



***"15 Years of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences [1994–2009]"***

A high level event with representatives from the United Nations, Member States and Civil Society

**25 November 2008**

**10:00–11:45am**

**Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium, UN Headquarters**

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On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, the Office of the United Nations Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are co-organizing a panel to discuss the preliminary findings of *'15 Years of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences [1994–2009]: A Review'*.

This event builds on the partnership between UNFPA, the Special Rapporteur and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take stock of the achievements of 15 years of work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. The panel will highlight some of the emerging issues and challenges faced by women and girls around the world and may prove useful for the future Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women – to be appointed in 2009 – and other stakeholders, including the United Nations, Member States and Civil Society, in pursuing and intensifying their efforts to eliminate violence against women.

**Opening statement:**

**Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations**

**Chair:**

**Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women**

**Panelists:**

**Yakin Ertürk**, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences

*“Looking Back, Looking Forward: Reflections on Challenges and Opportunities of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Mandate”*

**Madhu Mehra**, Executive Director of Partners for Law in Development (India) and Regional Council Member of the Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (Thailand)

*“15 Years of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women [1994–2009]: A Review”*

**Sonia Escobedo**, Secretary of Women’s Affairs, Guatemala

*“Responding to Violence against Women at the Country-Level: The Experience of Guatemala”*

**Aminata Toure**, Chief, Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch, UNFPA

*“UNFPA’s Perspective on the Prevention of Violence against Women”*