

Fact Sheet: Sexual Violence in Darfur

- Thousands of women and girls face rape on a daily basis.
- Sexual violence in Darfur is widespread and systemic
- Women and girls are the primary targets, but men and boys are also victims.
- Most rapes happen as women and girls gather firewood, thatch and water, walk to the market or work in the field.
- Victims are often raped more than once, by multiple assailants.



Sexual violence is a violation of universal human rights

- **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 on the Use of Sexual Violence in Conflict** The resolution holds all parties involved in armed conflict and conflict-resolution accountable for the prevention and elimination of sexual violence.
- **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security** The resolution calls on all actors in armed conflict to "take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse."
- **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court** The statute recognizes rape, sexual slavery, or "any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity" as constitutive of a crime against humanity.

Laws of Sudan

- The legal basis for criminal law differs between North and South Sudan.
- Shari'a law is the main source of legislation in North Sudan since the 1991 Criminal Act was introduced.
- The 1991 law is the one that is most referenced by legal professionals working in Darfur.
- South Sudan has as its main source of legislation popular consensus, the values and customs of the people of the Sudan, including their traditions and religious beliefs.

In the 1991 Criminal Act, Offences of Honour, Reputation and Public Morality include:

- Adultery (art. 145)
- Sodomy (art.148)
- Rape (art. 149)
- Incest (art. 150)
- False Accusation of Unchastity (art.157)

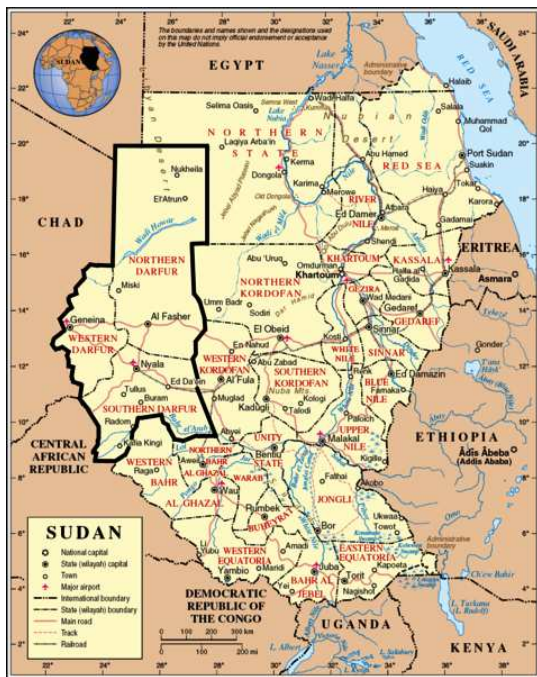
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Challenges

- Rape is a difficult crime to prove under Sudanese Islamic Law.
- Burden of proof is on the victim. Victims must admit to having sex outside of marriage before attempting to establish they were a victim.
- The justice system favours the perpetrator.
- Rape is a widely unreported crime because of the stigma associated with the crime.
- Few investigations of rape or gender-based crimes are conducted.

What can be done?

- **Apply pressure** on the Sudanese Government to abide by international treaties and conventions.
- **Raise awareness** through campaigns denouncing systemic violence in Darfur.
- **Legislate** national action plans for United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820
- **Provide specialized training** to UN peacekeepers to strengthen their skills in dealing with crimes of sexual abuse and gender-based violence.



For more information:

- **Sudan: Darfur: Rape as a weapon of war,** www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR54/076/2004
- **The Crushing Burden of Rape: Sexual Violence in Darfur,** doctorswithoutborders.org/publications/reports/2005/sudan03.pdf
- **Five Years On : No Justice for Sexual Violence in Darfur,** <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/04/06/five-years-0>
- **Stop Rape Now (UNIFEM):** www.stoprapenow.org
- **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence:** www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html
- **White Ribbon Campaign:** www.whiteribbon.ca/
- **Stop Violence Against Women:** www.stopvaw.org/
- **Pearson Peacekeeping Centre:** <http://www.peaceoperations.org/>
- **Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group, Peacebuild:** <http://www.peacebuild.ca/work-groups-gender-pb-e.php>



GENDER AND PEACEBUILDING
WORKING GROUP



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PEARSON
PEACEKEEPING CENTRE