

DAY TEN: 4th December

'Rape as a Weapon of War'

We knew the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was nearby, but it was shocking to see them arrive and brutally round up the men and boys in our village. One of the leaders an older man, pointed at me, then two soldiers approached and roughly lifted me up and locked me in the back of a jeep. I was just 15. For the next seven years I was one of this leader's six 'wives', cooking, cleaning and constantly moving from place to place. I had two children with him. It was only when the Ugandan army ambushed our LRA camp that I was rescued.... (As heard by the writer at the UN in Geneva)

Question

What is my reaction to this horrific true story?

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Used with permission from Amnesty International

Global Facts

- Rape and sexual abuse are not just a product of war but are used as a deliberate military strategy. (*Amnesty International*)
- Systematic rape is used as a tool of ethnic cleansing. More than 20,000 girls and women have been raped in Bosnia since 1992.¹
- While it is undisputed that strategic rape is an unlawful tactic of war, no state has ever been held accountable, nor any individual prosecuted for its use.
<http://globaljusticecenter.net/documents/Rape%20as%20a%20Tactic%20of%20War%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

Pope Francis: "Please Lord, stop. No more wars. No more of these useless massacres... today the world is preparing to go even more forcefully into war." 3 Nov 2017 Rome

"War always does grave harm to the environment". (*Laudato Si* 57)

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/sowc96pk/sexviol.htm>

Rape and sexual violence is used as a deliberate weapon of war in the same way that guns and tanks are, to terrorise civilian populations, to humiliate, scar and destroy whole ethnic groups or religious or political opponents, cheaply, silently and devastatingly.

William Hague, UK Foreign Secretary, (2012)

CEDAW

(Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Adopted 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ Ending violence against women
- ✓ Achieving gender equality during peace and war

Suggest you read the Convention during the **16 Days** www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

"In 2016, sexual violence continued to be employed as a tactic of war, with widespread and strategic rapes, including mass rapes, allegedly committed by several parties to armed conflict, mostly in conjunction with other crimes such as killing, looting, forced displacement and arbitrary detention." UN Report of Secretary General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, April 2017.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDG 16 Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
UNHCR 16. a: 'Strengthen relevant national institutions, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.'
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicator/s/Metadata_16.a.1_3_March2016.pdf

ACTION

1. Strive to be a peace-filled person.
2. Support any campaign to eliminate weapons of war.
3. Befriend an asylum seeker from a conflict zone who may have suffered greatly.

Read: <http://www.stoprapenow.org/take-action/>
<https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.



www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



49 Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

DAY 10...

4th

December

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.



See: <http://www.pbvm.org/search/phrase-st-/16%20days%20of%20activism-sp-/>