



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

***CONTINUED MONUSCO PRESENCE IN THE DRC CRUCIAL FOR THE SECURITY OF  
CONGO'S WOMEN***

*(New York, 28 June 2011)*

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I welcome the adoption today by the UN Security Council of resolution 1991 (2011), extending the mandate of MONUSCO, the UN's peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Given the significant security challenges that remain in the country, it is crucial that the United Nations have a continued peacekeeping presence in the Congo. The recent mass rapes in Fizi in South Kivu highlight that Congo's women are particularly vulnerable.

The resolution rightly stresses the need for a thorough reform of the country's security sector. This means not only better coordination of donors' efforts, but also improved vetting and proper integration of ex-combatants into the national army. Moreover, resolution 1991 (2011) accurately expresses concern at the promotion within the Congolese security forces of well-known individuals responsible for serious human rights abuses.

I welcome the explicit condemnation of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the reiteration of the urgent need for the swift prosecution of all perpetrators of human rights abuses, in this resolution. I also want to express my appreciation for the efforts of MONUSCO to improve peace and stability in the DRC. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of its population, however, lies with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

I encourage the United Nations to strengthen monitoring and reporting for incidents of sexual violence. I also fully support the UN's peacekeeping mission to engage with armed groups in order to elicit concrete commitments from them not to employ sexual violence as a weapon or tactic of war.

UN Security Council resolution 1991 (2011) also identifies the successful holding of peaceful, credible and transparent elections as a key condition for the consolidation of democracy. In this context, we must not forget to keep our eyes open also for sexual violence being used as a tool of political intimidation in the run-up to and during these elections.

The UN will continue to closely monitor and follow up on alleged sexual violence and other human rights violations in the DRC and beyond.

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