February 28, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Ruth Weiner  ruth@sevenstories.com  Tel 212-226-8760
Minky Worden  wordenm@hrw.org  Tel 212-216-1250 or (m) 1-917-497-0540

“Women are not free anywhere in this world until all women in the world are free.”
~ Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, 2011

* Publication on March 8, 2012, to coincide with International Women’s Day *

THE UNFINISHED
REVOLUTION

Voices from the Global Fight for Women’s Rights

Edited by Minky Worden
Foreword by Christiane Amanpour

“It’s a time of change in the world, with dictators toppling and new opportunities rising, but any revolution that doesn’t create equality for women will be incomplete. The time has come to realize the full potential of half the world’s population.”
~Christiane Amanpour, from the foreword

Women’s rights have progressed significantly in the last two decades, but major challenges remain in order to end gender discrimination as required by international human rights law. The Unfinished Revolution (March 8th, 2012) tells the story of the global struggle to secure basic rights for women and girls, including in the Middle East where the Arab Spring raised high hopes, but where genuine long-term progress in women’s rights remains an uncertainty.

More than 30 writers —leading activists, top policymakers, experts in women’s rights, and former victims—have contributed to this anthology. With incisive essays by Nobel Peace Prize laureates Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams, as well as Mary Robinson, Dr. Hawa Abdi of Somalia, a foreword by Christiane Amanpour, and many other contributors, this book tackles some of the toughest questions and offers bold new approaches to problems affecting hundreds of millions of women. With a 24-page photo essay by Platon, Susan Meiselas, Marcus Bleasdale, Stephanie Sinclair and other leading photographers, readers can hear from and meet women who have fought back against injustice.
The Unfinished Revolution examines the effects of the Arab Spring on women’s rights in countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the issues of domestic violence and religious dress in Europe, the continuing threats posed by the Taliban to girls and women in Afghanistan, the problem of unequal property rights in many parts of Africa, and the fragility of reproductive rights in Latin America, among other topics. Contributors propose workable solutions to address ongoing rights violations including human trafficking and unequal access to education, as well as practical issues such as how to best fund the global movement to improve the rights of women and girls.

A common thread in each chapter is the recommendation of concrete, achievable solutions such as increasing the use of mobile phone technology in combating the spread of fistula and other preventable diseases in Africa, investing in awareness-raising campaigns on the nefarious effects of child marriage in countries like Ethiopia or Yemen, systematically establishing grievance redress and auditing mechanisms in health centers in India to reduce maternal mortality rates, and adopting federal and state policies to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits in the United States.

Finding fresh approaches to challenging the many abuses still being faced by women today gives The Unfinished Revolution an urgency that will speak to men, women, human rights advocates, and everyone who recognizes the injustices still being committed against their fellow humans.

Contributors:

Esra Abdel Fattah
Dr. Hawa Abdi
Christiane Amanpour
Charlotte Bunch
Ellen Chesler
Isobel Coleman
Shirin Ebadi
Georgette Gagnon
Liesl Gerntholtz
Sharon K. Hom
Aruna Kashyap
Nadya Khalife

Mark P. Lagon
Gara LaMarche
Graça Machel
Marianne Mollmann
Samer Muscati
Agnes Odhiambo
Elaine Pearson
Sheridan Prasso
Rachel Reid
Meghan Rhoad
Sarah J. Robbins
Mary Robinson

Judith Sunderland
Sussan Tahmasebi
Dorothy Q. Thomas
Sarah Tofte
Gauri van Gulik
Anneke Van Woudenberg
Nisha Varia
Janet Walsh
Christoph Wilcke
Jody Williams

As Director of Global Initiatives for Human Rights Watch, MINKY WORDEN develops and implements international outreach and advocacy campaigns. She previously served as Human Rights Watch's Media Director, as an adviser to Democratic Party chairman Martin Lee in Hong Kong, and as a speechwriter at the Justice Department in Washington, DC. She is co-editor of Torture (The New Press, 2005) and editor of China's Great Leap (Seven Stories Press, 2008).

Events to promote The Unfinished Revolution will be held in the following cities in North America: Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Seattle, Chicago, New York, Toronto, and Washington DC.

To arrange an interview, please contact Ruth Weiner at ruth@sevenstories.com, tel 212-226-8760, or Minky Worden at wordenm@hrw.org, tel 212-216-1250 or (m) 1-917-497-0540.
Contributors and themes:

Past and future of the women’s rights movement:
- Women’s rights pioneer Charlotte Bunch on “how women’s rights became recognized as women’s rights”
- Roosevelt Institute Senior Fellow Ellen Chesler on Eleanor Roosevelt’s legacy
- Human Rights Watch Women’s Rights division founding director Dorothy Q. Thomas on why women’s rights matter
- NYU Senior Fellow and philanthropy expert Gara LaMarche on funding the women’s rights movement

Middle East / Arab Spring:
- Egyptian activist Esra Abdel Fattah (with Sarah J. Robbins) on women’s rights in Egypt after Mubarak’s fall
- Human Rights Watch researcher Samer Muscati on the backsliding of women’s rights in Iraq
- Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi on the effect of Islamic law on women’s rights in Iran
- Iranian activist Sussan Tahmasebi on the role of civil society in Iran and more broadly in the Middle East
- Human Rights Watch senior researcher Christoph Wilcke on systemic discrimination against women in Saudi Arabia

Asia:
- Kabul-based UN Human Rights director Georgette Gagnon on harmful traditional practices in Afghanistan
- Open Society Foundation senior regional advisor Rachel Reid on the Taliban’s “night letters” in Afghanistan
- HRIC executive director Sharon K. Hom on legal obstacles to the advancement of women’s rights in China
- Writer Sheridan Prasso on the interplay of tradition and modernity for women and girls in China

Africa:
- Somali obstetrician Dr. Hawa Abdi (with Sarah J. Robbins) on the siege of her clinic in Somalia
- Human Rights Watch’s women’s rights deputy director Janet Walsh on unequal property rights in Africa

U.S.:
- Joyful Heart Foundation official Sarah Tofte on the backlog of untested rape kits in the United States
- Human Rights Watch researcher Meghan Rhoad on violence against immigrant women in the US

Violence against women:
- Human Rights Watch Women’s Rights director Liesl Gerntholtz on violence against women
- Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams on the devastating effects of conflict on women and girls
- Human Rights Watch advocacy director Gauri van Gulik on domestic violence in Turkey and Europe
- Human Rights Watch senior researcher Anneke Van Woudenberg on rape as a weapon of war in the DR Congo

Trafficking of women and girls:
- Ambassador Mark P. Lagon on how and why to end the trafficking of women and girls
- Human Rights Watch’s Asia deputy director Elaine Pearson on strategies to fight post-trafficking abuses

Health issues:
- Mumbai-based Human Rights Watch researcher Aruna Kashyap on maternal mortality in India
- Beirut-based Human Rights Watch researcher Nadya Khalife on female genital mutilation
- Nairobi-based Human Rights Watch researcher Agnes Odhiambo on the deadly childbirth injury fistula in Africa
- Amnesty International senior adviser Marianne Mollmann on reproductive rights in Latin America

Economic issues:
- CFR Senior Fellow Isobel Coleman on how technology can advance women’s rights
- Human Rights Watch senior researcher Nisha Varia on the fight to end the abuse of migrant domestic workers

Cultural / religious issues, harmful traditions:
- Milan-based Human Rights Watch researcher Judith Sunderland on the issue of religious dress, veiling
- The Elders Graça Machel and Mary Robinson on why we need a global campaign to end child marriage