



The implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East

In the light of the revolutionary movements in many North African countries which started in early 2011 important transformation processes have been set in motion in the region. NATO's Public Diplomacy and Political Affairs and Security Policy Divisions and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung have decided to hold a conference on the transitions in North Africa and implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security in order to raise the awareness of both the special needs of women as well as their potential. The aim of the conference will be to discuss the **added value and effectiveness of an increased participation of women** both during armed conflicts and in the political side of transformation processes and will identify best practices within the countries concerned. Another aim of the conference is to engage political/military leaders to adopt a top-down approach in ensuring the integration of UN resolution 1325. The event will connect active women's rights activists from Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Jordan and Morocco with stakeholders which deal with different aspects of Security Sector Reform processes.

In **Libya** after the Arab League asked the United Nations Security Council to impose a no-fly zone over Libya in March 2011 in order to prevent killings of civilian protesters by Libyan armed forces the U.N. passed a resolution to authorize the use of military force¹ against Muhamar Gadhafi. A coalition of American and European forces began enforcing the no-fly zone and the arms embargo which was then quickly taken over by NATO. After seven months of armed conflict with the support of a NATO-enforced no-fly zone under UN mandate, the previous regime under Muhamar Gadhafi was overthrown by the rebel forces.

In **Egypt** and **Tunisia** the protests led to the fall of current governments and the start of a transition process. In **Jordan and Morocco** the heads of states and elites did remain in power, some concessions such as partial resignation of governmental representatives or parliaments, the holding of referenda as well as the commitment to improvements in human rights were made and the societies of these countries have become less restrictive to a certain extent. In Syria the continued demonstrations have led to violent repressions from governmental troops and killings of protesters are ongoing. The international communities' response such as an ultimatum of the Arab League in November 2011 to exclude Syria from its members unless the killings are stopped has so far remained ineffective.

¹ The main elements of resolution 1973 (2011) are: to protect civilians and civilian populated areas, to establish a ban on all flights in the airspace of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo, deny permission to any aircraft registered in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya or owned or operated by Libyan nationals or companies to take off from, land in or overfly their territory and enforce the freezing of assets. (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10200.doc.htm>)



Concerning the involvement of women in security and conflict in Libya women obtained a greater role during and after the armed conflict, for instance in medical care. Also, some reports claim women to have been involved in all aspects of the conflict². However, it remains yet to be seen whether women will be able to continue being involved more actively and indeed, given the fact that the NATO operation has come to an end it should also be discussed if there is a role for NATO in supporting women in security and if so, what it could look like.

For the greater region a similar logic applies. A characteristic of the transformation processes is an increase in instability and deterioration of security for the populations concerned. In the light of the difficult situation concerning the respect of basic human rights for women already before the revolutions, an even greater awareness of the need to protect women in difficult security situations is necessary. Furthermore, previous (military) deployments and (civilian) transformation processes have shown that a greater engagement of women in improving instable conditions leads to a better communication between conflicting parties³ and thus can reduce the probability of armed conflicts.

The event will take place one year after the Arab Spring and will connect active women's rights activists from Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Jordan and Morocco with stakeholders which deal with different aspects of Security Sector Reform processes.

"Women should stop being or feeling that they are part of the problem and become part of the solution. We have been marginalized for a long time, and now is the time for women to stand up and become active without needing to ask for permission or acceptance. This is the only way we will give back to our society and allow for Yemen to reach the great potentials it has."

Tawakkol Karman, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize 2011

² http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/women4libya/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=button

³ Operational Effectiveness and UN Resolution 1325 – Practices and Lessons from Afghanistan, Louise Olsson & Johan Tejpar (eds.), FOI Swedish Defence Research Agency, 2009



Thursday, 29.03.2012

Conference

"The implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East",

Residence Palace, room Polak

- 09:00 Welcome remarks by **Andrea E. Ostheimer**, Programme Director Multinational Dialogue on Development Policy, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- Welcome remarks by **Dr. Stefanie Babst**, Deputy Assistant Secretary General, Public Diplomacy Division, NATO
- 09:15 Keynote address by **Tawakkol Karman**, Nobel Peace Laureate 2011, Chairwoman *Women Journalists Without Chains*
- 09:45 Panel I – Moderated by: NATO
- The Implementation of UN resolution 1325 on women and security since 2000: The contribution of women in international operations of NATO, EU and AU**
- General Ivan Beneta**, CIMIC Director and Chair of the Allied Command Operations Gender perspective Working Group, NATO
- Jeanne Flora Kayitesi**, Programme Officer, Women's Rights Directorate of Women, Gender and Development, African Union Commission
- Timothy Clarke**, Head of Division A 4 - Partnerships and Military Capabilities, Crisis Management and Planning (CMPD), European External Action Service
- 10:30 Discussion
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:15 Panel II – Moderated by: Andrea E. Ostheimer, Programme Director, KAS
- Are more important problems taking precedence? The Arab Spring and its consequences for the improvement of women's rights**
- Maysoon Tughar**, Internet Activist, Libya
- Omama ECH-CHERIF EL KETTANI**, University Professor, University Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco
- Fadela Sebti**, Lawyer, women's rights activist, Morocco



Nermeen Murad, Managing Director of the Information and Research Center
- King Hussein Foundation, Jordan

Salma Slama, Private Law Professor, Faculty of Law –Tunis, Member of ATDD
Tunisian association of Law for Development, Tunisia

Yassine Ayari, blogger, activist and citizen-journalist, Tunisia

12:30 Discussion

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Panel III – Moderated by: Dr. Marta Martinelli, Open Society Institute, Brussels
Challenges for women in the Arab World in the light of UN resolution 1325 – what can be done to integrate women’s rights in military and civilian-military structures in the broader Middle East?

Fawzia BEHIA, Major Colonel, Armed Forces, Tunisia

Hibaaq Osman, Founder and CEO of Karama, Egypt

Khaled Hayet, Director Assistant of the International Cooperation
Department in CREDIF (Centre de Recherche, d’Etudes, de Documentation et
d’Information sur la femme), Tunisia

Dr. Wafa Al-Khadra, University Professor of American and Comparative
Literature and former Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Al-Ahliyya
Amman University, Jordan

15:00 Discussion

15:30 Concluding remarks by **Alexander Vershbow**, Deputy Secretary General,
NATO

16:00 End of the event