



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

***SYSTEMATIC SEXUAL VIOLENCE ALONG THE DRC-ANGOLA BORDER***

*(11 February 2011)*

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Following allegations of sexual violence along the border of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), I undertook a visit to the area on 6 February. My findings strongly suggest that sexual violence is systematically being carried out against Congolese women and girls in the context of expulsions from Angola to the DRC. Many of the survivors who I spoke with confirmed that these violations occur in detention facilities in Angola as well as on the Congolese side of the border.

When expelled from Angola, women recounted that they were raped by uniformed security forces. Although believed to be significantly under-reported, community leaders have recorded 182 reported rapes in seven villages along the border in January alone. A UN assessment mission confirmed 1,357 reported cases of rape in one village within a six-eight month period last year.

I call on the Angolan and Congolese authorities to investigate as a matter of urgency these allegations of rape. I intend to engage closely with both the Government of Angola and the DRC on this issue, and expect them to cooperate to find a solution to this grave violation of human rights.

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