



**Panafrican Centre
for Gender, Peace
and Development**



University for Peace
Université pour la Paix



Friday, July 21, 2006

SHORT COURSE ON GENDER AND PEACEBUILDING

July 16-21, Mbodiène, Senegal

INFORMATION NOTE:

Gender and Peacekeeping: Thirty African Nations Visit the Thiès Tactical Centre

The task of integrating a gendered perspective into the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations was the topic of an enriching debate among participants on the 4th day of the Short Course on Gender and Peacebuilding, co-organized by the Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and the African Program of the University for Peace.

This Thursday, July 20, course participants visited the soldiers of the tactical training centre based in Thiès, about 70km outside of Dakar, where Senegalese soldiers are engaged in peacekeeping operations for the United Nations.

Led by FAS executive director Bineta Diop, and Jean Bosco Butera, Director of the African Program of the University for Peace, the delegation was received in the early afternoon by the Commander of the Centre who was a former Senegalese military officer in Darfur.

In the presence of participants from thirty African countries, the Commander of the Tactical Centre considered the history, the mission, and the aims of the Centre before answering the questions of participants who shared their concerns around the importance of mainstreaming gender into UN peacekeeping operations. Afterwards, the course participants took part in a practical exercise with the Senegalese battalion as they prepared for their departure to Darfur.

The visit, which was facilitated by Madame Eugénie Aw, Director of the Centre for the Study of Sciences and Information Technology (CESTI) from the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, ended in talks between the members of the delegation who suggested that peacekeeping soldiers and commanders begin taking the provisions of Resolution 1325 into account. The debate proved extremely informative for the peacekeeping delegates who indicated that they had learned valuable tools for mainstreaming gender into their operations on the ground.

On Friday, July 21, the Short Course came to a close with a presentation by Mrs. Aminata Tall, Minister of State of the Republic Senegal in conjunction with the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Senegal, who have donated computers to the newly established PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development.

For further information, please visit the websites of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and the University for Peace at : www.fasngo.org www.upeace.org