



November 17, 2010

Dear colleagues,

The Center for Women's Global Leadership, the Global Fund for Women, and Ipas would like to invite you join us for "A Feminist Dialogue on Militarism and Military Intervention," on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00PM at the Church Center for the United Nations (777 UN Plaza, New York, NY). As part of the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign running from November 25-December 10, this panel discussion has been organized to explore aspects of the international campaign theme on the intersections of militarism and violence against women. Our five panelists include:

- **Yanar Mohammed** - President of Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq, and founder of Al Mousawat Radio (Equality) and newspaper in Baghdad (Iraq)
- **Yifat Susskind** - Policy & Communications Director at MADRE and formerly part of a joint Israeli-Palestinian human rights organization in Jerusalem
- **Ann Wright** - Retired US Army Colonel, former US diplomat who reopened the US Embassy in Afghanistan in 2001 and who resigned in opposition to the Iraq war, and now peace activist
- **Cynthia Enloe** - prolific research professor at Clark University whose research and teachings focus on issues of militarism and its effect on women's lives
- **Esther Hyneman** - Board Member of Women for Afghan Women and retired professor of Literature, Women's Studies & Gender Studies at Long Island University (Brooklyn Campus)

This dynamic discussion will be followed by a candlelight vigil outside in Dag Hammarskjöld Park (47th St. between 1st and 2nd Ave) at 6:30PM. This vigil is part of the Global Day of Action Against Militarism & Violence Against Women, which will be commemorated by 16 Days Campaign participants around the world. Our vigil is one of many that will take place in a show of global solidarity. November 29<sup>th</sup> also marks Women Human Rights Defenders Day.

Both of these events are free and open to the public, so please help us to publicize them! Attached are the event flyer and brief biographies for the speakers. For more information about the 16 Days Campaign and the Global Day of Action, please visit <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/> or contact [16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu](mailto:16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu).

We hope to see you on November 29<sup>th</sup>!

Best wishes,

**Radhika Balakrishnan**  
Executive Director  
Center for Women's Global  
Leadership

**Shalini Nataraj**  
Vice President of Programs  
Global Fund for Women

**Leila Hessini**  
Director, Women's Organizing  
& Community Mobilization  
Ipas

## Speaker Bios:

**Yanar Mohammed** was born in Baghdad and lived through the Baath regime's dictatorship, the war with Iran in the 80s, the invasion of Kuwait, the catastrophic 'Desert Storm,' and the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq. She founded the Defense of Iraqi Women's Rights organization in Toronto, Canada and is President of the Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) in Baghdad. She is a founder of Al-Mousawat (Equality) Radio and women's newspaper, and opened two shelters for women, one in Baghdad and one in Kirkuk, in addition to few safe houses. Ms. Mohammed has been a major spokeswoman for Iraqi women's rights and for the secular future of Iraq.

**Yifat Susskind** is the Policy & Communications Director at MADRE, where she has worked with women's human rights activists from Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East to create programs in their communities to address violence against women, economic development, climate change, and armed conflict. Before joining the staff of MADRE, she was part of a joint Israeli-Palestinian human rights organization in Jerusalem.

**Ann Wright** is a retired U.S. Army Colonel. She joined the Foreign Service in 1987 and served as U.S. Deputy Ambassador in Sierra Leone, Micronesia, and Mongolia, and was on the first State Department team to go to Afghanistan in 2001 where she helped reopen the US Embassy. In 2003, Col. (ret.) Wright resigned from her post in opposition to the invasion of Iraq without the authorization of the UN Security Council. Since then, she has been writing and speaking out for peace. Among her many nonviolent protest endeavors, she was recently on the May, 2010 Gaza flotilla that was attacked by the Israeli military.

**Cynthia Enloe**, research professor at Clark University, has written extensively on issues of militarism and its effect on women's lives. Her twelve books include *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics* (2000), *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives* (2004), and - most recently - *Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War* (2010). Professor Enloe's feminist teachings and research focus on the interplay of women's politics in the national and international arenas, and women's role in and resistance to the governments' war-waging policies.

**Esther Hyneman** is a Board Member and principle grant write for Women for Afghan Women. She spent her professional life teaching literature, Women's Studies and Gender Studies at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University. She retired from the classroom in August, 2001, 11 days before 9/11. That event motivated her to get involved with Women for Afghan Women, where she has been directly involved in its Community Center for Afghan Women in Queens, the organization's 5 Family Guidance Centers and 5 shelters for abused women in Afghanistan, and its Children's Support Center.