

14TH

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL ON

CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022 (S/2023/413)



CONFLICT-RELATED
SEXUAL VIOLENCE
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



20 COUNTRIES
14 CONFLICT SETTINGS
3 POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS
3 SITUATIONS OF CONCERN

WOMEN AND GIRLS
account for more than
2,297
of the reported cases
[94%]

The list of parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of sexual violence includes
49 PARTIES
The vast majority of parties are, as in previous years, non-State actors, including several groups designated as terrorist entities. Listing is based on cumulative evidence documented over the years, and not only in the present report

9
SANCTIONS REGIMES
of the Security Council include sexual violence within their designation criteria

SENIOR WOMEN PROTECTION ADVISORS (SWPAs)
8 are deployed in peace operations / special political missions. The presence of SWPAs reflects enhanced data collection and analysis on CRSV. More than
1,677 CASES
[68% OF THE TOTAL]
were reported in the countries where SWPAs are deployed

2455
CASES OF CRSV
with the highest number recorded in the **DRC**
(701)
While the report conveys the severity and brutality of verified incidents, it does not purport to reflect the global scale or prevalence of this crime

More than
146 CASES
[6%]
were reported against
MEN AND BOYS

Since the adoption resolution 1960 (2010),
72 PARTIES
(56 NON-STATE ACTORS AND 16 STATE ACTORS)
have been listed across
12 COUNTRIES

12 CASES
of conflict-related sexual violence against
LGBTQI
individuals were recorded

46
PARTIES
have not assumed commitments to address CRSV. 30 (71%) have been listed for over 5 years

9
SECURITY SECTOR ACTORS
have assumed formal commitments to address CRSV

In **787** **CASES**
the victims were **CHILDREN**;
GIRLS account for **766**
[97%] of the cases

- Sexual violence in conflict-affected settings
- Sexual violence in post-conflict settings
- Other situations of concern

RISING MILITARIZATION AND SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE

Sexual violence continued to be used as a tactic of war, torture, and terrorism amid deepening political and security crises, compounded by **militarization and the illicit proliferation of arms** in the wake of unconstitutional changes of government. This trend exposed civilians to heightened levels of sexual violence, amid shrinking civic space and weakened rule of law in settings affected by conflict. State and non-State armed groups continued to target civilians with rape, gang rape and abductions. United Nations-designated terrorist groups, other non-State armed groups and transnational criminal networks used sexual violence as a tactic, destabilizing already fragile contexts.

Globally, the trend of increasing recourse to **mercenaries**, mercenary-related actors and private military and security companies by parties to conflict has been accompanied by increasing violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. Impunity remained the norm.

Survivors are not a homogeneous group. In 2022, violations were documented against women, girls, men, boys and persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as persons living with disabilities, ranging in age from 4 to over 80 years of age.

Patterns of sexual violence continued to be used as part of the repertoire of political violence to intimidate and punish opponents, their family members, and **women human rights defenders**. Globally, women's human rights defenders, including those advocating for victims of sexual violence, have been targeted with attacks to stem their activism and participation in public life.

Conflict-related sexual violence continued to propel both internal and cross-border **displacement** with displaced and refugee women and girls exposed to heightened risks. Climate-related displacement and insecurity exacerbated competition for scarce resources, which increased intercommunal violence, including sexual violence.

The **gender-based digital divide** is nowhere more acute and perilous than in situations of conflict. Disturbing trends of gender-based hate speech and incitement to violence fuelled conflict in which rape and other forms of sexual violence were used to humiliate and destabilize targeted communities. Internet restrictions impeded the ability of survivors to access information, with frequent telecommunications shutdowns hindering access to helplines and other support services.

14TH REPORT OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/>



@endrapeinwar

ENCOURAGING JUDICIAL DEVELOPMENTS DESPITE PREVAILING IMPUNITY

In October 2022, the Special Criminal Court in the **Central African Republic** delivered its first verdict, convicting a commander of the armed group, Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation, for rape perpetrated by his subordinates, on the basis of command responsibility.

In April 2022, the case of Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, alleged Janjaweed leader accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in **Darfur**, including two counts of rape as a crime against humanity and a war crime, proceeded to trial before the International Criminal Court.

In December 2022, the International Criminal Court confirmed the conviction and sentencing of Dominic Ongwen, a former member of the Lord's Resistance Army, for war crimes and crimes against humanity, which included charges of sexual and gender-based violence such as forced marriage and forced pregnancy.

In terms of reparative justice, in **Colombia**, the landmark final report of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition, issued in June 2022, offered specific recommendations to State institutions to provide transformative reparations for survivors and to ensure guarantees of non-repetition.

In December 2022, the Parliament of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** adopted a law on protection and reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and established a reparations scheme. A national commission was subsequently created to outline the terms of eligibility for reparations and establish a national fund.

HARNESSING THE PREVENTIVE POWER OF THE RULE OF LAW

Recommend the Security Council that sexual violence is systematically monitored and incorporated as a stand-alone designation criterion for **targeted sanctions** to deter the commission of such violence by all parties.

Encourage Member States to adopt a **survivor-centred approach** to preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence that seeks to empower survivors by prioritizing their specific needs and perspectives.

Foster a **gender-responsive security sector**, through the development of effective oversight and accountability mechanisms including the establishment of vetting and screening to prevent credibly suspected perpetrators from being recruited, retained or promoted within the security forces.

Call upon all parties to conflict to **immediately cease all forms of conflict-related sexual violence** in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions and provide the United Nations with unhindered access to conflict areas and detention centres.

Address **chronic funding shortfalls** by providing predictable financial support to the conflict-related sexual violence multi-partner trust fund (CRSV MPTF).

Encourage Member States to adopt **national legislation on arms and ammunition control** and implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the Arms Trade Treaty and other relevant instruments.



The United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) network coordinates the work of 24 UN entities. In 2022, UN Action funded an innovative project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, implemented with local women's cooperatives in 13 conflict-free mining sites. To enhance structural and operational prevention, the network launched a Framework for the Prevention of CRSV.



In 2022, the Security-Council mandated Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict engaged with 14 countries in strengthening rule of law institutions to enhance accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, including the DRC, Guinea, the Sudan, Ukraine and elsewhere.