

## Invisible Victims and “Invincible” Dictators: *How the Failure to End Impunity in Failed and Criminal Regime States Threatens Global Peace and Security*

**Legal experts and women leaders from Burma, Sierra Leone, and Colombia will discuss Burma as a prototype of a criminal regime state.**

*Sponsored by the Global Justice Center and the Women's League of Burma*

**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2009

**Time:** 3:30—5:00pm

**Place:** UN Church Center, 777 United Nations Plaza, 10th Floor

### Panelists Include:

**Thin Thin Aung**, *Presidium Board Member, Women's League of Burma*: Thin Thin is a women's rights activist working for the women's empowerment and participation in political decision makings and for the restoration of democracy in Burma.

**Janet Benshoof**, *President, Global Justice Center*: Janet is an internationally recognized human rights lawyer who has established landmark precedents on equality, reproductive rights and on international humanitarian law

**Francess Issa**, *Lawyer and Sierra Leone expert*: Francess is a Sierra Leonean lawyer who has worked the UN International Tribunal for war crimes in Sierra Leone and is the Secretary General of Legal Assistance for Women Yearning for Equality Rights and Social Justice.

**Mónica Roa**, *Lawyer and Colombia expert*: Mónica is Program Director at Women's Link Worldwide and brought the case that lead to the 2006 decision by the Constitutional Court of Colombia to liberalize the country's extreme abortion restrictions.

**To RSVP, email Laura Cheung at  
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**This panel will outline the advances in international humanitarian law clarifying and broadening States' positive non-derogable legal obligations to take all measures possible when a third State engages in serious breaches of peremptory norms. (Such as impunity for perpetrating those heinous crimes covered by the International Criminal Court).**

Panelists will discuss the serious consequences to both global security and the legitimacy of international law arising from States' individual and collective failure to comply with this legal imperative. Using Burma as an example, panelists will demonstrate how ongoing impunity for criminal dictators like Senior General Than Shwe prohibits victims from ever accessing their rights to justice, encourages an escalation in grave crimes and promotes criminal dictatorships.

Next, panelists will assess the impact of Security Council Resolutions SCR 1325 and SCR 1820 requiring gender equality measures be imposed in peacekeeping and transitional processes and ending impunity for rape and other sex crimes against women in conflict areas.

Finally, panelists will offer recommendations on how to “ensure” compliance with international humanitarian law and ask the audience to comment on those recommendations.