

Open letter from Indigenous Women Republican Front to Mr. Ian Martin, Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary General to Nepal for proportionate representation and women sensitive peace process.

Kathmandu, Nepal,
12th December 2006

To: The UN Secretary General's Personal Envoy to Nepal, Mr. Ian Martin

Copy to:
UN Security Council
UN Secretary General Kofi Annan
UN Secretary General Elect Ban Ki-Moon

Dear Mr. Martin

Indigenous women are continuously contributing for peace and democracy in the country. Indigenous, Dalit, Madhesi and Disabled women too in spite of historical discrimination and exclusion are organized and present as Nepali women with their distinct identities, issues and vision. Our engagement in spite of continuous exclusion shows the high level of collective consciousness and capability. We welcome the Parliament for this recognition and the decision of Parliament for at least 33% women representation

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 has been one of the most useful instruments to ensure our representation and united and struggling for the implementation. We are therefore looking forward the arrival of Technical Assessment Mission (TAM). We wish UN to respect UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and support us in getting it implemented. For this we request the following actions to be taken immediately:

- 1. The UN's forthcoming Technical Assessment Mission (TAM) must live up to the provision of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and this must be the standard and condition for work with any parties of the peace process in Nepal.**
- 2. TAM must meet with a broad cross section of women peace activists including Indigenous, Dalit, Madhesi, Disabled and Religious Minorities Women in Nepal during its visit. We can assist and coordinate the visit. We regret that in the past UN visits, no women were present.**
- 3. TAM must request a strong representation of women in all its meetings with government, military and Maoists to address the issues of concern regarding women and children and the cantonment, security, reintegration and elections processes.**
- 4. The electoral and military observers must be gender balanced with orientation on the provisions of UNSC1325 and issues of concern regarding women and children and the cantonment, security, reintegration and election processes.**
- 5. Your office and the UN system reflect gender balance and sensitive in**

differential needs and situation of indigenous and minority women and men in all your deliberations.

We appreciate the efforts of the UN system, particularly UNFPA, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, and UNIFEM for trying to integrate the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security into your work regarding the Nepali peace process.

There are many strong women and women's organizations in Nepal building peace at the grassroots, regional and national levels. Their participation is a precondition for social inclusion and democracy. To exclude them would be a great loss for everyone here. We cannot afford to marginalize these vast resources for peace.

Looking forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by

Stella Tamang,

Co-Coordinator,

Coordination Council

Indigenous Women Republican Front,

Coordination Council Member

Ram Pyari Sunwar,

Samita Rai,

Kalpana Kumal

Ang Dawa Sherpa

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Indigenous Women Republican Front is a coalition of Indigenous Women organizations and individuals who are working for federal republican state, regional autonomy with the right to self-determination, proportionate representation of indigenous women in 51% of women representation.