

**AMNESTY
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Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development
General debate

Delivered by Yasmin Hussein – Video link: <http://goo.gl/AcAOXR> (Statement number 44)

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the holding of London Global Summit to eliminate sexual violence in conflict. We look forward to all remaining UN member states joining the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Twenty years after the establishment of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women much remains to be done to effectively eliminate violence against women. Women and girls continue to face violence in conflict and non-conflict situations from both State and non-State actors.

Violence against women is a worldwide problem. Research by the European Fundamental Rights Agency found that 33% of women in the European Union have experienced physical or sexual violence since the age of 15. In the last two months alone, Amnesty International has responded to two cases of so-called “honour” crimes in Pakistan when women sought to exercise their rights in marriage, the abduction, rape and murder of two teenage girls in India allegedly by their neighbours and the abduction of more than 240 girls in Nigeria.

In Colombia, women human rights defenders at risk include an Indigenous woman leader and her fifteen-year-old daughter who received death threats because of their work. In South Africa, despite some progress in combating violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, impunity persists. Three years since the murder of Noxolo Nogwaza, a lesbian woman, the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

When violence is reported to the authorities, the response is often inadequate. Amnesty International urges all states to do much better in meeting their international legal obligations to prevent all forms of gender-based violence. They must also take effective measures to eradicate gender-based discrimination and stereotypes which perpetuate or justify violence or result in stigmatization of survivors of violence. States must also increase their efforts to bring to justice the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and provide survivors with support services and reparation. States must take concrete measures to enable and protect women human rights defenders so that they can safely and securely carry out their work without fear of violence or threats.

Thank you Mr. President.