

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

November 25 - December 10, 2006



International Women Human Rights Defenders Day November 29th

FACT SHEET

The International Campaign on Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) was launched in 2004 as an international campaign for the recognition and protection of women human rights defenders who are activists advocating for the realization of all human rights for all. The campaign asserts that women fighting for human rights and women's rights face specific violations when defending human rights of women. It calls attention to the violations that women activists experience because of their gender. In addition, it focuses on the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists, who are also targeted because of their identity and sexuality and the rights they are fighting to uphold.

The main event of the campaign, the International Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders was held November 29 – December 2, 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign. The consultation took on another aspect of what it means to link women's rights and human rights, bringing a gender perspective into the field of human rights defenders and bringing together the forces of women's rights and human rights organizations with LGBT and other movements in the struggle to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

To celebrate International Women Human Rights Defenders Day on 29 November:

- Mobilize a collective action and show the video "Celebrating Women's Resistance," a short film tribute to women human rights defenders who have been killed in defense of human rights. You can download the video clip in *English*, *French* and *Spanish* from the women human rights defenders campaign website: www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org;
- Organize a local or national award for women human rights defenders at risk or women activists who have made significant contributions to human rights advocacy in your locality or country;
- Nominate or support women human rights defenders for an international award in recognition for their defense and promotion of women's rights and human rights, such as the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders;
- Organize national and international gathering for women human rights defenders such as the international event organized for the Gerwani women human rights defenders of 1965 which will be hosted by Komnas Perempuan on November 29, 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia;
- Support or continue to support action alerts on women human rights defenders;
- Conduct local or national consultations on women human rights defenders among women and other activists in your locality or country, such as the one planned by Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) and others in Kathmandu, Nepal also on November 29, 2006;
- Create your own activity or initiative on women human rights defenders and let us know about it!

You can check the women human rights defenders campaign website at www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org for videos, action alerts, reports and other materials you can use to celebrate International Women Human Rights Defenders Day on November 29th!

Let us know of your November 29th activities and we can post it on the website, too! Contact Lisa Pusey, Programme Officer, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) at lisa@apwld.org.

Center for Women's Global Leadership
Rutgers University, 160 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555 USA
Phone (1-732) 932-8782, Fax: (1-732) 932-1180
E-mail: cwgl@igc.org
<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>