



ONE NIGHT, ONE VOICE.

Dear Madame Secretary,

Rape and sexual assault are weapons of war used to torture, intimidate, and terrorize women and communities.

We are writing today because we have witnessed survivors testify to these horrors, now faced on a daily basis in Darfur, Sudan.

We implore you, Madame Secretary, to ensure that the United States condemns and combats violence against women and girls. This includes offering necessary advice and assistance to other governments and multilateral institutions to ensure a coordinated global effort to prevent and respond to such violence

Specifically, the United States should:

- **Enhance U.S. led and financed programs designed to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls** in humanitarian relief operations, conflict, and post-conflict situations;
- **Enhance gender-specific training by United States personnel and contractors** of professional foreign military and police forces designated to U.N. and A.U. peacekeeping missions, especially training of the currently deployed African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur;
- **Enhance training to judicial officials to include specific and thorough instruction on preventing and responding to violence** against women and girls; and
- **Press for the implementation of policies and practices in global peace and security efforts**, including United Nations peacekeeping and policing operations, which prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and hold personnel accountable for the full implementation of these policies and practices.

In an effort to ensure these policies are taken forward, we urge you to work with President Obama to increase assistance to the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations for program activities to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls.

We likewise urge you to work with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to nongovernmental organizations, multilateral institutions, and foreign governments for programs that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in all humanitarian relief, conflict, and post-conflict operations, including those programs in Darfur.

