



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION

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From the Communication Officer

THE 2011 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE CONFIRMS THE 2011 GENDER AWARD

For Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the battle continues

Ms. Bineta Diop, Founder and Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), welcomes the announcement that the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to three women, and rejoiced at the choice of Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. “It is an honor and a point of pride for all African women”, said Ms. Diop.

The Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) paid vibrant tribute to the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and to the Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee, and is delighted that the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to these two African women.

“Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been able to overcome obstacles in her journey to becoming the leader of Liberia, a country long devastated by war and political instability. She is a symbol for African women. The politics of reconstruction and rehabilitation that she is developing put Liberian women at the forefront of change. This is what merits the recognition of the international community. Her actions will inspire other African women who aspire to overcome glass ceilings, fill the highest offices, and become leaders in their communities”, noted the Executive Director of FAS, which in June 2011 bestowed the “African Gender Award” upon Ms. Johnson Sirleaf.

Bineta Diop also praised the important role played by Leymah Gbowee, Executive Director of WIPSEN-Africa by involving women in the resolution of the Liberian crisis. *“Her commitment to the cause of African women and for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 is unparalleled”,* added Ms. Diop. She further stated that *“through this award, all Liberian women have been recognized for their fight for peace.”* Finally, Ms. Diop emphasized her “admiration” and her *“encouragements to the fight led by the Yemeni journalist Tawakkul Karman in a country in the grips of dictatorship and intolerance”*.

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