

Reporting Sexual Violence

Monthly News Brief

February
2021

Sexual violence by state bodies or conflict actors that particularly targets IDPs and refugees, aid, health workers or educators or students among others.

This Monthly News Brief bears testimony to the brave survivors who speak about sexual violence by state bodies or conflict actors. Most events of sexual violence are never reported. This compilation is neither complete nor representative of the extent or nature of sexual violence in general. It brings together dispersed accounts about survivors from around the world who broke the silence.

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Reporting Sexual Violence

By state bodies or conflict actors and affecting IDPs and refugees, aid, health workers or educators.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

02 February 2021: In Kihome village, Beni territory, North Kivu province, a two year-old girl was abducted, raped and killed by unidentified armed men. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

03 February 2021: In Charwika village, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, a woman was kidnapped and raped by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and affiliated the Abacunguzi Fighting Forces (FDLR-FOCA) who demanded a ransom for the hostage's release. **Source:** [Kivu Security](#)

06 February 2021: In Shonyi village, Rutshuri territory, North Kivu province, a woman was raped by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) during clashes with the Nyatura Forces de Défense du Peuple (FDP) under the CMC (Coalition of Movements for Change) alliance in the village. **Source:** [Kivu Security](#)

Around 09 February 2021: In Kananga city, Kasai-Central province, a woman was sexually molested by a group of armed men in military uniforms. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

21 February 2021: In Nyange village, Fizi territory, South Kivu province, a woman was raped by armed men during an attack on the village. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

24 February 2021: In Kabakaba village, Djugu territory, Ituri province, a woman was raped by three Cooperative for Development of the Congo (CODECO) militiamen after they attacked a group of miners at a quarry. Three miners were also killed and another injured in the attack. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Cameroon

31 December 2020: In Ntui town and commune, Centre region, a 15-year-old girl was forced to have sex with her male friend by two police officers and subsequently raped by a third police officer. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

As reported on 26 February 2021: In Ebam village, Manyu department, South West region, a new report by the Human Rights Watch documented that at least 20 women, including four with disabilities, were raped by Cameroonian soldiers on March 1, 2020 during an attack on the village.

During the attack the soldiers arrested 35 men, killed one man, burned a house, looted several properties and severely beat the men they detained. To-date there has still not been a thorough investigation and no one has been held accountable. **Source:** [Human Rights Watch](#)

Central African Republic

As reported on 15 February 2021: In Liton town, 22 kilometres from the centre of Bangui, possibly in Bangui autonomous commune, displaced Central African women reported having suffered repeated sexual abuses during ongoing clashes between government forces and rebel groups in their villages throughout mid-January. At least 65 women have been raped since the beginning of the crisis. **Source:** [The New Humanitarian](#)

Ethiopia

8 February 2021: In Addis Ababa, a female freelance Tigrayan journalist was threatened by three armed men wearing civilian clothes who stormed into her home, ransacking it and confiscating her laptop and flash drive that contained pictures from a source in Tigray about Eritrean forces in the village. She had just filed a story with the Los Angeles Times about a Tigrayan woman who was gang-raped and held in captivity for 15 days by soldiers from Eritrea. A therapist who was treating the rape survivor also received threatening phone calls warning her not to identify Eritrean forces as perpetrators. **Source:** [Los Angeles Times](#)

As reported on 11 February 2021: In Kerestber village, Tigray region, a 27-year-old woman and her sister were kidnapped and held in captivity for 15 days by Eritrean forces early January 2021. They were taken to a makeshift camp and repeatedly raped by at least 20 soldiers. The woman said she saw about eight other Tigrayan women being held at the camp and more women being brought in. The woman was able to escape from the camp, she was found lying in the road and taken to a hospital. Her sister reportedly may still be in Eritrean custody. **Source:** [Los Angeles Times](#)

11 February 2021: In Mekella, Adigrat, Wukro and Ayder villages, Tigray region, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has reported that in the past two months, 108 cases of rape have been reported in hospitals in Mekelle (52 reports), Ayder (27 reports), Adigrat (22 reports), and Wukro (7 reports). Since local structures such as police and health facilities where victims of sexual violence would normally turn to report such crimes are no longer in place it is possible that actual number of cases is much higher and widespread. **Sources:** [The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission](#) and [Anadolu Agency](#)

As reported on 15 February 2021: In Abiy Addi town, Tigray region, an 18-year-old girl lost her right hand defending herself from an Ethiopian soldier who was trying to rape her. He had also tried to force her grandfather to have sex with her. **Source:** [BBC News](#)

Nigeria

18 February 2021: The International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law released the names of 53 young Obigbo women who were abducted and repeatedly raped for weeks at an army barracks between October and November 2020 in Abuja city, Federal Capital Territory, before being locked in dungeons. **Sources:** [Nikiruka Nistoran](#) and [Sahara Reporters](#)

Somalia

As reported on 27 January 2021: In Lower Shabelle administrative region, South West state, an eight-year-old girl was raped and killed in an unidentified IDP camp. The perpetrator is suspected to have been a male Somali. **Source:** [The Haybad Online](#)

As reported on 06 February 2021: In the outskirts of Burao city, Togdheer region, Somaliland, the mutilated body of a young female shepherd was found, with indications that she may have been raped. Women in the city demonstrated against the increase in sexual violence in the region following the attack. **Source:** [The Haybad Online](#)

Sudan

03 February 2021: Near Rokoro town, Central Darfur state, a 10-year-old girl was raped by gunmen. **Source:** [Radio Dabanga](#)

Uganda

As reported on 13 February 2021: In Bidi Bidi refugee camp, Yumbe district, Northern region, concerns were reportedly expressed by South Sudanese women over increasing sexual violence in the refugee camp. Statistics suggest that in the past five months, 400 girls under the age of 17 have been sexually abused. **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)

Asia

China

As reported on 02 February 2021: In Xinjiang region, Uighur women interned in “re-education” camps have reportedly been subjected to systematic rape and sexual abuse. **Source:** [BBC](#) and [Radio Free Asia](#)

Kazakhstan

Around 17 February 2021: In Dolina town, Karaganda region, at least two male inmates were allegedly raped by prison guards in a penitentiary facility. Authorities have denied any incident took place. **Source:** [ACLEDD](#)¹

Europe

Greece

22 February 2020: In Athens, a former artistic director of Greece’s National Theatre is being investigated for the suspected rape of refugee children after lawsuits were filed against him by two men who say they were raped by him whilst they were minors. **Source:** [Reuters](#) and [US News](#)

The Americas

Guyana

Between 05 and 06 February 2021: In Mabaruma town and administrative centre, Barima-Waini region, a 15-year-old girl was allegedly drugged and raped by five soldiers of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF). The attack is being investigated by the police. **Sources:** [Guyana Times](#) and [Kaieteur News](#)

Venezuela

Around 24 February 2021: In Elorza town, Apure state, a man was sexually abused by the Venezuelan National Police (CPNB) forces who arrested him for domestic violence. The victim was beaten up and threatened by officials before being released. **Source:** [ACLEDD](#)¹

You may be interested in

Free training materials to support reporting and monitoring of sexual violence, exploitation, and abuse.

Insecurity Insight supports local organisation in best practice on reporting and monitoring sexual violence. If you are working with survivors or victims of sexual violence and you would be interested in receiving our free training products, please [get in touch](#).

Lessons from the 10th Ebola outbreak in the DRC, 2018-2020

Analysis report highlighting the [key learnings](#) about reporting sexual violence, exploitation, and abuse from the 10th Ebola Response in the DRC. This [document](#) includes recommendations to prevent violence through an acceptance-based security risk strategy.

Mobile Guide: Responding to Sexual Violence in the Aid Workplace

10-minute guide on how to take action, report an incident, and get support when sexual violence and abuse happens to you or a colleague in the aid workplace. You need to be registered with DisasterReady! to [access the guide](#). Download [PDF](#)

This Monthly News Brief comprises publicly reported cases of sexual violence by law enforcement bodies, conflict related sexual violence, and sexual violence that targets IDPs / refugees or vulnerable beneficiaries. It is published by Insecurity Insight and prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases.

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 04 March 2021.