

THEMATIC PRIORITY AREAS



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
 16 DÍAS DE ACTIVISMO CONTRA LA VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO
 16 JOURS D'ACTIVISME CONTRE LA VIOLENCE DE GENRE
 25 NOV - 10 DEC <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu>



Domestic Violence and the Proliferation of Small Arms

- The agreed conclusions of the CSW57 on the theme of ending violence and discrimination against women and girls acknowledge the relationship between the “illicit use of, and illicit trade in, small arms and light weapons and aggravated violence against women and girls.”¹
- In April 2013, governments adopted the first ever Arms Trade Treaty meant to prohibit the sale of arms if there is risk that weapons may be used to commit human rights violations or violations of international humanitarian law and is the first treaty that recognizes the link between gender-based violence and the international arms trade.²
- Having a gun in the house increases the risk of someone in the home being murdered by 41%, but for women in particular, the risk is nearly tripled with an increase of 272%.³
- In South Africa, a recent study says the murder rate for women older than 14 has decreased, but murder of women by intimate partners, including husband, boyfriend, same-sex partner, or rejected lover has not declined in any substantial way. The study cites murder at the hands of intimate partners in South Africa to be 8.8 per 100 000 women in 1999 compared to 5.6 in 2009.⁴

Violence Perpetrated by State Actors

- In Darfur, women and girls live under the constant threat of rape by Sudanese government soldiers, members of the Government-backed Janjaweed militia, rebels, ex-rebels.⁵
- Since 2011, during various anti-government protests in Egypt, women have been sexually assaulted by those in the military or other men protestors with little effort on the part of the government to protect them or punish perpetrators.⁶
- Heightened militarization and the celebration of cultures of militarism continue to impede gender and social equality, and paint the use of the violence as legitimate sources of power in our societies.⁷
- According to SIPRI, global military expenditures are over 1.7 trillion USD, where rapid growth in military expenditure has been in North Africa. The United States military expenditure accounts for 41%, followed by China with 8.2 %, Russia with 4.1 %, and UK and France with 3.6 % each.⁸

Sexual Violence During & After Conflict

- In South Kivu, it is estimated that 40 women are raped in the region every day.⁹
- Rape has become rampant in the ongoing conflict in Syria, especially against women. It is unclear what the exact number of rape victims are in the country, and accounts are not easily verifiable due to the ongoing violence.¹⁰
- Statistics by the UN show that 1,700 women were raped in Somalia in 2012, but Zainab Hawa Bangura, the UN special representative on sexual violence in conflict calls it a “gross underestimate” due to low rates of reporting on sexual violence and the reported numbers in Somalia do not account for areas controlled by al Shabaab.¹¹
- Human Rights Watch has reported that men in uniform, including those affiliated with government forces and government allied militias have been responsible for “a significant number of rapes of internally displaced women and girls since July 2011”¹²
- In Liberia, a government survey in 10 counties in 2005-2006 showed that 92% of the 1,600 women interviewed had experienced sexual violence, including rape.¹³
- A woman in the Jalozai refugee camp in Pakistan reported being forced by a security officer into exchange of sexual services in order to obtain basic food supplies at the camp.¹⁴

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- ¹ Butler, Maria, and Abigal Ruane. "Reflecting on CSW 57: the Good & the Bad." *PeaceWomen 1325 E-Newsletters*. March 22, 2013. Accessed April 6, 2013 http://www.peacewomen.org/publications_eneews_issue.php?id=181
- ² "Gender and Arms Trade Treaty- Make It Binding." *PeaceWomen*. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.peacewomen.org/pages/att>
- ³ "The impact of guns on women's lives." *Amnesty International, International Action Network on Small Arms, and Oxfam International*. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://iansa-women.org/sites/default/files/newsviews/en-impact-guns-women.pdf>
- ⁴ Abrahams, Naeemah, Shanaaz Mathews, Lorna I. Martin, Carl Lombard, and Rachel Jewkes. "Intimate Partner Femicide in South Africa in 1999 and 2009." *PLoS Medicine*. April 2, 2013. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001412>
- ⁵ Robertson, Nick. "Rape is a way of life for Darfur's women." *CNN*. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://edition.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/africa/06/19/darfur.rape/>; and Dean, Nora. "Janjaweed Using Rape as 'Integral' Weapon in Darfur, Aid Group Says." *Washington Post*. July 3, 2007. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/07/02/AR2007070201627.html>
- ⁶ "Egyptians protest at sexual violence against women." *BBC*. February 6, 2013. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-21356233>; and Al Yacoub, Ikram. "Violence against women protestors angers Egyptians." *Al Arabiya News*. December 19, 2011. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/12/19/183459.html>
- ⁷ Cockburn, Cynthia. "Guns, war and the domestic battlefield." *Washington Post*. November 28, 2012. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/cynthia-cockburn/guns-war-and-domestic-battlefield>
- ⁸ "The 15 countries with the highest military expenditure in 2011 (table)". *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*. Accessed April 13, 2013. http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/milex/resultoutput/milex_15/the-15-countries-with-the-highest-military-expenditure-in-2011-table/view
- ⁹ Rodriguez, Claudia. "Sexual violence in South Kivu, Congo". *Forced Migration Review*. January 2007. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR27/30.pdf>
- ¹⁰ Ghafour, Hamida. "Syrian women who fled to Jordan tell of horrific rapes back home". *Star*. April 6, 2013. Accessed April 6, 2013 http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/04/06/syrian_women_who_fled_to_jordan_tell_of_horrific_rapes_back_home.html
- ¹¹ Migiros, Katy. "Somalia and U.N. to tackle rampant rape in Mogadishu camps". *Thomas Reuters Foundation*. April 5, 2013. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/news/somalia-and-un-to-tackle-rampant-rape-in-mogadishu-camps/>
- ¹² "Hostages of the Gatekeeper: Abuses against Internally Displaced in Mogadishu, Somalia". *Human Rights Watch*. March 2013. Accessed April 6, 2013 http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/hr_vaw_hostages_of_the_gatekeepers_march_2013.pdf
- ¹³ "Liberia: Health, justice lacking for abused women". *IRIN*. December 4, 2006. Accessed April 6, 2013 <http://www.irinnews.org/printreport.aspx?reportid=62277>
- ¹⁴ Firdous, Iftikhar. "Horrors of sexual abuse in conflict-stricken FATA". *Express Tribune*. December 15, 2011. Accessed April 6, 2013. <http://tribune.com.pk/story/306916/voice-of-the-voiceless-horrors-of-sexual-abuse-in-conflict-stricken-fata/>