

# Women of the Congo, their stories...

## The physical and psycho-social traumatic effects of the conflict

**Maman Nyota (home broken into at night by rebels)**

They placed a knife at the throat of my husband and told him to have sex with me in front of them and my father-in-law. My husband refused. They took off his clothes. Then, they placed the knife at his throat again and told him it was his last chance before they kill him. He refused and finally they killed him.

**Therese (captured by rebels as a sex slave)**

We were accompanied by body guards for everything, even when we went to the toilet ... We had to be at the disposition of the man who raped us all day. It was always the same man. Even if I did not want to, I had to be his concubine. He always had his gun pointed at me and threatened to kill me if I resisted him. If I posed the least resistance, he would hit me.

**Maman Nsimire (Raped by rebels in public as a form of humiliation)**

They asked for the telephone then money, and threatened to kill us if we did not give it to them. My husband gave them \$100 that I had planned to use for a business project. Then one of the men hit me demanding that I lay down. I refused. He continued to hit me ripping off my clothes until I was subdued. While this was happening, two men held my husband. My children were present and in front of everyone, they raped me.

## Surveys:

### BERKELEY

**66 percent** said their home had been destroyed or confiscated

**61 percent** of those polled in the east said they witnessed the violent death of a family member or friend

**34 percent** said they themselves had been abducted for more than a week

**53 percent** reported being forced to work or being enslaved by armed groups

**16 percent** had been sexually violated and

**12 percent** multiple times

### JOHNS HOPKINS (Snap Shot of South Kivu Province)

**82 percent** of rape survivors have STDs

**60 percent** have lost their husbands

An estimated **30 percent** of rape survivors are HIV positive

Impunity throughout province – estimated **40,000 cases** of rape - only **38 cases** brought to prosecution

Sources for survey:

Situation Analysis: Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development in Eastern DR Congo.

The situation analysis was conducted in the Eastern South Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from July 20-July 29 by Dr. Nancy Glass of Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and Center for Global Health in partnership with Great Lakes Restoration, the Archdioceses of Bukavu and Programme D'Appui aux Initiatives de Developpement Economique du Kivu (P.A.I.D.E.K).

The International Center for Transitional Justice, the Human Rights Center at the University of California, Berkeley and the Payson Center for International Development at Tulane University conducted a survey of 2,620 Congolese between September and December 2007. The study focused North and South Kivu, Ituri, Kinshasa, and Kisangani.



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