



Droits et Démocratie
Rights & Democracy
Centre international des droits de la personne et du développement démocratique
International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development



**GROUNDBREAKING INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN SEEKS JUSTICE AND REPARATION
FOR WOMEN AND GIRL SURVIVORS OF WARTIME SEXUAL VIOLENCE**
Canadian-led campaign unites women's organizations on six continents

TORONTO NEWS CONFERENCE

**Thursday, May 17
YWCA Toronto
80 Woodlawn Ave E.
11 AM**

TORONTO - Women and girls who suffer acts of sexual violence in times of conflict are too often forced to endure the stigma, prejudice and exclusion that accompany being labeled a victim of such crimes by their societies. Changing these attitudes and ensuring women and girl survivors are provided with adequate reparation and remedy needed to rebuild their lives and communities is the focus of a new international campaign led by the Rights & Democracy-based Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations.

This groundbreaking campaign aims to correct the systemic flaws of national truth and reconciliation initiatives and existing reparation schemes and to inform those being developed by the International Criminal Court.

The campaign and its *Nairobi Declaration* will be introduced Thursday, May 17, at a press conference co-organized by the Coalition and the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. The event will hear from leading women's rights advocates and Coalition members from Sierra Leone, Peru and Canada, including:

Rosalyn McCarthy, national Chairperson of the Women's Forum, Sierra Leone

Rosalyn McCarthy is a founding member of the Mano River Women's Peace Network and served as a prominent contributor to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process in Sierra Leone.

Diana Avila Paulette, Executive Director of Project Counseling Service, Peru

Diana Avila Paulette is a journalist and human rights advocate dedicated to supporting and protecting displaced people, refugees and others affected by political violence in Latin America.

Sonia R.M. Kambie-Kabbia, Mano River Women's Peace Network, Sierra Leone

Sonia Kambie-Kabbia works with the disadvantaged, less fortunate and vulnerable in communities, especially amputees, street kids and youths, rape victims, drug addicts, women and girls in legal crisis.

Gladys Canales Martinez, Vice-Chair, Association of Innocent Persons Released, Peru

Gladys Canales Martinez was incarcerated under Peru's Antiterrorist Law. After 8 years of unjust imprisonment characterized by torture and harassment, she was proved innocent and pardoned.

Fiona Sampson, Director of Litigation, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, Toronto

Ariane Brunet, Coordinator, Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations, and Women's Rights Coordinator, Rights & Democracy, Montreal

– 30 –

Media contacts:

Steve Smith, Rights & Democracy
514-898-4157
ssmith@dd-rd.ca

Fiona Sampson, LEAF
416-595-7170, x 223
fsampson@leaf.ca