



Carleton
UNIVERSITY

Institute of
African Studies



POWER: Africa-Canada
Human Rights Research and
Education Centre

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT IN AFRICA

A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP CARLETON UNIVERSITY MAY 5-6, 2010

This event is a collaboration between Carleton University Law Department and Institute of African Studies, the United Nations University, Peacebuild and POWER. The organizers would like to thank Carleton University for its support and particularly the Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs, Vice-President Research, the Human Rights Program, and the Centre for Defence and Security Studies.

Widespread incidences of sexual violence in conflict zones have recently attracted the concern of international actors and organizations. The United Nations Security Council has recognized that sexual violence is an instrument of conflict and a major barrier to the return of peace and growth in post-conflict settings. Despite international concern, the incidences of wartime rape appear to be increasing in number and severity. This two-day workshop brings together experts from academia and policy circles for a detailed, cross-disciplinary and multi-sectoral discussion of sexual violence and conflict in Africa.

The aim is to facilitate the exchange of expert knowledge about the social, political, economic and cultural aspects of sexual violence and conflict so that we can better understand the complex patterns of sexual violence and begin a comprehensive discussion of causes, consequences, and possible solutions.

Workshop speakers and participants are coming from different conflict regions in Africa – Zimbabwe, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Chad– as well as researchers from Canadian, US and British universities researching sexual violence in conflict zones, policy workers from nongovernmental organizations performing service delivery, advocacy and research on conflict settings, and finally, representatives from national governments, such as Canada, and international organizations such as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights to the African Commission on Human Rights, Soyata Maiga will be delivering the opening plenary to the workshop.

Workshop themes:

- Understanding Wartime Sexual Violence: What is known about the patterns and processes of sexual violence in different conflict zones in Africa?
- Sexual Violence and Ethnic/National conflict: What is the relationship between conflict, forms of conflict, identity markers, and patterns of sexualized violence?
- Militarism, masculinity and small arms: How are norms of masculinity invoked or changed through different types of militarism?
- The political economy of sexual violence: What are the links between political economy, environment and wartime sexual violence?
- Peacekeeping and Peacemaking: What impact and influence do UN initiatives, including peacekeeping efforts have on the patterns and processes of sexual violence in conflict settings?
- (Re)presenting rape: What are the circumstances within which wartime rape in Africa becomes visible in and to the West?
- Post-conflict and transition: To what extent do patterns of sexual violence impact upon access to resources and redress in post-conflict contexts?

Participation/Registration:

There is no registration form for this Workshop but you must contact us at sexualviolence.conflict.africa@gmail.com to express your interest in attending.

The workshop is now FULL. If you have not already contacted us to confirm your participation/attendance, we cannot guarantee there will be room to add you as a participant. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email us at: sexualviolence.conflict.africa@gmail.com