



**Statement to The Security Council**

**By The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict**

**Margot Wallström**

**New York, 14 October 2010**

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I have today had the opportunity to brief the Security Council on my recent mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As described to the Council, my main objective of the visit was to bear witness to the situation on the ground, particularly in eastern DRC, and to listen to the survivors of sexual violence and their communities. In my briefing, I also stressed the importance of focusing our attention on the perpetrators of the mass rapes that took place in Walikale in July and August.

I shared with the Security Council some of the testimonies the survivors courageously told me. The women of the DRC insisted on one thing above all else – they want peace. That means not just the absence of war, but lives free of fear and violence. This is a moment of truth and action for us all.

Today, I also shared with the Council my conviction that the recent arrest of ‘Lieutenant Colonel’ Mayele shows that it is possible to exert pressure on commanders, even to compel them to turn over to justice perpetrators of sexual violence from within their own ranks. Ultimately, when commanding officers can no longer rest easy in the certainty of impunity, a new front is opened in the fight against sexual violence.

I reiterated my call to the Council to use all the means at its disposal, including sanctions. I urged them to consider the inclusion of ‘Lieutenant Colonel’ Serafim of the FDLR on its sanctions list on the basis of his commanding role in the Walikale mass rapes.

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