

Conflict-related Sexual Violence: Summary of the Report of the United Nations Secretary-general, 2018¹

Original report: <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/report/s-2019-280/Annual-report-2018.pdf>

Acronyms:

UN = United Nations

ASIA

Myanmar

- Special representative expressed serious concerns about a pattern of sexual violence against Rohingya women and girls by government soldiers
 - Forms of sexual violence consistently told by survivors include rape, gang rape by multiple government soldiers, forced public nudity and humiliation and sexual slavery in military captivity
- There are indications that the threat and use of sexual violence was a driver and ‘push factor’ for forced displacement on a massive scale
 - Sexual violence committed as part of military ‘clearance’ operations
- Fact-finding mission established by the Human Rights Council documented mass rape and sexual violence committed by Tatmadaw Kyi (Myanmar Armed Forces)
- In December 2018, the UN Special Representative signed a joint communique with the Government of Myanmar on conflict related sexual violence – requires concrete actions by the Myanmar Armed Forces as well as timely investigation of all alleged abuses in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 2106
- In the central part of Rakhine State, 78% of the 128,000 displaced people are women and girls. Their vulnerability is compounded by their lack of livelihood opportunities and rooted in unequal gender norms, which has exposed them to high risks of trafficking and sexual exploitation
 - Negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and the confinement of adolescent girls at home has greatly increased

¹ This summary was written by Millie Sullivan, who has been collaborating with the SEMA network since 2019.

Nepal

- Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006, survivors of conflict related sexual violence continue to face barriers in gaining access to services, justice and reparations
 - This results in a severe lack of reporting of crimes of sexual violence and a number of psychological challenges faced by survivors given their constant fear of ostracization
- The access of female victims to the complaint system has been restricted by the lack of information and the absence of outreach programmes by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Commitment to gender-responsive peacebuilding was shown through the drafting in 2018 of a comprehensive bill to fix the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Act
 - Several progressive actions to recognize victims' rights to reparations
 - Eliminating the statute of limitations for sexual violence and torture cases
 - Restricting the powers of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to recommend forgiveness for violations of human rights, including torture, rape and other acts of sexual violence