

Peace Women Alliance, PEWA Nepal

Open letter from Women Peace Alliance, PEWA to Mr. Ian Martin, Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary General to Nepal for inclusive, proportionate representation and women sensitive peace process.

Kathmandu, Nepal,
12 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

Nepali women are continuously contributing for peace and democracy in the country. Indigenous, Dalit, Madhesi and Disabled women in spite of historical discrimination are organized and are present as Nepali women with their identities, issues and demands and moving forward to taking this opportunity of nation building to get justice and equality. Women's engagement in spite of continuous exclusion shows the high level of collective consciousness and capability. We welcome the decision of Parliament for 33% proportionate representation but take it as a step towards reaching 51% and that Indigenous, Dalit, Madhesi and Disabled women be in it based on proportionate representation.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 has been one of the most useful instruments to ensure our representation and women are now united and struggling for the implementation. We are therefore looking forward the arrival of Technical Assessment Mission (TAM). We wish UN and its bodies 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 pre-condition for their engagement 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 and Disabled women in Nepal during its visit. We can assist and coordinate the visit.**
- 3. TAM must request a strong representation of Women including Indigenous, Dalit, Madhesi and Disabled women in all its meetings with government, military and Maoist counterparts to address the issues of concern of women and children regarding 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.**
- 5. UN system and its office reflect gender balance at all levels and consideration of the differential needs and situation of 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 including Indigenous, Dalit, Madhesi and Disabled women in building peace at the grassroots, regional and national levels. Their participation is a precondition for social inclusion and democracy. To exclude women and to deny their wisdom and skills for building New Nepal would be a great loss.

Looking forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by

Stella Tamang,

Coordinator,

Peace Women Alliance, PEWA Nepal

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Women Peace Alliance, PEWA is an alliance of Nepali women who are continuously contributing for peace and democracy in the country. It is an alliance of high caste, Indigenous, Dalit, Madhesi, Disabled women and religious minorities women who in spite of historical discrimination and division are organized and united with their distinct identities, issues and demands. We are working in all the five development regions covering 62 districts having 15 regional coordinators and 57 districts coordinators. Our main activities includes education, training about constituent assembly, restructuring of the state, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, gender and Nonviolent actions for women's effective participation and advocacy for women rights. Our main focus is ensuring at least 33% of proportionate women representation in all level of decision-makings.