Feminist Challenges at the World Social Forum

by Isis International-Manila
The Feminist Dialogues (FD), a SPACE for TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST DISCUSSION and STRATEGISING is held before the World Social Forum (WSF) aimed: (1) to effectively intervene in the broader WSF process as feminists organising for change, and (2) to establish strategic and politically relevant links with other social movements.
As feminists we need to develop a **DEEP and PROFOUND CRITIQUE** of **DEMOCRACY** that will enable its transformation and radicalisation, in collaboration and partnership with other social movements.*

**FD Nairobi 2007:**
**Exposed** the contradictions, limits, and **blurred realities** of **LIBERAL DEMOCRACY** ...and proposed a **RADICALISATION OF DEMOCRACY**
In a RADICAL DEMOCRATIC FRAME, gender identities are seen not in and of themselves, but rather in a permanent interaction and articulation with other identities and discriminations of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, geographical space, as expressions of one over-arching system of domination.*
The RE-ARTICULATION OF DEMOCRACY in a radical and transformed form enables us to re-visit our understandings of the nation-state, of sovereignty, and of the re-construction of the notion of citizenship.*

A laundry list of grievances and calls to action hung from the balconies of the WSF venue, Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi, Kenya.
The FEMINIST POLITICS within which we position ourselves generates a new political culture and new frameworks of understanding that articulate the strategies of social movements with the project of social transformation. Through this we enter a process of overcoming all forms of exploitation, domination and discrimination in each of our societies and at the global level, confronting the hegemonic forces of neo-liberalism, militarisms and fundamentalisms that exclude, violate and dehumanise us, together and separately.*

Security detail from the Kenyan armed forces meant to keep out “unwanted” elements from the gathering only reinforced the perception of exclusion.