

*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté
Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad
Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative
Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF*



Statement by the Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom (WILPF) on
the adoption of the UPR report on Spain

Thank you Madam Chair,

WILPF welcomes in particular the recommendations in relation to gender-based violence, truth, justice and reparations and trafficking.

We regret that members of the Working group are still not fully addressing the extraterritorial obligations of states and in particular in two areas: due diligence towards the activities of transnational companies and arms exports.

Transnational companies

Spanish companies have internationalised greatly, and the effort has been accompanied by the Spanish government.

However, some Spanish companies have contributed to serious violations of the human rights of workers by using suppliers, especially in the textile and food sectors, that impose 72-hour work-weeks, fail to provide legal contracts to working women, or place restrictions on their freedom of movement. This is the case with Eastman Exports Global Clothing, which supplies Spanish companies

such as Cortefiel, El Corte Inglés and Inditex.^{1 2}

Spain should condition its political and financial support to companies that ensure respect to human rights in all the production and supply chain in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Member States should contribute positively to the elaboration of an international instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises as established by Resolution 26/9³.

Arms exports

Arms exports have serious consequences on the rights and safety of people in countries where the weapons end up.

Spanish arms exports have grown exponentially in the last decade.^{4 5}

Spain has authorized sales of small arms to countries with serious situations of violence against women, including high rates of femicide, such as Brazil⁶ and Guatemala^{7 8}

1 Overeem, P., M. Theuvs y N. Coninck, Captured by Cotton. Exploited Dalit girls produce garments in India for European and US markets, SOMO-Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, LIW/ ICN- India Committee of the Netherlands y Campaign Against Sumangali Scheme, 2011.

2 Anna McMullen et. Al. Dignified Salaries. Is the salary paid by brands to people making our clothes sufficient to get by on? Clean Clothes Campaign, Setem, March 2014.

3 http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/26/9

4 According to Small Arms Survey Transparency Barometer, which in 2014 examined 55 countries. Amnesty International Fundipau, Greenpeace, Intermón-Oxfam, Killing Secrets?, April 29, 2015.

5 Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau, Exportacions Espanyoles d'Armament 2004-2013: El govern promou exportacions il·lícites d'armament?, Informe num.24, julio de 2014.

6 UN Women, "In Brazil, new law on femicide to offer greater protection, UN Women News, 16 de marzo de 2015, <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/in-brazil-new-law-on-femicide-to-offer-greater-protection>.

7 Small Arms Survey, Femicide: A Global Problem, Research Note 14, febrero de 2012, <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/about-us/highlights/highlight-rn14.html>

8 Amnesty International, 'Circles of hell': Domestic, public and state violence against women in Egypt, AI,

Arms sales in these and other cases would violate the provisions contained in⁹ The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and the EU Common Position for the control of military exports¹⁰.

The recent cancellation of arms sales from Sweden to Saudi amid human rights violations in this country, has emerged as a benchmark for putting human rights at the heart of political decision.¹¹

Even after the ATT acknowledged the link between gender-based violence and arms trade and this Council adopted a resolution on the impact of arms transfer on human rights in conflict, very rare recommendations on these areas have been issued so far through the UPR mechanism.

We encourage member states to bear in mind extraterritorial obligations regarding human rights violations, including arms trade and the work of transnational companies, and to issue recommendations in this sense.

I thank you.

January 21, 2015.

⁹ Boletín Oficial del Estado, Ley 53/2007 sobre el control del comercio exterior de material de defensa y de doble uso, BOE-A-2007-22437, 29 de diciembre de 2007.

¹⁰ Diario Oficial de la UE, Posición Común 2008/944/PESC del Consejo por la que se definen las normas comunes que rigen el control de las exportaciones de tecnología y equipos militares, 8 de diciembre de 2008.

¹¹ Escola de Cultura de Pau, Género y Paz, número 5, abril de 2015.