The situation in the Middle East

The Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

WILPF International Executive Meeting 2001 is appalled by the tragic and highly dangerous situation in Palestine that the international community has allowed to develop.

We unreservedly condemn Israel's continuous occupation and siege of the West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem, the bombing of Palestinian institutions and assassinations of individuals, the demolition of residential homes and the destruction of agricultural land and installations and of water resources in retaliation for the Palestinians continued resistance against Israel's brutal occupation.

We underline the important responsibility of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council toward the Palestinians. We call on the UN and its Member States to take the necessary actions to uphold international law as it pertains to the Israel Palestine conflict, ensuring the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and decisions and the Geneva conventions. Such action is critical in laying the foundation for ending the occupation, violence and destruction and entering the cycle of peace.

We urge the United Nations to provide for the immediate international physical protection of the Palestinian people.

We call on the UN Security Council to appoint a Middle East Co-coordinator charged with arranging a Conference on the Middle East with a balanced representation of States, to negotiate terms of a just settlement based on the two-States solution, on other relevant UN resolutions and on international law. Negotiations should include terms of mutual disarmament, extending to the larger region of the Middle East, including Iran, Iraq and all the Gulf States.

WILPF fully supports and reaffirms our position as to Jerusalem. We recognise the state of Palestine within the pre-June 4th 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Lebanon
WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 calls for the international community to put every pressure on Israel to
withdraw immediately from the Shabaa Farms, in the foothills of Mount Hermon, in accordance with Security Council resolution 425;
release unconditionally all the Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails;
provide the Lebanese Army and/or the United Nations troops in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) with maps showing the mines that have been left by Israel after it withdrew from South Lebanon in May 2000;
halt the aggressive and illegal acts such as the violation of the Lebanese sky and bombardments.

Other Regions of Conflict

Statement on Colombia

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 reaffirms all previous resolutions on the situation in Colombia. WILPF deplores the grave and systematic violations of human rights and international law that persist in the country.

WILPF calls for the full implementation of the recommendations made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson in her most recent report (ECN/4/2000/15).

WILPF supports the call by the President of the 57th UN Commission on Human Rights, Ambassador Despujol for human rights offices to be established throughout Colombia, for the international community to enter the negotiations, the establishment of an independent verification mechanism for the violation of human rights, quick investigations of guilty parties for violations of human rights, a humanitarian accord to lead to a cease fire, greater efforts to suppress paramilitary groups, and the destruction of economic entities that are supporting their efforts.

WILPF reiterates its support for peace negotiations between the government and Colombian guerrilla forces

WILPF calls on the Colombian government to fulfill international treaties and conventions for the protection of fundamental rights of the citizens of Colombia, to fully respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Macedonia
WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 condemns any intervention by NATO in Macedonia and appeals to the United Nations and the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe to take steps to control the border between Kosovo and Macedonia, eg. by engaging the REACT team (Rapid Expert Assistance and Cooperation teams), as decided in the OSCE Istanbul Charter (December 1999)

to stop the arms trade and the infiltration of armed forces and
to bring about an armistice in order to enable the building of institutions and develop laws that will permit all citizens to live together in peace and equality.

**Women in Afghanistan**

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 calls on the international community to provide humanitarian aid in support of the victimized people of Afghanistan under the Taliban regime, especially women and girl children who are the most cruelly affected.

**The situation in Nepal**

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 strongly urges an immediate dialogue between the government of Nepal and the leadership of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) to search for a peaceful solution to conflict.

WILPF strongly urges the government of Nepal to pass legislation that would ensure equal property inheritance rights for females and males, as provided for by Article 15 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and consensus texts that emerged from the four UN World Conferences on Women.

WILPF strongly urges the government of Nepal to immediately take all effective measures to put an end to the growing criminal practice of trafficking in women, and the dowry system.

**East Timor**

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 congratulates the East Timorese people on their triumph, in the face of savage oppression during the occupation and applaud their courage in casting their vote for independence, frequently at great personal cost.
WILPF calls on Indonesia

to cease forthwith all intimidation of the East Timorese hostages in West Timor and allow them safe passage to their homelands, without fear of threats or intimidation,

WILPF calls on all governments

to advocate for an adequate international mechanism to ensure that those who have committed war crimes in East Timor do not escape with impunity,

to end all forms of military support for and ties with the Indonesian military.

to stop the export of military goods, technology and training to Indonesia;

to cease issuing or honouring export permits for military material and refuse to participate in joint military exercise with Indonesia until all Indonesian military atrocities have ceased and those guilty of crimes against humanity have been tried.

WILPF supports the development of an economic system in East Timor opposed to economic exploitation, a system that is beneficial to the majority of the East Timorese people and that guarantees the protection of the environment in East Timor.

WILPF further supports an active role of the East Timorese in promoting civil education, including the development of the constitutional process, in particular in the lead up to the elections, supported but not controlled by UNTAET or other international agencies.

WILPF calls on UNTAET to ensure equitable and fair elections and that the elections be held free of repression and intimidation.

WILPF calls on the international community to guarantee full sovereignty to East Timor, including sovereignty over the resources in the Timor Gap.

WILPF supports the calls of the East Timorese women’s non-governmental community that in the forthcoming elections there should be a significant proportion of women candidates, and that at least 30% of the representatives in the new government should be women.

**West Papua**

The present conflict in West Papua (formerly Irian Jaya) is rooted in the so-called "Act of Free Choice" of 1969, which delivered West Papua to Indonesia after the departure of the former Dutch colonizers. This Act was a manipulated process involving only a small portion of the West Papuan population under duress and grave threat if they had voted for independence from Indonesia.
Since 1969, horrific human rights abuses, including rape, long term imprisonment, murder and bloody conflict have taken place and that more than 100,000 West Papuans have died as a result and that human rights violations are increasing.

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 supports the political independence for the West Papuan people, and their call for an East Timorese-style ballot in their pursuit of self-determination followed by democratic elections to inaugurate a representative parliament.

Recognizing that profits from the rich resource extraction in West Papua have not gone to the indigenous people, and that extraction processes have destroyed much of the environment of the indigenous people, WILPF calls for

- economic independence for the West Papuan people and for the development of an economic system in West Papua that is beneficial to the majority of the West Papuan people;
- immediate and adequate international assistance for the Wet Papuan people in order to ensure the continuation of their full access to services such as education, health and housing services;
- in all development projects a guarantee of protection for the environment of West Papua;

Being aware that

- the territorial integrity and human rights of the West Papuan people have been consistently violated by the TNI over successive Indonesian governments;
- trials are being carried out and independent observers from outside West Papua have not been permitted to witness them;
- transmigration and militarization of West Papuan territory has been purposely and forcibly carried out in order to subdue the indigenous people,

WILPF condemns the atrocities and human rights violations that have been perpetrated against the West Papuan people and Indonesia’s policies of transmigration.

WILPF calls for

- the immediate withdrawal from West Papua of all Indonesian military and their militias;
- that a just peace be brokered using methods of conflict resolution acceptable to the West Papuan people;
that all forms of military support for and ties with the Indonesian military should cease;

that the governments of the world should stop the export of military goods, technology and training to the Indonesian military, cease issuing export permits for military material and refuse to participate in joint military exercises with Indonesia until all Indonesian military atrocities have ceased and those guilty of crimes against humanity have been tried;

that the perpetrators of crimes of violence, including crimes of rape of women and children, be brought to justice through a UN supervised mechanism;

that those West Papuan refugees, sheltering in Papua New Guinea, be assisted to return to their homeland without fear of intimidation;

that all Indonesian nationals presently living in West Papua wishing to return to their homelands be assisted with their repatriation;

that the United Nations monitor and assist with all these processes.

The situation in Western Sahara

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 calls for the protection of the human rights of the Western Saharan peoples and for a free, fair and United Nations monitored referendum before the end of 2001 that would give the peoples of the Western Sahara the right to decide over their future.

We call upon all governments of the European Union in particular, to encourage and support this referendum, which must provide a choice for complete independence from Morocco. The European Union should further recognise that a large portion of the resources received from the European Union by Morocco has been used to maintain the military occupation and subjugation of the Western Saharan people.

Democratic elections in Belarus

Pursuant to elections for president in Belarus on 9th September 2001 the WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 calls for free and transparent presidential elections in Belarus and requests the OSCE election observers free access to the voting stations.
The street violence in Genova

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 considers that the Italian authorities

by blocking the traffic (trains, ships, public transport) to prevent the public from being present in Genova to demonstrate peacefully before the G-8 summit

by criminalising persons by listing them electronically and forbidding them to enter Italy

by having secret service agents from seven countries in Genova a month before the G-8 Meeting

did not appear to prevent violence during the demonstration, but instead provoked it.

WILPF is deeply concerned that:

the police did not react properly to those who committed violence, but attacked the peaceful demonstrators who were by far the majority;

it is obvious that the police were not trained to deal with peaceful demonstrators;

the overreaction of the police escalated conflict and created frustration and provoke even within the non-violent part of the demonstration. In such a highly emotional context, Carlo Giuliani was killed;

basic human rights were violated and legal and diplomatic assistance were refused in many cases;

people were indiscriminately arrested while seeking medical attention and others declined medical treatment due to fear of arbitrary arrest;

people who were arrested were denied adequate medical treatment;

there were cases of brutal violence on the part of the police, that have been document;

materials that document abuses by the authorities have been confiscated and equipment of the Genova Social Forum was destroyed.

WILPF asks

1. for an immediate and official independent inquiry into the role and performance of the Italian Minister for the Interior, in reference to the actions of the Italian police and Carabinieri;
2. for joint efforts all over Europe (by European institutions, the European Parliament and national parliaments and governments) and in the wider world to study the disastrous and excessive forms of violence used in Genova;

3. that those arrested have access to legal advice and representation, and that they be guaranteed a fair and just trial, and be adequately compensated for the mistreatment that they received;

4. that in the future, preventive and de-escalating strategies should be seriously prepared and supported by all participants involved;

5. that, in the future, demands from the protest groups and civil society for the G-8 representatives take a sustainable future seriously into account.

Human rights, Economic and Social Justice

Free Trade Agreements and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

WILPF International Executive Meeting 2001 considers that free trade agreements between governments have negative consequences for populations if they do not respect international agreements on economic, social and cultural rights as provided for in the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural, and Civil and Political rights.

WILPF asserts that governments are responsible for guaranteeing the primacy and vigilance of human rights for all their people, and should not yield to international trade agreements that violate these rights;

Further, WILPF calls on governments to protect their democratic institutions including the right to have free and fair elections, equal opportunities in employment and freedom of expression. Violations of these rights should be referred to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

WILPF calls on governments to cooperate with the Special Rapporteurs of the UN Human Rights Commission on the right to food, the right to housing and the right to education.

WILPF reaffirms its resolution of 1995, calling on all governments to ratify the International Convention of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families.

Rape of Japanese women by US Military Forces
WILPF International Executive meeting 2001 is deeply concerned over sexual assaults towards Japanese women by US military personnel. Although Japan is not in an armed conflict, militarism affects our lives, especially the lives of women. The US armed forces have been stationed in Japan since 1945, and have played a crucial role in US Far East military strategies. US bases are heavily concentrated on the islands of Okinawa, the southernmost region of Japan. Seventy-five percent of the US military facilities exclusively used by the US armed forces in Japan are located on the islands of Okinawa, which constitutes 0.6% of the entire land area of Japan. Okinawa hosts the largest number of Marine Corps personnel outside the United States.

The struggle of people in Okinawa against US military bases has a long history, yet it is only recently that the violence against Okinawan women committed by the US military personnel gained more visibility as a crucial issue of "human security."

On July 29, 2001 another sexual crime was committed in the town of Chatan WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 calls for the withdrawal of the US bases and personnel who repeatedly commit these crimes. The human rights of Okinawan women are doubly assaulted, they suffer because they are women, and because they are an ethnic minority in Japan.

**Women in conflict prevention, post/conflict reconstruction and conflict resolution**

Pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and the European Parliament Resolution on this subject of November 2000, WILPF urges States and intergovernmental organizations to recruit more women to diplomatic service, give more women diplomatic assignments and training, and include more women in fact-finding and field missions and in peace negotiations;

- to include more women as trainers in training programs for crisis management, and to use more local gender expertise in field offices, refugee camps, and peace building activities, thus avoiding sexual attacks on women;

- to greatly increase funding for trauma treatments, witness protection and for every assistance and support, including the possibility of abortion if freely chosen for victims of sexual assault and rape in areas of armed conflict;

- to provide specific training and employment programmes as well as credits for women to use their resources and enable them to benefit equally from reconstruction efforts.

**Women's experience in conflict resolution**
WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 reaffirms the resolution it adopted at its 26th International Congress concerning the establishment of an "Institute for Security Issues" within the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe. It suggests that all human experience, especially that of women, regarding conflict resolution, promotion and protection of human rights, early warning and environmental protection -- both in theory and practice -- should be utilized.

The role of the Vatican in the United Nations

The Vatican, called the "Holy See" is recognised as a Non-Member State maintaining a permanent observer Mission at the United Nations.

The Vatican was admitted as a Non-Member State at the United Nations in 1964, which enables it to vote in various UN conferences and to participate in the General Assembly discussions and consensus agreements.

The recognition of the Vatican as a state is highly questionable since it is the government of the Roman Catholic Church, which is a religious organisation and not a state.

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 joins more than 800 worldwide women’s health and reproductive health, religious and other organisations in requesting Secretary General Kofi Annan to propose placing on the next General Assembly Agenda an item to reconsider the permanent observer status of the Holy See.

Sustainable Environment and Human Security

Statement on the Health Effects of Radiation

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001

1. Welcomes the Chernobyl resolution adopted by the European Parliament on April 28, 2001

Requesting a revision of the model of radiation risk to health (from Hiroshima to Chernobyl)

2. Welcomes the new World Health Organisation report on iodine prophylaxis in case of accidents, which calls for an intervention level enhanced ten fold,
3. Commends the decision of the World Health Assembly (Swiss initiative, supported by Norway and Canada) to prepare a report on possible restrictions placed on the World Health Organisation work on health effects of radiation by the 1959 International Atomic Energy Agency/World Health Organisation agreement

4. Reaffirms its resolution of 2000 that demands the amendment of the IAEA/WHO Agreement

5. Requests that the World Health Organisation report on depleted uranium take into account the suffering of civilian and military victims of depleted uranium in the Gulf and Balkan wars, and reject the analysis by NATO, the Pentagon and military laboratories which only serves to justify these weapons.

6. Asks the United Nations Fact Finding Mission which is currently in Chernobyl affected areas to take into account the well documented plight of the victims of Chernobyl, rather than rely on the conclusions of UNSCEAR and the IAEA, which are marred by conflicts of interest.

7. Asks for the immediate release of Professor Bandazhevsky and for an end to the harassment of independent researchers, physicians, and specialists in health effects of radiation.

Resolution on the Earth Charter

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 resolves to endorse the Earth Charter of 1997, a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century.

Resolution on Rio +10

WILPF International Executive Committee Meeting 2001 recalls the Ministerial Declaration from UNCED 1992: "Peace, Development and Environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

WILPF recommends

That the issues of military production and consumption, military spending of resources, raw materials and money, which affect sustainable development, and nuclear energy which threatens sustainable development be raised before and at the Rio+10 conference, 2-11 September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. These issues could be raised in the context of Sustainable Production and Consumption, Energy Production and Consumption, Climate and Health problems, and Financing of Development.