



PRIO

First Woman Appointed as UN Force Commander

Interview with Major General Kristin Lund

PRIO Gender, Peace and Security Update

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The PRIO Gender Peace and Security Update is an electronic newsletter launched by PRIO's Gender Research Group in response to growing interest among the public for information about women, peace and security issues. The newsletter will keep readers informed of the latest developments both internationally and in Norway in relation to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions.

Major General Kristin Lund of Norway was appointed Force Commander to the [United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus \(UNFICYP\)](#) on 12 May. The PRIO GPS Update had an opportunity to meet with Major General Lund before she formally accepted military command of UNFICYP on 11 August, as the first woman to serve as Force Commander in a UN Mission. She talked to us about her new assignment, her career, and the process that has led up to this historical appointment.

Congratulations on your recent appointment! You have earlier participated in several UN and NATO missions – including in Afghanistan, the Balkans and Lebanon. Are you looking forward to taking up the new position?

Yes, absolutely. I am proud and very happy to receive this appointment, and I'm looking forward to starting. In the past six months we have seen some progress in the relationship between the Northern and Southern parts of Cyprus, and hopefully we may see the peace process developing further in the future.

Given your experience from operations in countries like Afghanistan and Lebanon, how will you work to integrate gender in your new job?

Specifically, my job will be to lead the monitoring of the 1974 agreement. Further, the mandate makes reference to the importance of women's participation in the peace process and contact between the two communities, and I will also do what I can to support that work.



Major General Kristin Lund of Norway is the new Force Commander of UNFICYP. Photo: UNFICYP.

In addition, I will focus on civil-military cooperation. In Afghanistan, the Norwegians became pretty good at engaging in projects that supported both genders. For example, if we supported the building of a new school it had to be for both boys and girls. Cyprus and Afghanistan are of course very different countries, but this is what applying a gender perspective means in practice.

The Head of Mission is also a woman, Lisa Buitenhuis. This means that it will be the first time both the civilian and military leadership of a UN mission are women. What do you think about that?

I think that is very interesting! I have already been in contact with Buitenhuis.

heim and look forward to working with her. The Security Adviser in the mission is also a woman, which means that the top leadership are all women.

Relationship building and communication skills are very important in this job. Buttenheim enjoys a good reputation in both parts of Cyprus, and she has taken on an enhanced role in the peace process. I believe women are often pretty good in building relationships and trust, and my job will be to support the SRS in this work.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Norwegian Mission to the UN, and other country missions to the UN. Then, last year the Norwegian Mission to the UN received a letter from DPKO with a request to suggest a female candidate to the mission in Cyprus.

You were also the first woman in Norway to receive the rank of Major General, one of many “firsts” in your career; was it a conscious choice to be a role model for other women in the military?

it takes a long time before you are confident enough to completely trust in yourself.

Gaining broad experience has been valuable, and has helped me in my career. But there have also been individuals around me who have offered me support and guidance – those men who have faith in themselves also have faith in others, including women. One example is Major General Robert Mood (former head of the UN mission in Syria (UNSMIS)), who worked hard to get me into the Army War College in the US where I completed a master’s degree in 2007. When I arrived I was the first female student from a foreign country.

What about those who were less supportive? During your 34 years in the Armed Forces you must have experienced some resistance?

Of course there has been a lot of opposition as well. It has been a tough battle at times. Many men become insecure when they are not used to dealing with female colleagues in the field.

When I was stationed in the Brigade North in Northern Norway in the early 1980s, I felt I had to do the job twice as well as the men. My troop commander was opposed to women in the armed forces, and in the beginning he sometimes made his feelings about this apparent. But after a year he approached me and told me that he had been convinced that I had a role to play in the armed forces.

I believe that if we reach a level of 20 – 30 % women in the armed forces things will start to get easier. I also believe that with new generations, the attitudes and practices will also change. People who have seen and experienced the roles that women and gender perspectives play in the field generally become supportive of the issue.



Kristin Lund at the inauguration ceremony on 11 August. Behind from the left is Lund’s predecessor, General Liu, and Head of Mission, Lisa Buttenheim. Photo: UNFICYP.

How was the process leading up to this appointment?

After I was appointed Chief of Staff of the Norwegian Home Guard in 2009, the Chief of Defence asked me what I wanted to do next. I told him that I would like another assignment abroad. Later I was approached by the Ministry of Defence who asked whether the Defence Minister could report my candidacy when addressing the UN General Assembly. About three years ago, I went on a trip to New York together with three Norwegian members of parliament where we met with the UN

One thing that men are often very good at, and which I adopted early on in my career, is thinking and acting strategically. I have tried to always think two steps ahead, and to choose my next position wisely even if it was not necessarily my first choice. I did this in order to build enough experience to give me a greater freedom of choice down the line. So in that sense, you could say it has been a conscious choice.

I have also been active in the Norwegian network for female military officers since the 1980s. It is important to have the support of a network, because

What were the reactions at home when you accepted assignments to serve in operations abroad?

There were many different reactions, and people giving advice on what to do or not to do. A lot of people thought we shouldn't go. But when we arrived we saw that we were needed as women. For example, there would be no female guards at the roadblocks or customs checkpoints. The rules were that the husband should search his wife, but in reality this allowed women to smuggle things under their clothes.

This is why I cannot underline enough the importance of having women in these positions. Without them, we are not able to do our job and can only reach 50% of the population. How are we supposed to achieve progress if we cannot reach out to everyone?

On the issue of recruitment: Norway has recently adopted compulsory military service for women from 2016. This decision has received criticism from various actors. Some feel that women do not belong in the military, while others wonder why Norway does not professionalize the military rather than expanding the compulsory service. What is your view on the issue?

I think it is very important in a democratic country that the duty and burden of protecting the country is shared by both men and women. I also believe that the armed forces should reflect the population. Further, women represent 50% of the population in the countries where we serve. If we are not able to talk to the women, we are missing a lot of important outreach and information.

I have had the privilege of opening several schools in Afghanistan, and there I have seen hope in the eyes of the girls. I don't necessarily think it would have been the same if it was a man who was opening those schools. I believe it makes a difference that I, as a woman, can show that it is possible for

women to take up positions that are usually held by men.

You will be one of the few Norwegian military personnel currently serving in a UN mission. Compared to the 1990s, Norway has reduced its contribution of personnel to traditional "Blue Helmet" UN operations, but has been heavily involved in the NATO/ISAF force in Afghanistan since 2002. Now that Norway is withdrawing its personnel from Afghanistan, do you think this could lead to an increase in the Norwegian contribution to UN operations in the future?

We have seen that our involvement in Afghanistan has come at the expense of priorities at home, so now we need to get our peace structures up and running again. But I think it is very important that Norway shows that it takes responsibility for supplying personnel as well as funding to UN peacekeeping operations. It does not necessarily have to be in the large numbers. ■

New Global Study on UNSCR 1325

On 10 September a new global study to review progress and challenges with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was launched in New York. The announcement was made at a special event organized by UN Women, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates.

The Global Study was called for by the UN Security Council in Resolution 2122 (2013), and will feed into the High-Level Review and the 15th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in October 2015. The study is expected to be completed by mid-2015.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, former Special Representative of the Secretary-

General on Children in Armed Conflict, and former Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, will be the lead author of the study. At the New York event she emphasised the need to include in the study issues that were not part of the original resolution, including the rise of violent extremism, and the use of new technologies to inform and protect (see the [press release](#)).



Radhika Coomaraswamy. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Coomaraswamy will be supported in her work by a High-Level Advisory Group comprising of the following 18 members: Ms. Madeleine Rees (United Kingdom), Ms. Elisabeth Rehn (Finland), Major General Patrick Cammaert (Netherlands), Ms. Luz Mendez (Guatemala), Ms. Liliana Andrea Silva Bello (Colombia), Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls (Fiji), Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Ms. Leymah Gbowee (Liberia), Ms. Ruth Ochieng (Uganda), Ms. Yasmin Sooka (South Africa), Ms. Alaa Murabit (Canada/Libya), Ms. Maha Abu Dayyeh (Palestine/Israel), Mr. Youssef Mahmoud (Tunisia), Ms. Julia Kharashvili (Georgia), Ms. Igballe Rogova (Kosovo), Ms. Pramila Patten (Mauritius), and Ms. Bandana Rana (Nepal). ■

SVAC project: Successful academic workshop on sexual violence in armed conflict

The SVAC project at PRIO organized an academic workshop assembling a group of experts on sexual violence in armed conflict. The event was held 2-3 September at the Women and Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and was made possible with funding support from the Norwegian Research Council and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

Over the two days of the workshop, participants presented and discussed 20 working papers. The themes reflected key topics at the frontier of the research agenda on conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. The participants also discussed the future prospects for research in the field, and how academic research can be best positioned to inform policy and to make a difference.

A major aim of the workshop was to take stock of the latest social science research on conflict-related sexual violence from both quantitative and qualitative perspectives, as well as to bring together some of the most innovative work in the field in order to advance the theoretical and empirical understanding of conflict-related sexual violence during wartime and its aftermath.

The workshop had two additional goals. First, the workshop served as the informal launch of the SVAC dataset that Ragnhild Nordås and Dara Kay Cohen have spearheaded over the last several years, along with the support and guidance of the advisory group, many of whom also attended the workshop. The SVAC dataset was publicly released in

June 2014, along with a data feature article in the *Journal of Peace Research*, and the dataset and codebook are now available for download at www.sexualviolencedata.org. Second, the workshop was intended to encourage scholars to begin using the SVAC data in their research, and indeed, a number of papers at the workshop incorporated the SVAC data. In the future, we believe that important research insights will emerge from these contributions.

Based on the themes of the panels, the direction that the field of social science research on wartime sexual violence and some of the emerging debates in the field include:

- A concern about the disconnect between research and policy, and the “stickiness” of conventional wisdoms in the policy discourse despite their lack of evidence in the research
- The costs and benefits of aggregating “sexual violence” into one broad category or disaggregating it

into specific forms of violence against particular victim groups

- A growing debate over the connections (or lack thereof) between public, political and wartime acts of sexual violence, versus private, intimate and peacetime acts of sexual violence
- An increasing interest in the less-well-studied groups of victims like men and boys (and, to a lesser extent, hidden types of perpetrators, including women)

The papers that were presented and discussed comprise a dynamic research program—but one that is, unfortunately, often absent from policy debates. For instance, social scientists were almost completely excluded from the June 2014 Global Summit to End Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in London. The workshop concluded with a discussion on the role of the academic community in policy and practice, and how the research we do can better inform relevant actors—and hopefully make a difference. ■



Participants at the SVAC workshop which was organized at Harvard University 2-3 September. Photo: Ragnhild Nordås, PRIO.

International News

Major General Kristin Lund (Norway) took office as Force Commander to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) on 11 August (see separate story).

Ellen Margrethe Løj (Denmark), former SRSG and Head of the UN Mission in Liberia, was appointed SRSG and Head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) on 23 July, succeeding Hilde Johnson (Norway).

A new global study to review progress and challenges with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was launched in New York on 10 September (see separate story).

Louise Allen is the new Executive Coordinator of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. She took over the position from Sarah Taylor on 16 September.

UN Women and Emma Watson, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, launched the **HeForShe campaign** at a special event at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 20 September. Emma Watson's speech, "*Gender equality is your issue too*", is available from the [UN Women website](#).

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) adopted a new **policy and action plan** for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in June.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) released a **Progress report on the implementation of the NATO/EAPC Policy and Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security** on 5 September.

Marriët Schuurman (the Netherlands) has been appointed the new NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, succeeding Mari Skåre (Norway) who has held the post since 2012. ■

News from Norway

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a civil society consultation on the new strategy for Women, Peace and Security on 2 September. ■

The Norwegian Afghanistan Committee organized a seminar with **Dr. Khadija, an Afghan physician, and Kristin Solberg, a Norwegian journalist**, at Litteraturhuset, Oslo, on 18 September. Dr. Khadija is the head of several midwife schools in Afghanistan and the main character in **Solberg's new book *Livets skole*** ("School of Life"). ■

News from PRIO

The Research Network on Gender, Peace and Security held its summer meeting at PRIO on 27 August 2014. The Research Network is coordinated by PRIO Researcher Torunn L. Tryggestad.

The SVAC project at PRIO organized an academic workshop on sexual violence in armed conflict on 2-3 September at the Women and Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (see separate story).

Torunn L. Tryggestad

- Gave a brief introduction at brainstorming meeting on the new strategy for the implementation of UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace

and Security. 21 August, Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Oslo.

- Organized and chaired the summer meeting of the Research Network on Gender, Peace and Security, 27 August, PRIO.
- Met with Dr Khadija Safi, from the Kabul Office of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee, 19 September, PRIO.

Ragnhild Nordås

- Organized an academic workshop on sexual violence in armed conflict on 2-3 September for the SVAC project (see separate story).

Gudrun Østby

- Two paper presentations at the SVAC (Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict) workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2-3 September (see separate story):
- Østby, Gudrun, 2014. Violence Begets Violence: Armed Conflict and Domestic Sexual Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa. Paper presented at the SVAC (Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict) workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2-3 September.
- Rustad, Siri; Gudrun Østby & Ragnhild Nordås, 2014. Artisanal mining, conflict and sexual violence: Micro-level evidence from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Paper presented at the SVAC (Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict) workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2-3 September. ■

Recent Publications

Alhussein, Eman (2014) *Triangle of change: the situation of women in Sau-*

di Arabia. Oslo: NOREF Expert Analysis.

Bastick, Megan (2014) *Integrating Gender into Internal Police Oversight*. Geneva: DCAF, OSCE, OSCE/ODIHR.

Bastick, Megan (2014) *Integrating a Gender Perspective into Internal Oversight within Armed Forces*. Geneva: DCAF, OSCE, OSCE/ODIHR.

Bastick, Megan (2014) *Integrating Gender into Oversight of the Security Sector by Ombuds Institutions & National Human Rights Institutions*. Geneva: DCAF, OSCE, OSCE/ODIHR.

Beham, Miroslava and Luisa Dietrich (2013) "Enhancing Gender-Responsive Mediation – A Guidance Note". Vienna: OSCE. October 2013.

Lackenbauer, Helené and Michael Jonsson (2014) *Implementing UNSCR 1325 in Capacity Building Missions - A study of NTM-Afghanistan, EUTM-Mali and EUTM-Somalia*. Stockholm: FOI - Totalförsvarets Forskningsinstitut.

Lemaitre Ripoll, Julieta; López, Eva Sol; Mosquera, Juan Pablo; Sandvik, Kristin Bergtora; & Gómez, Juliana Vargas (2014) *De desplazados a víctimas. Los cambios legales y la participación de la Mesa de Víctimas de Mocoa, Putumayo*. [Displaced victims. Legal changes and involvement of the Bureau of Victims of Mocoa, Putumayo.], PRIO Report, 8. Colombia: Universidad De Los Andes (Justicia Global).

Lemaitre Ripoll, Julieta; Sandvik, Kristin Bergtora; Villalba, Luz Estella Romero; Arias, Ana Manuela Ochoa; Villegas, Valentina González; & Mahecha, Sandra Vargas (2014) *Defensoras de derechos*

humanos Tres estudios de casos de ONG y su respuesta al desplazamiento forzado [Human rights defenders, Three studies of NGO's and response to forced displacement], PRIO Report, 9. Colombia: Universidad De Los Andes (Justicia Global).

Lemaitre Ripoll, Julieta; Sandvik, Kristin Bergtora; & Gómez, Juliana Vargas (2014) *Organización comunitaria y derechos humanos. La movilización legal de las mujeres desplazadas en Colombia*. [Community organization and human rights. Legal mobilization of displaced women in Colombia.], PRIO Report, 10. Colombia: Universidad De Los Andes (Justicia Global).

Lemaitre Ripoll, Julieta; Sandvik, Kristin Bergtora; López, Eva Sol; Mosquera, Juan Pablo; Gómez, Juliana Vargas; & Guerrero, Patricia (2014) *Sueño de vida digna* La Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas: Estudio de caso en mejores prácticas de organización de base para el goce efectivo de derechos. [Dream about a decent life. The League of Displaced Women: A Case Study of best practices organization based on the full enjoyment of rights], PRIO Report, 7. Colombia: Universidad De Los Andes (Justicia Global).

Lippai, Zsuzsanna & Angelic Young (2014) *National Action Plan Monitoring & Evaluation Guide*. Washington: The Institute for Inclusive Security.

Obradovic, Lana (2014) *Gender Integration in NATO Military Forces: Cross-national analysis*. Dorchester: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

Shepherd, Laura J. (2014) *Advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda: 2015 and beyond*. Oslo: NOREF Expert

Analysis. ■

Coming Events

PRIO Seminar: Launch of new report by OSCE and PRIO: OSCE study on National Action Plans on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. 22 October 10.30-12.00 at PRIO.

PRIO Seminar: NATO and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda – Achievements and Challenges. 28 October 09.00-10:30 at PRIO.

PRIO Breakfast Seminar: Gender Based Violence in War and Conflict – Approaching and Assisting Survivors. 31 October 08.30-10.00 at PRIO.

The annual UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security will take place in late October, New York. The emphasis of the debate will be on the effects of displacement on women, focusing on refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

International Conference on Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia and call for papers. The conference is jointly organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG) and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). 8 November 2014 in Kolkata, India. ■



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