



WILPF RESOLUTIONS

**29th Congress
Santa Cruz, Bolivia
2007**

During the WILPF International Congress 2007, held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the following resolutions were adopted:

WILPF Resolution on Comfort Women

The 29th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting July 21-27, 2007 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Acknowledges an international movement building over many years to urge the Japanese government to acknowledge, apologize and redress the thousands of women from all over the Pacific who were used as military sexual slaves, euphemistically called "comfort women", by the Japanese Imperial Army during WWII;

Calls on all governments to urge the Prime Minister and the Diet of Japan to:

- (a) Pass a resolution in the Diet to formally apologize to the women who were coerced into military sexual slavery during WWII as "comfort women" by the Japanese Imperial Army and;
- (b) To provide just and honourable compensation to these victims.

WILPF Resolution on Extraordinary Rendition and Guantanamo Bay

Noting that the United States of America (USA) is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and

Noting that extraordinary rendition is the practice by which the USA has abducted persons for the purpose of interrogation and torture, and transported them to countries not signatories to the above UN Convention;

And that in these countries, the abducted persons have been interrogated and frequently if not always tortured;

Recognising that because of its obligations as a signatory to the Convention against Torture, the USA is unable to use torture within mainland US;

And that claiming pressing concerns under the cover of its so-called "war on terror", the USA has thus resorted to "outsourcing" its torture; and

Further noting that the Central Intelligence Agency runs a system of secret prisons with thousands of kidnapped persons taken from countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Germany, Italy, Sudan, Somalia, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia to intermediary countries such as Afghanistan, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Syria, Egypt and Morocco in order to be "tortured by proxy", which in effect creates one interconnected gulag in which prisoners are swapped both between countries but also between the CIA and the US military;

Believing that its use of extraordinary rendition not only puts the USA in breach of its obligations under the Convention against Torture, but also places the US outside the rule of law, and has worsened the threat from Al-Qaeda; and finally

Understanding that this practice has been undertaken with the complicity of some governments also signatory to the Convention;

The 29th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting July 21-27, 2007 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, strongly condemns the practice of extraordinary rendition by the United States of America and other complicit governments, and calls for an end to this practice and the closure of all the secret prisons as well as the closure of the US prison in Guantanamo Bay.

WILPF Resolution on Gender Budgeting

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Recognizes that:

1. Budgeting is not just a financial exercise; it is a method of planning, priority setting and decision making that has consequences for people and their environment;
2. Gender budgeting is a tool that takes into account the needs of women and men in their different social and economic positions and therefore helps determine how the prioritisation, allocation and spending of resources can contribute to achieving equality between women and men

Emphasizes that:

1. Progress toward gender equality is slow, due in part due to the failure of governments to attach financial resources to policy commitments;
2. By signing and ratifying the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and agreeing to the 1995 Platform for Action of Beijing, countries have committed themselves to implementing gender mainstreaming in ALL of their policies;
3. Gender budgeting is a powerful tool for gender mainstreaming because all policies require human and economic resources in order to be implemented.

Condemns

1. The allocation and spending of billions of dollars/euros to the military, which distorts the economy and prevents economic justice, equality and human security;
2. The recent enormous increase in military spending due to the so-called 'global war on terror', which has taken military spending to an unprecedented level of US\$ 1,204 billion in 2006.
3. That defence budgets are non-transparent and non-accountable and have disproportionately high spending.

Therefore, WILPF urges all governments,

1. To reveal the current level of military expenditure by annual participation in the UN's international standardized reporting of military expenditures, established under UN General Assembly Resolution 46/25
2. To dramatically reduce military spending and reallocate these resources to tackling the real daily threats to human security such as climate change, poverty, hunger, overpopulation, organised crime, gender-based violence, and trafficking in drugs, people and arms.
3. To apply gender budgeting in ALL national, regional and local budget lines in order to implement international obligations.

4. To allocate financial resources for implanting gender budgeting, including training civil servants and financial decision-makers in gender budgeting.

WILPF Resolution on No Foreign Military Bases Network

Whereas Women's International League for Peace and Freedom from its inception has sought to put an end to war and militarism;

Whereas foreign military bases have a particularly negative impact on the lives of women;

Whereas maintenance of such bases diverts vast sums from the meeting of human needs;

Whereas such bases can be used for wars of intervention and other policies that are against the interests of people and governments;

Whereas these bases function as enclaves of impunity where international law and human rights are violated;

Whereas foreign military bases also violate the rule of law in both the sponsoring countries and the nations where they are located;

Whereas such bases often cause disastrous environmental damage in the host countries, and these detrimental effects usually continue even after the bases are evacuated;

Whereas such bases have a disastrous social impact with increases in the level of violence against women including rape, prostitution, social dislocation, the destruction of local economies and poverty;

And whereas WILPF members from Germany, Japan and the United States were present at and participated in the formation of the new Network for the Abolition of Military Bases in Ecuador, March 5 to 9, 2007;

Therefore the 29th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting July 21-27, 2007 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia:

Supports the Abolition of Military Bases Network and working by non-violent and truthful means for closure of such bases around the world;

Supports holding the base occupier fully responsible for follow up cleaning and for refunding the population for health problems due to the destructive effects of their military presence;

Calls for in depth independent studies on the effects of foreign military bases on the host nations and their populations.

WILPF Resolution on US Missile Defence System in Central Europe

Noting that the US is planning to install radar and interceptor sites for a new missile defence system in the Czech Republic and Poland;

Aware that the pretext of placing this new system is the repelling of missiles from Iran and North Korea;

Aware that the US plans provoke a new arms race between the US and Russia;

Aware that the US plans will disrupt good relations between Europe and Russia;

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Strongly opposes all plans to construct missile defence systems whether this be in Europe or elsewhere;

Calls upon governments to combat these US plans and any attempts to hide them under the mantle of NATO;

Calls upon WILPF US and all European sections, including the Russian and Belarus sections, to work together and in cooperation with the Polish and Czech peace movements against this new and dangerous development.

WILPF Resolution on West Papua

Reaffirming the decision of the IEC meeting in Aotearoa/New Zealand in 2002;

Remaining deeply concerned about ongoing reports of human rights violations in West Papua which, despite the campaign for independence by the Organisasi Papua

Merdeka (OPM) among others, remains a province of the Republic of Indonesia; and in particular

Concerned about ongoing reports of punitive military aggression by the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) against the people of West Papua;

The 29th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting July 21-27, 2007 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia supports West Papuan independence and calls on the United Nations Secretary General to thoroughly investigate these reports;

WILPF calls on the members of the Human Rights Council to take the opportunity of Indonesia's Council membership to ensure its administration of West Papua, particularly in relation to the monitoring of human rights, is carefully scrutinized;

In addition, since the UN's own conduct in relation to the so-called Act of Free Choice in West Papua is highly questionable, we call on the Secretary General to initiate a review of the UN's conduct in relation to the Act of Free Choice in West Papua in 1969;

Finally, WILPF calls on the Republic of Indonesia to ensure access to West Papua by foreign journalists.

WILPF Resolution on Colombia

Whereas the people of Colombia have experienced very serious human rights violations, including murder, forced disappearance, torture, and extrajudicial execution at the hands of illegal paramilitary groups which have also forced millions of peasants, Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples off their lands, with the result being that Colombia has 3.8 million internally-displaced people, more than any other country;

And whereas the Colombian military and police have on many occasions supported and assisted the paramilitary operations, and recently-revealed evidence has shown that numerous political office-holders, including some very close to Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Velez, have collaborated with and supported the paramilitaries, constituting what has been termed "parapolitica";

And whereas a law called the Justice and Peace Law, developed and promoted by the Uribe Administration, provides that paramilitary group members, including

leaders, may receive short sentences in return for confessing their participation in murders, disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial killings, in practice leaving their paramilitary structures largely intact, so that human rights abuses continue to be ordered and carried out by supposedly demobilized paramilitaries;

And whereas the result has been an effective impunity for those crimes committed by the paramilitaries and those political figures and members of state security forces who have supported them and enabled them to carry out their murderous conduct and land grabs;

And whereas the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Colombia Section, has brought this situation to our attention, and we wish to go on record to support efforts to prevent impunity and pursue peace effectively;

Recalling WILPF Congress resolutions of 1998 and 2004 on Colombia The 29th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting July 21-27, 2007 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia calls upon the Colombian government to investigate all human rights abuses by the paramilitaries and the Colombian armed forces, including the police, and to sanction those responsible; to apply the laws of the land to protect those whose lives and properties are threatened, and to end impunity for crimes committed; to return lands taken forcibly from peasants, Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples to them; and in all respects to honour the goal of truth, justice and reparations in the application of the paramilitary demobilization law.

WILPF Resolution on Lebanon

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Reaffirms all past WILPF resolutions on the Middle East, in particular the Cyprus document (1997), Geneva (2000) and Sweden (2004), and, recalling the statement from 25th July 2007;

Laments that Lebanon, while still in the process of recovery after the 16-year civil war (1975-1990), is now forced to rebuild once more after the devastating 34-day war waged against it by Israel in July-August 2006;

Recognizes that the unexploded landmines, cluster munitions and all explosive remnants of the war have added to the already enormous and complex problems created by the use of these weapons since 1978. Between January and April 2007,

more than 200 people have been injured, including 45 persons under 18, with 26 killed from cluster munitions. What makes cluster bombs so dangerous and heinous is the thirty per cent of the bomblets that do not detonate on impact, but lie waiting for years on roofs, in gardens, in trees, beside roads or in rubbish for a slight disturbance to kill, maim and mutilate children, women and men, the old and the young. Every day the media reports more deaths and wounds arising from the 1.5 million cluster bomblets dropped by Israel on Southern Lebanon. The landmines planted by Israel which were not removed when it withdrew troops in 2002 continue to take lives and limbs, and will continue to do so until Israel provides the maps that will facilitate demining;

Urges all governments, the EU , the UN and NGOs to intensify demining assistance, and to also provide more human and economic resources for locating and deactivating unexploded cluster bomblets so that daily life can continue in Lebanon;

Calls on the UN and the international community, civil society and NGOs to put pressure on Israel to release maps detailing the location of landmines in Southern Lebanon so that experts can demine the area;

Calls for Israel to compensate civilian victims of explosions resulting from the use of cluster bombs;

Calls on the international community to do all that is in their power to bring about the release of the two Israeli hostages held in Lebanon;

Calls for an arms embargo and a boycott of Israeli goods created on Palestinian land to be imposed;

Demands that UN resolution 194 be implemented to guarantee the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland, a principle outlined in Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Calls for the international community to provide impartial objective assistance to Lebanon to achieve a peaceful internal political situation by supporting all internal negotiations/dialogue efforts between the different/differing Lebanese political leaders/parties, so that a national unity government is agreed upon by all;

Further calls on the international community to support internal negotiations/dialogue efforts between the different/differing Lebanese political leaders/parties so that the Presidential election takes place on time as decreed by the constitution without external interference/imposition;

Calls on the international community to demand Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese lands. Calls for all parties to respect the territorial integrity of each country within internationally recognized borders to refrain from all violent acts against the civilian populations, and to work within the principle that all conflicts must be resolved through negotiations among the parties themselves.

WILPF Resolution on Cuba

Whereas the United States of America is maintaining a military presence within the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cuba; and

Whereas the United States of America has conducted military operations on the territory it occupies; and

Whereas the United States of America has incarcerated citizens of several nations and perpetuated human rights violations in its actions towards them during their confinement; and

Whereas the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights has notified the USA that it has broken certain international laws and conventions in its operations in regard to these prisoners held on Cuban soil;

Therefore the 29th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting July 21-27, 2007 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia calls upon the US to relinquish its hold on Cuban territory; to withdraw from that territory; and to cease and desist from the human rights violations it is now practicing within the Cuban sovereign territory.

WILPF Resolution on Nepal

The 29th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting July 21-27, 2007 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia:

Recognises that the peace process in Nepal is passing through a historic transition after ten years of violent conflict;

Calls for a new constitution to be made democratically by an elected Constituent Assembly;

Calls for elections for a Constituent Assembly announced by the all-party interim government of Nepal on 24 June 2007 and to be held on 22 November 2007 to be peaceful and supported by the international community and international independent observers.