

Testimony for 1325 on Trail
48th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
by Dr. Nadi Hakki (hakki@btopenworld.com)

The United Nation passionately initiated, in its 4213th meeting on 31st October 2000, a resolution through which the UN expressed its concern that civilians, particularly women and children, would be adversely affected during armed conflict and in post conflict in term of displacement, torture, sexual violence and poverty.

The United Nation reaffirmed the importance of women's role in the equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the promotion and maintenance of peace and in reconciliation. The United Nation reaffirmed the need to implement international humanitarian and human rights laws that protect the rights of woman and girls during and after the conflict.

What was the reasoning behind the absence of protection like Resolution 1325 during and in post-conflict Iraq? Resolution 1325 was blocked by the rigid bureaucracy of the United Nations and would have prevented the reason for war in Iraq in first place.

The UN did not consider the suffering of Iraqi women and children in general, nor the loss of Iraqi heritage, nor the environmental ruin. It will be almost one year since the conflict in Iraq, yet Resolution 1325 remains mere ink on a paper gathering dust on the UN explicit shelves. In the meantime, countless victims have suffered rape, looting and killing with its main victims were women and children.

The question for the UN: wouldn't have saved needlessly lost lives of innocent Iraqi women and children and the brave Americans and British soldiers if the UN had taken a bold stand against injustice and intervened in Iraq as soon as the country was liberated from Saddam and his henchman.

Despite the brilliance of Resolution1325, it failed to reduce the suffering of Iraqi women, just as it failed to help the Kurdish women in Turkey and Iran, simply because the UN did not move fast enough to implement it.

Therefore it is absolutely imperative that the UN institution undertakes a serious investigation to determine the cause of this failing and make the necessary changes to prevent this disaster from reoccurring.