengthening women's access to justice, increasing women's role as decision-makers and leaders. Proposals must be received in English by email (preferred), fax or mail on or by July 7, 2008. Email completed proposals to: women@sorosny.org

(please write 'proposal call 2008' in the subject line of your email). For more information, please visit http://www.soros.org/initiatives/women/focus_areas

3. Vacancies:

The International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) is looking to fill a number of positions which are currently vacant. The ISSAT is a multi-donor initiative, established within the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF). <http://www.dcaf.ch/issat/vacancies.htm>

The Clingendael Institute is a leading think-tank and training centre in the field of international relations. The research and training programmes of the Institute focus on security and conflict, European studies, diplomatic studies, and international energy studies. The Conflict Research Unit (CRU), which is part of the Security and Conflict Programme, has a vacancy per 1st October 2008 for a Research Fellow Security System Reform. <http://www.clingendael.nl/cru/>

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3) Reports and Publications:

1. "Understanding and Improving Law Enforcement Responses to Human Trafficking", Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice, in collaboration with Arizona State University and Sam Houston State University.

A team of researchers at Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice, in collaboration with Arizona State University and Sam Houston State University, has issued a report about the incidence of and response to human trafficking in the United States. Lead by principal investigators Assistant Professor Amy Farrell, Ph.D., and Associate Dean Jack McDevitt, the researchers conducted a random survey of law enforcement agencies throughout the United States to better understand how agencies identify and respond to suspected cases of human trafficking. This survey provides the first comprehensive national look at how local, state and county law enforcement agencies respond to human trafficking. The first part of this report details how law enforcement agencies perceive human trafficking and how they investigate such cases while the second part of the project involved a detailed survey for those agencies who had reported the investigation of a case of human trafficking. http://www.humantrafficking.neu.edu/news_reports/reports/.

2. "Cambodia Database Report On Trafficking & Rape In Cambodia", Joint Statistics.

The NGO Joint Statistics Project on Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) collected information from 25 NGOs representing 63 shelters, referral agencies and legal aid NGOs in 17 Provinces of Cambodia.

The vast majority of trafficked CSE women and girls reaching shelters, referral agencies, and legal aid NGOs were rescued, with only 13% arrested, escaping, or repaying their debts. The police were the rescuing agency in almost two thirds of the cases, followed by Government social workers and NGOs. Significantly, the police were not the mostly likely to refer cases to shelters even though they were by far the most likely to rescue women and girls. Instead, NGOs were the most likely to report and transfer the women and girls to shelters, followed by the police and Government social workers. Women and girls who were recruited for regular jobs (e.g. garment worker, waitress) but were instead forced into sex work were most

likely to have escaped or been rescued by relatives or NGO efforts rather than women and girls who knowingly entered sex work.

<http://www.ecpatcambodia.org/documents/NGO%20Joint%20Statistics%20Database%20Report%20on%20Trafficking%20and%20Rape%20in%20Cambodia%202005-2006.pdf>

3. "USA: Prison Numbers Hit New High. Blacks Hardest Hit by Incarceration Policy", Human Rights Watch.

Racial disparities in incarceration for drug offenses are even more evident when the data analysis incorporates gender. The proportion of black men sent to prison in 2003 because of drug offenses ranged from a low of one in 10 (Oregon) to a high of one in two (New Jersey and Maryland.) The proportion of white men sent to prison because of drug offenses was never higher than 41.8 percent (Oklahoma).

Drug offenses play a greater role in sending women to prison than men. In seven states (Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin), drug sentences accounted for 50 percent or more of all black women sent to prison in 2003. Convictions for drug offenses accounted for 50 percent or more of the new admissions among white women in three states (North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Utah). Marked racial disparities exist among female offenders as well, although the magnitude of the disparity is smaller.

http://hrw.org/reports/2008/us0508/4.htm#_Toc197164951

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4) News:

1. Solomon Islands: "First female judge appointed"

The country's first female Puisne judge for the High Court was sworn in at the Government House on June 5th. She is Justice Nkemdilim Amelia Izuako of Nigeria. Justice Izuako arrived in the country on Monday as a new Puisne judge for the High Court. Registrar of High Court Nelson Laurere said Justice Izuako brings in a wealth of experience to the High Court bench. He said she would further add to and strengthen the work of the High Court in its delivery of justice to the people of this nation. The National Judiciary warmly welcomes her to the bench and looks forward to the contribution she will make to the work of the High Court. A welcome ceremony for her will be made later at the High Court.

http://solomonstarnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1764&Itemid=26&change=71&changeown=78

2. Iran: "Police Launch Stronger Enforcement of Islamic Dress Codes"

Iranian police have launched a more extensive crackdown on "social corruption" such as women flouting Islamic dress codes, the Farhang-e Ashti newspaper reported on Monday. The dress code imposed after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution requires women to cover all their hair and wear long, loose-fitting clothes to disguise the shape of their bodies. Violators can receive lashes, fines or imprisonment.

The authorities usually launch crackdowns before the hot summer months when women like to wear lighter clothing such as calf-length pants and brightly coloured scarves pushed back to expose plenty of hair. But enforcement of strict moral codes governing women's dress became stricter since President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad swept to power in 2005 with the backing of conservative clerics and the Basij religious forces that condemn such "un-Islamic" practices.

<http://www.iht.com/bin/printfriendly.php?id=13732764>

3. Yemen: "Yemeni Women in Security Forces - Observe Social Codes"

Afrah, 23, is one of 20 women recruited to join Yemen's elite counter-terrorism unit (CTU) last summer. She traveled to work this morning wearing a veil and a full-length black balto, an all-encompassing cloak which is traditional dress for women in Yemen. But now she is dressed in fatigues, heavy black boots and shades. Her military uniform is specially designed to meet Islamic principles of modesty, with a long, loose tunic and long sleeves. Only 13 recruits have stayed the course, after a rigorous training programme that has taught them how to enter a house by force, drive a Hummer military vehicle and shoot. All in their early 20s, they were recruited from the military police. Yemen is an extremely conservative society, where a woman's honour reflects on her whole family. In a country where unemployment runs at 40%, these women are evidently proud of their jobs and pleased to take a regular income home to their families.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6510149.stm

4. USA: "Sexual Assault Cases in the Military"

Maria Lauterbach was killed weeks before she was set to testify against her accused rapist. Her remains were later found buried in his backyard. "Maria" is 20-year-old Marine Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach, who disappeared from Camp Lejeune, outside of Jacksonville, N.C., on Dec. 14, 2007, one month before she was expected to give birth. As the local police enlisted the press to help reach out to Lauterbach and solicit information from the local community, it was soon reported that she had recently accused a superior at Camp Lejeune of rape. Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent Paul Ciccarelli attempted to quell suspicions that the two might be linked, assuring the Associated Press that the "sexual encounter" was "not criminal." On Jan. 10, the Marine Corps Times, a weekly newspaper serving military personnel, bolstered this claim, speculating that she may have fled to avoid charges for "making false statements." That same day, Lauterbach's accused assailant, Marine Cpl. Cesar Laurean, was scheduled to appear at the Onslow County Sheriff's office for questioning. He never showed up. On Jan. 11, Laurean, who had reported for duty for a full month after Lauterbach's disappearance, failed to do so. His wife told investigators that she believed he had left for Mexico and gave investigators a note written by Laurean that said Lauterbach had slit her own throat with a knife, and he then buried her. Detectives have rejected that claim, and an autopsy found that Lauterbach died of a blunt force trauma to the head. Later that day, her charred body was uncovered in a shallow grave behind the Laurean home. The horrific discovery took place only weeks before she was to testify against Laurean. The Lauterbach case exemplifies the "criminal failure" of all branches of the military to address sexual assault for what it is: a violent crime. It is a "broken system" that puts victims on the defense, grants immunity to assailants and, in the end, puts rape survivors who have the courage to speak out, in even greater danger than if they had just accepted the abuse as collateral damage in their military careers.

http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/3541/silenced_in_the_barracks/

5. Egypt: "Forum seeks female peacekeeping troops to protect women in conflict"

African women leaders on Sunday 22 June vowed to press for the deployment of more female peace-keepers to protect women in conflict and called on the African Union (AU) to appoint more female peace envoys. The African women, who met to discuss the state of women affairs in the continent ahead of the African Union (AU) semi-annual conference convening in the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El Sheikh, also called for an urgent end to violence against women in Africa. The conference was attended by African ministers in charge of gender, legal experts within Africa

and the Diaspora and regional institutions engaged in the campaign to improve the women welfare, among a host of other institutions to popularize the gender campaign. The participants urged the AU to strengthen its campaign against violence, noting that the women in the continent remained less active in peace negotiations, even though they were the worst affected by the conflict.

"Peace and security is a pre-requisite for development," said Monica Juma, the Executive Director of the South Africa-based Africa Policy Institute. Other measures agreed upon by the women include the need to recruit more female soldiers for the peacekeeping operations within the continent to protect girls and provide specialized care to women; and for the AU Commission to tackle the crisis facing women in countries emerging from conflicts, especially Burundi and Liberia.

<http://www.afriquenligne.fr/news/africa-news/forum-seeks-female-peacekeeping-troops-to-protect-women-in-conflict-200806237364.html>

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