



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

**INDICTEE OF CRIMES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE CAMPAIGNING FOR
LEGISLATIVE SEAT IN THE CONGO IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE**

(26 November 2011)

It has been brought to my attention that militia commander Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka, indicted for crimes of sexual violence and with an active arrest warrant issued by Congolese authorities in January 2011, has recently been campaigning for elections in Walikale. This is completely unacceptable.

Militia commander Sheka is indicted for his role in the crimes of sexual violence committed in Walikale, in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in July and August 2010. Over the course of four days, at least 387 civilians were raped by a coalition of combatants, including from the Mai Mai Sheka and the Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda (FDLR). While one of the rebel commanders of the armed groups presumed to be responsible for the mass rapes in Walikale - ‘Lieutenant Colonel’ Mayele - has already been apprehended and is awaiting trial, the leader of the Mai Mai Sheka is still at large.

Militia commander Sheka is already indicted for crimes of sexual violence perpetrated against citizens of Walikale. Now asking for their votes in Monday’s elections is nothing but a grave insult.

I call upon Congolese law enforcement agencies to enforce the arrest warrant for militia commander Sheka and bring him to justice immediately. The terrible events that took place in Walikale last summer created a global outcry. Impunity is not an option.

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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