

TAKE ACTION TO STOP ABDUCTION, RAPE AND SEXUAL SLAVERY OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SIERRA LEONE

Abduction, rape and sexual slavery of girls and women are among the most abhorrent and distressing characteristics of the nine-year internal armed conflict in Sierra Leone and must be stopped. Please join Amnesty International's campaign against these human rights abuses and encourage others to get involved.

Amnesty International published a report, *Sierra Leone: Rape and other forms of sexual violence against girls and women* on 29 June 2000 (AI Index: AFR 51/35/00). The report makes specific recommendations to all the forces involved in the conflict and the wider international community to end these abuses and assist the victims. The organization is urging others to use this report to campaign for the rights of girls and women in Sierra Leone.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- organize letter-writing, petitions, emails and other actions to lobby your own government to take action, based on Amnesty International's recommendations to the international community;
- organize letter-writing to the government of Sierra Leone, based on the recommendations in the report;
- organize public campaigns directed at the embassy of the government of Liberia in your country, calling on the Liberian government to use its influence over the rebel forces in Sierra Leone to stop abuses against girls and women;
- encourage any organizations or groups in which you are involved to take action by publicly condemning human rights abuses against girls and women during the internal armed conflict in Sierra Leone, organizing campaigning and voicing their support for Amnesty International's campaign;
- obtain support for Amnesty International's campaign by distributing the report widely within your own organization or community and encouraging people to take action;
- distribute the report to other organizations or groups working on women or children, human rights and humanitarian organizations, churches and other religious organizations in your country and encourage them to take action;
- generate media attention in your own country, for example by sending open letters to newspapers and magazines or distributing Amnesty International's report to journalists.

Please maintain contact with the Amnesty International section in your country and keep them informed about your campaigning on Sierra Leone. If there is no Amnesty International section in your country, please send information to the International Secretariat of Amnesty International (address: West Africa

team, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom, fax: +44 20 7956 1157, email: amnestyis@amnesty.org). For further information about Amnesty International's work on Sierra Leone, visit our website: <http://www.amnesty.org>

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