



humanitarian news and analysis
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Advanced search

Friday 29 February 2008

Latest reports: [RWANDA-DRC: Quake survivors complain about poor shelter](#)

Print report

E-mail report

Send feedback

[Home](#)

[Africa](#)

[Asia](#)

[Middle East](#)

[Weekly reports](#)

[Interviews](#)

[In-Depth reports](#)

[Country profiles](#)

[Themes](#)

[Maps](#)

[IRIN jobs](#)

[Most popular](#)

[Feeds](#)

[About IRIN](#)

[Donors](#)

[Subscriptions](#)

[Contact IRIN](#)

AFRICA: First ladies fight for peace



Photo: Laudes Martial MBON/IRIN
Africa's first ladies pose for a group photo in Brazzaville after setting up a network of peace negotiators

BRAZZAVILLE, 18 February 2008 (IRIN) - In a bid to support initiatives to restore and strengthen peace on the unrest-prone continent, wives of African heads of state or their representatives have formed a conflict-resolution group.

The African Network of Women Peace Negotiators was created on 15 February in the Congolese capital, Brazzaville, at the sixth conference of the African First Ladies Peace Mission, known by its French acronym MIPREDA, which was launched in 1997 in Nigeria to advocate for peace, stability and harmony in Africa.

"Brazzaville will be the starting point of action of women for peace on the continent," said the first lady of Chad, Hinda Déby Itno. The Chadian capital, N'djamena, came under heavy attack in early February by rebels bent on toppling the government of President Idriss Déby.

"Unlike men, who are the first to set them off, we have the opportunity and means to extinguish all these hotbeds of tension and crisis in our country," she added.

The first ladies painted a grim picture of Africa and condemned the violence meted out to women and girls during conflicts, particularly in the Darfur region of Sudan, Somalia, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and recently in Kenya and Chad.

"At the dawn of the third millennium, it is shocking to see that Africa remains the seat of most evils afflicting humanity. Foremost among these evils is the blind violence and impunity," said Antoine Sassou Nguesso, wife of Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in a message delivered to the first ladies by the UN Development Programme's Resident representative in Congo, Aurélien Agbenonci, said 65 percent of the UN's budget for maintaining peace went on Africa.

"Africa is one of the forgotten conflicts, the bloodiest the world has ever known since the Second World War," said Gisèle Mandaila, Belgium's secretary of state for family. "The figures speak for themselves; civilians, mostly women, pay a heavy price for these conflicts."

Turai Yar'Adua, wife of Nigeria's President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, was elected to head the organisation.

Imm/jn/mw

Theme(s): [\(IRIN\) Conflict](#), [\(IRIN\) Gender Issues](#), [\(IRIN\) Governance](#), [\(IRIN\) Health & Nutrition](#), [\(IRIN\) Human Rights](#)

[ENDS]

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

Print report

E-mail report

Send feedback

Countries

- Select a country -

FREE Subscriptions

Your e-mail address:

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Submit your request


More reports

- 29/Feb/2008
KENYA: "Last year we had plans..." (multimedia)
- 29/Feb/2008
SOMALIA: Acute watery diarrhoea kills 11 in Belet Hawo
- 29/Feb/2008
ETHIOPIA-SUDAN: Two refugee camps to close down
- 29/Feb/2008
HORN OF AFRICA: IRIN-HOA Weekly Round-up 418 for 23 - 29 February 2008
- 29/Feb/2008
HORN OF AFRICA: IRIN-HOA Weekly Round-up 418 for 23 - 29 February 2008

[\[more news »\]](#)

More on Gender Issues

- 25/Feb/2008
BURUNDI: Francine Nijimbere: "My husband cut off my arms for having a girl"
- 21/Feb/2008
CAMEROON-CHAD: Aid reaches refugees in Maltam amid difficult conditions
- 15/Feb/2008
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC-CHAD: CAR refugees not ready to return home
- 15/Feb/2008
NIGER: Fall in rate of female genital mutilation/cutting
- 15/Feb/2008
WEST AFRICA: IRIN-WA Weekly Round-up 415 for 9 - 15 February 2008

[ more news »]

Share:     

[Back](#) | [Home page](#)

Services: [Africa](#) | [Asia](#) | [Middle East](#) | [PlusNews](#) | [Radio](#) | [Film & TV](#) | [Photo](#) | [E-mail subscription](#)

[Feedback](#) | [E-mail Webmaster](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) |  [News Feeds](#) | [About IRIN](#) | [Bookmark IRINnews](#) | [Donors](#)

Copyright © IRIN 2008. All rights reserved.

This material comes to you via IRIN, the humanitarian news and analysis service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations or its Member States. Republication is subject to terms and conditions as set out in the [IRIN copyright page](#).