

SVAW newsletter 03

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Sudan: Rape as a weapon of war

Five to six men would rape us, one after the other, for hours during six days, every night. My husband could not forgive me after this, he disowned me.

Sudanese refugee woman interviewed by Amnesty International.

The mass rapes ongoing in Darfur are war crimes and crimes against humanity, but very little is being done to stop them.

Amnesty International's report: *Sudan: Rape as a weapon of war* demonstrates that despite the regional and international focus on Darfur and promises by the Sudanese government to disarm the Janjawid militia, there is still no protection for women and girls.

The suffering and abuse endured by these women goes far beyond the actual rape. Rape has a devastating and ongoing impact on the health of women and girls. The survivors now face a lifetime of stigma and marginalisation from their own families and communities. Women and girls are being attacked, not only to dehumanize the women themselves, but also to humiliate, punish, control, terrorize and displace women and to persecute the community to which they belong.

Amnesty International is therefore calling for Sudanese government forces and the Janjawid militia to bring an immediate halt to the use of rape as a weapon of war. Government officials and militia leaders should publicly condemn rape by their combatants. The responsible authorities should set up mechanisms to ensure the protection of civilians.

It is vital that the Janjawid militia, consistently accused of atrocities including widespread sexual violence, is disarmed and disbanded at once. Its members should be deprived of any opportunity to renew their attacks.

Amnesty International believes that an international Commission of Inquiry should be established to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, as well as allegations of genocide.

The perpetrators of attacks on the women and girls of Darfur should be brought to justice. Their trials should be fair and open, while excluding the death penalty or inhuman punishments such as amputations, and ensuring the safety of victims and witnesses.

Find out more about the [Sudan crisis](#)
[Sudan: Questions & Answers](#)
[Sudan: Rape as a weapon of war](#) (full report)

Find out more about [violence against women in conflict](#)
[Join Amnesty International's campaign](#)

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: NEWS IN BRIEF

[Poland: European women's volleyball champions support campaign](#)

The Polish women's volleyball team demonstrated their support for Amnesty International's Stop Violence Against Women campaign during a special press conference in Warsaw.

[Spain: Government must live up to its responsibilities on protection of women's rights](#)

Over the past two years, the Spanish authorities have not done enough to address the concerns raised by the UN.

[Russian Federation: The case of Kheda Kungaeva](#)

On 25 July 2003 Colonel Yuri Budanov was found guilty of kidnapping and murdering Kheda Kungaeva and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment.

Tenth anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará: Time for action!
Amnesty International and other organizations are making an urgent appeal to all member states of the Organization of American States with regard to the situation of women in the American continent.

Featured news and actions

TAKE ACTION

Turkey: Shelters not cemeteries

As in countries throughout the world, the human rights of thousands of women in Turkey are violated daily through violence in the family.

SPREAD THE WORD

Thank you for signing our pledge, agreeing to speak out and demand action to stop violence against women. We need more people like you. Please e-mail friends, family and colleagues and ask them to sign the pledge and join our campaign.

SEND A POSTCARD

Tell others about the campaign

Send a virtual postcard to others who may be interested in Amnesty International's campaign.

GO GLOBAL

Peru: V Marathon

Join AI Peru on their marathon to stop violence against women.

ALSO ON www.amnesty.org

"We cried and laughed for days and nights out of joy. We are so happy and want to thank everybody who made this possible."

DONATE

Help Amnesty International end human rights violations.