



Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'Homme

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE NON GOUVERNEMENTALE AYANT STATUT CONSULTATIF AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES, DE L'UNESCO,
DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE ET D'OBSERVATEUR AUPRES DE LA COMMISSION AFRICAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES PEUPLES

International Federation
for Human Rights

Federación Internacional
de los Derechos Humanos

الفيدا الدولية لحقوق الإنسان

UN Commission on the Status of Women

49th session

28th February-11th March 2005

ORAL INTERVENTION

Thank you, Madam Chairperson / Mister Chairperson

My name is Amal Basha, I speak for the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), and I am the Director of the Sisters Arab Forum in Yemen.

FIDH draws a very mixed assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action.

Advances have been made, as a result from the voluntary efforts of international organizations and/or from NGO-led campaigns, such as

- the recognition of the feminization of poverty and the violations of the rights of women as major obstacles to democratization and to development, within the MDGs;
- the criminalisation of sex crimes within the ICC Statutes;
- the entry into force of the Optional protocol to the CEDAW;
- etc.

Yet, these advances are moderated by severe shortcomings. Indeed, FIDH regrets that although the number of ratification of CEDAW is high, reservations remain important, and implementation weak:

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- Since Beijing, the number of governments who have lifted all their reservations to CEDAW is limited to six [Germany, Belgium, Cyprus, Fiji, Poland, Romania]. To date, nearly a third of the signatories maintain reservations. Among them are many States with notable and flagrant violations of the rights of women.
- As for the new signatories, many [Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia], have issued reservations which, for the most part, remove all meaning from the Convention. Most of these new signatories have actually agreed only to those articles of the Convention which do not contradict Shari'a.
- The level of integration of the Convention into domestic law remains incomplete; much discriminatory legislation remains.

Governments who signed CEDAW lack the political determination to become fully involved. Thus, the ratification of CEDAW is tinged with hypocrisy for many governments who hide the continuation of openly discriminatory policies behind the claim of pseudo-cultural designations.

Worse, backwards efforts are not to be ignored. FIDH severely condemns the offensive laid down by the most reactionary governments, joined by the United States, to question the right to abortion. More than ever, vigilance is called for, since a number of governments are determined to reexamine the gains made by women.

Under these circumstances, FIDH considers it essential to intensify the campaign...

- for the reaffirmation of the universality of the rights of women and for the implementation of the Beijing Platform;
- for the lifting of reservations to CEDAW and the integration of this convention into domestic law;
- for the creation, within the UN Commission on the Status of Women, of a special mechanism to monitor national laws that discriminate against women.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson / Mister Chairperson



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المنتدى الدولي لحقوق الإنسان

Destinataire / To: Ms Wenyan YANG

Date : March 3rd 2005

Fax : + 1 212 963 34 63

Expéditeur / From : Antoine MADELIN

Objet : Attn Ms. Wenyan YANG – re. oral intervention

Dear Ms Yang,

Thank you for our conversation this morning on the phone.

As stated, the FIDH has made a request for an oral intervention in the 49th session of the CSW.

the name of our organisation in English is :

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (FIDH)

the speaker would be

Ms Amal BASHA

the topic of the intervention is

**Implementation of BEIJING plan of action – special focus on the ratifications and reserves
to CEDAW**

you will find attached the e-mails that we had sent to request for the intervention before the
closure of your deadline.

With my sincere thanks,

Antoine MADELIN

Permanent representative to the EU

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