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PLEASE NOTE: ANU BHAGWATI, SWAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND GREG JACOB, SWAN POLICY DIRECTOR, WILL BOTH BE AVAILABLE PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING THE SENATE HEARING FOR INTERVIEWS

SERVICE WOMEN’S ACTION NETWORK TO TESTIFY AT SENATE HEARING ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

(WASHINGTON, DC) – On Tuesday, June 4 Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN) will join the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Judge Advocate Generals of the Armed Forces in testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) on pending legislation that addresses the issue of sexual assault in the military.

“We are grateful to Chairman Carl Levin and Ranking Member James Inhofe for holding this hearing to discuss critical legislation on the issue of sexual violence in the military,” said Anu Bhagwati, former Marine Corps Captain and executive director of SWAN. “The military is facing a crisis in the ranks and troops are quickly losing faith in the military’s ability to provide adequate protection for victims and prosecute and punish offenders. Much of the new legislation, if passed, would help restore confidence in the military’s ability to maintain good order and discipline in the ranks.”

According to the DOD, an estimated 26,000 sexual assaults occurred in 2012—71 assaults a day—with more than 90% going unreported.

“Victims tell us they don’t report because they fear retaliation, and they don’t believe their perpetrator will be prosecuted—and the numbers bear that out,” said Bhagwati. “62% of victims experienced retaliation after officially reporting, while only 238 offenders were convicted in 2012. Many of these bills have provisions which will help the military protect victims and better prosecute perpetrators.”

“The military has failed to adequately address this issue. It is critical that Congress act now,” Bhagwati said.

Also scheduled to appear at the hearing:

Panel I

General Martin E. Dempsey, USA
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
General Raymond T. Odierno, USA
Chief of Staff of the Army
Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN

www.servicewomen.org
Chief of Naval Operations
General James F. Amos, USMC
Commandant of the Marine Corps
General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF
Chief of Staff of the Air Force
Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., USCG
Commandant of the Coast Guard
Lieutenant General Dana K. Chipman, JAGC, USA
Judge Advocate General of the United States Army
Vice Admiral Nanette M. DeRenzi, JAGC, USN
Judge Advocate General of the United States Navy
Lieutenant General Richard C. Harding, JAGC, USAF
Judge Advocate General of the United States Air Force
Major General Vaughn A. Ary, USMC
Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps
Rear Admiral Frederick J. Kenney, Jr., USCG
Judge Advocate General of the United States Coast Guard
Brigadier General Richard C. Gross, USA
Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Panel II
Colonel Donna W. Martin, USA
Commander, 202nd Military Police Group
Captain Stephen J. Coughlin, USN

www.servicewomen.org
Commodore, Destroyer Squadron TWO

Colonel Tracy W. King, USMC

Commander, Combat Logistics Regiment 15

Colonel Jeannie M. Leavitt, USAF

Commander, 4th Fighter Wing

Panel III

Anu Bhagwati

Executive Director and Co-Founder, Service Women’s Action Network

Nancy Parrish

President, Protect Our Defenders

Major General John D. Altenburg, Jr., USA (Ret.)

Chairman, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law

Colonel Lawrence J. Morris, USA (Ret.)

General Counsel, Catholic University

SWAN is a national nonpartisan civil rights organization founded and led by women veterans. SWAN’s mission is to transform military culture by securing equal opportunity and the freedom to serve in uniform without discrimination, harassment or assault; and to reform veterans’ services to ensure high quality health care and benefits for women veterans and their families. You can follow Service Women’s Action Network on Twitter at http://twitter.com/servicewomen, or on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/servicewomen.

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