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DR Congo: Amnesty International launches report on mass rape

The protracted armed conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has left tens of thousands of women and girls victims of systematic rape and sexual assault committed by combatant forces. In its latest report on the DRC entitled *Democratic Republic of the Congo: Mass Rape- Time for Remedies*, Amnesty International documents the survivors' most pressing need - access to adequate medical care.

Survivors' rights are further violated in the aftermath of the rape, deepening their suffering immeasurably. Most women suffering injuries or illnesses caused by rape - some of them life-threatening - are denied the medical care they need.

The report will be launched during a press conference in Kinshasa on 26 October 2004.

Further conference details:

Who:

- Hon. Marie-Madeleine Kalala, DRC Minister for Human Rights
- Ms. Julie Mwanza, activist caring for rape survivors from "Justice Plus" human rights NGO in Ituri, DRC.
- Ms. Veronique Aubert, Researcher, Amnesty International
- Mr. Marcel Akpovo, Researcher, Amnesty International

When: 09:00 Kinshasa time
Where: "Salle Fatima" in Gombe, Kinshasa.

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