

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.org>

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

IAW NEWSLETTER June 2008, no. 6



Equal Rights

Dear members,

A long newsletter this time, with two extensive subjects, the Security Council on Violence against Women, and on food, hunger and agriculture.

This month several statements and petitions were signed, reports written, and news mailed around.

News on CEDAW and establishing a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, on progress about Women with Disabilities and Female Genital Mutilation, on the Human Rights Council, Women and Tobacco, the rights of street vendors and worry about the women and children in Zimbabwe.

Even while we are writing this, more news from members is coming in. We are thinking of producing an extra edition of the newsletter. And as usual you will find data on events and conferences at the end.

WOMEN AND GIRLS - PAWNS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Resolution 1820 on Violence against Women as a Tactic of War

On June the 19th 2008 the Security Council demanded that all sides to armed conflicts around the world stop using violence against women as a tactic of war and take much tougher steps to protect women and girls from such attacks.

In a resolution adopted unanimously after a day-long [debate](#) on women, peace and security, Council members said women and girls are consistently targeted during conflicts “as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instil fear in, disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group.”

Opening the meeting, United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the truest test of the will of the international community was the protection it gave to the most vulnerable. “When women and girls are raped, we cannot be silent... we must be their advocates,” Ms Rice said.

The resolution was adopted after dozens of speakers told the Council about the appalling effects of sexual violence during armed conflicts, with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon saying the problem had reached “unspeakable and pandemic proportions” in some countries.

Mr. Ban announced he will soon appoint a UN envoy tasked entirely with advocating for an end to violence against women.

On: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2008/sc9364.doc.htm>

You will find the resolution on <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2008/sc9364.doc.htm>

DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD

Comments of IANSA on resolution 1820

During the Bush administration’s final presidency of the UN Security Council, the US is introducing a resolution on sexual violence during armed conflict.

On the face of it, this seems a worthy step. In reality though it is an exploitation of an existing agenda that is far more broad and reflective of women’s realities in conflict zones.

It brings nothing new to women vulnerable to sexual violence. It neither offers protection nor pragmatic measures to prevent sexual violence.

At best it is ‘feel good’ rhetoric or a political ploy; a last hurrah by an administration that has systematically exploited the women’s human rights agenda for its own purposes.

At worst, this resolution undermines existing commitments to women, and can ultimately do more harm than good.

This is not to diminish the horrors of sexual violence. Sexual violence is torture. The International Criminal Tribunals of Rwanda and Yugoslavia have recognized rape as a war crime. The International Criminal Court (ICC) statute goes further to recognize forced pregnancies and other forms of sexual and gender based violence as crimes of war.

SCR 1325

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) states that sexual violence must be excluded from amnesty provisions. The new resolution however, provides watered down versions of the issues, and undermines what we have. For example:

Operational Paragraph (OP) 4 states that “sexual violence ‘can’ constitute a war crime; a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide,” But sexual violence is already recognized as such in international law. *The word ‘can’ undermines this.*

OP 6 The demand for training exists in SCR 1325, but insufficient resources are directed to it by member states.

SCR 1325 calls for prevention of sexual violence. This resolution is merely asking that UN personnel ‘*recognise and respond.*’

OP 11 “Encourages the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys to invite women to participate, whenever feasible, in discussions leading to the resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding.

This undermines current work and SCR 1325 provisions that calls for *the inclusion of women in all decision making for the prevention, resolution and post conflict reconstruction and in the implementation of peace agreements.*

In 2006 the UK started to develop a resolution on GBV (gender based violence). It became known as the "daughter" of 1325. Women worldwide objected to it vehemently, because it diminished the political importance of 1325. They didn't want a daughter, they wanted implementation of the original resolution.

The UK listened and dropped the idea. The US, however, is ignoring this history, ignoring women’s demands, while claiming to speak on their behalf.

A new resolution should take us forward boldly, with clear benchmarks, commitments, directives, programming and resources that build on progress that has been made. In war zones, women and their dependents deserve nothing less.

Part of a letter by Sarah Masters, International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).

Email: women@iansa.org - Website: www.iansa.org/women

Comments by IAW President Rosy Weiss

The adoption of this resolution would require the Council to analyze and address the occurrence of sexual violence in all conflict-affected situations on its agenda. Until now, the Council’s record on raising concerns on this issue has been inconsistent, only recently issuing strong statements on the appalling levels of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—a conflict that has been marred by unconscionable violence for years—and hardly any mention of rape and other forms of sexual abuse in Cote d’Ivoire, where nongovernmental and humanitarian organizations systematically have documented continued use of such violence by all sides of the conflict.

The Security Council is mandated by the UN Charter to address situations that threaten international peace and security, including violations of international law (such as rape) that raise to this level.

The Council consists of 15 member states, all of whom would have to agree to the proposed resolution on sexual violence for it to pass.

The Council is composed of China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States--the five permanent members and Belgium, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, Indonesia, Italy, Libya, Panama, South Africa and Vietnam--the non-permanent members.

Website: www.iwtc.org Sent to us by IAW President Rosy Weiss

Security Council Should Listen to Women Hurt by War

Women’s groups from conflict zones have long promoted a stronger participation of women in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts as a way to ensure that violence directed at women during and after a conflict is adequately dealt with.

In January 2008, numerous women’s organizations from the Democratic Republic of Congo put together a short list of recommendations in this regard. Their focus was justice, health services, democratic participation, and accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence.

On May 27-28, UN military experts, government officials, and women's rights representatives met in Wilton Park near London to discuss concrete proposals for improving the UN's record on preventing sexual violence through its peacekeeping operations.

UN Peacekeepers

Human Rights Watch and the International Women's Tribune Center said that the Security Council should provide peacekeepers with a clear mandate to prevent sexual violence.

Over the past decade, UN peacekeepers have been implicated in committing sexual violence against the very populations they were charged with protecting.

The United Nations has admitted to some abuses and has announced a zero-tolerance policy regarding such sexual exploitation and abuse, but has yet to put into place a system to effectively prevent the violence. This has raised concerns among human rights and women's rights groups about the UN's ability to prevent sexual violence committed by others.

More on www.iwtc.org

Found on the internet on UN Peacekeepers reported Sexual Abuse of Children

Regarding queries about punishing troops responsible for the sexual abuse of minors -- who must be punished by their home countries rather than host authorities -- Jane Holl Lute, Assistant-Secretary-General for Field Support said the United Nations was working on strengthening dialogue with Member States. "It takes a while for this to be fully incorporated into people's sensibilities and their behaviour. We can't let up. We need to be vigilant."

On http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2008/080527_Lute.doc.htm

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

May 30 - We, the Zimbabwean women and women worldwide, urgently call for stopping of violence in Zimbabwe and protection of women and girls, in this post election catastrophe. This is an emergency as the country gears up for a presidential run-off on the 27th of June 2008. The violence persists and is real. No election observers are yet in the country, despite our calls, appeals, cries to Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU) and the United Nations. ***IAW President Rosy Weiss has endorsed this statement for IAW at the UN Human Rights Council.***

Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA)

"We appeal to the United Nations and the governments of its member states to establish a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations. We call for all organizations, decision-makers and citizens engaged with the international common interest to support this appeal"

To date 2,000 distinguished signers from over 100 countries have joined this call. Among them are more than 500 members of parliament, 150 professors, five Nobel Prize laureates, eleven Right Livelihood laureates, government members, former foreign ministers and numerous civil society leaders. Additionally, so far around 120 non governmental organizations have joined this campaign. The establishment of a UNPA has been backed by resolutions of the European Parliament, the Pan-African Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Liberal International, the Socialist International and the Global Greens.

Elected representatives

A UNPA would allow elected representatives to be included in UN decision-making. We are convinced that a UNPA vested with oversight functions would enhance the effectiveness, coherence and transparency of the UN system. Above all, it could be an additional entry point for civil society to have its voice heard at the UN. It could be a catalyst to bring about a real reform of the current system of international institutions.

Please visit <http://en.unpacampaign.org/endorse/> or return the attached form and add your voice to the growing chorus of distinguished supporters. Further dissemination of our cause to colleagues within your organization and beyond would be highly appreciated.

Our aim is to establish further NGO support and, eventually, to have the proposal for a UNPA taken up by a group of like-minded governments. We would be very pleased to cooperate with you.

More information in different languages is available on our internet website at

<http://www.unpacampaign.org/>

Signed for IAW by IAW President Rosy Weiss.

High Commissioner for Human Rights - successor list narrowed down

According to sources at Geneva's Palais des Nations, the panel named by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to audition candidates to succeed Louise Arbour as High Commissioner for Human Rights, has locked up its list.

There are four names on the list:

* Louis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico, the former President of the Human Rights Council and Mexico's Ambassador in Geneva;

* Navanethem Pillay of South Africa, currently a judge at the ICC (International Criminal Court) and a former defence attorney for political prisoners during apartheid;

* Francis Deng of Sudan, currently a UN special advisor for the prevention of genocide and

* José Ramos Horta, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and President of East Timor.

The first two are said to be the favourites. Ban Ki-Moon will announce his choice to the UN General Assembly.

Sent to us by H el ene Sackstein, IAW representative at the UNHRC.

H el ene Sackstein wrote also about the **UPR of the Human Rights Council**, to be found on the IAW website, <http://www.womenalliance.org> - clicking on IWA's Weblog.

UNHCR countries with a UPR, where IAW has Affiliates are: France, Finland, India, Japan, Mali, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland and the UK.

UPR summaries per country are on: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/search.aspx>

Petition to Support Iranian Women on June 12 Day of Solidarity

Iranian women's rights activists are calling for international support in observance of the June 12, 2006 demonstrations.

Two years ago on this day, activists organized a peaceful protest demanding the revision of discriminatory laws against women in Iran. Seventy people were arrested during the gathering and continue to this day to be summoned, charged, arrested and sentenced for peaceful activism. June 12th has since been chosen by Iranian women's rights activists as their national day of solidarity to object harmful actions which attempt to silence Iranian women.

Please read the "Statement in Support of Iranian Women" and send your personal or organizational support for the women's rights activists who are fighting for their basic human rights against all odds. Please send emails to wlp@learningpartnership.org and hadighaemi@iranhumanrights.org. For more information about the campaign, please read below or visit the [One Million Signatures](http://www.onemillion.org) website.

Sent to us by IAW President Rosy Weiss

Street Vendors' Rights.

IAW members Ida Kurth and Heide Schutz are asking us to support the action of 'Manushi', to secure Street Vendors' Rights in India. The Journalistenbund (Germany) writes that the editors of Manushi even has gone into hunger strike for indefinite time.

The Problem

Vendors all over the country, including in Delhi, are facing increasing assaults and clearance operations under the dubious guise of beautification drives. Vendors in Gwalior, Patiala, Lucknow have immolated themselves outside their municipal offices in protest against clearance operations. On July 31st, 2007, eleven handicapped vendors of Varanasi consumed poison in protest against removal of their kiosks.

Many more in towns and cities across India have died silent deaths due to malnutrition, hunger and disease since their livelihoods were destroyed by municipal agencies pretending to spruce up their cities by removing encroachments.

The website of Manushi is on: <http://www.manushi-india.org/>.

You will find a petition on: <http://www.petitiononline.com/VENDORS/petition.html>

NGO REPORT on Women and Tobacco

Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Nigeria, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen

Submitted by the *International Alliance of Women* and the International Network of Women Against Tobacco to the 41st session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 30 June to 18 July 2008, New York.

More girls are now smoking

According to government reports submitted to CEDAW, in Iceland, Lithuania, Nigeria, Slovakia and Tanzania more girls than women now smoke. That is a worrisome trend. However, there is also good news. With stronger tobacco control measures put in place, Finland reports that the rate of smoking among females 15 to 16 years old has steadily declined. Similarly, in Great Britain, fewer girls now smoke than adult females.

Implementation of tobacco control

The implementation of strong tobacco control policies in most countries still lags far behind. The impact on women's health is devastating. Smokers have gender-specific risks and are at an increased risk of lung cancer, breast and cervical cancers and coronary heart disease. Young women may think that they can easily quit during pregnancy. But some research indicates it is even harder for women to quit than men. Parental smoking endangers the health of newborns, contributes to infant death syndrome and middle-ear infection in children.

Reversing the trend

Reversing this trend is possible. The World Health Organization's Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2008 outlines a roadmap to success. The "MPOWER" package includes:

- * *Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies.*
- * *Protect people from tobacco smoke.*
- * *Offer help to quit tobacco use.*
- * *Warn about the dangers of tobacco.*
- * *Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.*
- * *Raise taxes on tobacco.*

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, ratified by more than 150 countries-- including all State parties reporting to this CEDAW session-- supports the above measures. Together with the CEDAW, the WHO FCTC promises to help protect women and girl's rights to health as a human right.

By Soon Young-Yoon, IAW representative in New York and a resource person on the IAW Health Commission.

Lobby for a woman to win one of the top four EU Posts

250 million women in the EU. Not a single one good enough?

During the coming 12 months, four politicians will be appointed as leaders of the European Union. For fifty years now, the picture of European political leadership has remained the same. It is time for a change. International top posts should always go to the most competent candidate. There are 250 million women in Europe; it should not be too hard to find qualified candidates among all these.

A citizens' petition has been launched to lobby for a woman to win one of the top four EU posts up for grabs next year! Please sign if you think this is an important issue:

<http://www.femalesinfront.eu/default.asp?lang=gb&view=front>

See also an article in the euobserver.com: <http://euobserver.com/851/26271>

Sent to us by IAW member Ebba Barany and IAW President Rosy Weiss.

GENDER EQUALITY HELPS TO REDUCE POVERTY AND HUNGER

The missing link

In 2007, Britain's department for international development (DfID) published a [new policy](#) on gender equality.

It noted that tackling gender inequality in access to services and resources is proven to increase women's productivity, and reduce poverty and hunger.

Women who are empowered economically play a more active role in household decision-making, and have greater bargaining power to increase spending on education and health.

[Educated](#) girls and women have better opportunities for entrepreneurship and to earn higher wages, thus lifting themselves and their families out of poverty.

The DfID document goes on to comment that missing the MDG target on gender equality "could lower a country's annual per capita growth rates by 0.1 - 0.3 percentage points".

Growth and gender equality - missing

So far, there is little evidence that these instrumentalist arguments are making much headway in the wider global-policy world.

For example, the World Bank's [gender-action plan](#) emphasises the importance of women's access to land - but the overview of the World Bank's latest World Development Report (on agriculture) contains not the least mention of women's inequitable access to land.

Moreover, it is notable that many current government statements and speeches make little or no reference to the link between growth and gender equality.

In her two policy speeches in 2007 on the centrality of growth for development, the DfID minister [Shriti Vadera](#) gave the women-gender theme just one mention.

A long speech by Ghana's finance minister Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu in Frankfurt in December 2007, which [set out](#) all the development challenges facing his country, had no mention of it.

Two recent speeches delivered by presidents of sub-Saharan African countries to northern audiences also neglected it.

That investing in women creates more wealth is hardly a rallying-call for civil-society action NGOs could revive a more transformative vision for international development.

From newsletter service Open Democracy on: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/user/register>

Food Summit calls for more investment in agriculture;

Civil society groups demand 'respect for small-scale farmers'

The Summit on soaring food prices, convened by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), concluded with the adoption by acclamation of [a declaration](#) calling on the international community to increase assistance for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices.

The Summit, entitled the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy took place from 3-5 June 2008, at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

The Conference brought together over 4,700 delegates from 183 countries, including 36 Heads of State and government, representatives of governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and the media.

The Conference was comprised of a High-Level Segment and a Committee of the Whole (COW)

More on: http://www.un-ngls.org/site/article.php3?id_article=523

IAW representative at the FAO: Bettina Corke

Governments - Neglect and Underinvestment over the past 20 years

Titled '*Agriculture for Development*', the report of the World Bank 2007 says the agricultural and rural sectors have suffered from neglect and underinvestment over the past 20 years. While 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas, a mere 4 percent of official development assistance goes to agriculture in developing countries.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, a region heavily reliant on agriculture for overall growth, public spending for farming is also only 4 percent of total government spending and the sector is still taxed at relatively high levels.

The World Development Report 2008 calls for greater investment in agriculture in developing countries. The report warns that the sector must be placed at the center of the development agenda if the goals of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 are to be realized.

On: http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item_id=6966252

Nominations for the 2008 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger

The 2008 Africa Prize focuses on Civil Society Leadership for the Empowerment of Women.

The 2008 laureate will join the ranks of previous laureates which include Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Nelson Mandela, Wangari Maathai, Graça Machel and Joachim Chissano.

Women are the key to ending hunger in Africa. At a time of growing focus on the world food crisis, Africa's most important food producers go unsupported. Women grow 80 percent of Africa's food, yet they own only one percent of the land, receive only 10 percent of small-scale credit and only seven percent of farm extension services. Achieving food security in Africa requires transforming age-old discrimination against women.

Civil society organizations are transforming policies and building the capacities of women to demand the resources, information and voice in decision-making that are rightfully theirs.

The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2008.

Nominations for the 2008 Africa Prize may be submitted in English, French or Portuguese by completing a secure online form found at www.africaprize.org. Any individual may nominate.

Criteria and details about the Prize and The Hunger Project can be found at www.africaprize.org.

AROUND THE WORLD

World Health Assembly 2008 passes Groundbreaking Resolution against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Every year, an estimated 3 million girls are at risk of undergoing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). On May the 20th, the World Health Assembly passed a groundbreaking resolution against FGM. Report of FGM briefing at Palais des Nations, Geneva, 20 May 2008 on: http://www.who.int/topics/female_genital_mutilation/en/
Read also the Report 2008 of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (IAC) on: <http://www.iac-ciaf.com/Reports/Report%20on%20FGM%20Briefing%20%2020-5-08.pdf>

The 97th annual Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

The ILO concluded its work after adopting a landmark Declaration designed to strengthen the promotion of Decent Work and develop new ways of responding to the growing challenges of globalization. The Conference, which attracted more than 4,000 delegates representing governments, workers and employers from the ILO's 182 member States. The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) published a new technical report on child labour and education based on surveys of child labour in 34 countries from all regions of the world. At the same time, as part of a new year-long campaign on "Gender equality at the heart of decent work", the ILO Bureau for Gender Equality also highlighted combating child labour through education with the slogan "*Formula for progress: Educate both girls and boys!*".
More on: <http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol

6 June 2008 – The recent entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities closes a major gap in human rights protection for hundreds of millions of people around the world, the Organization's top rights official said today. The Convention and its Optional Protocol, which entered into force on 3 May, does not create new rights but aims to ensure that the benefits of existing rights are fully extended and guaranteed to the estimated 650 million people around the world with disabilities.
On: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26931&Cr=disab&Cr1=>

Australia - the Optional Protocol on CEDAW

Tuesday, 27 May 2008. Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, welcomed the commitment by the Federal Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, and the Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek, to commence national consultations on signing the Optional Protocol to the international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Optional Protocol will enable Australian women to make a complaint to the international committee responsible for monitoring Australia's compliance with its obligations under CEDAW, where domestic remedies have been exhausted, said Commissioner Broderick.

Reservation about paid maternity leave

However, Ms Broderick expressed concern that the Australian Government retains its reservation under CEDAW regarding the right of working women to access paid maternity leave (the right to paid maternity leave is contained in article 11(2)(b) of CEDAW). When Australia ratified CEDAW in 1983, it expressly refused to agree to provide paid maternity leave for Australian women and placed a reservation so that it would not be bound by article 11(2)(b). For Commissioner Broderick's oral statement to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave see: www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/2008/paid_maternity_leave_20080520.html
Details on the Inquiry are available at www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/parentalsupport.
Sent to us by IAW member Jocelynn Scutt, resource person on the IAW Justice Commission.

CONFERENCES - EVENTS - REPORTS - USEFUL LINKS

G8 Summit in Japan – commencing on 7 July 2008

Tanabata (Star) is a Japanese traditional festival on which people write a wish and tie it to a bamboo tree. It happens every year on 7 July – which this year coincides with the first day of the G8 Summit. An Action by GCAP (Global Call to Action against Poverty) called '**Action Now – End Poverty and Inequality**', with messages to be sent to the leaders at the G8 Summit on July the 6th.

You will find the Action on a website with an interesting lay-out on: www.whiteband.org/actionnow.

Women's Forum against Corruption. In Buenos Aires, Sept. 29 till Oct. 1st 2008.

On: http://www.mujiresenigualdad.org.ar/foro_ingles.html

Resource collection of free materials on HIV/AIDS and women

Women, Ink, a program of the International Women's Tribune Centre, has compiled a collection of materials entitled "HIV/AIDS and Women: Resources to Support Policy and Advocacy." Comprising some 50 action-oriented tools as well as analyses, reports and case studies, this resource pack was assembled to support informed participation on issues of women and HIV/AIDS at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS 2008.

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research <http://www.cgiar.org/>

The June issue of the **Road to DOHA**, on: http://www.un-ngls.org/site/article.php3?id_article=528

WIDE Annual Conference 2008 - Feminist Visions for a Just Europe, 9-11 October, the Netherlands

For more information, please visit: <http://www.wide-network.org/index.jsp?id=380>

World Day to Combat Desertification – 17 June 2008

The 2008 theme of the Day is Combating Land Degradation for Sustainable Agriculture. Country Parties, international and non-governmental organizations are invited to organize events to celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification as an additional opportunity to increase awareness and participation in the implementation process. On: <http://www.unccd.int/main.php>

Note

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in Word 97.

Please be so kind to advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address, so we can mail them this Newsletter too.

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