

fyi

From: Jill Iscol [redacted]

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RELEASE IN PART B6

To: hdr22@clintonemail.com

Subject: fyi

FYI.. read the bold so you get to "hear" the ripple effect of the work you started..

From: Victoria Kisyombe >

Date: April 4, 2009 9:29:53 AM EDT

To: jillscol [redacted]

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Cc: Alyse Bloom >, Melysa Sperber >, Melysa Sperber >

Subject: Great Appreciation!

Dear Dr. Jill,

Last night I arrived in Dar es Salaam after attending a very exciting Vital Voices training in Cape Town.

First I must say it was a great privilege for me to attend this training on behalf of my organization, SERO Lease and Finance which has a development arm - the SERO Business Women Association.

This training brought together remarkable women and we had a chance to share and learn from one another vast experiences of advocacy and economic empowerment of women. Most of the participants are also beneficiaries of the Vital Voices grants that were extended by the Melinda and Gates Foundation. The sharing of the outcome of the projects further strengthened all the participants. It was also very refreshing to have new members who brought in new experiences and are also potential grantees.

Vital Voices also brought very good resource people who further improved our capacities in networking, message packaging and delivery, advocacy, etc. We were also trained on fund raising to mention among many interesting topics. Participants had a chance to volunteer what to give and voice out their needs. This was a very practical solution to networking and sharing.

As you will recall we had the memorable event of hearing the sad stories from Samburu area in Kenya. Our fellow participant, Rebecca, was kind enough to give us an insight of what was happening at her Maasai Community in Samburu. We learned about the atrocities that were being conducted by the Police force in Kenya. Some children had been killed and women feared to be raped, animals had been taken away etc. What I will always remember was the power that Vital Voices had brought together in that room. Immediately, the Lawyers began working on the human rights connections, others triggered the media circle, the FIDA Africa sprung to action as we had the Vice President for Women Lawyers of Africa with us etc and we were

united in prayers for the Samburu people. It was agreed that a petition should be drafted and that together we should commit ourselves to the petition which will be submitted to the UN by FIDA FRICA.

It was all cheering and sighs when on the last evening, Rebecca shared with us the good news that the Police had been called off from Samburu. Still, we all agreed that the petition should still be forwarded but were happy at the initial outcome. This to me demonstrated the power of Vital Voices - empowering the voices of the weak - together we are strong and our voices can be heard and we can move mountains!

Thank you for supporting Vital Voices as in so doing you support lives of many people in Africa!

Victoria

Tanzania

Melysa Sperber

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