

## **Congressional Testimony Examines UN Resolution 1325 and the Role of Women In Achieving Sustainable Peace**

*Ambassador Swanee Hunt and Conflict Experts from Afghanistan, Uganda and Sudan to Testify*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – May 14, 2008 – Ambassador Swanee Hunt, chair of [The Initiative for Inclusive Security](#), and three members of the [Women Waging Peace Network](#) will testify at a congressional hearing on Thursday on women’s contributions to peace and security processes, specifically in Afghanistan, Sudan, and Uganda.

“Considering the daily news from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan, it is very timely for the U.S. Congress to focus its attention on finding long term, sustainable solutions to deep-rooted conflicts,” said Ambassador Hunt. “One such way is to enhance the role of women in promoting peace and stability.”

The hearing, “[UN Security Resolution 1325: Recognizing Women’s Vital Roles in Achieving Peace and Security](#),” will be convened by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs’ Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight. U.S. House of Representatives Resolution 146 (H. Res. 146) calls for U.S. compliance with UNSC Resolution 1325, which mandates women’s participation at all levels of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace building processes.

In addition to Ambassador Hunt, several women peace builders will provide testimony. Rina Amiri, senior regional adviser for Eurasia at the Open Society Institute; Betty Bigombe, distinguished scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; and Rebecca Okwaci, secretary general of Women Action for Development in Sudan, from Afghanistan, Uganda, and Sudan, respectively, will all testify on women’s roles in peacemaking. All three are members of the Initiative for Inclusive Security’s Women Waging Peace Network. Their testimony will help inform congressional members on more effective implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 and will highlight a critical–yet overlooked–resource for building sustainable peace.

“Afghanistan stands at a critical crossroads. A renewed insurgency and deteriorating security threaten to completely undermine all that has been accomplished, particularly women’s advancement in society,” Amiri said.

“Despite efforts to organize, articulate priorities, and press for participation, women were only sporadically involved as consulting experts in the seventh round of negotiations around the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and were a very small minority of the members of formal negotiating delegations,” said Okwaci. “Sudan will not achieve security and prosperity without the full participation of women.”

**--MORE--**

## Hearing Details

“U.N. Security Resolution 1325: Recognizing Women’s Vital Roles in Achieving Peace and Security”

**WITNESSES:** Ambassador Swanee Hunt  
Donald Steinberg  
Rina Amiri  
Betty Bigombe  
Rebecca Okwaci

**WHERE:** Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2172, Washington, D.C.

**WHEN:** Thurs. May 15, 2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

###

**The Initiative for Inclusive Security**, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, advocates for the full participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes. Creating sustainable peace is achieved best by a diverse, citizen-driven approach. Of the many sectors of society currently excluded from peace processes, none is larger—or more critical to success—than women. Since 1999, Inclusive Security has connected more than 800 women experts with over 5,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts across the globe. For more information visit [www.InclusiveSecurity.org](http://www.InclusiveSecurity.org).