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## **U.N. SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEYS SOUTH FLORIDA HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

**CORAL GABLES, FL (XXX XX, 2011)** – United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Rashida Manjoo, will initiate a site visit to South Florida beginning on January 28<sup>th</sup> as part of her country-wide tour of the United States to survey the state of violence against women in this country. Four co-sponsoring groups, including Sisterhood of Survivors (SOS), The Lodge (a domestic violence shelter), the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) and the University of Miami School of Law Human Rights Clinic, coordinated meetings between Ms. Manjoo and local human rights leaders and advocates, as well as victims of domestic violence and other gender-based violence, from across South Florida.

Since Ms. Manjoo was appointed to her post at the U.N. in June 2009, she has conducted similar fact-finding country visits to Kyrgyzstan, El Salvador, and Algeria, surveying the state of violence against women and publishing country reports based on her findings.

Ms. Manjoo's fact-finding visit of the United States will take place from January 23, 2011 to February 7, 2011. She will begin in Washington D.C. and then visit Cherokee, NC, Miami, FL, San Francisco, CA, Minneapolis, MN, New York, NY. On Feb. 7, 2011, she will conclude her visit in Washington D.C. and hold a national press conference.

During her visit to Miami, Ms. Manjoo will visit immigrant women's detention centers operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and a domestic violence shelter, and engage in meetings with domestic violence victims and survivors, advocates, academics, and other community leaders to gain a better understanding of issues concerning violence against women in South Florida.

Culminating her Miami visit, Ms. Manjoo will attend a roundtable discussion focusing on issues varying from domestic violence and immigration policy to trafficking.

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