



**Statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on
Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström**

EXPERT ON CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE TO BE DISPATCHED TO LIBYA

(New York, 22 July 2011)

Following allegations of sexual violence committed during the ongoing conflict in Libya, I am happy to announce that an expert on conflict-related sexual violence will be dispatched to Libya today. The task of this expert is to investigate, gather and analyze information on conflict-related sexual violence in Libya. The assessment mission will take place over a six week period, starting immediately.

Reporting to my Office, the expert will investigate and gather information in Libya and border areas on conflict-related sexual violence by all parties to the conflict in Libya. The expert will also seek information on and assess the character and patterns of sexual violence, both before and during the conflict, and the extent to which sexual violence is being used as a tactic of war in the conflict. Additionally, she is tasked with gathering information on sexual violence against people in detention centres, as well as migrants fleeing the conflict, including in refugee camps.

My Office and the broader UN system have been receiving allegations of sexual violence, including rape, from a variety of partners, including UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, as well as findings of the Commission of Inquiry in Libya. These reports suggest that the incidence of conflict-related sexual violence is low. However, these sources also recognize the challenges in collecting evidence of sexual violence, including a victim's reluctance to disclose information due to trauma and the stigma associated with sexual violence. Upon completion of the assessment, the expert will deliver a final report responding to the key tasks outlined above.

We continue to monitor this and other incidents of alleged sexual violence in conflict, wherever they occur, and stand in solidarity with the survivors.

For additional information, please contact:

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