



SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

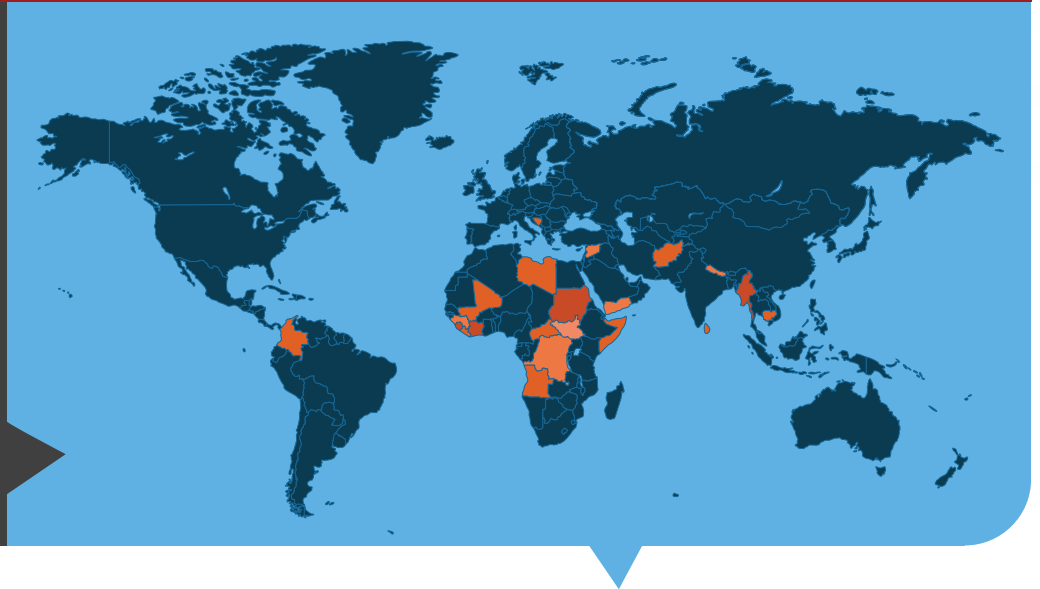


FACT SHEET

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

Lists **21**
Countries
of Concern

Identifies
34
armed
groups



Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan (Darfur), Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

Read Full Report Here: <http://ow.ly/vRwC5>

Key findings and recommendations:

Prevention

At the global level there is now unprecedented political momentum in the fight to end conflict-related sexual violence. Additional action to prevent and respond to these crimes is still needed at the regional and national levels.

- Support United Nations' efforts to engage with state and non-state parties to obtain commitments to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence.
- Systematically include the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence in all relevant country resolutions and mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions.
- Build the capacity of civil society groups to better protect against conflict-related sexual violence at the community level.
- Address the connections between conflict-related sexual violence and transnational crime including the illicit trade in natural resources, human trafficking and the illegal drug trade
- Put pressure on perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence using targeted and graduated sanctions.

Services

Limited access to safe, comprehensive health services and preventive medicines for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases may risk the lives of survivors. Limited access to mental health and psychosocial services and a lack of livelihood support also present obstacles for long-term recovery. Pregnancies resulting from sexual violence and the plight of children born of rape require further research and information as a basis for response.

- Ensure that survivors of sexual violence have access to psychosocial, legal, and livelihood assistance, as well as non-discriminatory and comprehensive health services.
- Support the work of civil society to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict.

Justice and Impunity

Impunity for conflict-related sexual violence has a negative effect on post-conflict peace building and reconciliation. A failure to fully address these crimes in peace agreements, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes has contributed to continued post-war sexual violence in some settings. Inadequate legislation and financial and social costs associated with reporting these crimes represent significant barriers for many survivors' access to justice.

- Ensure that perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence are vetted during security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes so that they are excluded from joining national security forces
- Ensure that ceasefire and peace agreements include conflict-related sexual violence as a prohibited act and exclude perpetrators of sexual violence from amnesty provisions.

Men and Boys as Survivors

Cases of sexual violence against men and boys were reported from a number of conflict situations. Because of the lack of specialized services and deep stigma associated with these assaults, it remains difficult to determine the scale and scope of violations.

- Services specifically tailored to the needs of children and male survivors should also be prioritized.

Displacement

Sexual violence is a notable trigger for displacement, which puts civilians at increased risk of sexual violence during and after flight. In some areas this includes early and forced marriage as refugees and internally displaced persons try to protect their daughters from sexual violence by arranging marriages to older men. In some cases this has led to human trafficking and sexual slavery.

- Consider accepting sexual violence in conflict as a form of persecution that should lead to the recognition of refugee status for the individuals affected.

Monitoring and Reporting

Sexual violence remains universally under-reported. In addition to limited capacity to safely monitor and report on conflict-related sexual violence, fear of severe stigmatisation and reprisals, including honour killings, deter survivors from coming forward. In some cases, survivors may also be prosecuted for registering assaults. Witnesses, journalists, healthcare and other service providers and human rights defenders also risk physical attacks and prosecution for reporting and responding to conflict-related sexual violence.

- Ensure the deployment of Women Protection Advisers and that their work is consistently funded from the regular budgets of United Nations peacekeeping missions.
- Ensure that monitoring and reporting arrangements (MARA) are established in all UN peacekeeping and special political missions.