



Conflict Related Sexual Violence in Peace Negotiations: Implementing Security Council Resolution 1820

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT: Press Conference on High-Level Colloquium on *Conflict Related Sexual Violence in Peace Negotiations: Implementing Security Council Resolution 1820*, 22-24 June 2009

WHEN: 11:15 a.m., 24 June, Wednesday

WHERE: Room S-226, United Nations Secretariat Building

WHO: **Jan Egeland** Director, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs and Former UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; **Leymah Gbowee**, Executive Director of Women Peace and Security Network, Africa and founding member of Women in Peace building Program/West African Network for Peace building; **Major General Patrick Cammaert**, Former General Officer Commanding the Eastern Division in MONUC in DRC; and **Anne-Marie Goetz**, Chief Advisor, Governance, Peace and Security Section, UNIFEM

WHY: For women in today's civil wars, often the war is not over when it is over. Sexual violence has become a method of fighting in modern war, with devastating impact on women and their communities. Failure to address sexual violence in the peace processes, to treat it as a war crime and prosecute it means that it spills over into peace time, with countries like Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo currently seeing an epidemic of rape. Addressing sexual violence in peace processes is a way of signaling that sexual violence is unacceptable in the post-conflict era. Yet it has been absent from peace accords for a number of reasons, not least because so few women participate in peace talks. In 2008, the UN Security Council acknowledged the use of sexual violence in conflict as a deliberate tactic of war. The challenges of addressing this issue in peace processes will be discussed at the Colloquium of high-level mediators, experts, and peace activists. The meeting is timed to contribute to discussions on the upcoming Secretary-General's Report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1820.

- UNIFEM research shows that, since the end of the Cold War, and out of approximately 300 peace agreements examined in 45 conflicts, only 10 peace processes have even mentioned sexual violence (Uganda, Darfur, Nepal, Indonesia/Aceh, Sudan/Nuba Mountains, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Philippines, Chiapas, and Guatemala).
- In a review of 22 peace processes since 1992, women have averaged just over 7.5% of negotiators and fewer than 2% of mediators – with the highest levels of representation being prior to 2000 in the peace processes for El Salvador and Guatemala.
- In ceasefires, sexual violence has not in the past been monitored effectively or treated as an act that would breach the ceasefire.

NOTE: Interviews with peace negotiators and experts are available. For full details of the colloquium and participants visit www.unifem.org and www.stoprapenow.org Press conference webcast: www.un.org/webcast

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