



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

Press Release,
February 10 2007

**JSMP-Women Justice Unit and VSS, in “Fokus Networking Conference”
Thailand 2007.**

In January 2007, two national staff members from JSMP, representing Women's Justice Unit and Victim's Support Services, visited Thailand to take part of “Fokus Networking Conference 2007”: Maria Agnes Bere and Luis Oliveira.

The conference was a meeting place for Fokus project partners in Asia and the Middle East and their Norwegian partner organizations. JSMP-WJU Norwegian partner organization, “Norwegian Female Lawyers Organization” representatives gave our staff their support during the meeting.

Norwegian's Government platform is intensifying Norway's effort to promote a more just world. The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security is part of this commitment. The Norwegian government will intensify its efforts both to increase women's participation in civil and military peace operations, peacemaking and peace building, and to enhance the protection of the human rights of women in conflict areas.

Fokus, Forum for Women and Development is a resource center on international women's issues and a co-coordinating organ for women's organizations in Norway. Fokus desire is to strengthen Human Rights, based on the United Nation's Human Rights Convention and the Women's Convention (CEDAW).

Conventions state that the fundamental human rights are universal regardless of ethnicity, creed or gender. Furthermore the conventions state that women are entitled to participate in all social, economic, political and cultural spheres on an equal standing with men.

The **Norwegian Female Lawyers Organization** was founded May 12, 1947, to create a supportive forum for the handful of Norwegian female lawyers then entering, or trying to enter, a very male-dominated working society in the field of law.

The present leadership of the organization sees the NKJF primarily as a meeting place for discussing law and themes related to their profession. And as a meeting place to promote personal contact with other female jurists from government agencies, the police, the courts, in law firms and other firms and private practices across the country and abroad. At present the organisation have approximately 650 members from all over Norway.

WJU-JSMP Through trial monitoring, the provision of legal analysis and thematic reports on the development of the justice system as a whole, JSMP will be assisting the East Timorese Government, the East Timorese public and the international community by making recommendations for ongoing reform where specific problems are identified. The

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Address: Rua Setubal, Kolmera, Dili, Timor-Leste, **Mailing address:** P.O. Box 275 Dili, East Timor
Phone: +670 332 3883, **E-mail:** info@jsmp.minihub.org, **Website:** <http://www.jsmp.minihub.org>

main objective of JSMP is to improve the quality of justice provided by the newly established judicial system, and to promote human rights and the rule of law in a meaningful and transparent manner for the people of East Timor WJU, monitors cases of domestic violence and sexual assault, and advocates for women's rights, particularly "Domestic Violence Law" for Timor-Leste.

The aim of the conference was to give the participants practical tools which are both useful in the daily work of the organization, and as a platform for networking and possible future cooperation across countries, regions and organization.

The thematic framework for the conference was "Women in and after war and conflict", focusing on women's and women's organization's role and participation during and after conflict situation.

The methodology consisted in a Conference and Workshops, finalizing with an outcome resolution on lessons learned from the conference, future plans and evaluation.

The workshops where the source of the ideas, the topics for discussion where:

- 1) How do you relate SR 1325 to the work you do? Give the challenges you face and suggest the way forward.
- 2) Examine UN Resolution 1325 and suggest whether it deals sufficiently with the issues of reproductive health and rights. If there are any gaps, what suggestion would you give?
- 3) Discuss the role of the media in the promotion of SR 1325 in the situation you are working.
- 4) Discuss the violation of women's human rights in situations of armed conflict. How can women be more effective in finding sustainable solutions? How can UN and other mechanisms be of assistance?
- 5) How can women participate effectively in conflict prevention management, resolution and post-conflict processes?

The final conclusion stated:

Women and children suffer the consequences of this systematic violence on a greater degree due to the power expressed through patriarchy, racism, fundamentalism and other social inequalities.

The military practices and peace keeping forces in areas of conflict and war exacerbate the problem of physical and sexual violence, human security, trafficking and prostitution a reduction of military expenditures, and resources be channeled to conflict prevention and peace building. A genuine and effective participation of women in conflict resolutions and peace building and in all levels of decision making.

Governments and responsible agencies must gender mainstream all national policies, so women should have access to jobs with equal pay and control over resources.

The adoption and ratification of declarations, conventions and resolutions such as UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Optional Protocols are very necessary measures in addressing the issue of violations of women's human rights.

In order to achieve sustainable peace with development, there should be a radical transformation of the patriarchal, social and political structures of power to achieve gender

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equality, women's human rights and justice using education, collective organization, legislative change, social development, social movements and women's organizations as means

Continue to exert pressure and challenge governments and international institutions to promote and protect women's rights, build peace and provide tools for sustainable development.

It was very useful for JSMP-WJU to learn from the experience of other organizations working in the field of Human Rights and Women's development in Asia and the Middle East. Also it was a great opportunity to present our work in Timor-Leste, and to let other women's organizations know that they are not alone in the struggle for peace and equality, and can always count with our modest contribution.

We are extremely grateful to the Norwegian Government, to the Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS), and to the Norwegian Female Lawyers Organization for their continuing support. We are sure that their commitment to our cause will lead our future actions.

Should you ask any further information, please contact:

Maria Agnes Bere

Women Justice Unit Coordinator (WJU)

Mob: 7233723

E-mail: maria@jsmp.minihub.org

JSMP

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