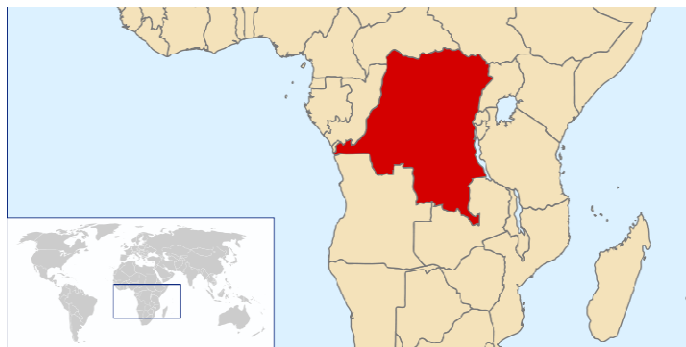


Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- 40 women are raped every day in the ongoing conflict in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Their ages range between 23 months and 84 years.
- 1 in 6 reported cases are girls under the age of 12.
- Rapes are often conducted in front of family and/or community members.
- Perpetrators report that they are using sexual violence as a weapon because they are unlikely to be held accountable for these crimes.
- Since 2005, a total of 52 repatriations of UN Peacekeepers on disciplinary grounds related to sexual violence or exploitation have been recommended.



what can be done?

- Implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820
- Provide physical and mental health care to those affected
- Provide economic, social, and legal assistance to those affected
- End impunity for perpetrators
- Provide reparations for those affected
- Reform and enforce laws concerning sexual violence
- Train judges, lawyers, and legislators
- Increase the participation of women in the political, legal and judicial systems
- Support Congolese civil society organizations

"All of you need to stop rape here in the Congo and end this war. A lot of women are hiding. There is nothing to hide. Break the silence."

Jeanette, Bukavu, 2008. "Snapshots Of The Stories Of Survivors Who Broke The Silence." V-Day.



international and national norms:

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 on the Use of Sexual Violence in Conflict (2008)
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000)
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
- The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)
- Under the Criminal Code of DRC rape is a criminal offence

"Every time we defend our clients who are victims of rape we receive threats from army officers or from those who are on the side of the police"
Tulinabo Chirimwami, DRC, 2008

for more information:

- **North Kivu: No End To War On Women And Children.** www.amnesty.ca
- **Stop Rape Now: UN Action on Sexual Violence in Conflict.** www.stoprapenow.org
- **Congolese Women's Campaign Against Sexual Violence in the DRC,** www.rdcviolencesexuelle.org
- **Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations,** www.womensrightscoalition.org
- **Stop Raping Our Greatest Resource, Power to Women and Girls of DRC,** V-Day and UNIFEM, <http://newsite.vday.org/>
- **Special Report: Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.** Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 2008. www.iwpr.net
- **Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk : addendum : mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo,** UN Human Rights Council, 28 February 2008. www.unhcr.org