

Women at Work: Preventing Gun Violence

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Bulletin No. 23, July 2010

Israel: Gun Free Kitchen Tables

Gun Free Kitchen Tables is a new initiative of the Isha L'Isha Feminist Center in Haifa, to demand the prompt implementation of a pre-existing and clearly life-saving government-level recommendation. Under this recommendation private security guards would no longer be allowed to take home arms after work shifts.

"We don't know who she is, but we know we can save her life."

Taking this measure in 2005, when it was first recommended, would have saved the lives of the many women and men murdered by security guards after work hours.

At least eleven women and three men were shot in Israel between 2002 and 2010 by intimate partners or family members working as security guards (also called 'private police'), with small arms taken home after work. Many of the victims were recent immigrants to Israel, positioned in marginalised, often impoverished social conditions without access to adequate support systems.

Gun Free Kitchen Tables, led by writer, activist and independent scholar Rela Mazali and human rights lawyer Smadar Ben Natan has set out to build up popular support for this demand, both among grassroots groups and decision makers.

After receiving a seed grant, it will, over coming months, conduct advocacy efforts in women's groups, immigrants' communities, public health organisations, through the media, while engaging decision makers in the police, the legislature and the private policing industry itself. Meanwhile, extending and consolidating its research-based program, it will begin proposing and promoting practical strategies for implementing this vital recommendation.

In the process, Gun Free Kitchen Tables

intends to problematise the accelerated proliferation of small arms in Israel's civic space, underlining the gendered aspects of this phenomenon and stressing why women need to actively address it.

Rela Mazali has also written about this in the publication 'Sexed pistols: the gendered impacts of small arms and light weapons' edited by Vanessa Farr, Henri Myrtilinen and Albrecht Schnabel. In Chapter 9 "The gun on the kitchen table: The sexist subtext of private policing in Israel" she focuses on the highly accelerated proliferation of privately owned and operated security companies in Israel in the past decade. She argues that the spread and growth of such companies deepen Israeli militarisation in a variety of ways, including through the domestication of small arms proliferation.

She also notes that broader army and police cultures have been incorporated into the private policing sector. Among other things, this has brought with it practices of routine sexual harassment. There has, however, been little public monitoring of harassment in private companies. Moreover, unlike the police and the army, which have preventive policies in place, private security companies are not required to address the problem of sexual harassment. These conditions contribute to generally high levels of insecurity for women in Israeli society.

In recent years there has been an increase in gun use in murders of women by intimates. Some of these were guns

signed out to private security guards. Ironically, security guards are perceived to be protective agents who are supposed to avert danger. Yet for many women in Israel the private policing industry brings discrimination and danger into their private lives – their families and homes.

Isha L'Isha, established in 1983, is the oldest grassroots feminist organisation in Israel and one of the leading voices of women's rights in the country. Based in Haifa, the organisation works primarily in the northern part of Israel but many projects focus on implementing system-wide solutions to issues pertaining to women's lives. As a result, Isha L'Isha has a national influence, reaching target audiences throughout the country.

For more details see: www.isha.org.il and www.unu.edu/unupress/2009/sexedPistols.html



Network News

Gender Policy launch: Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSEA)



RECSEA, the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa, has launched its Gender Policy to mainstream gender in RECSEA processes.

The Gender Policy aims to ensure gender responsiveness at all stages of design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of small arms control programmes and policies.

RECSEA is an institutional framework arising from the Nairobi Declaration to coordinate the joint effort by National Focal Points in Member States to prevent, combat and eradicate stockpiling and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.

The Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa was signed on the 15th March 2000 by the Governments of Burundi, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The core business of RECSEA is to coordinate the joint effort by National Focal Points (or National Commissions) in Member States to prevent, combat and eradicate stockpiling and illicit trafficking in small arms and light

weapons, ammunition and related material in the Great lakes and Horn of Africa.

The East African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) is a lead organisation in the advocacy on the gender dimensions of small arms in the Eastern African region. EASSI, as a gender focused organisation, gave its valuable technical expertise to RECSEA in the process of its Gender Policy.

On 20-21 May 2010 RECSEA also hosted an EU Project Regional Meeting, in Entebbe, Uganda. IANSA women from EASSI and FECCLAHA attended, amongst others.

<http://www.recsasec.org/pdf/gender.pdf>

Eastern Africa: Time for a Gender Protocol?

October 2010 marks 10 years since UN SCR 1325 was unanimously passed. A UN review Conference is planned later in the year. It is in that same spirit of 1325 which affirms that local and international women's rights groups should be consulted on the implementation of 1325 that EASSI held a regional Conference to review 1325 in Kampala, Uganda on 12-13 July 2010. EASSI's partner organisations in Burundi, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda participated.

The Conference also acknowledged ongoing regional integration processes and in particular the efforts to engender them through an East African Protocol for Gender Equality at the East African Community level and at the regional level, the AU Decade for women 2010-2020.

The situation of women and girls in the Eastern African sub-region as a result of armed conflict remains varied. However what is clear is that women increasingly bear the burden of armed conflict and experience it in a different way from men. In addition, armed conflicts often exacerbate inequalities that exist in different forms and to varying degrees in all societies and that make women particularly vulnerable. Documented evidence from across the region attests to this.

Ten years ago when the Security Council adopted the resolution, it brought to light one of history's greatest silences—the systematic, brutal and widespread practice of violence against women and girls in armed conflict. The impetus for adopting resolution 1325 was strong.

Women at Work: Preventing Gun Violence. Quarterly Bulletin of the IANSA Women's Network, in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Compiled by Sarah Masters

Recent wars, ranging from those in the former Yugoslavia, to Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nepal and Afghanistan, as well as other conflict zones, were marked by significant violence against women and girls. It is estimated that 70 per cent of non-combatant casualties in recent conflicts were mostly women and children. In recent years, the conflict in the DRC has impacted negatively on women with many maimed, raped and traumatised. In the post-election violence in Kenya in late 2007 and early 2008, women were again the target of these violations.

However, some progress has been made and positive actions taken by different stakeholders. It is important to deliberate on this so that we can collectively develop the mechanisms to sustain the monitoring process of 1325. Key outcomes of the conference included:

- Enhanced engagement in the 1325 review process and conflict resolution;
- Enhanced implementation of 1325 by key stakeholders in the region;
- Awareness creation on gender mainstreaming in regional integration processes;
- Skills building on new technologies to address violence against women.

Opportunities for exchange and learning

The Philippines/Colombia

Jasmin Nario-Galace of the IANSA Women's Network and Sulong CARHRIHL, facilitated and led a roundtable discussion on 'Women, Peace, and Security in Colombia and the Philippines' on 10 July 2010. The event took place during a week-long visit to the Philippines by Colombian peace, human rights and women's rights advocates. The event was co-organised by Sulong CARHRIHL, Conciliation Resources and INEPAZ.

According to the organisers, the Colombian guests were inspired by the Philippines' National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (P-NAP) launched in March 2010. The Plan is the first to include commitments on reducing gun violence against women, a victory achieved by women's rights and peace movements in the Philippines. The exchange inspired some members of the delegation to confront obstacles they are facing in their quest to develop a National Action Plan on 1325 in Colombia.

On 2 August 2010 partner groups of Sulong CARHRIHL had a session to discuss how they can help implement the P-NAP which includes a plan to enact and enforce laws regulating possession of small arms. As IANSA woman Jasmin Nario-Galace states, this is because small arms "are the primary weapons that sustain conflicts, victimise women, and threaten their work in communities as peacemakers and peace builders."

The partners of Sulong CARHRIHL drew up plans that included awareness-raising sessions in communities and lobbying for women representatives in local councils that work on peace and security, among others.

In addition to these events, the Women's Peacemakers Program (WPP) of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation organised a Training of Trainers event between 1-6 July 2010 at which Jasmin spoke about UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and the P-NAP. As gender lies at the root of war and peace and it is increasingly being recognized that issues of masculinities need to be addressed in the field of peacebuilding and active nonviolence, WPP is convinced that in order to transform cultures of war and violence, women peace activists need to work together with male allies on these issues.

19 men from 17 countries in Central America, Africa, Asia and Europe participated in 'Gender-Sensitive Active Non-Violence Training: Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peacebuilding'. The training focused on gender-sensitive active non-violence, the theory of masculinities and its relation to violence, and participatory and gender-sensitive facilitation. A manual building on the lessons from the trainings will be published later this year.

For more information see: www.sulongnetwork.ph and www.ifor.org/WPP

Nigeria

IANSA women in Nigeria, the Women's Right to Education Programme held a Training of Trainers' workshop on 'Conflict Transformation, Peace Building and Small Arms Control' on 22-23 July. The training was part of a project aimed at increasing women's participation in local community peace building and conflict resolution.

The project is currently being implemented in three states of the Niger delta region (Delta, Edo and Rivers States). Participants included 10 men and 32 women from communities in these states. Mimidoo Achakpa comments that, "After the training, participants were motivated and empowered to pass down skills and knowledge to other people in their communities."



Participants at the training

Topics included advocacy, activism and peace building, gender dialogue, the role of women in developing early warning signs, conflict analysis concept and methodology, small arms control and its challenges, peace building, keeping, making, and UNSCR 1325 and its implementation.

Participants also shared their various experiences of conflict situations and have undertaken to work on peace building activities in their various communities after the training.



A roleplay exercise

Guidelines for gender mainstreaming for the effective implementation of the UN PoA

IANSA women were active participants at the 4th UN Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms, 14-18 June 2010. Representatives of all UN Member States have come together in New York to consider implementation of the 2001 'Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects' (PoA).



From left to right: Rebecca Gerome, Glynis Alonzo-Beaton, Agnès Marcaillou and Bibiane Aningina Tshefu

On Tuesday 15 June 2010, the Regional Disarmament Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Mission of Norway to the UN, and the IANSA Women's Network held a side event 'Gender and the PoA: including all voices'.

Eliminating the illicit trade in SALW requires the participation of all: men as well as women. Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) recognises the need to take into account the impact of conflict on women and men, including issues related to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

This event underscored the human security rationale for the inclusion of gender perspectives in the implementation of the PoA. It also helped practitioners identify ways of mainstreaming gender perspectives in the PoA's implementation.

Chaired by Ms Agnès Marcaillou: Chief, Regional Disarmament Branch, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, speakers included Ms Rebecca Gerome: The Advocacy Project, Colombia/France; Ms Glynis Alonzo-Beaton: YWCA, Guyana; and Ms Bibiane Aningina Tshefu: Women as Partners for Peace in Africa, DRC.

In view of the 4th BMS, 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (October 2010) The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs Regional Disarmament Branch (UNODA/RDB) and IANSA revised the "Guidelines for gender mainstreaming for the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA)" in order to refocus efforts based on new developments, progress made and lessons learnt in

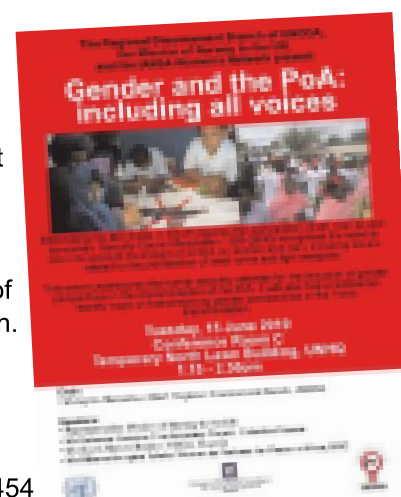
the implementation of the PoA, as well as in the area of gender mainstreaming in peace and security.

Since 2001 the women's movement, through the IANSA Women's Network, has contributed to expanding knowledge and expertise on small arms control, and the specific impacts of armed violence on women and girls. However a combination of lack of political will to institutionalise and implement gender sensitive policies continue to frustrate women's efforts. Greater State commitment of resources for promoting gender equality within the UN small arms process is needed.

The IANSA Women's Network also released a statement urging States to take a systematic gender-inclusive approach in the implementation of the PoA. An enhanced understanding of gender-specific perceptions of peace and human security are crucial to ensure the full and effective implementation of the PoA.

Women and men have an equal right to participate and to be considered in these processes. Gender roles must be encompassed in terms of the diverse impacts of SALW on men, women, boys and girls, and the different points of engagement for positive action.

For more information, see: www.iansa-women.org/node/451 and www.iansa-women.org/node/454



Disarm Domestic Violence: Campaign updates

The first international campaign to protect women from gun violence in the home. The main goal is to ensure that anyone with a history of domestic abuse is denied access to a firearm, and has their licence revoked.

Canada

In November 2009, the House of Commons passed the second reading of Private Member's Bill C-391, which proposes to abolish the requirement to register rifles and shotguns. The vote to determine the future of the registry is now delayed until September 2010 when the House of Commons will decide whether or not to abandon the registry.

Women's groups from across the country insist that the registry is an essential tool in combating violence against women. Women's groups and front-line shelter workers continue to support it because they see firsthand that it works. On a national scale, Canada's gun control legislation is supported by more than 300 organisations, including more than 100 women's groups and front-line shelters.

Colombia

"Because we care about your life, say no to violence, say no to arms" was the slogan of the Second Week of Action on Disarmament in Medellin, Colombia on 10-17 July 2010. The week was organised by local government and focused on disarmament and particularly the Disarm Domestic Violence campaign.

IANSA women from Colectivo Mujeres Pazificas participated in the programme which included a voluntary gun collection, as well as workshops attended by legal experts. More than 500 people participated in a human chain demanding 'Respect For Life' and local artists and musicians performed a song they had written calling for disarmament.



Dominican Republic

The Caribbean Institute for the Rule of Law (ICED) conducted a survey which shows that 42% of women victims of domestic violence in the Dominican Republic have been threatened with a gun.

Published in June 2010, the survey also found that 82% of the guns used in domestic violence incidents are legally held. ICED has recently joined the Disarm Domestic Violence campaign and is urging the Dominican government to amend the national firearms laws to prevent anyone with a history of domestic abuse having access to a firearm and has their licence revoked.

Portugal

IANSA women from the Peace Studies Group (Centre for Social Studies, Coimbra University) and the Observatory on Gender and Armed Violence (OGAV) have launched the results of a national survey undertaken between October 2009 and March 2010. According to the survey, the threat of gun use is the most common form of intimidation, exceeding the situations of gun pointing and exhibition.

South Africa

The organisation that oversees the police is so concerned about officers who kill their wives and girlfriends with their state-issued guns that it has recommended forcing policemen to leave their weapons at work. The Independent Complaints Directorate conducted a three-year study, the results of which were released last month. It revealed that 49 women romantically involved with police officers were killed by them between 2005 and 2007. But not included in the report were the murders of 99 other police wives and girlfriends, in 2008 and 2009. Figures for 2010 will be released in September.

The directorate blamed the killings on stress, poor management support, financial problems, bad working conditions, uncertain futures - and easy access to guns.

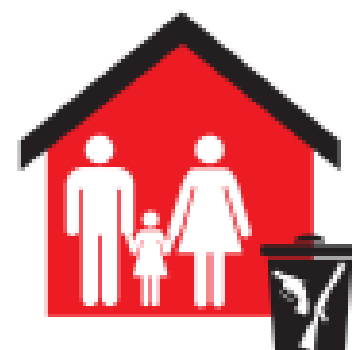
In the report, former Independent Complaints Directorate head Karen McKenzie is quoted as saying: "I am concerned about the increase in femicides and domestic violence cases perpetrated by police officers. "The South African Police Service are the custodians of the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, but if they are not protecting and respecting their own partners or spouses, what of the women in the community they serve?"

IANSA woman Lisa Vetten, of the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre to End Violence Against Women, agreed with the directorate's research findings. Her own research found that men employed in the security industry were four times more likely to kill their partners than other men.

USA

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) recently held two online seminars to explain the enforcement of the new Firearms Bill 2010 (SF 2357) which prohibits a person from possessing a firearm if they are subject to a civil domestic abuse protective order or have been convicted of a crime of domestic violence.

For more information see:
www.iansa-women.org/disarm_dv



Announcements

India: IANSA woman awarded the 2010 Sean MacBride Peace Prize

IANSA woman Binalakshmi Nepram of the Manipuri Women Gun Survivors Network, and the Control Arms Foundation of India, has been awarded the Sean MacBride Peace Prize for 2010 by the International Peace Bureau (IPB).

The Prize is awarded annually by the International Peace Bureau (IPB), founded in 1891. It is named after Sean MacBride, a distinguished Irish statesman who shared the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize, and is given to individuals or organisations for their outstanding work for peace, disarmament and human rights.

IPB's Secretary-General Colin Archer said: "It gives me enormous pleasure to convey the IPB Board's decision to award Ms Binalakshmi Nepram the 2010 Sean MacBride Peace Prize in recognition of her extraordinary efforts to promote disarmament and an end to gun violence in India. Her pioneering work with both the Manipuri Women's Gun Survivor Network and the Control Arms Foundation of India has

demonstrated deep determination and commitment - in particular to the linkage between disarmament and development, which is a vital topic for the IPB. Her achievements offer an inspiring model for activists in other parts of the world".

The Prize will be awarded to Ms Nepram on 23rd September 2010 at the Nobel Centre in the Norwegian capital Oslo during the opening session of the IPB's Triennial Conference, entitled 'A Climate of Peace'. (see details at: <http://www.ipb.org>)

In a statement issued in New Delhi, Ms Nepram wrote, "I am deeply humbled to hear that I have been awarded the Sean MacBride Peace Prize for 2010. The journey for peace, justice, universal disarmament and a world free of war is long and challenging. But news such as this motivates me and my team at Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Control Arms Foundation of India to keep working for a peaceful world with dedication and strength in our hearts. I dedicate this award to the



struggling people of Manipur in Northeast India and in other conflict zones around the world for whom a life in peace is still a distant dream. We have a long tiring road to walk together".

<http://ipb.org/i/about-ipb/II-F-mac-bride-peace-prize.html>

Precarious Progress: Women, Peace and Security

IANSA is a co-convenor of this year's Women PeaceMakers working conference "Precarious Progress: UN Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security" hosted by the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ). Other convenors include the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice.

The conference will take place between 29 September and 1 October 2010 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego, California, USA immediately prior to the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. This international working conference calls upon peacebuilders, policymakers and activists to examine the successes of, and obstacles to, the UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security.

Delegates from UN agencies, governments, INGOs, NGOs and academia will review the on-the-ground realities of Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 in promoting greater gender participation in protection, prevention and recovery.

Focus will be on indicators of change and designing progressive steps to promote the policies that can end the ongoing rape, torture, trafficking and displacement due to the exclusion of women from peace tables and post-conflict decision making.

For more information and to become a delegate, please visit: http://peace.sandiego.edu/precarius_progress or contact wpmconference@sandiego.edu



Events

International Day of Peace

21 September 2010

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982.

<http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>

Precarious Progress: UN Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ): 29 September - 1 October 2010, San Diego, USA

This international working conference calls upon peacebuilders, policymakers and activists to examine the successes of, and obstacles to, the UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security.

http://peace.sandiego.edu/precarious_progress

International World Day for non-violence

2 October 2010

An occasion to disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness, to secure a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/nonviolence/day/index.shtml>

UN SCR 1325: 10th anniversary

31 October 2010

October 2010 marks ten years since the passage of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The theme for this anniversary year is Women Count for Peace. To amplify the voices and concerns of women in conflict contexts, so that they can stand up and be counted for peace.

www.unifem.org/campaigns/1325plus10/

35th Congress of the International Alliance of Women (IAW)

23-27 November 2010: Boksburg, South Africa

Among the highlights will be a meeting with Rashida Manjoo, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women; a number of roundtables on various aspects of violence against women; and one on the role of women in conflict resolution.

www.womenalliance.org/pdf/Firstcall_congress_2010.pdf

The Third International Conference on Women's Safety

22-24 November 2010: New Delhi, India

This event will bring together international actors in the field of women's safety for exchange and debate on key topics in current practice.

www.womenincities.org

Resources

Como te haces entender?: Gender and Gun Cultures in the Caribbean Context

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW), May 2010

This study addresses the research gap in social constructions of gun ownership and gun abuse through its engendered study of gun cultures in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. The work identifies the cultural, gender and socio-economic complexities influencing gun cultures, with case studies in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

www.iansa-women.org/node/429

Cross the Lines

Women Peacemakers Program

A new issue of 'Cross the Lines', a quarterly publication by the Women Peacemakers Program of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, is out. It contains news, resources and a calendar related to women, peace and security. One article, "Together for Transformation – Men, Masculinities and Peacebuilding", reports on an event in Hague on 27 May marking International Women's Day of Peace and Disarmament (May 24). IANSA representative Ann Vranckx spoke at this event about the Latin American experience with peacebuilding and masculinities. The publication is available in English, Dutch, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

www.ifor.org/WPP/

Legal Tools for the Establishment of Gender Equality through International Law

The Global Justice Centre, 2010

A manual to help people use international law to advance rights. The manual starts with a general background on the role of international law and how it can be used in a domestic context. It then touches on the concept of Customary International Law and some international forums for enforcing women's rights when domestic efforts are not sufficient.

www.awid.org/eng/Tools/Latest-Tools2/Legal-Tools-for-the-Establishment-of-Gender-Equality-through-International-Law

Pan-Arab Training Guide on Practical Ways to engage Men and Boys in the Fight to end Violence against Women

KAFA and Oxfam GB, 2010

Lebanese women's rights organisation KAFA and Oxfam GB have released the first ever pan-Arab training guide on practical ways to engage men and boys in the fight to end violence against women throughout the region. Oxfam GB and KAFA, have been jointly running a pilot initiative, known as a 'men's forum', in the Bekaa Valley region of Lebanon for the past few months working with men and boys. They hope to replicate the successful project in other Arab countries aided by the new training guide.

www.wunrn.com/news/2010/05_10/05_10_10/051010_arab.htm

Taking Aim at the Arms Trade

Anna Stavrianakis, Zed Books, 2010

Stavrianakis exposes the tensions inherent in NGOs' engagement with the arms trade and argues for a re-examination of dominant assumptions about NGOs as global civil society actors.

For more information contact ruvani.de_silva@zedbooks.net

Women in the Armed and Police Forces: Resolution 1325 and Peace Operations in Latin America

RESDAL, May 2010

The goal of this book is to contribute to the development of UN SCR 1325 especially on the eve of its 10th anniversary. It researches women's integration in the defence and security sphere and their contribution to peace operations in the region. The first part deals with the gender perspective in the current conflicts and developments of international security. The second part includes a comparative analysis on the female integration of the armed forces, the police and national contributions to UN peace operations.

www.iansa-women.org/node/441

The IANSA Women's Network



The only international network focused on the connections between gender, women's rights, small arms and armed violence.

Capacity building - **Survivors** - UN small arms process - **Disarm Domestic Violence** - Armed Violence prevention - **UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security** - Strategy - **Policy** - **DDR** - **National gun laws** - The Arms Trade Treaty - **Solidarity** - Masculinities - **Armed violence against women** - Peacebuilding - **Empowerment** - Women's participation - **Disarmament** - Security Sector Reform

We are grateful to the Government of Norway for its support.