

SOLIDARITY MISSION GUINEA



15 – 20 March 2010

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PRESS RELEASE

By the Communication Officer

Solidarity Mission, 15-20 March 2010

The Solidarity Mission is an initiative of West African civil society organisations members of the Working Group on Women, Peace and Security implemented by United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). The mission is coordinated by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and organised thanks to the support of United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Urgent Action Fund (UAF) and the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).

The delegation of the Solidarity Mission is composed of representatives of the following organisations: FAS, PAWO, WANEP and WIPSEN.

The Solidarity Mission towards Guinean women was decided following the tragic event of the 28th September 2009 at the Conakry stadium which resulted in more than 150 deaths and during which many women were raped and brutally assaulted.

The general objective of the Solidarity Mission is to express a sign of solidarity from women of the continent to their Guinean sisters; to evaluate the impact of the conflict on women in order to propose follow-up activities and mechanisms to include the participation of women in crisis resolution and democratisation, to assess the situation, establish a framework for women's contribution to the peace process and define a strategy for the participation of women in peace negotiation and democratic processes

A consultative meeting with women associations and organisations will be organised the 17th March 2008 in the meeting hall '28 September' of the Palace of the People in Conakry which will be followed by a visit of victims of rape and violence.

During its stay in Conakry, the Solidarity Mission will have an audience with the authorities and various political figures including:

- the Acting President of the Republic of Guinea, *General Sékouba Konaté*
- the Acting Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea, *M. Jean Marie Doré*
- the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, *M. Bakary Fofana*
- the former President of the National Assembly of Guinea, *El Hadj Aboubacar Somparé*
- the President of the National Council for Transition in Guinea, *Rabiatou Serah Diallo*.

The Mission will also meet with members of the Forces Vives, representatives of women organisations as well as representatives of the United Nations agencies and the international community based in Guinea.

At the end of the Mission a report will be submitted. In addition to the diagnosis of the situation of women in Guinea, the report will also indicate the way in which the organisers of the Mission, in collaboration with sub-regional, regional, and international organisations and mechanisms, can nominate a Gender Advisor to work with the crisis mediators.

For further information please contact the Information and Communications officer at the regional office of Femmes Africa Solidarité (F.A.S) in Dakar by phoning +221 860-20-48 or +221 550-52-47. Further information is also available at www.fasngo.org