



'NO PLACE FOR US HERE'

VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE
WOMEN IN EASTERN CHAD

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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Amnesty International Publications

First published in 2009 by
Amnesty International Publications
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom
www.amnesty.org

Cover photo: Women return after collecting firewood near
Gaga refugee camp, May 2009. © Amnesty International

Back cover photos: A woman who has been collecting
firewood around Bredjing refugee camp, May 2009.
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Darfuri refugee women collecting water at Farchana
refugee camp, May 2009.
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Index: AFR 20/008/2009
Original language: English
Printed by Amnesty International,
International Secretariat, United Kingdom

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It is not yet safe to be a woman here. It won't be safe until there is justice and until violence against women is taken seriously.

Chadian journalist interviewed in Abéché, Eastern Chad

I remember one woman asking me if there was anywhere she could go and feel safe. I didn't know what to answer because I don't think there is an answer.

Aid worker, interviewed in Abéché

I INTRODUCTION

Amidst the widespread human rights violations that have devastated Darfur and eastern Chad, crimes of rape and other violence against women have been pervasive. Amnesty International has documented and denounced the shocking levels of rape and other violence that women in Darfur and eastern Chad have been subject to.¹ As these reports by Amnesty International, as well as by other organizations and UN agencies reveal, rape and other forms of violence against women have been widespread during attacks on villages on both sides of the Chad/Darfur border.²

Over the past six years, more than 142,000 women and girls have fled insecurity and widespread human rights violations in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, seeking safety and protection in neighboring eastern Chad.³ They have hoped that in Chad they would find safety at the hands of Chadian authorities and the international community. However, that safety has been elusive. The rape and other violence that countless women and girls have experienced throughout Darfur continue to haunt them in eastern Chad. Information gathered by Amnesty International and other organizations makes it clear that women and girls living in refugee camps in eastern Chad face high levels of rape and other violence on a daily basis, both inside and outside the camps.⁴

Among other factors, refugee women and girls from Darfur face a serious risk of rape and other violence because they regularly leave the relative security of refugee camps in eastern Chad. Overwhelmingly the burden of ensuring that families have the subsistence they need to survive falls on women's shoulders. This includes gathering firewood for cooking; finding straw to feed donkeys and goats; fetching water when there are shortages in the camps;⁵ going to village markets; and tending small vegetable plots in areas near water supplies. It may often require travelling considerable distances. In particular, the search for firewood around refugee camps which have been in existence for up to six years now, easily takes women and girls more than 10 kilometers outside the camps as wood supplies closer to the camps have been exhausted.



Women returning to Bredjing refugee camp after collecting firewood, May 2009. © Amnesty International

Women and girls face a variety of risks when they leave the camps, ranging from harassment and threats of physical attacks, rape and other forms of sexual violence. Amnesty International's research indicates that they face those same risks of violence within the refugee camps.

Those responsible for rape and other forms of violence against refugee women and girls are rarely brought to justice. There is clearly a deeply entrenched culture of impunity for rape and violence against women and girls throughout eastern Chad. In cases documented by Amnesty International, incidents were rarely followed-up by Chadian local authorities or leaders within the refugee camps, even when the suspected perpetrator was specifically identified. This is due to a weak Chadian legal framework, lack of sufficient judicial personnel in eastern Chad and an absence of political will on the part of local authorities. The use of traditional dispute resolution methods to find "negotiated" settlements to cases of rape and other violence against women and girls, also serves to perpetuate the impunity and further the violence.

There has been hope and expectation that the deployment of a new Chadian police force would provide greater security for refugees and displaced women and girls living in precarious situation in refugee camps and IDP sites throughout eastern Chad. The force trained and

supported by the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and given specific responsibility for providing security in and around refugee camps and sites for internally displaced persons, is now fully deployed on the ground in eastern Chad. The UN reports that 812 officers of the Integrated Security Detachment (*Détachement Intégré de Sécurité*, DIS) are now present in eastern Chad.⁶ Members of the DIS, however, have faced considerable challenges in their operations and have themselves been targets for violence.⁷ There have also been instances of DIS officers committing human rights violations.⁸ Most refugee women and girls, as well as individuals working with UN and humanitarian agencies, do not feel that the DIS has done much to address the insecurity they are facing.

In this report, Amnesty International calls for specific action to address continuing widespread violence against women and girls in eastern Chad and for the international community to adopt a comprehensive strategy to deal with the continuing vulnerability of women and girls both inside and outside refugee camps. Violence against women and girls is still high in the region despite the presence of MINURCAT and the DIS.⁹

More broadly, Amnesty International is also calling on the international community to act immediately to address continuing generalized insecurity and human rights violations in eastern Chad. The United Nations Security Council must ensure that MINURCAT is able to deploy to its maximum levels without further delays, and that troops serving with the mission have all necessary materials and equipment, including the full number of military helicopters required by the mission. The deployment of MINURCAT's military forces, expected to be completed at the end of 2009, must be accelerated. Equally, it is crucial that officers serving with the DIS are fully equipped, trained and appropriately housed. They must be recruited on the basis of merit and other criteria that ensure that individuals responsible for human rights violations and other misconduct are not hired. They must also be properly and fairly held accountable for misconduct and crimes they commit. The Chadian Government should ensure that there are sufficient police officers, including women officers, judicial personnel, and the necessary facilities and infrastructure to effectively investigate and prosecute cases of rape and other forms of violence against women.

Amnesty International is also calling on the governments of Chad and Sudan, as well as armed opposition groups fighting against the Chadian and Sudanese governments, to live up the full range of their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law. Where serious human rights violations, including rape and sexual violence are committed, they must be investigated and the suspects prosecuted before competent, independent and impartial national or international criminal courts. Survivors and victims of these crimes should be provided with full and effective reparations to address the harm they have suffered and to help them rebuild their lives.

II METHODOLOGY

This report is based on an Amnesty International research mission that visited the Chadian capital, N'Djamena, and eastern Chad between 25 April and 13 May 2009. Amnesty International delegates travelled to N'Djamena, Abéché, Farchana and Hadjer Hadid and to the Gaga, Bredjing and Farchana refugee camps. Among other human rights violations, Amnesty International delegates documented numerous cases of rape and other forms of violence against women and girls. The Amnesty International delegation's movement in the region was significantly restricted both because of general insecurity and particular incidents that took place in areas where the mission delegates were working.¹⁰

Interviews with women and girls in refugee camps were conducted in Arabic by a female member of the Amnesty International team. Where necessary, other women helped to translate from Masalit¹¹ into Arabic. Information from these interviews, as well as from interviews with refugee men and boys in the camps and with refugee leaders was cross-checked with information from other sources. Information from previous missions Amnesty International's delegates have conducted in the country has also been relied upon in this report.¹² For reasons of privacy and security the identity of survivors of rape and other human rights violations interviewed by Amnesty International has been kept confidential and names used in this report are not real survivor's names.

In addition to interviews conducted with victims of human rights violations and refugee camp leaders, Amnesty International delegates also obtained testimonies from representatives of international humanitarian organizations, MINURCAT and UN agencies operational in eastern Chad (including, UNHCR, OCHA and UNICEF), Chadian and foreign journalists, and local human rights defenders. The delegates also discussed concerns about the situation in Eastern Chad with Chadian government officials in N'Djamena, Abéché, Farchana and Hadjer Hadid, including the Minister of Justice, and with senior members of the diplomatic community.

III THE CURRENT CONTEXT IN EASTERN CHAD: INSECURITY REIGNS

Insecurity and grave human rights violations continue to be widespread in eastern Chad, despite a significant deployment of MINURCAT troops, UN police units and human rights monitors and members of the DIS in the region for more than one year.¹³ Victims include refugees from Darfur, displaced Chadians, the local population, individuals working with international and national humanitarian agencies, and human rights groups.

The level of displacement in eastern Chad continues to be very high. The region is home to approximately 260,000 refugees from Darfur,¹⁴ most of whom are women and children and many of whom have been in the area for more than five years. The refugees reside in 12 different camps spread out along the length of the Chad/Darfur border.¹⁵

In March 2009, 13 international humanitarian organizations operating in Darfur were expelled by the Sudanese government and three national organizations had their permits revoked. The Sudanese Government took this action in retaliation against the decision of the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir. The expulsions threatened to unleash a wave of refugees to eastern Chad from Darfur. That influx did not occur largely due to considerable effort on the part of remaining UN agencies and NGOs which worked hard to fill the gap arising from the expulsions.¹⁶

In addition, approximately 180,000 Chadians have been forced from their homes in eastern Chad over the past four years. Most of this internal displacement happened between 2005 and early 2007 following attacks by armed groups based in both Darfur and eastern Chad that resulted in the destruction of hundreds of villages in eastern Chad. Internally displaced Chadians presently live in 38 sites, particularly in the area southwest of the village of Farchana and in the Dar Sila region. These displacement sites are often in more remote locations. Many are in areas of considerable generalized insecurity and UN agencies and humanitarian groups are frequently very limited in their access to the sites.¹⁷

MINURCAT has now deployed throughout eastern Chad.¹⁸ UN Security Council Resolution 1778 of 25 September 2007 established both a military and policing component to MINURCAT. MINURCAT's mandate is to "help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, *inter alia* by contributing to the protection of refugees, displaced persons and civilians in danger, by facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic and by creating favourable conditions for the reconstruction and economic and social development of those areas."¹⁹ However, the military component is currently well under its intended level of deployment and the DIS have only recently reached their maximum level of deployment. The UN Secretary General has reported that only 46% of the intended 5,225 MINURCAT troops have been deployed and that only four of the 18 requested military helicopters are expected to become operational soon.²⁰

The situation in eastern Chad has long been volatile and has in particular been marked by systematic human rights violations over the past five years. There are four principal

dimensions to the current insecurity and human rights violations in this region. The four dimensions of this ongoing crisis affect the daily lives of refugees, especially women and girls.

SPILLOVER FROM DARFUR

Eastern Chad shares a long border with Sudan's troubled Darfur region. Some ethnic groups reside on both sides of the volatile border, maintain close connections and travel back and forth frequently.²¹ Some of the violence in eastern Chad, particularly between the years 2005 – 2007, was provoked by the notorious Janjaweed militia, which is backed by the Sudanese government and responsible for widespread war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. The Janjaweed carried out many cross-border raids, in alliance with armed elements in Arab communities in eastern Chad. Thousands of Chadians were killed and injured in these attacks. Amnesty International has documented the widespread crimes against humanity committed in the course of these attacks.²²

INTER-COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

There has been a significant increase in violence between various ethnic groups throughout eastern Chad, often related to tensions over the control of and access to land for agriculture and for grazing animals.²³ These tensions are longstanding. Some ethnic groups in eastern Chad have been in the area for centuries, others have migrated to the region over the past several decades because drought has forced them to leave other parts of the country. Some communities have their own self-defence groups or militias.²⁴ However, the tensions between different communities were previously mediated and resolved by traditional leaders and did not generally lead to widespread inter-communal violence. The situation has changed. All of this has added considerably to the insecurity and human rights violations in the region.

BANDITRY

In recent years there has been a dramatic upsurge in violence carried out by criminal elements, usually stealing and /or looting from vehicles belonging to UN agencies, as well as international and national nongovernmental humanitarian groups.²⁵ Those responsible for these attacks are locally referred to as *les bandits* (bandits).²⁶ It has not been possible to confirm their actual identity and whether they may have links with armed groups in eastern Chad or Darfur. Many people have been killed or injured in these attacks.

This violence, including vehicle thefts, often leads international and local organizations operating in the area to significantly curtail their activities, sometimes for weeks or even months at a time. Loss of vehicles also limits the ability of the DIS to carry out patrols. When agencies withdraw or cut back their activities in refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites, the impact on people living in those areas is considerable.

Important programs are suspended and the sense of protection that comes with the presence of international and national organizations is lost. Equally, when DIS patrols are limited because of a lack of vehicles, the implications for security are considerable.

For instance, on 7 May 2009, Ibrahim Mahamat, a Chadian national employed by the *Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad* (Association for the Protection of Fundamental Rights in Chad, APLFT), who had been driving the Amnesty International delegates during the course of their work throughout eastern Chad for several days in May 2009, was stopped by armed men while driving with another APLFT staff member, Nerambaye Alladoum, between the village of Farchana and Bredjing refugee camp, which houses just over 30,000 refugees from Darfur. Ibrahim Mahamat had left the Amnesty International delegation at the UN base outside Farchana only one hour earlier. The two APLFT staff were abducted along with their vehicle. They were missing for approximately seven hours, before they were released unharmed near the Chad/Sudan border. The vehicle has not been recovered and its loss significantly limits the activities of APLFT in the area unless and until it can be replaced.



The APLFT vehicle which was stolen by armed men between Farchana and Bredjing refugee camp, May 2009. © Amnesty International

That same day, a UN convoy in which nine other APLFT staff were traveling was stopped by armed men between the village of Hadjar Hadeed and Bredjing Camp. Amnesty International delegates themselves had been traveling in this same convoy in this same location, on both of the two previous days. All of the occupants of the vehicles in the convoy, including the APLFT staff, three unarmed UN Police officers and a number of DIS officers, were forced to get down from their vehicles. The armed men stole two of the vehicles, which were later retrieved by UN soldiers. In the wake of this incident UN and nongovernmental agencies working in the area of Hadjar Hadeed and the nearby Bredjing and Treguine refugee camps suspended their activities and did not travel to the camps for several days.

As a result of these two incidents and other concerns about insecurity the Amnesty International delegation was not able to travel to any of the IDP sites in and around Farchana and had to cancel plans to carry out research in refugee camps and IDP sites in and around

the village of Goz Beida. This in itself highlights how precarious and volatile the situation is in eastern Chad and the importance of immediate action to address the insecurity.²⁷

ATTACKS BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

Chadian armed opposition groups, many of which are based in Sudan, have been active in Chad for several years and regularly mount attacks in and around villages and towns in eastern Chad. They have also attacked N'Djamena with the objective of toppling the government of Chadian President Idriss Déby Itno. For instance, in February 2008, armed opposition groups crossed the breadth of the country from the east to the capital, N'Djamena, in the west. There were two days of intense fighting in the city leading to hundreds of civilian deaths and injuries before the Chadian military regained control of N'Djamena.²⁸

In January 2009 eight armed opposition groups formed a new coalition, known as the *Union des forces de la résistance* (Union of Forces of the Resistance, UFR) led by Timane Erdimi.²⁹ The UFR fought pitched battles against the Chadian military in eastern Chad in early May 2009 while Amnesty International delegates were in the region. On 7 May 2009, there was heavy fighting around the village of Am Dam, northwest of Goz Beida and some 100 kilometres southeast of Abéché.³⁰ The Chadian government claimed that 225 opposition fighters were killed and 212 taken prisoner³¹, and that 22 Chadian soldiers were also killed in the fighting.³²

On 8 May 2009, the President of the UN Security Council expressed "deep concern" at the activities of armed groups which he said posed a direct threat to the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations. He called on all parties to the fighting in eastern Chad to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law.³³ The fighting subsided in mid-May 2009.

While armed opposition groups appear not to have generally targeted civilians in the course of these attacks, the insecurity unleashed by the attacks is destabilizing. The Chadian military concentrates on preparing for and responding to attacks from the armed groups. Bandits appear to take advantage of that situation and often carry out their own attacks during attacks on Chadian government forces by armed opposition groups or when there are rumours of impending attacks, which happens often. Notably the two attacks by "bandits" near Farchana described in the section above, occurred on 7 May, as fighting was raging between UFR and government forces near Am Dam. Other than the efforts of the DIS contingents that are now being deployed across eastern Chad, Chadian military officials, police and gendarmes make little to provide protection to refugees, displaced Chadians or humanitarian agencies when armed opposition groups are active. It seems apparent that they have decided to leave the protection of refugees and displaced Chadians almost entirely in the hands of the DIS and MINURCAT and concentrate efforts on fighting opposition armed groups.

IV CONTINUING VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EASTERN CHAD

Amnesty International has previously documented the alarming levels of rape and other violence experienced by women in eastern Chad, including refugee women from Darfur residing in refugee camps. Among many concerns, Amnesty International's reports have highlighted the particular risk faced by women and girls when they leave the relative safety of refugee camps in search of such necessities as firewood, water³⁴ and straw, or to tend small plots of vegetables and other crops.³⁵



Line of jerry cans waiting to be filled with water at Gaga refugee camp, May 2009. © Amnesty International

Amnesty International's recent research demonstrates that refugee women and girls in eastern Chad continue to be raped and attacked when they venture outside refugee camps. The attacks are carried out by organized groups, bandits and even by members of the Chadian National Army.³⁶ Refugee camps are not always safer. Amnesty International has also documented cases of personnel working with international humanitarian NGOs operational in the refugee camps committing acts of rape and other violence against women and girls inside the camps. Additionally, refugee women and girls experience rape and other violence at the hands of their spouses, family members and other refugees within the camps.

It is not possible to know the exact number of women and girls who have been victims of rape and other sexual violence in and outside refugee camps in eastern Chad.³⁷ Women rarely report such cases primarily because of fear of stigma, including from their own family

members, and also because of trauma. It is not uncommon for married women who have been raped to be shunned or abandoned by their husbands. Similarly, girls and young women who have been raped very often find it difficult to marry. It is also difficult for the survivors to identify their aggressor. As a result most women and girls choose to remain silent about rape in order to avoid negative social consequences and consequently the perpetrators of rape and other violence against women and girls enjoy near total impunity.

Beyond the widespread silence of rape survivors and the difficulties in identifying the perpetrators, there is a lack of accountability and impunity for sexual violence committed against refugee women in and outside the camps. Some victims allege that some local authorities and camp leaders do not take cases of rape and other violence against women and girls seriously.³⁸

A recent report from Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), based on interviews with Darfuri refugee women in Farchana Refugee Camp, puts it starkly:

The nightmare therefore continues in refugee camps in Chad through the constant threat of rape (when women forage for firewood to cook their food), chronic hunger, and a lack of essential needs to support their families. Many of the women expressed the feeling that they would be better off anywhere else and even, some said, better off dead.³⁹

Among 88 women interviewed, PHR researchers documented 32 instances of both confirmed and highly probable cases of rape. Fifteen of those instances occurred in Chad, with one woman assaulted twice. Eleven of these instances were confirmed rapes and four were highly probable. Ten of the eleven confirmed rapes occurred when women left the camps for such activities as searching for firewood. The report highlights that fearfulness and unhappiness have become commonplace among women in Farchana Camp.⁴⁰

Effective steps must be taken by both the Chadian government and the international community to address the pervasive and systematic rape and other forms of violence against Darfuri refugee women and girls in eastern Chad.

RAPE AND OTHER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS OUTSIDE REFUGEE CAMPS

My wife and I simply do not go outside the camp. Every step outside the camp would bring us closer to danger.

Darfuri refugee interviewed in Gaga refugee camp, Eastern Chad, May 2009

Most of the cases of rape and other violence against women and girls are committed outside the refugee camps where they live in the relative security that comes with the presence of international organizations. Women and girls venture outside the camps for reasons such as searching for firewood,⁴¹ fetching water or gathering hay for donkeys and other domestic animals.⁴² Traveling outside the camps to meet these necessities puts women and girls at a high risk of being raped and attacked.

In previous years, Sudanese Janjaweed fighters were often identified as being responsible for

most cases of violence against refugee women outside the camps. More recently women and humanitarian workers describe the assailants as being bandits, including Chadian villagers living around the camps, and even members of the Chadian National Army.⁴³

In many cases it is difficult for women and girls who have been raped or attacked to identify their assailants because the incidents frequently take place at night or the attackers may cover their heads and faces with turbans. Most incidents occur in isolated locations after which the individual responsible for the rape or other violence flees the scene of the crime. One humanitarian worker told Amnesty International that often the only information that survivors of rape and other attacks are able to provide is to point to a particular direction and say, "he went that way."⁴⁴

Aisha, a married 26 year-old mother of one child was walking back from the fields to Bredjing Refugee Camp when she was attacked by two men on donkeys. One of the men had covered his face with a scarf. The man with the covered face stopped her and pulled out a gun. He asked Aisha where she was going and whether she was a refugee or Chadian. Aisha told him she was a refugee, returning to Bredjing.

The man told Aisha to come with him to the Wadi.⁴⁵ He ordered her to give her child to the other man and come with him. She refused. She told him: "*you will rape me. I am not going to come with you.*" The man threatened her with his gun, so she handed her child over to the other man and walked with the armed man. He hit her twice with his weapon, once on her arm, and once on her chest. He dragged the gun across her chest, above her breasts, leaving a wound. He then forced her to the ground.

Aisha tried with all her force to fight back. She took a stone and hit the man on his forehead and started running. He caught up with her and hit her with a stone on the head. She began to bleed. Aisha attempted to grab his necklace and choke him with it, but he bit her finger very hard. The man then raped her and abandoned her there.

Aisha had left the camp at 9 a.m. While she was being raped, another woman who was gathering wood nearby saw what was happening to her. She ran back to the camp and asked men in the camp for help. They found Aisha and her child at around 1 p.m. and brought her back to the camp.

This incident happened in September 2008, but close to eight months later Aisha still found it very difficult to describe what happened to her and she still suffered from recurrent flashbacks.



A visible scar on Aisha's chest, May 2009. © Amnesty International

The area in which refugee camps are situated in eastern Chad is largely desert and other arid terrain. After five to six years of living in the camps, it is more and more difficult for women and girls to find firewood or hay for their animals near the camps. Instead, with increasing frequency they have to ride their donkeys or even walk more than ten kilometres outside refugee camps, far beyond the reach of the DIS and humanitarian groups based in the camps. This increases the risk of women and girls being raped or attacked.

Fatima, a 20 year-old mother, had left Bredjing Camp, along with twelve other women and girls, to collect firewood. They had to travel far because wood was hard to find near the camp. They eventually divided into small groups, to collect the most wood they could. Fatima was with her two sisters and they too split up. Two men suddenly appeared and asked Fatima what she was doing. They accused her, and all Sudanese women, of taking all their wood. They ordered her to give them her hatchet but she refused. She turned and started to run towards her sisters. The men caught her, took her hatchet and hit her with it. She fell to the ground. They hit her again, on the neck. Her sisters saw what was happening and began running back to the camp for help. A group from the camp did eventually find Fatima, lying on the ground. They took her to a clinic back in the camp. Fatima says she was not raped. She was reluctant to provide any more information about what happened to her and did not want to speak in the presence of any member of her family.

In many cases, when they are stopped, women are asked for money. Those who are not able to pay the money that is demanded are beaten. In other cases, even if they pay they may still be beaten or raped. In other instances, the demand for money is never made and the violence and rape is immediate.

In April 2009, a group of women and girls from the Gaga Refugee Camp were searching for firewood around three kilometres outside the camp and were accosted by a group of four armed men. The men told the group

that they had no permission to collect firewood in the area and demanded that each of them pay 2,000 CFA (approximately US\$4). Amnesty International was told that those who were not able to pay, including a 13-year-old girl, Fatimeh, were "beaten" and their firewood was taken from them. The incident was described, however, in a way that left an implication that the beatings may likely have included rape. Refugees later learned that the men were under the command of a chief of a small village near the camp. Fatimeh's mother went to see him but he refused to give back the firewood. She went to the DIS for help. They told her that there was nothing they could do to help and that she and her daughter should stop going outside the camp.

On 30 April 2009, a woman with three children was stopped by a man near the Gaga Refugee Camp. She had a bundle of hay on her donkey. The man seized a rope from the woman in an attempt to steal the hay. The woman resisted and the man took out a knife and cut her fingers. She went back to the camp for treatment. She later complained to camp authorities but no action was taken.

Amnesty International was told that local authorities are generally perceived to have little concern about reports of rape and other violence against refugee women and girls. Many local officials are outspoken in accusing refugee women and girls of stealing resources that they believe belong to the Chadian population, particularly firewood, but do not speak out about violence against those women and girls. In some cases the authorities, or other members of the local population, want to control the supply of firewood in the area and sell it to refugees in the various camps. They resent seeing women gathering wood themselves.⁴⁶

CAMPS ARE NOT NECESSARILY SAFER

There is no safe place for women in refugee camps.

Humanitarian worker, Abéché, May 2009

While most cases of rape and violence against refugee women in eastern Chad take place outside the refugee camps, there is a high level of violence against women and girls inside the camps as well. Attacks often take place during the night time and cases are rarely reported to camp managers, NGO and UN agencies, or the DIS.⁴⁷ This obviously makes it difficult to pursue the individuals responsible for the attacks. Amnesty International received reliable reports about humanitarian workers committing acts of rape and other forms of violence against women and girls in the camps. In all such cases brought to Amnesty International's attention, the accused individuals were dismissed from their employment, and complaints were lodged with Chadian local administrative authorities and DIS officers.

"I carry on with my work, but my mind is elsewhere. My mind cannot rest since this happened".

Mariam, a 22-year-old mother of two was raped in Gaga Refugee Camp by a man working with an international organization operational in the camp. She has been a refugee in Chad for more than six years,

since the beginning of the conflict in Darfur. For the last three years she has worked as a social worker for an international NGO in the camp. In that capacity, she worked in the camp with a Chadian man. It is this man who attacked her.

On 17 April 2009, Mariam and her Chadian co-worker went to visit a sick elderly woman in the camp. On their way, they passed close to Mariam's hut and the man asked if they could stop for a drink of water. They did. When Mariam brought the water to him, he grabbed her from the back. She shouted, but he then grabbed her by the throat, muffling her cries and making it hard for her to breathe. He then raped her. It was the middle of the day, and her husband and neighbours were not present. But then a neighbour came back to his hut while Mariam was still being raped. She saw him and shouted out. The man looked, saw what was happening and yelled at Mariam's aggressor, who then ran out of the hut and fled from the camp. He is reported to have fled to Abéché. Mariam went to the clinic inside Gaga camp. She informed her organization and her husband about what had occurred. The international NGO fired the man, who is rumoured to still be at large in Abéché. It is not clear by the end of August 2009 if further legal action was taken against him. Mariam's husband filed a complaint with the security branch of the National Commission for Reception and Settlement of Refugees, Commission Nationale d'Accueil et de Réinsertion des Réfugiés,(CNAR). The complaint was reportedly forwarded to local Chadian authorities but neither Mariam nor her husband has been informed of any further investigation or proceedings at the end of May 2009.

Mariam continued to work with the same organization. She told Amnesty International, however, that she felt increasingly distressed about what happened to her, and feels that others do not care much and are doing little to provide her with assistance or support. Mariam indicated that the interview with Amnesty International was the first opportunity she had had in quite some time to speak about what happened.

Mariam asked to be transferred from Gaga Camp to one of the camps near Hadjer Hadid where her mother resides. She described the social stigma that survivors of rape experience, and the impact that has on her daily life. She wanted to move to another camp to escape the sense of scorn and disapproval which makes her feel like she is reliving the rape every day. Mariam told Amnesty International that: "I do not even go to get water anymore, because I feel like when I do everyone is watching me."

In another case, a 13 year-old refugee girl in Farchana Refugee Camp was raped by a Chadian nurse who was working for an organization which manages health centers in the camp. She became pregnant following the rape and gave birth in January 2009. The man accepted that he was responsible for the pregnancy⁴⁸ but later fled the area. Despite complaints being filed with Chadian officials and follow up by a local human rights organization, by May 2009 it did not appear that there had been any effort to find him, nor had any legal action been initiated against him.

Refugee girls in the camps also frequently complain that they experience sexual harassment at the hands of their Sudanese teachers.⁴⁹ Some girls have reportedly been threatened that they would receive poor marks if they refused to have sexual intercourse with their teacher. This has led some girls to drop out of school.⁵⁰

Amnesty International considers schools as place where children learn to grow and that safe schools are every girl's right. The organization recommends a six-step action document to stop violence against schoolgirls.⁵¹ Girls have right to education in a safe environment. Violence against girls at school by teachers or other school employees could result of girls not

attending school or not fully participating in school activities and jeopardize their future. All forms of violence against girls should be prohibited and school authorities must promptly respond to incidents of sexual and other form violence against girls and ensure that girls are protected from any kind of abuses at school.

In June 2008, the president (representative) of the refugee committee at Farchana Camp ordered a number of refugees to beat a group of five girls who he accused of misbehaving. The girls were severely beaten and later received medical treatment in the camp clinic. A complaint was filed with local officials against the representative of the refugee committee. He was later charged with assault and convicted.

FORCED MARRIAGE

Forced marriages are also common inside refugee camps. Elders and leaders within the camps defend the practice on the basis of tradition. If girls refuse forced marriage, they often face serious repercussions, including violence. A local human rights organization, the Association for the Promotion of Fundamental Liberties in Chad, APLFT, has identified this to be a serious concern and is beginning to monitor cases of forced marriage closely, sometimes with success.

In April 2009, a 14-year-old refugee girl in Gaga Camp refused to marry a local man chosen by her parents. The man had already paid the dowry to her family and her parents had spent the money and were not able to reimburse the money to him when their daughter refused to marry him. The family was continuing to pressure the girl to agree to the marriage. APLFT activists intervened and were able to reconcile the family with their daughter. The family agreed to reimburse the already spent money to the man and the girl has remained at home.⁵²

V IMPUNITY FOR RAPE AND OTHER VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS

Individuals who commit rape and other violence against women and girls in eastern Chad enjoy near total impunity.

Beyond the challenge of identifying the attackers, it takes considerable courage for a woman or girl to come forward and make a complaint about rape. Yet when rape survivors or their families do report incidents to Chadian officials, sometimes specifically identifying the suspected perpetrators, cases are rarely pursued or taken seriously by local authorities, DIS officers or refugee representatives in the camps.

Humanitarian workers who have reported cases of rape and other abuses against women and girls to the CNAR and other authorities have been threatened by some refugee leaders for no apparent reason. When a humanitarian worker raised concerns with a leader in Gaga refugee camp, for instance, he ominously warned her to "be careful."⁵³

Weaknesses in the national Chadian legal framework, the absence of political will on the part of local authorities, and the use of traditional dispute resolution processes have all served to perpetuate impunity and further violence against refugee women and girls both inside and outside the camps.

CHADIAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITH RESPECT TO RAPE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Chadian penal code contains extensive provisions prohibiting rape and some other forms of violence against women and girls but does not provide a definition of rape. Perpetrators of rape are liable to imprisonment with hard labour.⁵⁴ Anyone found guilty of raping a girl under the age of 13 is liable to be sentenced to imprisonment for life with hard labour.⁵⁵ Chadian laws further provide that anyone who rapes a woman or a girl, knowing he is HIV positive, is liable to a life sentence.⁵⁶ The Chadian Constitution also protects women and girls from any kind of discrimination.⁵⁷

Refugees have a right to physical security under international human rights law, such as Articles 7 and 9 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). States have also acknowledged the problem of sexual violence towards refugee women for many years and agreed to undertake concerted efforts to combat this violence.⁵⁸ Chad ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995 and is obliged to ensure that women and girls in the country are fully protected from

various forms of discrimination and violence.⁵⁹ Furthermore refugee girls under the age of 18 have extensive rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Chad is a party, such as protection from physical and mental violence (Art. 19) and protection against cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (Art.37).

In addition, Articles 2 and 3 of the ICCPR obligate the Chadian Government to protect the rights of all people living in its territory, certainly including refugee women and girls, without distinction of any kind.⁶⁰ Chad has signed but not yet ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.⁶¹ Article 16.2 of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, to which Chad is a State party,⁶² establishes that a "refugee shall enjoy in the Contracting State in which he has his habitual residence the same treatment as a national in matters pertaining to access to the courts."⁶³ Notably, the Chadian Constitution accords treaties ratified by Chad a higher authority than domestic laws.⁶⁴

While there are some provisions in Chadian law dealing with rape and other violence against women, it is clear that there is a very wide gap between these laws and practice. There are many reasons for this gap, including lack of training and absence of political will.

Additionally, some of the provisions in the Penal Code are not clear, and there is a need for supplementary implementing legislation.⁶⁵

In addition to concerns related to laws and their implementation, the Chadian judiciary faces considerable challenges in eastern Chad. There are not enough judicial police officers (*officiers de police judiciaires*) or magistrates.⁶⁶ Basic infrastructure, including courtrooms and offices, is lacking. There is also widespread corruption and political interference in the justice system.⁶⁷ In the Chadian system a *Sous-préfet*⁶⁸ often effectively serves as a judge for his region,⁶⁹ but may also be politically or economically beholden to individuals against whom accusations of rape or other violence against women and girls have been made.⁷⁰ The frequent use of traditional dispute resolution processes in cases involving rapes sometimes contributes to the impunity of the perpetrators.⁷¹

TRADITIONS ACTIVELY VIOLATE THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

The generalized use of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms to find "negotiated" solutions to instances of rape and other violence against women and girls contributes to impunity and further violence against refugee women and girls in eastern Chad. Local Chadian authorities, refugee camp representatives, Sudanese religious leaders and on occasion local NGO staff are involved in the negotiations. Sudanese refugees as well as Chadians living in eastern Chad resort to using traditional dispute resolution methods largely due to the absence of a fully functional criminal justice system in eastern Chad.⁷² The Chadian Constitution allows traditional local leaders in remote areas to operate a parallel justice system based on tribal customs and traditions.⁷³

The perpetrator is often required to pay compensation (*Diyya*) to the family of a rape victim. The practice of *Diyya* is derived from Sharia law.⁷⁴ Such compensation can be provided in two ways: either through marriage of the survivor of the rape in addition to a financial payment,⁷⁵ or through financial compensation alone. Amnesty International's delegates received reports of both forms of compensations in rape cases.

Amnesty International is concerned about the ways in which the use of *Diyya* may further impunity for rape and other violence against women, and fail to ensure justice and safety for rape survivors. In eastern Chad, as in Sudan, it is the family of the survivor that has control over negotiating the *Diyya*. When the survivor is a young girl, the process of negotiation and decision making completely excludes her. Most discussions between the perpetrator and the family of the survivor in refugee camps in eastern Chad reported to Amnesty International delegates were held through a mediator who was either a local leader⁷⁶ or staff member of an NGO operating in the camp. Testimonies from rape survivors and NGO staff indicate that marriage was most frequently included in *Diyya* when the survivor became pregnant following the rape. The pregnancy is seen as proof that the woman or girl has been engaged in sexual intercourse with a man as in most of the cases- for reasons explained above in this report- rape survivors generally hide the fact that they have been raped.

Diyya arrangements only lead to marriage if the perpetrator is identified and willing to marry the girl or woman he raped. There were *Diyya* negotiations in the case of the 13-year-old refugee girl who was raped by a Chadian nurse working with a humanitarian organization in Farchana Camp, referred to earlier in this report. The man initially accepted that he was responsible for the pregnancy and that he was going to marry the girl and pay a dowry. But the man later disappeared without paying.

Girls and young women are also the object of financial negotiations in cases of forced marriage. This was clearly a significant aspect in the case of the 14 year-old refugee girl in Gaga Camp who refused to marry a local man chosen by her parents, referred to in this report above. In that case, through the involvement of a local human rights group a solution to this situation was negotiated, allowing the girl to reconcile with her family while remaining unmarried, according to her wish. The girls' parents agreed to reimburse the man's dowry.

Chadian authorities and UN agencies should implement measures to strengthen the country's criminal justice system in eastern Chad. Sufficient police officers, prosecutors, judges and supporting staff must be available and necessary financial, material and human resources allocated. Free legal aid services currently provided by some local organizations such as APLFT should be strengthened to ensure that refugee women and girls who have been raped, are threatened with forced marriage, or have experienced other violence have effective access to the formal justice system in eastern Chad.

VI INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

[The DIS] spend a lot of time protecting themselves. Even the UN soldiers have to protect them. No one seems to have much time to protect us.

Refugee woman interviewed at Gaga Refugee Camp, May 2009, referring to the DIS (*Détachement Intégré de Sécurité*)

THE CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

When Amnesty International carried out research in eastern Chad in 2006 and 2007, the area was wracked by insecurity. Civilians throughout eastern Chad – Chadians and refugees from Darfur – faced a relentless wave of violence and widespread human rights violations and had nowhere to turn to for protection.

While there was an African Union mission on the ground across the border in Darfur at that time,⁷⁷ there was no international peacekeeping, military or police mission in eastern Chad and Chadian military and police forces were not living up to their obligation to protect civilians in the area. In August 2006 the UN Security Council recognized the link between the crises in Darfur and eastern Chad. The Security Council agreed that there was a need for a “multidimensional presence consisting of political, humanitarian, military and civilian police liaison officers in key locations in eastern Chad, including in internally displaced persons and refugee camps.”⁷⁸ A year later the Security Council passed Resolution 1778 authorizing the establishment of a multidimensional force to be deployed in eastern Chad and neighbouring northeastern Central African Republic, (CAR). The force, which was given an initial one year mandate, was to include a UN mission (MINURCAT) which would work primarily to support and provide training to Chadian police and military and work to strengthen human rights and the rule of law; alongside a European Union military force which would protect civilians in danger, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and protect UN agencies.⁷⁹

MINURCAT'S CHALLENGES

SLOW DEPLOYMENT

In January 2009 the Security Council, recognizing the ongoing violence, armed activities and banditry in both eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, extended MINURCAT's mandate until 15 March 2010 and decided to transfer the military component of the mission from the European Union to MINURCAT as of 15 March 2009.⁸⁰ The Security Council further decided that the MINURCAT military force should include a maximum of 5,225 personnel.

As of 30 June 2009, 2,424 MINURCAT troops had been deployed, 46% of MINURCAT's authorized maximum of 5,225.⁸¹ The mission has faced serious difficulties in obtaining pledges from UN state members to provide the remaining required troops.⁸²

LACK OF NECESSARY MILITARY EQUIPMENT

The MINURCAT military mission also faces challenges in obtaining crucial military equipment. In mid-April 2009 the Secretary-General reported that the mission had only received "pledges" for six of a necessary 18 military helicopters.⁸³ In a briefing to the Security Council on 8 May 2009 Dmitri Titov, Officer-in-Charge of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations indicated that MINURCAT lacked 14 of the required 18 military utility and reconnaissance helicopters called for in the concept of operation for the Mission, and that as a result it lacked the ability to observe and track incidents as they develop, as well as a reserve force that possesses the necessary mobility to reinforce sites or react to changing circumstances.⁸⁴



Unused Eufor military helicopters at the Abéché airport, May 2009. © Amnesty International

ISSUES RELATED TO THE DIS DEPLOYMENT

In addition to a military force, the Security Council decided that there should be a significantly increased national and international police presence in eastern Chad. Resolution 1778 calls for the establishment of a Chadian police force with a specific mandate for humanitarian protection in refugee camps, IDP sites and key towns in eastern Chad and to provide security for humanitarian activities. The intended force was initially called the Chadian Police for Humanitarian Protection, *Police tchadienne pour la protection humanitaire*, PTPH, but was later officially named the Integrated Security Detachment, *Détachement Intégré de Sécurité*, DIS.

There were a number of delays in obtaining the necessary agreement and cooperation from the Chadian government for the establishment and deployment of the DIS. The Chadian presidential decree formally establishing the DIS was finally issued on 27 September 2008, one year after Resolution 1778.⁸⁵ There continued to be significant logistical problems in arranging for the training of DIS officers and their deployment to locations throughout eastern Chad, including an acute shortage of suitable accommodation and infrastructure, as well as skilled labour to construct such facilities.⁸⁶

The anticipated full deployment of the DIS is 850 officers. A first group of 29 DIS officers arrived in Abéché on 24 October 2008.⁸⁷ By the end of March 2009, 667 of the anticipated 850 DIS officers had been deployed in 18 locations in eastern Chad.⁸⁸ In mid-May Amnesty International delegates were told by DIS officials that the deployment had reached 725 officers and that approximately 10% of the officers were female. However, according to the most recent report by the UN Secretary-General, the DIS had reached its full deployment in April 2009 noting at the same time that 38 of the 850 officers had either resigned, been dismissed or been killed.⁸⁹

In addition to the slow deployment, the DIS has faced problems with respect to financing, in particular due to the fact that its funding comes only from voluntary contributions. According to the latest report from the UN Secretary-General, \$21.9 million had been received as of July 2009 towards a total budget for 2008-2009 of \$25.5 million, leaving a shortfall of 14%. The funds have come from a limited number of sources, including the European Union, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States. The UN is still trying to secure the remaining pledges for 2008-2009 while also beginning to approach potential donors for contributions to the 2009-2010 budget.⁹⁰

SERIOUS CONCERN INVOLVING DIS OFFICERS

There have been serious problems associated with the deployment of DIS officers throughout eastern Chad. The UN has reported a number of "serious cases of ill-discipline"⁹¹ in which DIS officers have been accused of alleged acts of violence, generally involving firearms, which have reportedly led to deaths or injuries of a number of civilians and, in one case, the temporary detention by a DIS officer of a UN police officer.⁹²

Amnesty International delegates received several similar reports describing alleged acts of violence and other abuses by DIS officers.⁹³

Another serious concern has emerged regarding an alarming number of accidents involving DIS vehicles. For instance, Amnesty International delegates were informed by MINURCAT officials that in early May 2009 half of the DIS vehicles in the Farchana area had been involved in serious accidents and were out of commission until they could be repaired or replaced. Without sufficient vehicles DIS officers are severely limited in their ability to carry out regular patrols in the areas where they are required to provide security. Amnesty International was told that there have been numerous causes for the various accidents including reckless driving, excessive speed, overloaded vehicles, and driving under the influence of alcohol. The UN Secretary-General has reported that 50 pick-up trucks will be provided to the DIS in October 2009 to allow them to "better respond when attacked during patrols or escorts."⁹⁴



Damaged DIS vehicles parked at a MINURCAT base in Farchana, May 2009. © Amnesty International

INEFFECTIVE PROTECTION FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EASTERN CHAD

DIS officers have taken action in response to some instances of rape. The most recent report from the UN Secretary-General states that between October 2008 and July 2009 DIS officers have "handled 5 cases involving rape."⁹⁵ However, among refugee women interviewed by Amnesty International there was very little confidence that DIS officers are willing, let alone able, to provide them with security. Women told Amnesty International that their requests to DIS officers for assistance in light of the threats and attacks they face when they leave the camp were often dismissed. They were instead told that they should press camp officials to repair broken pumps and boost the water supply. Women at Gaga refugee camp indicated to Amnesty International that they no longer ask DIS officers to provide them with escorts or other protection because they are convinced that their request will simply be turned down.⁹⁶

Beyond the question of willingness to provide assistance, there is a widely-held concern throughout eastern Chad that DIS officers are not yet able to provide the protection that refugees, displaced Chadians and humanitarian workers require. The number of attacks by armed bands against DIS posts and vehicles throughout the east continues to grow.⁹⁷ In mid-April 2009 the DIS station in Farchana was attacked by a group of 20 armed individuals. A significant number of weapons were stolen, as was a DIS vehicle.⁹⁸ While the Amnesty International delegation was in Farchana a humanitarian convoy of several vehicles was forced to stop by a group of several men, at least one of whom was heavily armed and another reportedly holding a rock. The convoy was led by a vehicle of unarmed UN police with a DIS vehicle taking up the rear position. Despite the presence of the two police vehicles, the armed band was easily able to overpower the convoy. All occupants were forced from their vehicles. Two of the vehicles were stolen and later recovered by MINURCAT soldiers.

MINURCAT is proposing to enhance the capacity of the DIS to investigate cases of human rights abuses including sexual and gender-based violence, by January 2010. By that time, the DIS is anticipated to have in place a database to record crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence and also to have established an investigation and accountability mechanism for alleged human rights violations, including violations by DIS officers.⁹⁹

VII CONCLUSION

Refugee women and girls continue to face the risk of rape and other serious violence in and outside refugee camps in eastern Chad despite the presence of the MINURCAT and the full deployment of the DIS in the 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad.

Outside refugee camps, women and girls face a range of abuses, from harassment and threats of physical attacks to rape and other forms of violence. Within the camps there is little safety from rape and other violence at the hands of other refugees, including members of their own families. In some cases women and girls even face the risk of rape and other violence from staff of humanitarian organizations, whose task is to provide them with assistance and support.

Perpetrators of rape and other forms of violence against refugee women and girls are very rarely brought to justice. This is the case even when survivors report instances of rape and other violence to the local Chadian authorities, the DIS or to refugee camps leaders. There is a deeply entrenched culture of impunity throughout eastern Chad when it comes to rape and other forms of violence against women.

It is time to act. Both the Government of Chad and the international community through MINURCAT, UN agencies and international NGOs providing support to refugees in eastern Chad, must ensure that women and girls are protected against rape and other forms of violence in and outside the refugee camps. A clear and comprehensive plan that makes it clear that rape and sexual violence are unacceptable crimes should be put in place immediately. The plan should address the range of circumstances that put women and girls at risk of rape and other forms of violence. The strategy should ensure that women and girls have a voice in making the plans to secure their own safety that they are effectively protected and that individuals who are responsible for acts of rape and other violence against women and girls are identified and brought to justice in a reasonable time. Survivors of rape as well as their family members should be provided with full and effective reparations to address the physical, psychological and other harm they are suffering, including adequate treatment, support and assistance.

VIII RECOMMENDATIONS

All authorities should abide by and implement the provisions of the UN Security Council's Resolutions 1325 and 1820, to ensure women's safety and political empowerment in conflict and peace-building. In the light of these resolutions, Amnesty International makes the following specific recommendations:

To the government of Chad

- In keeping with its obligations to ensure women and girls' right to equality and non-discrimination and make it clear that any rape or sexual assault is a crime and will not be left uninvestigated and unpunished.
- In coordination with MINURCAT and the UNHCR, ensure that women and girls take part in leading and giving their views on all camp planning, and initiatives to ensure their safety.
- In coordination with MINURCAT, put in place a more strenuous vetting process for recruitment of DIS officers and ensure there are sufficient female DIS officers to assist in cases involving rape and other violence against women and girls in and outside refugee camps in eastern Chad.
- Work with MINURCAT and other international partners such as the European Union to strengthen the criminal justice system in eastern Chad, including by providing greater numbers of trained magistrates, prosecutors, police and other officials based throughout the region. There should be a substantial effort made to increase the number of women working in the justice sector in eastern Chad with specific expertise with respect to violence against women.
- Ensure that the traditional dispute resolution system is not used in a manner that results in perpetrators of rape and other violence against women and girls escaping justice, including through insisting that a rape victim marry the person that raped her.
- Launch investigations to identify and bring to justice individuals responsible for rape and other violence against women and girls inside and outside refugee camps and ensure that medical and legal assistance is provided to survivors of rape and other violence.
- Ensure that women and girls with complaints of rape and other violence, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, receive legal advice and support from trained legal personnel.

To the UN Security Council

- Move rapidly to ensure full deployment of MINURCAT, in particular its military component.
- Ensure that MINURCAT is immediately provided with all necessary military and other material, including military helicopters.
- Increase funding to ensure the provision of accessible, acceptable, and quality health care services to women and girls who are survivors of sexual violence.
- Mandate the involvement of women and girls in the design and implementation of all strategies to secure their safety from sexual and gender-based violence.

To MINURCAT

- Ensure MINURCAT includes gender advisors who can monitor the situation of women and girls, assist women's representatives in advocating for services to improve their safety, ensure that all MINURCAT staff are working to improve the protection of the human rights of women and girls and ensure improved training of MINURCAT and DIS staff involved in investigating crimes of sexual violence against women and girls.
- Ensure that any person reporting sexual violence has prompt access to medical care.
- Work with the Chadian government to set up an effective DIS vetting process and ensure that those reasonably suspected of crimes under Chadian and international human rights law are excluded from the DIS pending a prompt, effective, independent and impartial investigation and prosecution process.
- Ensure appropriate training of DIS officers with respect to the establishment of a database to record crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence, and the conduct of investigations of alleged human rights violations.
- Ensure that effective forensic investigation techniques, which respect World Health Organization guidelines for medico-legal care of victims of sexual violence, are available for use in investigations of sexual assault.
- Ensure that the security of refugees both inside and outside refugee camps in eastern Chad is effectively guaranteed by both MINURCAT military forces and the DIS, by means of

regular patrols around all 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad and the provision of escorts for women and girls at their request when they venture outside refugee camps.

- Work with the UNHCR, other UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations operational in and around refugee camps, and refugee women and girls themselves, to develop comprehensive strategies to address the causes and circumstances of sexual violence, including factors that compel women and girls to travel outside refugee camps.
- Insist that Chadian authorities bring to justice suspected perpetrators of rape and other violence against refugee women and girls and ensure that survivors have adequate support, protection and full reparations.
- Monitor reports of rape and other violence against refugee women and girls which are lodged with the Chadian authorities and follow-up with authorities in order to ensure that all possible action is taken to investigate these crimes.

To the UNHCR

- In consultation with refugee women, MINURCAT, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations, develop a comprehensive strategy to address the causes and circumstances of sexual violence, including factors that compel women and girls to travel outside refugee camps.
- In consultation with refugee women and girls, implement programs to ensure human rights education for women and girls, with the aim of empowering them to claim their rights; and to assist women and girls in taking basic steps to preserve their own security.
- In the short term, ensure that refugees have enough firewood and water inside refugee camps and that patrols are organized to accompany women when they venture outside camps.
- Provide free, accessible, acceptable, quality medical and psychological support to refugee women and girls who are survivors of rape and victims of other forms of violence in and outside the refugee camps, including emergency prophylaxis for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, emergency contraception and, if a rape survivor becomes pregnant, access to safe and legal abortion.
- Put in place within the camps a process that allows survivors to report instances of rape and other violence to UNHCR female protection officers in total confidentiality.

- Insist that Chadian authorities bring to justice all suspected perpetrators of rape and other violence against refugee women and girls and ensure that survivors and their relatives are provided with adequate support, protection and full reparations.
- Continue to support the work of local Chadian NGOs to provide effective legal aid services to survivors of rape and other forms of violence.
- Ensure that all schools operating in refugee camps in eastern Chad develop and implement policies and clear programs to make school safe for refugee girls and in particular make sure school authorities are trained to address harassment and other forms of violence against girls at school, that reported incidents are recorded and investigated and that support services are provided to girls who have suffered violence.

To international and local NGOS operating in refugee camps in eastern Chad

- Put in place and effectively implement codes of conduct with respect to rape and other violence against women as well as a process that allows survivors of rape and other violence to report any incidents through a confidential and independent reporting mechanism that makes sure that all incidents are recorded.
- Ensure that all staff are well trained and obliged to sign the relevant code of conduct before they start working with/for refugee women and girls in eastern Chad.
- Fully cooperate with Chadian authorities, UNHCR, MINURCAT and the DIS in order to ensure that investigations opened against suspected staff members effectively take place and insist that survivors have adequate support, protection and full reparations.

ENDNOTES

1 Amnesty International, Sudan: Darfur – Rape as a weapon of war: Sexual violence and its consequences, AI Index: AFR/54/076/2004, 18 July 2004; Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, Sudan/Chad: 'No one to help them' – Rape extends from Darfur into eastern Chad, AI Index: AFR 54/087/2006, December 2006; Amnesty International, Chad: 'Are we citizens of this country?' – Civilians in Chad unprotected from Janjaweed attacks, AI Index: AFR 20/001/2007, 29 January 2007, pgs. 7-14, Chad: Civilians under attack, Darfur conflict spreads to eastern Chad, Amnesty International index: AFR/005/2007, pgs. 1-3.

2 See for instance, Physicians for Human Rights, Nowhere to Turn: Failure to Protect, Support and Assure Justice for Darfuri Women, May 2009: Report of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, UN Doc. S/2009/359, 14 July 2009.

3 As of 31 March 2009, there were 252,488 Sudanese refugees in the 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad, 22.1% of them were young girls, between 5 and 17 years of age. Women and girls constituted 56.5% or 142,682 of the total refugee population, UNHCR report, March 2009, on file with Amnesty International.

4 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para.19, 42, 44 and 51; Physicians for Human Rights, Nowhere to Turn: Failure to Protect, Support and Assure Justice for Darfuri Women, May 2009.

5 Collecting firewood, fetching water and gathering straw for domestic animals is widely perceived to be "women's work" by the Masalit and other ethnic groups living in the region. This continues to be the case even though women and girls face such considerable risks when they are pursuing these tasks. When pressed about this, many refugees, both men and women, expressed the fear that when women leave the camps they risk being raped whereas if men leave the camps they risk being killed. This appears to be largely rooted in the experiences the refugees had in Darfur.

6 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para.26. The full complement for the DIS is intended to be 850 officers. As of mid-July, however, 38 DIS officers had resigned, been dismissed or been killed.

7 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para.30.

8 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 33; See also section VI (c) of this report.

9 See section IV of this report.

10 Fighting between the Chadian army and the Union des forces de la résistance (Union of Forces of the Resistance, UFR), a coalition of Chadian armed opposition groups in eastern Chad in early May 2009, took place in the region where Amnesty International delegates were investigating human rights violations. As a result, UN flights to parts of eastern Chad were suspended and travel to a number of locations became impossible.

11 Masalit is the language spoken by the Masalit ethnic group present in eastern Chad and west Darfur. Most of the refugees in the camps visited by Amnesty International's delegates speak Masalit.

12 Amnesty International, Sudan: Darfur – Rape as a weapon of war: Sexual violence and its consequences, AI Index: AFR/54/076/2004, 18 July 2004; Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, Sudan/Chad: 'No one to help them' – Rape extends from Darfur into eastern Chad, AI Index: AFR 54/087/2006, December 2006; Amnesty International, Chad: 'Are we citizens of this country?' – Civilians in Chad unprotected from Janjaweed attacks, AI Index: AFR 20/001/2007, 29 January 2007, pgs. 7-14, Chad: Civilians under attack, Darfur conflict spreads to eastern Chad, Amnesty International(AI index: AFR/005/2007)

13 On 31 August 2006 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1706, acknowledging that the situation in Darfur had led to increased insecurity and violence in eastern Chad. The resolution called for a "multidimensional presence consisting of political, humanitarian, military and civilian police liaison officers in key locations in Chad, including in internally displaced persons and refugee camps." It was not however until September 2007 that the Security Council adopted Resolution 1778, authorizing a UN mission to be deployed to eastern Chad and the northern Central African Republic, MINURCAT. Resolution 1778 authorized a European Union-led force to be responsible for the military component of the mission for the first year. The European Union Force Chad/CAR known as EUFOR Chad/CAR, deployed between 15 March 2008 and 15 March 2009. Responsibility for this European military force was later transferred to MINURCAT in March 2009.

14 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para.18.

15 Oure Cassoni, Iridimi, Touloum, Am Nabak, Mile, Kounoungou, Gaga, Farchana, Bredjing, Treguine, Djabal and Goz Amer.

16 Report of the UN Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 13 July 2009, para.14. UN staff in Abéché and Farchana informed Amnesty International in May 2009 that a contingency plan was ready in case there was an influx of refugees from Darfur. See also UN OCHA, Rapport sur la situation humanitaire au Tchad, du 17 juin au 06 juillet 2009, pg.1. Available at : <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rws.nsf/db900SID/EDIS-TTPQ86?OpenDocument>

17 Eastern Chad is currently in a phase IV United Nations security alert, while N'Djamena and Southern Chad are in Phase III. The UN Department of Security and Safety (UN DSS) uses five security classifications, from phase one (Precautionary) to phase five (Evacuation).

18 MINURCAT has offices in Abéché, Farchana, Goz Beida, Guereda and Iriba in eastern Chad as well as in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena, Birao in the northern Central African Republic and a presence in Bangui, the Central African Republic capital. See <http://minurcat.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=278>.

19 UN Security Council, Resolution 1778 (2007), para. 1; MINURCAT's mandate was later extended until 15 March 2009 by Resolution 1834 (2008) and then 15 March 2010 by Resolution 1861 (2009).

20 In his most recent report to the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary General reports that 2,424 of the 5,225 troops were on the ground as of 30 June 2009 and that he expects the force to be at full strength at the end of 2009. Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 22.

21 For example, the Masalit, the Zagawa, Tama and the Dadjo are all ethnic groups that are present in both eastern Chad and in Darfur.

22 See Chad/Sudan: Sowing the seeds of Darfur – Ethnic targeting in Chad by Janjaweed militias from Sudan. (AI Index: AFR 20/006/2006) 28 June 2006; Chad: 'Are we citizens of this country? – Civilians in Chad unprotected from Janjaweed attacks. (AI Index: AFR 20/001/2007) 29 January 2007.

23 For instance, more than 50 people were killed and houses were burnt in November 2008 when a violent dispute erupted about allegations of cattle theft between the Tama and Zagawa in Birak. In July 2008, at least one man was killed in a violent confrontation between Moros and Dadjo at a displacement site in Kerfi. Members of the Zagawa and Masalit ethnic groups signed an agreement on 30 June 2009 in Adé, eastern Chad promising to end their feud and reduce tensions in the region. The meeting was organized within the context of an Intercommunity Dialogue initiated by the European Union, MINURCAT and Chadian authorities in order to reduce tensions between communities.

24 See Christine Pawlitzky and Babett Jászky, Sources of violence, conflict mediation and reconciliation. A socio- anthropological study on Dar Sila, July 2008, pgs 45-46.

25 The UN reports that there were at least 152 security incidents against humanitarian workers in eastern Chad in the first five months of 2009. Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 19. On 1 May 2008 the Country Director for Save the Children United Kingdom, Pascal Marlinge, was shot and killed in one such incident. His killing is remembered and referred to frequently and many aid workers mentioned the first anniversary of his death, which occurred while Amnesty International delegates were in the region.

26 One local human rights activist told Amnesty International delegates in May 2009 in Abéché that in general when the violence is carried out by a small group they are referred to as "bandits" and when the group is larger people often talk of the armed opposition or rebels. Bandits can also be members of the Chadian army. It is very difficult to distinguish common criminals, soldiers involved in banditry, and members of either Chadian or Sudanese armed opposition groups.

27 Amnesty International Press release, Urgent international action needed to prevent humanitarian crisis in Chad, 8 May 2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/urgent-international-action-needed-prevent-humanitarian-crisis-chad-20090508>.

28 Amnesty international, Double Misfortune: Deepening Human Rights Crisis in Chad, (AI Index: AFR 20/007/2008), December 2008, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR20/007/2008/en>; Chadian Commission of Inquiry Report, Rapport de la Commission d'Enquête sur les événements survenus en République du Tchad du 8 Janvier au 28 Février 2008 et leurs conséquences, July, 2008.

29 Timane Erdimi is a nephew of Chadian President Idriss Déby Itno and served in his government in various capacities before he joined the armed opposition.

30 Abéché is the main city in eastern Chad. MINURCAT is based there, as are most of the UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations operational in eastern Chad.

31 84 of the UFR combatant taken prisoners were children and were later handed over to UNICEF by the Chadian authorities during a ceremony organised in N'Djamena on 12 June 2009.

32 See http://www.presidencechad.org/combats_du_07_05_09.htm: " Le bilan provisoire fait état de 225 morts, 127 véhicules récupérés, 93 véhicules détruits du côté des mercenaires soudanais. Les forces gouvernementales déplorent dans leurs rangs 22 martyrs, 31 blessés ainsi que 10 véhicules détruits. L'armée tchadienne a fait 212 prisonniers dont le chef d'Etat-major 2ème adjoint des mercenaires Mahamat Hamouda Béchir et le commandant d'escadron Sougour Djiddo Koua"

33 Statement by the President of the UN Security Council, UN Doc. S/PRST/2009/13, 8 May 2009.

34 When Amnesty International delegates visited Gaga Refugee Camp on 3 May 2009, they were informed that water shortages were a source of considerable strife and insecurity in the camp. Delegates noted long lines of empty jerry cans at the wells, with girls waiting nearby for the limited times when minimal amounts of water would be available. In a block where there were two wells, refugees told the delegates that the taps were open for only one hour in the morning and one hour later in the day. According to humanitarian workers that amount of time was not sufficient to meet the minimal needs of all refugees living in that part of the camp. As a result women

and girls were travelling outside the camp to find water in and around nearby dry riverbeds. In doing so they face the risk of being raped or attacked. Refugee leaders in Gaga Camp stressed to Amnesty International that reliable access to sufficient water supplies was the most important priority in the camp.

35 Amnesty International, Sudan: Darfur – Rape as a weapon of war: Sexual violence and its consequences, AI Index: AFR/54/076/2004, 18 July 2004; Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, Sudan/Chad: 'No one to help them' – Rape extends from Darfur into eastern Chad (AI Index: AFR 54/087/2006, December 2006).

36 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 44; interviews with camp leaders and humanitarian workers conducted in May 2009 in Abéché, and in Farchana and Gaga refugee camps.

37 Two female staff with an international NGO working to support rape survivors and women and girls who have experienced other forms of violence in refugee camps indicated that they have observed an increased number of cases of sexual violence against women in refugees camps in eastern Chad in the period between January and May 2009, compared to the same period during 2008. They added that most women continued to be reluctant to mention what they had experienced, even to medical workers. They often initially say that they were "beaten" or that there was an attempted rape but some later disclose that they had indeed been raped.

38 In an interview with Amnesty International delegates on 5 May 2009 the Sous-prefet for Farchana claimed that there was no violence against women in the Farchana area except for occasional violence among the refugees themselves. A local journalist in Abéché told Amnesty International that during a visit to eastern Chad in March 2009 the Chadian Minister for Human Rights declared that violence against women "is a myth and does not exist."

39 Physicians for Human Rights, Nowhere to Turn: Failure to Protect, Support and Assure Justice for Darfuri Women, May 2009, pg. 1.

40 Physicians for Human Rights, pgs. 4-5.

41 Firewood distributed to refugees in the camps is not enough to meet daily needs. Each person in a family receives either five or eight kilograms of firewood per month depending on whether they have a stove or not. This is widely acknowledged to be insufficient. Additionally, delays in supplying firewood are common and it often takes a lengthy time to update family numbers following births. The additional firewood collected by women and girls is often for their own needs but is also often sold to other refugees or to the local population in order to generate income for daily needs not covered by the humanitarian assistance they receive.

42 Donkeys are important in the lives of refugee women and girls in eastern Chad. They are their only means of transport when they go to local markets, fetch water, collect firewood or go outside the camps to cultivate small plots of vegetables and other crops.

43 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 44.

44 Interview with a humanitarian worker in eastern Chad, May 2009.

45 Wadi is an Arabic term referring to a dry riverbed that contains water only during times of heavy rain or is simply an intermittent stream. Villagers in eastern Chad frequently rely on wadis to fetch water or cultivate vegetables.

46 In a meeting with Amnesty International delegates on 5 May, the Sous-préfet of Hadjer Hadid blamed refugees for the water shortage in the area. He said that refugees are using all the water, leaving the local population with nothing. He added that villagers now have to dig very deeply to find any water at all.

47 No one is allowed to enter refugee camps during the night time. DIS officers are charged with ensuring security of the camps at night.

48 Masalit custom (the girl is Masalit) allows a perpetrator of rape to be excused by the family of his victim if he marries her and pays dowry to her family.

49 Schools are organized following the Sudanese system which is different from the Chadian system. Most of the teachers are recruited among the refugees by international NGOs running schools in the camps.

50 The director of an international NGO operating in the camps told Amnesty International that harassment of this nature is common. Her organization has asked the camp leaders to take this issue seriously, so that parents will begin to recognize when their daughters are experiencing problems and be prepared to support them. The organization was also preparing a workshop and training on this issue for teachers.

51 See Amnesty International, Safe Schools every girl's right, ACT 77/008/2007, November 2007.

52 In Chad, the minimum age of marriage for girls is 15. See article 144 of the Chadian Civil Code: "L'homme avant dix-huit ans révolus, la femme avant quinze ans révolus ne peuvent contracter mariage." But Chadian law prohibits forced marriage.

53 Interview with a humanitarian worker in eastern Chad, May 2009

54 Article 275 of the Chadian penal code: "le coupable de viol sera puni de travaux forces à temps".

55 Article 276 of the Chadian penal code: "lorsque le viol a été commis sur la personne d'un enfant au dessous de l'âge de treize ans ou avec l'aide d'une ou de plusieurs personnes ou ascendant de la victime, la peine sera celle de travaux forces à perpétuité."

56 Article 59(2) of the Chadian HIV/AIDS Law (Loi N°019/PR/2007 du 15 novembre 2007 portant lutte contre VIH/SIDA/IST et protection des Droits

des Personnes Vivant avec le VIH/SIDA) « Est puni de la réclusion criminelle, de cinq à dix ans, quiconque se sachant porteur du VIH, entretient des relations sexuelles non protégées dans le but de le transmettre à une autre personne, sans préjudice de l'action civile qui peut être exercée contre lui. En cas de récidive ou de viol, la peine de réclusion perpétuelle est appliquée ». There have been a number of concerns expressed by advocates of the rights of people living with HIV about the use of the criminal law as a response to alleged HIV exposure or transmission, including the availability of non-HIV-specific laws to deal with criminally harmful acts. For discussion of these concerns see: UNAIDS: Policy Brief: Criminalization of HIV Transmission, Geneva, 2008; available at: http://data.unaids.org/pub/BaseDocument/2008/20080731_jc1513_policy_criminalization_en.pdf; Canadian HIV/AIDS Law Network. Legislation contagion: the spread of problematic new HIV laws in Western Africa. HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review 12, (2/3), December 2007, available at: <http://www.aidslaw.ca/publications/interfaces/downloadFile.php?ref=1275>; IPPF. Verdict on a virus: Public Health, Human Rights and the Criminal Law, 2008; available at: <http://www.ippf.org/NR/rdonlyres/D858DFB2-19CD-4483-AEC9-1B1C5EBAF48A/0/VerdictOnAVirus.pdf>

57 République du Tchad, Constitution du 31 mars 1996 révisée par la Loi constitutionnelle N° 008/PR/2005 du 15 Juillet 2005, Article 14 : « L'Etat assure à tous l'égalité devant la loi sans distinction d'origine, de race, de sexe, de religion, d'opinion politique ou de position sociale. Il a le devoir de veiller à l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard de la femme et d'assurer la protection de ses droits dans tous les domaines de la vie privée et publique »

58 See for example UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion No73 [1993] on Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence.

59 For example Article 15 of the CEDAW obliges States Parties to 'accord to women equality with men before the law.'

60 Chad ratified the ICCPR on 9 June 1995.

61 A state which has signed but not yet ratified a treaty is bound legally not to do anything which goes against the object and purpose of that treaty, therefore the state of Chad is prohibited from doing anything which is contrary to women's equality.

62 Chad ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol in 1981.

63 Article 16.2 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

64 Chadian Constitution, Article 222 "Les traités ou accords régulièrement ratifiés ont, dès leur publication, une autorité supérieure à celle des lois, sous réserve pour chaque accord ou traité de son application par l'autre partie". Articles 219 and 220 of the Chadian Constitution establish that the President has the authority to negotiate and ratify treaties, but Parliament must approve ratification of peace and defense treaties, treaties related to the use of Chadian territory, commercial treaties and treaties concerning the well-being of persons. Without parliamentary approval, such treaties cannot be fully implemented within the Chadian legal system.

65 Physicians for Human Rights, pg. 41.

66 The United Nations Development Programme and MINURCAT are developing a training programme for "148 civil servants to serve temporarily as justices of the peace and justice auxiliaries in the absence of magistrates". Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para 37.

67 Interviews with Chadian human rights defenders conducted in Abéché, Farchana and Ndjamena, May 2009.

68 The sous-préfet is an administrative authority appointed by a presidential decree. He represents the State in a sous -prefecture.

69 Article 84 of the law N° 004/PR/98 of 28 May 1998 on the organization of the judiciary in Chad stipulates that because of lack of judges in some remote areas, the sous-préfet or the local administrative authority can play this role. Article 84:" Tant que l'effectif des magistrats professionnels ou intérimaires ne couvrira pas toutes les juridictions, les fonctions de juge de paix peuvent être remplacées par le sous préfet ou le chef de poste administrative du ressort."

70 Cases of rape and other violence against women and girls have been submitted to the sous-préfets in eastern Chad by human rights defenders or directly by the survivor's relatives. According to human rights activists and humanitarian workers, at least two sous-préfets were involved in the 'negotiations' of cases of rape.

71 Chadian Constitution, Chapter III (articles 156 to 158) and Chapter XIII (articles 213 to 216).

72 There is no legal aid in eastern Chad. The formal Chadian justice system is weak and lacks basic infrastructure. There is a lack of magistrates and other judicial personnel, courtrooms and other basic facilities. The judicial system is also undermined by widespread corruption and interference from government officials. Frequently sous-préfets examine criminal matters such as allegations of rape, but without any judicial training.

73 The Chadian Constitution refers to customs and traditions in Chapter II (articles 157 to 159). In article 14 the Constitution states that customary

and traditional reparations cannot preclude a prosecution, but at the same time there is a lack of magistrates in most remote areas of Chad, especially the east. In addition, article 14 provides that traditional authorities are the guarantors of Chadian traditions and customs and article 217 states that a law shall determine the status and remuneration of the traditional authorities.

74 Most Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad are Muslim, as is the local Chadian population.

75 In most of the cases, a dowry is paid to the family of a girl who is to be married. According to camp leaders, the amount and nature of the dowry depends on the family or clans involved but it is generally a lump sum of money and other gifts given by the man and his family to the family of the girl who is getting married. The matter is considered to be resolved when the individual responsible for the rape marries the victim after paying the Diyya. Interview with Gaga refugee camp leaders, May 2009.

76 According to humanitarian workers and local human rights activists, the sous-préfets were involved in negotiating Diyya in some rape cases.

77 The African Union Mission to Sudan (AMIS) was an African Union peacekeeping force established in 2004 to "implement the decisions made in response to the situation in Darfur." For additional information see <http://www.amis-sudan.org>.

78 UN Security Council, Resolution 1706 (2006), paragraph 9(d).

79 UN Security Council, Resolution 1778 (2007).

80 UN Security Council, Resolution 1861 (2009).

81 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 22.

82, Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009 para. 71.

83 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 April 2009, para. 29.

84 UN Security Council, 6121st meeting, 8 May 2009, doc. S/PV.6121.

85 Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, UN Doc. S/2008/601, 12 September 2008, para. 24; Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, UN Doc. S/2008/760, 4 December 2008, para. 22.

86 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 34.

87 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 4 December 2008, para. 22.

88 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 April 2009, para. 31.

89 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 26.

90 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 36.

91 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 68.

92 Report of the Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 33

93 Interviews conducted with humanitarian personnel, human rights activists and refugees in Eastern Chad, May 2009.

94 Report of the Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 32

95 Report of the Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 28.

96 Interviews with refugee women leaders in Gaga refugee camp, May 2009.

97 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, para. 30.

98 Amnesty International interviews, Farchana, 5-7 May 2009.

99 Report of the UN Secretary-General, 14 July 2009, Annex I, pg 20



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'NO PLACE FOR US HERE' VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE WOMEN IN EASTERN CHAD

Women and girls from Darfur who have fled from Sudan to Chad in search of safety face rape and other violence on a daily basis. The human rights abuses prevalent in Darfur continue to haunt them in eastern Chad, both inside and outside refugee camps.

Attacks on refugee women and girls who venture outside the camps are carried out by local men, bandits and members of the Chadian National Army. Inside the camps, women and girls face attacks by family members, other refugees and aid workers.

Women rarely report sexual assaults because it is difficult to identify the attacker and because they fear stigma and rejection, even from their own families.

Those responsible for rape and other violence against Darfuri refugee women and girls are hardly ever brought to justice in eastern Chad, where a culture of impunity is deeply entrenched. The deployment of a Chadian police force trained and supported by the UN Mission in Chad (MINURCAT) raised hopes of increased security, but so far has had little effect.

It is time for action. Steps must be taken by both the Chadian government and the international community to protect women and girls more effectively. Individuals responsible for rape and other violence must be brought to justice and survivors and their families should be given treatment, support and assistance.

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Index: AFR 20/008/2009
September 2009

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