

The Independent Experts' Assessment

on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women
and the Role of Women in Peace-building

Women
War
Peace

Elisabeth Rehn, Independent Expert

■ Elisabeth Rehn's distinguished career has included serving as Minister of Equality Affairs and Minister of Defence of Finland; Member of the European Parliament; UN Under-Secretary-General; UN Special Rapporteur for the Situation of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has also been a candidate for the Finnish presidency.

Ms. Rehn is currently an Advisory Council Member of Intellibrige, a Washington D.C. research firm and a member of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) Review Board. She has been a member of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) since 1994; a member of the International Steering Committee of Engendering the Peace

Process; Chair of the Finnish Association for Education and Training of Women in Crisis Prevention since 1997; and Chair of the World Wildlife Fund, Finland since 2000.

Previously, Ms. Rehn has served as Vice-chair of the Finnish Red Cross, Chair of the Standing Group of the National Committees of UNICEF, Vice-chair of the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), member of the UNFPA Advisory Committee for Implementation of ICPD decisions and Chair of the Youth Conference of Climate 2000 in The Hague.

Ms. Rehn's early memories of the Soviet invasion of Finland give her a personal understanding of the horrors of war. As Defence Minister, she was a strong advocate for those who wanted to perform civil service rather than compulsory military service. However, says Ms. Rehn, it was in Bosnia as the UN Secretary-General's Special Repre-



sentative that she experienced first hand the gap between the decision-making level and those who are suffering on the ground.

Ms. Rehn has two doctor of science degrees, one in politics and the other in economics (H.C). She has been married for 47 years and has four children.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Independent Expert

■ In a professional life that has spanned over 30 years, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has held a number of prominent positions, including Minister of Finance of Liberia; President of the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment; Vice President of Citicorp, Africa regional office; Vice President of Hong Kong Equator Bank; and Senior Loan Officer of the World Bank. She was one of seven international eminent persons selected by the Organization of African Unity in 1999 to investigate the Rwanda genocide.

Ms. Johnson Sirleaf is currently Chairperson of the Open Society Institute West Africa (OSIWA), part of the Soros Foundation Network. She also consults regularly for the UN Economic Commission for Africa as an External Adviser and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Modern Africa Growth and Investment Company (MAGIC). She is also Senior Adviser and West/Central Africa Representative of Modern Africa Fund Managers (MAFM), which has offices

in Washington D.C. and Johannesburg, and the Chair and CEO of Kormah Investment and Development Corporation (KODIC), a financial and management advisory consultancy firm incorporated in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. Additionally, she is the founder and key supporter of the community development NGO, Measuagoon, in Liberia.

A presidential candidate in the 1997 Liberia general elections, Ms. Johnson Sirleaf came second in a field of thirteen. Prior to that, she served for five years as Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa of UNDP with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. She has represented Liberia on the boards of several international and regional financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

Ms. Johnson Sirleaf has first hand experience of armed conflict. During the 1980 coup d'etat in Liberia she was one of only



four government ministers who escaped assassination, while 13 others were shot and killed.

Ms. Johnson Sirleaf holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard