

## Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition

September 2010 Update

### ACTIVITY

#### 1. *International NGO Seminar on Protection for Human Rights Defenders, 2 – 5 September 2010, Oslo Norway*

The meeting brought together representatives of international and regional human rights organisations that operate programmes to protect human rights defenders, together with representatives of some national human rights defenders' organisations, and government representatives from Brazil, Ireland, Norway and Spain to review the effectiveness of initiatives by international and regional human rights NGOs, and governments, to protect human rights defenders. The participants discussed a wide range of issues including: the impact of human rights of non-state actors such faith-based extremist groups and criminal gangs (drug cartels) armed groups, businesses or corporations and the emerging strategies to make them accountable such as an Article 19 local law enforcement project in Mexico; efforts to mainstream the needs of women and LGBTI defenders with suggested systematisation and application of criteria for assessing gender-based violations; improving the quality of protection for human rights defenders by addressing psychological stress and well-being.

The WHRD IC Coordinator made a brief presentation on women human rights defenders emphasizing the need to broaden the concept of security and addressing the increasing prominence of allegations of abuses by non-state actors with recommendations to improve coordination and gender-sensitivity of protection initiatives among international and regional NGOs. Aside from Front Line, other members of the Coalition were also represented: AI; APWLD, FIDH; Forum Asia; Human Rights First; ISHR; and OMCT.

### SECRETARIAT

*Coordinator undertakes a UNIFEM-OHCHR Pacific scoping mission to support women human rights defenders in the Papua New Guinea Highlands*

From September 15 – October 12, the Coordinator took a brief leave from the Coalition for a consultancy with UNIFEM Pacific to carry out a scoping mission to support women human rights defenders in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea in the context of violence against women and tribal armed conflict. Field visits were conducted in the provinces of Chimbu, Eastern and Western Highlands to meet with women human rights defenders, local enforcement officials, violence against women service providers, donors and NGOs to develop policy advocacy guidelines and a concept note for a project to support women human rights defenders in the Highlands.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4-22 Oct: CEDAW – 47th session. Geneva</li><li>• 3-5 November: ISHR Consultation with Women Human Rights Defenders in Africa</li></ul> |
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• 17-26 Nov: Working Group on Arbitrary Detention – 59th session. Geneva.
• 22 Nov- 3 Dec: UPR Working Group – 9th session. Geneva
• 29 Nov: Women Human Rights Defenders Day
• 29-30 November: APWLD Consultation with UN Special Rapporteur on VAW, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
• 2- 4 Dec: Forum Asia Asian Consultation on Human Rights Defenders, Manila, Philippines
• 5 – 6 Dec: WHRD IC Working Group meetings, Manila, Philippines

See full calendar at:

[http://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/pdf/whrd\\_ic\\_calendar2010.pdf](http://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/pdf/whrd_ic_calendar2010.pdf)

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20 September 2010

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Secretariat