

Feminist Phenomenon

7th Anniversary of Resolution 1325

Is it the 7th Year of Hypocrisies, or the Year of Implementation?

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"We should not longer focus on women and peace, but on men and war." Felicity Hill, vice-president of WILPF

The 7th anniversary of resolution 1325 has been celebrated by the UN Security Council in New York. The women of the world, however, question the need to celebrate this resolution after 7 years of its adoption in October 2000.

What is the use of celebrating the law that for the first time expressed concern over women adversely affected by armed conflicts, and did not act to protect women from the suffering they face in these wars and conflicts? What is the use of "reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peace-building" when the Security Council members do not abide by this resolution? What is the use of "reaffirming also the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts" when we still witness repetitive violations to women and girls' rights in areas of conflicts?

Women across the world hoped well in the adoption of Resolution 1325 that calls for protecting women in areas of conflict by securing effective measures when it "*Urges* Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict"; and "*Encourages* the Secretary-General to implement his strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes".

In fact, the occasion enhances us to look for what could be more beneficial to do at the resolution anniversary: Would it be to pursue aggressively the implementation of the resolution; or to praise women's achievements while no progress has been achieved in their vital problems in areas of conflict? What would the women of the world benefit from all the speeches and nice talk and official celebrations? Is it another summit of hypocrisies as described by one woman activist?

Shall we join forces with the words of Felicity Hill, vice-president of WILPF, stating: "We should not longer focus on women and peace, but on men and war. We should formulate another resolution on men, peace and security. The 10th anniversary in 2010 could be an occasion for that.."

The German Women's Security Council declared at the 7th anniversary of the UN resolution under the heading: "It is time to implement resolution 1325",

"The German Women's Security Council reminds that there is a great deficiency in implementing the UN resolution 1325 that calls for full support of women to participate in the peace-making process adopted by the UN Security Council on 31/10/2007. At this 7th year of deception, the government did less than what has been done during the past years to implement the resolution as witnessed by the Women's Security Council. The council also finds that one of the reasons for the set back is the declaration of the president of the European Defence Agency, better called the European Death Agency that has been published in German newspapers on 24th October, announcing that the year 2008 will be the year for armament. In addition, Alexander Fays, the ex-executive manager of the German Ministry of Defence, plans to have two major arms projects, launching a new model of helicopters and launching satellites, a plan that lacks the democratic legality and leadership. The Women's Security Council demands to transfer the budget set for such projects into projects that prevent disputes and guarantee equal rights between men and women for the implementation of Resolution 1325, within the European continent as well. It is the duty of all political European activists from all political parties to support this decision".

During a noticeable women celebration, the German Women Security Council presented a small gift to those who did not implement the Resolution 1325: a nod, then 1325 in a handkerchief meaning: Do not forget something important!

I wonder what gift would be given by women in areas of conflict to those who did not implement the Resolution. What would be the present given by those women suffering from occupation, suppression without any protection or care? What would be the present given by those women demanding their right to exist in Iraq and Palestine, by achieving their right to decide on matters related to peace making and disputes resolution?

Where can we find abidance to the Geneva Convention 1945, and its subsequent protocol of 1977? Or to the Refugees Convention of 1951 and subsequent protocol of 1967? Or even the Convention to end all forms of discrimination against women of 1977 and its subsequent protocol of 1999? They all call for abiding with the international law that applies and protects women rights.

Doesn't the occasion require the Arab women organizations in general and the Palestinian women organizations in particular to have a critical stand to the implementation of the Resolution 1325? Doesn't this occasion require forming women pressure groups that stand against deception and demand to look seriously into implementation of the Resolution especially that a number of women societies base their daily operations on this resolution?

How about having serious efforts to prepare a file on women authenticated testimonies to be presented at the 8th anniversary of the Resolution? This will represent an honest response to the resolution implementation "that stresses on the responsibility of all countries to end evading punishment". The testimonies will be addressed to the countries that did not enforce the Resolution, demanding to "put to justice those responsible for mass murders, crimes against humanity and war crimes"?

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