



STOP RAPE NOW
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

**Statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
on Sexual Violence in Conflict
Margot Wallström
New York, 16 December 2010**

I welcome the adoption today by the Security Council of resolution 1960 calling for the listing of parties to conflict suspected of committing patterns of sexual violence in situations on the Council's agenda. Ever since I took office in April this year, I have repeated that the UN can do no less than bring all of its accountability tools to bear. This must apply equally whether the victim is an 8-year old girl or an 80-year old grandmother. We are now poised to make that system a reality through the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and accountability architecture to shatter the vicious cycle of impunity for wartime sexual violence.

Today's resolution will help ensure that mass rape is never again met with mass impunity. Instead of serving as a cheap, silent and effective tactic of war, sexual violence will be a liability for armed groups. It will expose their superiors to increased international scrutiny, seal off the corridors of power and close all exits to those who commit, command or condone such acts.

I want to express my appreciation for the leadership provided by the United States on this issue, and for the commitment of China, France, Russia, the UK, and other members of the Security Council. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his strong personal engagement. The resolution the Council adopted today may not bring justice to every victim throughout the history of war. But it will help to ensure that conflict-related sexual violence no longer goes unreported, unaddressed or unpunished.

For additional information, please contact:

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