Bouta, Tsjeard, Georg Frerks, Ian Bannon. *Gender, Conflict, and Development.* Washington DC: The World Bank, 2005.

Most women in armies have support and not combat roles. Relatively more women as compared to men operation in armies as cooks, messengers, health workers, porters, and the like. They are not engaged in fighting and do not carry a weapon. P. 14

Women’s third role in armies is that of a dependent. They are the male combatants’ wives, widows, daughters, and other female family members. They may follow their male counterparts in to the bush and on the battlefield during conflict. In the same way as their male counterparts, they need to be reintegrated back into their communities of origin when the conflict ends. P. 14

The boundaries between the three roles are often blurred because women combine the roles. They are fighters, spies, cooks, mothers, and wives at the same time. P. 15

Women’s participation in conflict may become “invisible” or minimized in the post-conflict phase, because traditional gender relations are reintroduced and women are expected to revert to more traditional and less visible roles. This tendency is well expressed in the French saying: *Il y a plus inconnu que le soldat, c’est sa femme* (there is one more unkown than the soldier, it’s his wive)(Karame 1999) p. 18

Women often identify informal peace processes as an opportunity to enter public and political arenas and to become organized, particularly in the nongovernmental sector. Moreover, women are often perceived as “not political”, which enables them to access information and pressure authorities to provide services to minimize the impact of conflict on the civilian population (Machanda 2001) p. 66

(refs from other countries)