



THE GREAT REGION



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MEMORABLE SHOTS
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Mr Okello Oryem, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs) chats with delegates at the conference

Oryem calls for special courts

THE MINISTER SAYS SUCH CASES ARE NOT EASY TO PROSECUTE IN ORDINARY COURTS

ZURAH NAKABUGO

The State Minister for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs) Henry Oryem Okello, has called for establishment of special courts to expedite on regional efforts and eradicate sexual and gender based violence

from society.

“I would like to urge this conference to examine how the region can address the eradication of the severe effects of sexual and gender based violence on family and community levels,” he said. “Therefore as you discuss your recommendations you should come up with ways of

establishing special courts to address the question of speedy and fair justice as well as the question of how police, judicial officers, social workers, medical officers and other stakeholders will act fast to deliberate on cases.”

Mr Oryem was on speaking at Speke Resort Munyonyo while

opening the Regional conference on Strategies for Implementation of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Instruments on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

TURN TO PAGE 2



ICGLR gets new home

KEY PHRASE — The headquarters of international conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) training center, were officially opened yesterday at the Munyonyo with intent of prevention and suppression of sexual and gender based violence. This is an institution for 12 member states that are bound together under the ICGLR pact on security, and development in the Region.

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Most Inmates committed sexual offenses

KEY PHRASE — Over 65 per cent of inmates in Uganda are serving jail terms on cases of related to gender based sexual violence although most of them are not charged directly as sexual offenders

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FROM THE EDITOR...

ICGLR new home is a monumental achievement

The headquarters of international conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) training center have officially been opened at Munyonyo.

December 1, 2017 will go down in history as a monumental day on which New ICGLR international training centre was opened.

This is an institution for 12 member states that are bound together under the ICGLR pact on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region. It is a legal instrument that established the ICGLR and its mechanism.

The center that contains over 20 different departments and offices dealing with gender based violence issues cost about 140,000 euros (over Shs600m) through the support of the government of Netherlands. The headquarters also has a boardroom, a restaurant, VIP lounge and a reception centre.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS

The idea of the First Lady should be supported and embraced in order to embrace and utilize the facility to the maximum.

As the First Lady Janet Museveni who was represented the Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development Mary Karoro Okurut, noted, all ministries in charge of gender issues in the region should support this facility to become a centre of excellence.

The idea of the First Lady should be supported and embraced in order to embrace and utilize the facility to the maximum.

Many projects in Uganda have been opened by the users have been unable to effectively utilize them. Regional governments that are member states of ICGLR should second their officials to the centre to get the skills that would enable them fight sexual

and gender based violence.

Sexual violence crime is very serious but more challenging since its nature need constant innovation and skills to effectively contain it.

Regional civil society organizations, the judiciary, police units and social workers, doctors and other people who handle cases of gender sexual violence should embrace the opportunity.

Member states just like Uganda still grapple with the problem of SGBV, where more than 50 percent of people in prisons in Uganda are on sexual violence related cases.

Trainers at the centre should also address the challenges of faced while training people on gender based violence issues.

The skills that we expect from the Regional Training Facility (RTF) is partly in those areas that are still challenging us such as lack of evidence, forensic, witnesses in court and others.

This resonates with the Gender ministry's decision to spearhead the development of National policy and Action plan on the elimination of Gender Based violence which is currently before the cabinet for approval.

The RTF secretariat under the stewardship of Mr Nathan Byamukama which runs the facility, should be supported.



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Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs), Mr Okello Oryem speaks at the conference.

Okello Oryem calls for establishment of special courts to tackle sexual violence

FROM PAGE 1

He thanked GIZ and the Ambassador Zachary Muburi - Muita, the Executive Secretary for organising the conference that brought together regional stakeholders on sexual and gender based violence to share region-wide experiences that can enable stakeholders to review the strategies on implementation instruments for fighting impunity in sexual.

Mr Oryem said he is aware of Regional Training Facility (RTF) that provides a mechanism for capacity building in the implementation of Article 11 of the pact on Security, Stability and Development.

He hailed RTF and its attendant protocol on prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children in the Great Lakes region including any other ICGLR decision related to training and sensitisation in matters of gender based violence.

Mr Oryem said, the presence of RTF proves that the region has developed internal capacity to address issues of gender sexual violence that affect people especially women.

"With limited funding at

the beginning given capable leadership, management capacity and collaboration with partners, the centre is clearly positioning itself in the region as a centre of excellence which we wanted it to be. The conference will come up with concrete strategies of strengthening the Regional Centres' management, leadership and collaboration," he said.

Mr Oryem said thanked South Sudan for acceding to the pact which showed commitment by member states to abide by the collective decisions and determination of the region to transform it from a zone of instability to peace and development.

The Kampala declaration contains critical interventions such as the eradication of negative forces, domestication of crucial instruments on sexual violence to ease enforcement and provision of special courts or special court sessions.

"The funding institutions that support victims and fight the crimes both in war and in peace should the training of stakeholders at the Regional training facility more than ever before. This will



Uganda is celebrating 16 Days Campaign is an annual global movement emphasizing all forms of violence against women as a human rights issue.

assist our regional efforts and commitments to successfully fight the crime arising out of SGBV," Oryem said.

Uganda is celebrating 16 Days Campaign is an annual global movement emphasizing all forms of violence against women as a human rights issue.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence uses the 16 days between International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November) and International Human Rights Day (10 December) to reinforce that eliminating all forms of violence against women is a human rights issue and that the act of perpetrating violence against women is a human rights violation.

The theme of the 2017 Campaign is "Together We Can End GBV in Education!" This year's theme builds on the momentum and achievements during the 2016 campaign, when over 700 organizations in 92 countries campaigned around the theme of "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!"

ICGLR Executive Secretary wants perpetrators of sexual violence to be punished

Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, the Executive Secretary-International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) instruments on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) has told a regional conference against gender based violence to emphasise how perpetrators of such crimes can be effectively prosecuted and punished;

Below is his abridged speech at the opening of the Regional Conference on Strategies for Implementation of the ICGLR instruments on SGBV Conference at Monyonyo Commonwealth Resort Hotel, Kampala Uganda Speke Resort Hotel Munnyonyo

It is now common practice that despite the challenges of addressing SGBV in the region, specific countries have begun to innovate and implement ICGLR resolutions, AU and UN frameworks aimed at combating SGBV

There is evidence in almost every country that the countries have deliberate intent and registered progress towards combating impunity towards SGBV perpetrators.

The conference will give an opportunity to delegates to hearing what is happening in various countries regarding measure being taken to address SGBV.

The conference will provide ICGLR an opportunity to document good practices with a view to incorporating them in the mandate and operationalization of the RTF function and training manuals.

With regard to criminal justice system's response to gender-based violence, some countries still fall short of well guided actions that are responsive to international regional and national obligations to prevent violence against children and women to ensure their access to justice.

Perpetrators still escape prosecution and punishment for their crimes simply because in some member states the mandated institutions are inefficient in executing their mandate.

Those who come to prisons as punishment do not get correctional therapies related to their respective crimes.

It is not an exaggeration to state that in most of our countries, majority of the people in prisons are on sexual violence related crimes.

Therefore, delays in conducting and concluding investigations, prosecution and adjudication of SGBV crimes must be stumped out.

Poor case handling methods including exhibit mishandling, poor statement recording, outdated evidential admission requirements to name but a few which lead to poor

case outcomes for the victims need to be tackled decisively.

It is disappointing to not that in some counties, those released for lack of evidence, return to repeat the same crimes they committed before trial and as such, tendencies of keeping treating consequences of SGBV and not causes.

The more we enhance our sexual and gender based violence documentation and investigation skills, the better for justice and the more the region feels secure from crimes of sexual and gender based violence.

It is for these reasons that our region established special courts for SGBV within specific guidelines and course action.

This conference will provide an opportunity to the countries to develop viable options that will bring SGBV challenges to an end.

All earlier made commitments and strategies will therefore, be reviewed to come up with realistic solutions that our countries can go back and implement.

This conference coincides with the commemoration of 16 days of activism to end violence against sexual and gender based violence.

It also comes on the heels of the international Human Rights Day that was celebrated on 10th December 2016,

More importantly also, today, the



Zachary Muburi-Muita, the Executive Secretary-International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) instruments on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) speaks at the conference

world celebrates the International AIDS Day.

I therefore draw attention of delegates our undivided attention to remembering the rights of women and girls as we review strategies for our commitment to eradication of SGBV and inextricable link between HIV/AIDS and sexual and gender violence.

Guest of Honour, Ladies and gentlemen, your participation in this conference gives us

great anticipation and delight, particularly given that we convene to learn from each other and to paraphrase what somebody has said-a few, if any, of our today's challenges can be understood or resolved without working through a regional context.

Let us together confront this regional challenge. I wish us all good deliberations and successful outcomes.

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I therefore draw attention of delegates our undivided attention to remembering the rights of women and girls as we review strategies for our commitment to eradication of SGBV and inextricable link between HIV/AIDS and sexual and gender violence.



Mr Nathan Byamukama, the Acting Director of Regional Training Facility(L) and Mr Zachary Muburi-Muita follow proceedings of the conference.

SPEECH

First Lady calls for collaboration to fight gender, sexual violence



First Lady Janet K. Museveni

Uganda's First Lady, Hon Janet K. Museveni has called for collaboration and consultation among members states of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to strengthen their struggle for human rights, women rights and human dignity in partnership, cooperation and consultation.

"It is when we work together corroboratively that will put to good use the systems and structures put together to fight sexual and gender based violence in the Region, Mrs Museveni said during the opening a multi-Million building to house the ICGLR RTF headquarters near Common Wealth Resort Munyonyo in Kampala.

Below is her slightly edited speech

Let me first welcome your Excellences and Distinguished Honorable visitors to Uganda. Thank you for coming to attend the ongoing regional conference that is reviewing strategies for implementation of the International Conference on Great Lakes Regional Instruments on Sexual Violence. It is my sincere

hope that the experiences and practical knowledge you have gained in the addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence will be used over the two days deliberations to sharpen strategies for implementation of the respective instruments.

I am aware that you have taken off time from the Conference to witness this rare occasion of the opening of the Regional Training Facility for the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual and Gender Based Violence for which I have been graciously honored to officiate at.

I congratulate the Executive Secretary, Ambassador Zakary Muburi -Muita and your Team led by Mr. Nathan Byamukama, the Ag Director, of this Facility who have worked hard with the support of the Dutch Government represented by the GiZ to put up this beautiful permanent home. This facility will go a long way in building the capacity of Members States of the International Conference on Great Lakes Regions through running relevant training programmes aimed at building the capacity of stakeholders with a role in implementing viable sexual and gen-

der based violence interventions.

The two parallel activities that have actively engaged you are a landmark in our history of fighting the stinging impacts of Sexual and Gender Based Violence among women and children in our region.

You will recall that at the 2011 Summit, held on 15th December 2011, I decried the disintegrating societal values of our African communities which were threatening the institution of the Family especially emanating from the painful increase of unwanted behaviors and negative cultural practices such as Female Genital mutilation that were hurting women and girls.

I also pointed out the vulnerability of young boys and men to Sexual and Gender Based Violence including the shame associated with abuse of infants, children and their non-reporting to those with authority.

With the experiences you have gained over the six years our region stands in a better position to stamp out the unwanted impacts of sexual and gender based violence.

Now that we have a home of our own and at the end of the Conference we will have

identified areas of action including strengthening our priorities in implementation of the resolutions of Kampala declaration we need to move fast to put in place effective laws and policies which support timely access and care by victims and survivors of all forms of sexual and gender based violence.

I call upon Governments to support this Facility in its role of addressing capacity building needs of national machineries fighting sexual and gender based violence among member states.

The facility may work out modalities for strengthening collaboration in the areas of mandate with professional institutions such as FIDA so that they the various actors and stakeholders capacities are empowered and strengthened to reach out in communities where they are needed most.

Let us all join hands to strengthen our struggle for human rights, women rights and human dignity in partnership, cooperation and consultation. It is when we work together corroboratively that will put to good use the systems and structures put together to fight sexual and gender based violence in the Region.

The Regional Training Facility that we have opened today will help us to lead the struggle on this front. We need to support the Institution through confirming those in leadership who have driven it to its current state from nothing and amidst scanty financial resources.

I enjoin our Governments particularly the Ministries responsible for education to support this Facility to achieve its dream of becoming a center of excellence for the region.

Let me also extend a vote of thanks to Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development who provided a small office from which this new bigger and permanent office has grown since the Facility was officially opened in 2014.

As Government of Uganda, we shall continue to support the Facility to establish a center that will be self-sustaining with its training programs in future.

With those words let me now propose a toast and declare this Regional Training Facility officially opened.

For Go and My Country
Hon. Janet K. Museveni
First Lady and Minister of
Education and Sports

Uganda's regional affairs minister optimistic about regional peace

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Six years ago, we convened in this same Hotel under the theme, “United to prevent, end impunity and provide support to the victims of Sexual Gender Based Violence”.

Mr Okello Oryem, Uganda's State Minister for Foreign Affairs has expressed optimism about the willingness by countries in the Great Lakes Region to promote peace.

“It shows the commitment and resolve by our member states to abide by the collective decisions and determination of the region to transform it from a zone of instability and that of peace and Development,” Mr Oryem said

Speaking during the regional conference on Strategies for Implementation of ICGLR in Kampala, Mr Okello said it is only prudent and timely that we review our commitments in these instruments and see how we are faring after 11 years of ICGLR Pact and six years of the Kampala Declaration on Sexual violence.

Mr Okello's abridged speech to the delegates

I warmly welcome you to Uganda and particularly to this Conference to develop strategies for implementation of the instruments of the International Conference on Great Lakes Regional tackling sexual and gender based violence.

Six years ago, we convened in this same Hotel under the theme, “United to prevent, end impunity and provide support to the victims of Sexual Gender Based Violence”. As with the practice, the Regional Inter ministerial Committee (RIMC) of ICGLR met and made recommendations to the Summit. Almost all the recommendations were adopted. At that Conference, I was represented by my colleagues, Hon Okello Oryem and Hon. Kiyingi.

Let me thank the organizers for inviting me to officiate as the Guest of Honor today. My participation in the Conference has given me yet another opportunity to appraise and be counted as part of the process of the review of strategies to eradicate crimes caused by sexual and gender based violence in our communities and countries.

I thank Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, the Executive Secretary of ICGLR, and his team, especially Mr. Nathan Byamukama, the Acting Director of ICGLR and our friends from GIZ for organizing this conference that has brought together regional stakeholders on Sexual and Gender Based Violence to share Region-wide experiences that can enable stakeholders to review the strategies on implementation instruments for fighting impunity in sexual violence related cases in our respective countries. This should improve the way and speed with which we execute our commitments towards the instruments we sign and ratify.

As a Minister of Foreign Affairs and having worked as the President of the UN General Assembly, I know that there is a lot of time and resources we put in negotiating these instruments. Whether they are regional or international, they were written with



Mr Okello Oryem, Uganda's State Minister for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs) follows the proceedings

a lot of expertise and took care of the divergent political interests during negotiations.

Even where member states had serious reservations, they stated the reservations and when other member states have not agreed, they actually did not sign or they signed but did not ratify the instruments.

So what we eventually come out with is the solid and well sort out document that meets the challenges of a particular time. I'm happy to note that for our ICGLR instruments all our Member states have signed and ratified the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region which includes the ten (10) binding protocols of the ICGLR.

I'm also happy to note that South Sudan, a country that was created after the Pact, also acceded to the Pact. This is really unprecedented in the history of treaty ratification and accession. It shows the commitment and resolve by our member states to abide by the collective decisions and determination of the region to transform it from a zone of instability and that of peace and Development. It is therefore only prudent and timely that we review our commitments in these instruments and see how we are faring after 11 years of ICGLR Pact and six years of the Kampala Declaration on Sexual violence.

At this I enjoin you to learn from each other, identify major obstacles, if any that hinder our progress in realizing the obligations we have under the instruments and forge a way forward together, in a spirit of cooperation aimed to remove identified obstacles. In fact looking closely at these commitments, you should realize that they have answers to the challenges that we face in the area of eradicating sexual violence.

Looking at the Kampala Declaration for example many will agree with me that for example eradication of negative forces, domesticating crucial instruments on Sexual violence to ease enforcement, having special courts or special court sessions are critical interventions.

The Funding Institutions that support victims and fight the crimes both in war and in peace should support the training of stakeholders at the Regional Training Facility more than ever before. Doing so will assist our regional efforts and commitments to successfully fight the crimes arising out of SGBV.

It is my sincere hope that the actions that will arise out of this conference will contribute towards reducing the spread and incidence of Sexual and Gender Based Violence including its negative impacts on

the lives, health, physical, sexual, psychological, social and economic well-being of women and children in our region.

You are all aware that the Kampala Declaration was one other ways of translating relevant International instruments and mechanisms including UN convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women CEDAW (1979), and others like Charter of the UN, UN Security Council resolutions into action. I therefore enjoin you to review the existing legal and policy frameworks on Sexual Gender Based violence well knowing that when we address the regional instruments, we indirectly if not automatically address International / UN and AU instruments.

We need to look at local structures also. This will encompass the need to examine how we as a region target eradication of severe effects of the Sexual and Gender based violence on family and Community levels. Therefore as you discuss your recommendations you should come up with ways of establishing special courts to address the question of speedy and fair justice as well as the question of how police, judicial officers, social workers, medical officers and other stakeholders will act fast to deliberate cases.

I am aware that the Regional Training Facility provides a mechanism for capacity building in the implementation of the Article 11 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development and its attendant protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual violence against women and Children in the Great Lakes Region including any other ICGLR Decision related to training and sensitization in matters of sexual and gender based violence.

This center has proved that the region has developed internal capacity to address issues that affect us. With limited funding at the beginning, given capable leadership, management capacity and collaboration with partners, the center is clearly positioning itself in the region as a center of excellence-which we wanted it to be. It has demonstrated that even without enough resources we can still progress. This Conference should come up with concrete strategies of strengthening the regional centers' management, leadership and Collaboration.

As I conclude, I know you are here for four days, please have time off to visit Kampala and its environs if your business does not allow you to see the beautiful country side of Uganda. Kampala, at night has its own fun and wonders, please don't miss it. I thank you all for coming and I wish you enjoyable stay in Uganda and successful deliberations. It is now my singular honor to declare this conference to review strategies for implementation instruments on sexual and Gender Based violence open.

SPEECH

SGBV activists told to sensitise population to gain better results

Campaigners and activists against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) should start training and sensitize people against the crime in order to effectively reduce the vice.

According to Mr Nathan Byamukama, the Acting Director of Regional Training Facility (RTF), such effort would not bear fruit if the targeted people are not brought on board.

He was speaking during the Regional conference on strategies for implementation of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Instruments on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), in Kampala

Below is his abridged speech

I welcome you on behalf of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) - RTF at this Regional Conference to review and develop strategies for implementation of the ICGLR instruments on sexual and gender based violence.

As you may be aware, the Regional Training Facility (RTF) was established by 12 (twelve) Member States of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) as an implementation arm of the ICGLR to operationalize Article 6(9) of the ICGLR Protocol on the prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (2006).

The twelve (12) member states mandated the RTF to train and sensitize judicial officers, police officers, military officers, medical officers, social workers, civil society organizations, media fraternity and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region. The Facility has continued to execute her responsibilities in line with the protocol on the prevention and suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children article 9 (6), and also the pact on Security stability and Development in Great lakes region 2006 guided by the following instruments that give the RTF mandate:

- The Protocol on the prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (2006) Article 6(9);
- ICGLR Protocol on Judicial Cooperation (2006);
- Protocol on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crime and Crime against Humanity and all forms of discrimination regular RIMC/ summit decisions on SGBV;
- The Darer Salaam Declaration (2004);
- The Goma Declaration (June 2008);
- The Kampala Declaration on SGBV (December 2011);
- The Kinshasa Final Communique (July 2012);
- The Decision of Regional

Inter- Ministries Committee (RIMC) (February 2013);

- ICGLR Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence (2006);
- The Pact on security stability and development in Great Lakes Region (2006) (Article 11);
- Host agreement between the Government of Uganda and the Secretariat of ICGLR (2014);
- The National Coordinators and communique of 10th ordinary meeting of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) (March 2015).

The Kampala declaration covers a number of issues in line with the security and government agencies, families and community. It recognizes other relevant International instruments and mechanisms including UN convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women CEDAW (1979), and others like Charter of the United Nations, UN Security Council resolutions 1325;

After six (6) years of implementation of the Declaration, RTF is at the process of evaluating the stages of its implementation particularly regarding the clear deadlines that were set on implementation of particular provisions of the protocol. Towards this end, the RTF has actively engaged in training special groups that directly handle Sexual Gender Based Violence conflicts. These have included police, judicial officers, social workers, medical officers and other categories of people that handle cases of sexual Gender based Violence.

At the moment, the Master trainer training program is ongoing at the regional level to help member States to implement SGBV instruments through training SGBV stakeholders using an accredited SGBV curriculum.

The Netherland Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE) supported RTF with EUR 200,000 to acquire office premise and become the Centre of Excellence in the region on prevention and suppression of SGBV and also developed a master trainer's initiative program to deliver standardized training materials and work on the training curricula for all stakeholders who handles SGBV in the region.

RTF is on the right path to becoming Africa's Centre of Excellence in providing the necessary skills for effective and efficient management of the endemic challenges of SGBV in the region.

In this deliberation, we seek to achieve how the laws can be best applied and the legal practices in the fight against the Sexual Gender Based Violence. Information on the sexual violence victims should also be given to help in accessing justice. An advocacy document on law reforms and legal practice on the Sexual Gender Based violence should be put in place so as to have a follow up platform at national level in regard to SGBV laws. This is indeed the reason to have



Mr Nathan Byamukama, the Acting Director of Regional Training Facility (RTF), follows proceedings of the conference.

all the stakeholders reliably involved that's; the police, judicial officers, social workers, medical officers and other categories of people handling SGBV.

ICGLR-RTF provides a national coordination mechanism in the implementation of the pact and any other policy decision made by the inter-ministerial committee. The above Declarations and protocols will extract relevant information, to fight Sexual Gender based violence among member states.

Recommendations shall also be observed to prevent, suppress and

give assistance to victims of Sexual Gender based violence.

ICGLR-RTF work in collaboration with other National coordination mechanisms of countries of the Great Lakes region like Angola, Brazzaville, and DRC on the implementation of SGBV laws and policies

We have conducted several SGBV trainings and meetings in each Member State to bring out focal people from the ministry of gender, Justice, parliament, police, doctors and civil society organisations to decisively deal with the perpetrators of SGBV in the region.

It's important to note that sexual Gender Based violence is indeed a multi-dimensional problem and should be given multi-dimensional approach. All stakeholders should indeed be vigilant in the fight against this Vice.

I can assure every participant here today that I, and my team are very much aware of, and appreciative of, all your hard work and efforts in fighting against sexual gender based violence in the region over the past number of years. I would like to take this opportunity to wish member states the very best in your continued efforts to combat sexual gender based violence and I look forward to a long and effective working relationship with you in order to increase awareness of SGBV, encourage victims to report their experiences and help to improve services available for those affected by these crimes.

Finally I would like to thank all of our speakers and dignitaries for travelling here today and I am confident that the knowledge gained and information shared here over the next couple of days will inspire all of us and help to improve our response to the problem of SGBV in the region.



OTHER POLICY DECISION

ICGLR-RTF provides a national coordination mechanism in the implementation of the pact and any other policy decision made by the inter-ministerial committee. The above Declarations and protocols will extract relevant information, to fight Sexual Gender based violence among member states.

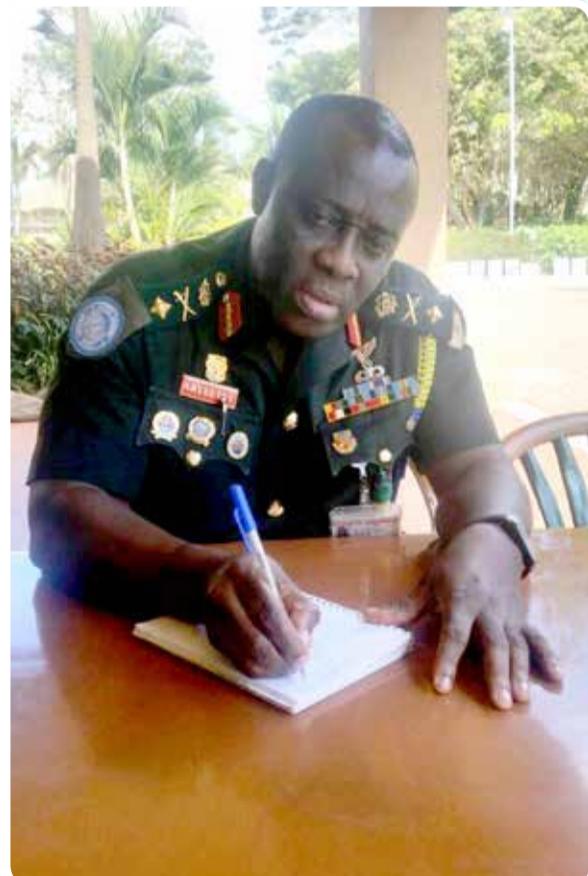
Q&A

UN Takes on SGBV in Dr Congo

Poor infrastructure, low levels of literacy and absence of administrative structures in the presence of civil conflict are some of the reasons that have led to DRC being a hotspot for Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), according to MONUSCO Sector West Commander, **Brigadier General Irvine Aryeetey** in an interview with RTF.



Brigadier General Irvine Aryeetey (R), the MONUSCO Sector West Commander, chats with other delegates.



Brigadier General Irvine Aryeetey (R), the MONUSCO Sector West Commander, during the interview

Q: How seriously does MONUSCO take SGBV in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)?

Gen Aryeetey: It is a serious issue wherever there is a conflict. But we take it very very seriously. Together with the government of DRC we are trying to find mechanisms of redressing this issue, with MONUSCO as a lead agency. This is because we are in direct contact with people. We have very much training, we have do's and don'ts as a force and there are clear guidelines that we follow.

Q: What is the reason for this high level of SGBV prevalence?

Gen Aryeetey: Of course when you

have low levels of development then there is a very high chance of the vice taking root. People use the law of the jungle to solve all their issues and there is no civil process to adhere to. There is no education, no social amenities, no justice for victims and so much impunity that you can do what you want and get away with it.

Q: DRC is a large area with a big number of rebel groups. How do you deal with manpower challenges in regard to SGBV?

A: We have a new concept, which is referred to as Protection by Projection. So we are aware that we have limited resources but there is more to do. Therefore, we are being more

tactical in our approach. That's why we have that new concept where we have to rely more on intelligence to find out what is happening rather than spreading our force over a wide area. We have created a mechanism where we identify an issue, resolve it, leave a mark so that it does not happen again and then move to other areas. That is how we are able to tackle the resource gap.

Q: To successfully combat SGBV, you need a robust judicial system. But it appears to be absent in the DRC?

A: This is not the area that is our expertise so the force does not concentrate on it. Our job is to assist the human rights office which in turn assists the DRC government in bringing the perpetrators to book and also the victims can have some reprieve. So, MONUSCO has collaborations through which some of these issues are addressed but the force itself does not physically handle this. But we do it in a comprehensive manner, where necessary by providing escorts and protection.

Q: Why is it that members of these various militia resort to SGBV in conflict areas?

A: This is a guy who looks at a way of getting at the opponent easily. There are issues of ethnicity and enmity so they tend to go for the weakest spot. So, he captures and conquers a woman. If you want to hit a person, you hit the eye rather than struggling with his arm. The militia targets the weakest in society who are the girls, women, children and the elderly.

Q: Do you see the incidences going down or up?

A: SGBV is about 75 percent in armed conflicts area. And these are statistics from January to October. Over the past 5 years, it has been on average about 70 percent and by the armed groups. All these statistics are available on different platforms.

DR. ANGELA MUVUMBA SELLSTRÖM, RESEARCHER, UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
THIS IS THE FIRST ARTICLE OF A SPECIAL THREE-PART SERIES.

Why prevent sexual and gender-based violence

Imagine life as the other gender. Men and boys are expected to be strong and assertive (even aggressive); they never cry; and if provoked or annoyed or titillated, they are entitled to use their fists to retaliate against a spouse, a daughter, a sister, and even a stranger. Alternatively, if you are a woman or girl, gender norms may afford you the false promise of passivity. Although males are also victims of sexual and gender based violence, females are the vast majority of people abused, ogled, raped, chided, groped, prostituted and assaulted. Walking around female means mustering and maintaining the patience and courage to overcome the pressure and trauma of this, as evidenced by the #MeToo campaign and the testimony of millions of women around the world. And yet, the cost of these social preferences - with men allowed to commit psychological and physical violence with impunity, and women victimized by these normalized harms - undermines peace and development. The Great Lakes region, which must carve and maintain its own homegrown peace, also has to enable its diverse peoples in the pursuit of economic and social development. The incentive to change the norms and preferences that create a culture of impunity for sexual and gender based violence could not be higher. Such norms and preferences influence every aspect of life, and create harmful behaviors that undermine equality and slow progress toward peace and prosperity.

This three part series explores these issues, while also drawing on research and reflecting on the work of the Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region, established by the Heads of States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes (ICGLR).

Definitions

What is gender? What is sex? What is gender equality?

Sex: The different biological and physiological characteristics of males and females, such as reproductive organs, chromosomes, hormones, etc.

Gender: Refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men - such as norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men. It varies from society to society and can be changed.

Gender equality: Refers to equal chances or opportunities for groups of women and men to access and control social, economic and political resources, including protection under the law.

Gender equality matters

Although long ignored by most political scientists, it is now widely understood that gender equality is an important factor of peace and prosperity. We know that development benefits from the increased productivity of women, and that their education improves the lives of families. But what is increasingly apparent is that gender equality is a vital and essential cause of peace. Gender equality is associated with more peaceful, human rights adherence in intra and interstate behavior. As early as 2000 and 2001, scholars Mary Caprioli and Boyer contributed to our understanding of this phenomena. They and others have shown that countries with high levels of gender equality are less likely to be involved in interstate conflict and that conflict itself is less intense. Erik Melander has gone on to test these arguments and demonstrated that gender equality is strongly associated with less human rights abuse. This turn in research has been a revolution. We now know that not only do governments with higher gender equality spend less on military solutions to conflict, the peace they settle upon is more durable. My own research on wartime sexual violence in conflict has shown that armed actors with a more egalitarian outlook on gender are associated with less violence against civilians. This is the gender equality and peace thesis: norms and preferences that recognize and foster equal rights and opportunities and even responsibilities between the genders, contributes to peaceful relations within and between groups, communities, societies and states. It makes sense then, that the Great Lakes region should cultivate more equality, not less - given the ICGLR's concord for collective security, stability and peace. But what, exactly, is the link between gender equality and the purpose of the RTF and the region's efforts to stop sexual and gender based violence?

Gender and sexual-based violence effects

Psychological and physical harms are difficult to endure and overcome. If you have ever experienced an aggression on the scale of sexual and



UPDF Spokesman Brig. Richard Karemire with a delegate

gender based violence, you know how hard it is to maintain a sense of equanimity and self-validation. Victims of violence often live with feelings of shame and self-recrimination. They wonder, repeatedly, how they could have avoided this terrible curse. Could they have fought back, said something, done something differently? For the survivors of sexual and gender based violence, this feeling of shame and the stigmatization from society holds one back: it is difficult to pursue an education, or a better life. The abuse and the abuser live with you forever. Finally, victims are more likely to be exposed to further harms, including risky sexual behavior and predator partners. Only those individuals fortunate enough to have psychological and physical therapy in the form of counseling or treatment, and in the context of empowering, affirming families and

communities, are able to progress. Yet, their recovery is indispensable to achieving gender equality.

Stopping sexual and gender based violence is thus important to all societies. It reduces overall violence levels. This decline will correspond to an increase in the number of people who do not live with the crippling effects of psychological and physical harms. It is a main route toward cultivating more gender equality - particularly around physical integrity, but also in relation to socio-economic development - and to the peace sought by the peoples of the Great Lakes region.

The establishment of the ICGLR's Regional Training Facility in Kampala represents practical progress toward achieving this aim. Three years since its inception, it has held a number of important meetings and capacity-building workshops.

Not least, it has convened six (6) major high profile training workshops for police, military, medical, judicial officers, prosecutors, civil society, and journalists in the Great Lakes Region. Its work is unique and far-reaching. No where else in the region, in Africa, in the world, have governments collectively sought to create the capacity to stop this violence through this type of institutional structure. The RTF's high quality training material and valuable training to professional groups will create usable knowledge and set standards. Local police, prosecutors and clinicians can use these trainings, but more importantly, the ICGLR will provide a legitimating platform for their services and in turn foster the local response to sexual and gender based violence.

DR. ANGELA MUVUMBA SELLSTRÖM, RESEARCHER, UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
THIS IS THE SECOND ARTICLE IN THIS SPECIAL THREE-PART SERIES.

How to prevent and suppress sexual and gender-based violence

Some people assume that sexual and gender based violence is commonplace and banal. For others, the habit of using coercion, aggression or humiliation for sexual gratification merits punishment. The variation in norms and preferences can be extreme and stark, or subtle, fluid and nuanced. For some, normality includes role models and leaders who use their power over subordinates as part of their repertoire of seduction. Or even, it involves harmful practices such as genital mutilation or forced marriage because they are culturally or religiously sacrosanct. For them, the line between coercion of the vulnerable and romance is blurred. But for others, using coercion is unmanly and cruel. No cultural tradition should permit exploitation or forced sexual acts. And culture is not static.

Finally, for too many, their experience tells them that perpetrators will get away with sexual and gender based violence. Only a few can be confident that these harms will be met with negative consequences. These differences are not simply individual conceptions of right and wrong. They exemplify variation in impunity for sexual and gender based violence. Impunity is exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action.

The conditions that create impunity appear clear. If done right, human collectivities can institute justice. If neglected or muddled, they create impunity. My research on wartime sexual violence, for instance, shows that the type of shared values and punitive practices by armed groups are important in the fight against sexual violence. However, the manner in which these are implemented is even more critical. Accountability is only possible when these groups apply and enforce their rules consistently through training and education and collective monitoring.

This article turns to the work of prevention, and the ICGLR's stated aim through the work of the Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region. Importantly, the RTF's activities in its new, permanent center, supports the sorts of policies and activities which will create a sea change and assist judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region as provided for under the ICGLR Protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children. Fostering their advocacy, investigation, forensic, diagnostic, prosecutory and



A section of delegates pick their name tags before the opening session of the conference

rehabilitation skills, inside solid, dynamic institutions, is integral.

Sexual and gender based sexual violence is preventable

There is sufficient, objective evidence that rape, sexual assault, grievous bodily harm, assault or mutilations of female reproductive organs, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy and enforced sterilization and other similar abuses have occurred regularly, over the entirety of human history. This pattern of regular occurrence has also been accompanied by its non-occurrence, signifying that sexual and gender based violence is probable, not deterministic. Consequently, it is preventable through human and social action.

To illustrate, my ongoing research demonstrates that non-stated armed organizations can prevent their fighters from committing sexual violence. I carried out a study of sexual violence committed by different armed groups in Burundi, and several cases of post-settlement sexual violence across Africa. In Burundi, I gathered perceptions of impunity from ex-combatants. I found that fighters who had been exposed to clear and constant codes of conduct rarely deviated from beliefs about accountability. Ex-combatants who had been in units with confessional practices and whereby commanders and other foot-soldiers were held equally accountable, demonstrated uniform views that sexual violence was punishable. In ongoing research in Uganda and South Africa, similar casual mechanisms had a direct impact on low levels of sexual violence during conflict in the 1980s. Historically, armed liberation groups have exercised

greater discipline. They also appear to have had mutual accountability and clear codes of conduct, with open sessions of criticism. Commanders were not exempt from these processes and penalties. Importantly, they had standardized processes of investigation, prosecution and punishment. In the National Resistance Army (NRA) in particular, justice was transparent, clear and swift. In other words, sexual violence was prevented. At the same time, an important feature arises in every positive case: when the armed group relied on voluntary civilian support, their leaders instituted prevention and suppression of sexual violence.

The ICGLR's progress

We know that sexual and gender based violence has long-lasting, widespread, negative consequences. We know that it is unfair and most of all, that we want it to stop. We also know, now, that it is preventable. That is the easy part. The hard part is to foster institutional capacity to implement prevention.

Within a short time of approximately three years, the RTF has provided skills and capacity development to 400 members of the stakeholder groups. Judges, police officers and others from the Great Lakes region have benefited from these sessions. Trainings have not been limited to passive acquisition of knowledge. The training facility provides a platform for professional exchange. For instance, the 2016 training and sensitization workshop on documentation and investigation of sexual violence cases in conflict enabled interaction between different sectors working on the same problem from different angles.

As the RTF has reported, it was a neutral platform for exchange between law enforcement, civil society and even journalists, on "ways to document and investigate sexual violence without denigrating victims and witnesses". This is critically important for the long-term and for the eventual decentralization of skills and standards. The RTF has also embarked upon documentation services. Its case law compendium Access to Justice and Ending Impunity for Sexual and Gender Based Violence is a first-of-its-kind tool which is a resource for legal professionals, as well as scholars and activists. It contains valuable information about cases from international bodies and national judiciaries of ICGLR member states. After the opening of the new permanent home of the RTF, this work will accelerate and intensify. By 2020, the RTF aims to have trained more than 1000 'cadres' within the region.

Above all, the RTF's work aligns with what we know about how to fight impunity. Its methods of training and documentation simplify and strengthen the institutional stakeholders responsible for justice in the Great Lakes region. In some ways, the work of the facility is to develop a kind of regional, homegrown collective 'code', drawn from best practices and incorporating the correct methodologies for developing accountability. This code is not external, but arises from the ICGLR's ambitions and its own instruments and commitments. It's an a priori condition for prevention and suppression.

Tomorrow's article in this three-part series will turn to addressing the future work of the RTF.

“ We know that sexual and gender based violence has long-lasting, widespread, negative on sequences. We know that it is unfair and most of all, that we want it to stop. We also know, now, that it is preventable. **”**

65 percent of inmates committed gender based sexual related crimes

ZURAH NAKABUGO

Over 65 per cent of inmates in Uganda are serving jail terms on cases of related to gender based sexual violence although most of them are not charged directly as sexual violence charged as murder, according to Mr Nathan Byamukama the Acting Director of Regional Training Facility (RTF).

“That is how bad the situation is and we have to look at it seriously. This is because cases of sexual violence are little bit complicated in terms of looking for evidence,” he says. “Most cases are done in private and even if you arrest suspects, it’s very difficult to prove their guilt in court, because court is looking for evidence and some suspects run away and some victims settle issues out of court because they want money and fear embarrassment.”

Mr Byamukama was speaking at Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort Hotel Munyonyo at the opening the Regional conference on strategies for implementation of the international conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Instruments on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

He also thanked GIZ and the Ambassador Zachary Muburi - Muita, the Executive Secretary for organizing the conference that brought together regional stakeholders on sexual and gender based violence to share region-wide experiences to review strategies on the implementation instruments for fighting impunity.

Ms Byamukama said most cases on sexual gender based violence are not reported to police because in most rural areas where they cases are common, the police stations are far from their homes.

Other victims, he said, fear to respond to questions that are asked by police officers while recording statements and end up not reporting the abuses.

“Yet in developed countries, people feel safe when they report these cases to police and the suspects and inmates on SGBV cases in prisons do not have rehabilitation programmes to change their behaviors when they are released. If someone was a rapist when released, still he does the same. So we need rehabilitation centres in prisons to avoid repeated crimes,” he said.

He said their goal for 2017 is to continue to build awareness of these issues to awaken the government and



Delegates in a group photo



Delegates in a group photo after the opening of the conference.

advocate for an end to all forms of gender-based violence in education once and for all.

Prof. Ben Twinomugisha, a lecturer of Laws at Makerere University requested stakeholders to bring out women and men to tell their stories of sexual violence which would help to find better solutions to the problem.

“We want to hear women stories of sexual violence and how they are battered. Men are also harassed and we also want to hear their stories. We also want government to privatize water so that women and girls not violated when they go to fetch water,” he said.

Education is key to fighting SGBV- Makerere Law Don



EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION

Even in homes which are private settings, some women have become aggressive against their husbands but they are not keen on reporting their problems to police due to the culture stigma that is attached to it.

s at an early age that aim at addressing discrimination against girls and later women will have to be implemented if Uganda is to successfully tackle Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). This is a major recommendation made by **Makerere University Faculty of Law Professor, Ben Twinomujuni** in an interview for RTF.

Q: What is the root cause of the entrenched SGBV in Uganda?

Twinomujuni: The biggest problem is the lack of sensitization and awareness creation of SGBV in children both in the formal and informal education sectors. When children are growing up, they learn from what they are seeing in their societies most of which is from a cultural and traditional angle that has always undermined the role of girls and woman in society.

This is from the roles that are specified for women for instance but which can be done by men. So, young boys grow up with a discriminatory mind against girls and women in general.

Q: How far has affirmative action gone in addressing some of the issues to do with SGBV?

Ben Twinomujuni: By putting women in leadership positions, it has created a lot of empowerment for them. This is right from the local to district and national levels. It has helped young girls to focus and get inspired from these office bearers whom they can now look up to as a source of inspiration.

Affirmative action is aimed at addressing the imbalances and marginalization and disadvantages against women created by history, culture and even religion. Giving girls extra points in academic institutions can also help them realize their potential. It has been critical in enhancing women's voice in policy planning,



Delegates chat at the conference



Prof. Ben Twinomujuni

implementation and evaluation.

Q: During your presentation regarding SGBV, you implied that the issue should not only focus on girls and women, but men as well. Can you elaborate more?

Ben Twinomujuni: There are increased cases of women violence against men in both domestic settings and the public sphere including conflict areas. Studies by the Refugee Law Project, have indicated men to men violence in conflict areas where sexual violence is used against men to procure information.

Even in homes which are private settings, some women have become aggressive against their husbands but they are not keen on reporting their problems to police due to the culture stigma that is attached to it.

Q: There have been circumstances where it has been culturally argued that some women are responsible for SGBV especially in the way they express themselves, such as dressing. What is your view?

Ben Twinomujuni: That is a patriarchal way of viewing violence against women. In the first place; the freedom of expression includes the right to choose what to wear.

women's right to integrity also covers this. So, men view women's bodies as a source of beautification and sex objects. But if you say a woman should put on a long dress, what if I'm attracted to her ears? Should she cover her face as well?

Q: Is the legal regime sufficient enough to address SGBV in Uganda?

Ben Twinomujuni: We have laws which are adequate to tackle gender violence starting with the constitution which is the supreme law. Secondly, it has a whole chapter on human rights and freedoms (Chapter 4) which protects women from discrimination in all fields especially based on sex.

To me, it even has a specific provision on women's human's rights under Article 33. And one of those rights is the right to be free from gender and sexual based violence. Freedom from torture, cruel and inhuman treatment protected under Article 44. Uganda is also signatory to the International Convention on Elimination on all forms of Torture Against Women and the Maputo Protocol which are both aimed at protecting the rights of women.





Delegates register to attend the Munyonyo conference

New ICGLR international training centre opens in Munyonyo

ZURAH NAKABUGO

The headquarters of international conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) training center, were officially opened yesterday at the Munyonyo with intent of prevention and suppression of sexual and gender based violence.

This is an institution for 12 member states that are bound together under the ICGLR pact on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region. It is a legal instrument that established the ICGLR and its mechanism.

The center that contains over 20 different departments and offices dealing with gender based violence issues was bought at 140,000 euros (over Shs600m) all supported by government of Netherlands. The headquarters also has a boardroom, a restaurant, VIP lounge and a charming reception centre.

Dozens of delegates, chief justices and ministers from different Great Lakes Countries attended and witnessed the official opening of the facility.

During the official opening of the facility, the First Lady Janet Museveni who was represented the Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development Mary Karoro Okurut requested all ministries in charge of gender issues in the region to support this facility to become a centre of excellence.

"Let me also extend a vote of thanks to Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development who provided a small office from which this new bigger and permanent office has grown since the facility was officially opened in 2014," Mrs Museveni said.

She said civil society organisations like FIDA which have experience of working with the victims of Gender Based Violence issues, should be supported and strengthened by government and partners to do their work efficiently.

Ms Peace Mutuuzo, the state Minister for Gender and Culture Affairs sexual violence crime is very serious but more challenging since its nature need constant innovation and skills to effectively contain it.

"The ICGLR gave us this a regional society to train and sensitize the judiciary, police units and social workers, doctors and other people who handle cases of gender sexual violence on how to operate effectively," she said.

Ms Mutuuzo said Uganda is still grappling with the problem of SGBV, where more than 50 percent of people in prisons in Uganda are on sexual violence related cases.

"And these are the ones that police manages to arrest, many go scot-free not because they are innocent but because evidence was understandably or not available partly due to poor documentation and poor investigations including failure to utilize fo-

rensic," she said.

Ms Mutuuzo requested trainers at the centre to address the challenges of faced while training people on gender based violence issues.

"The skills that we expect from the Regional Training Facility (RTF) is partly in those areas that are still challenging us such as lack of evidence, forensic, witnesses in court and others," she said.

She said, her ministry has spearheaded the development of National policy and Action plan on the elimination of Gender Based violence which is currently before the cabinet for approval.

"The Ministry is also part of the justice law and Order sector which has prioritized combating SGBV in the strategic investment Plan across the 12 institutions administering justice in Uganda," she said.

Mutuuzo said, government has made efforts to ensure gender based violence prevention and response strategies are integrated in the main development framework including vision 2040, the National Development Plan 11, the peace recovery and development plan for northern Uganda.

Zachary Muburi-Muita, the ambassador of ICGLR thanked Nathan Byamukama, the Director RTF and his team for achieving this important milestone in the history of ICGLR.



Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development Mary Karoro Okurut (R) cuts a tape to open the the headquarters of the ICGLR training centre and head office in Munyonyo Kampala. She is flanked by ICGLR officials



Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development Mary Karoro Okurut (R) unveils a tape to open the the headquarters of the ICGLR training centre and head office in Munyonyo Kampala. She is flanked by ICGLR officials

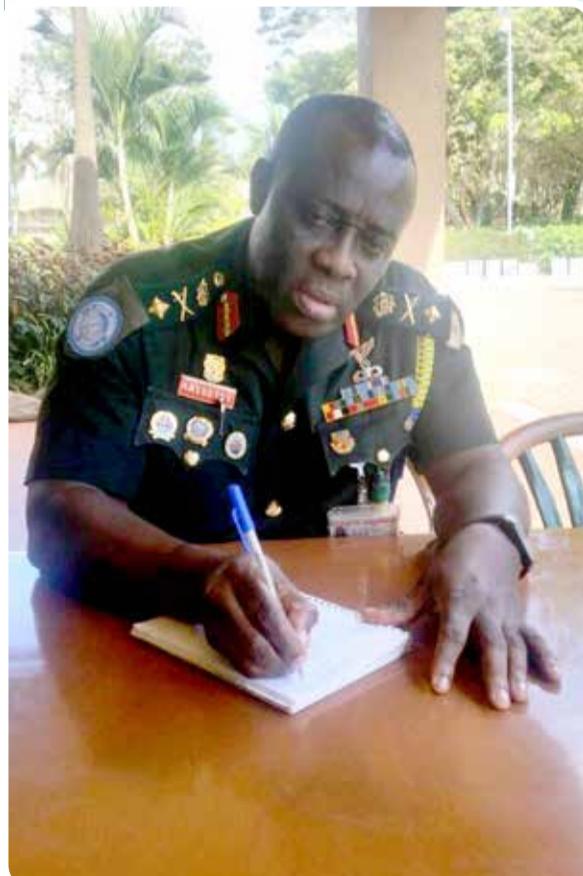
Q&A

UN Takes on SGBV in Dr Congo

Les mauvaises infrastructures, les faibles niveaux d'alphabétisation et l'absence de structures administratives en présence de conflits civils sont quelques-unes des raisons qui ont conduit la RDC à être un point chaud pour la violence sexuelle et sexiste (SGBV), **selon le commandant de la MONUSCO. Irvine Aryeetey** dans une interview avec RTF.



Le commandant de la MONUSCO. Irvine Aryeetey dans une interview avec RTF.



Le commandant chatte avec les délégués

Q: Avec quelle gravité la MONUSCO prend-elle la SGBV en République Démocratique du Congo (RDC)?

GénAryeetey: C'est un problème grave partout où il y a un conflit. Mais nous le prenons très très au sérieux. Avec le gouvernement de la RDC, nous essayons de trouver des mécanismes pour remédier à ce problème, avec la MONUSCO comme agence principale. C'est parce que nous sommes en contact direct avec les gens. Nous avons beaucoup de formation, nous avons des choses à faire et à ne pas faire en tant que force et nous suivons des lignes directrices claires.

Q: Quelle est la raison de ce taux élevé de prévalence de la SGBV?

GénAryeetey: Bien sûr, lorsque vous avez de faibles niveaux de développement, il y a de fortes chances que le vice prenne racine. Les gens utilisent la loi de la jungle pour résoudre tous leurs problèmes et il n'y a aucun processus civil à respecter. Il n'y a pas d'éducation, pas d'équipements sociaux, pas de justice pour les victimes et tellement d'impunité que vous pouvez faire ce que vous voulez et vous en sortir.

Q: La RDC est une grande zone avec un grand nombre de groupes rebelles. Comment gérez-vous les défis de la main-d'œuvre en matière de SGBV?

R: Nous avons un nouveau concept, appelé protection par projec-

tion. Nous sommes donc conscients que nous avons des ressources limitées mais il y a plus à faire. Par conséquent, notre approche est plus tactique. C'est pourquoi nous avons ce nouveau concept où nous devons compter davantage sur l'intelligence pour découvrir ce qui se passe plutôt que de répandre notre force sur une vaste zone. Nous avons créé un mécanisme permettant d'identifier un problème, de le résoudre, de laisser une marque pour que cela ne se reproduise plus et de passer ensuite à d'autres domaines. C'est ainsi que nous sommes en mesure de combler le déficit de ressources.

Q: Pour réussir à combattre la SGBV, vous avez besoin d'un système judiciaire solide. Mais il semble être absent en RDC?

R: Ce n'est pas notre domaine d'expertise, donc la force ne s'y concentre pas. Notre travail consiste à aider le bureau des droits de l'homme qui, à son tour, aide le gouvernement de la RDC à amener les auteurs à résister et les victimes peuvent bénéficier d'un sursis. Ainsi, la MONUSCO a des collaborations à travers lesquelles certaines de ces questions sont abordées, mais la force elle-même ne gère pas physiquement cela. Mais nous le faisons de manière globale, le cas échéant en fournissant des escortes et de la protection.

Q: Pourquoi les membres de ces différentes milices ont-ils recours à la SGBV dans les zones de conflit?

R: C'est un gars qui cherche un moyen d'atteindre l'adversaire facilement. Il y a des problèmes d'ethnicité et d'hostilité, alors ils ont tendance à choisir le point le plus faible. Donc, il capture et conquiert une femme. Si vous voulez frapper une personne, vous frappez l'œil plutôt que de lutter avec son bras. La milice cible les plus faibles de la société que sont les filles, les femmes, les enfants et les personnes âgées.

Q: Voyez-vous les incidences diminuer ou augmenter?

R: La SGBV est d'environ 75% dans les zones de conflit armé. Et ce sont des statistiques de janvier à octobre. Au cours des 5 dernières années, il a été en moyenne d'environ 70% et par les groupes armés. Toutes ces statistiques sont disponibles sur différentes plateformes.

65% des détenus sont victimes de violence sexuelle fondée sur le sexe

ZURAH NAKABUGO

Selon Nathan Byamukama, Directeur par intérim de la CIRGL, plus de 65% des détenus en Ouganda sont impliqués dans des affaires de violence sexuelle fondée sur le genre, bien que la plupart d'entre eux ne soient pas inculpés directement de meurtre.

«Voilà qui est la situation et nous devons le regarder sérieusement. C'est parce que les cas de violence sexuelle sont un peu compliqués en termes de recherche de preuves. La plupart des affaires se déroulent en privé et même si vous arrêtez des suspects, il est très difficile de prouver devant un tribunal, car les tribunaux recherchent des preuves et certains autres s'enfuient et d'autres résolvent des problèmes à l'amiable.

Byamukama l'a dit aujourd'hui (1er décembre) à Speke Resort Munyonyo lors de l'ouverture de la conférence régionale sur les stratégies de mise en œuvre de la conférence internationale sur les violences sexuelles et sexistes (SGBV).

Il a également remercié la GIZ et l'Ambassadeur Zachary Muburi-Muita, Secrétaire exécutif pour l'organisation de la conférence qui a réuni les parties prenantes régionales sur la violence sexuelle et sexiste afin de partager les expériences régionales permettant aux parties prenantes d'examiner les stratégies de mise en œuvre impunité sexuelle.

Selon M. Byamukama, la plupart des affaires de violence sexuelle ne sont pas signalées à la police car dans la plupart des zones rurales où les cas sont trop fréquents, les commissariats de police sont loin de chez eux et lorsqu'ils s'adressent à la police, on leur pose trop de questions craignent de répondre et préfèrent rester silencieux.

«Pourtant, dans les pays développés, les gens se sentent en sécurité lorsqu'ils rapportent ces cas à la police et les suspects de VSBG dans les prisons n'ont pas de programmes de réhabilitation pour changer leurs comportements lorsqu'ils sont libérés. Si quelqu'un était un violeur une fois libéré, il fait toujours la même chose. Nous avons donc besoin de centres de réhabilitation dans les prisons pour éviter les crimes répétés »

Il a dit que leur objectif pour 2017 est de continuer à sensibiliser à ces questions pour éveiller le gouvernement et plaider pour la fin de toutes les formes de violence sexiste dans l'éducation une fois pour toutes.

Le professeur Ben Twinomugisha,



Les délégués dans une photo de groupe

Les délégués dans une photo de groupe après l'ouverture de la conférence.

président du Forum des femmes de la CIRGL, a demandé aux organisateurs de faire venir des femmes et des hommes pour raconter leur histoire de violence sexuelle, ce qui nous aidera à trouver de meilleures solutions.

«Nous voulons entendre des histoires de femmes sur la violence sexuelle et comment elles sont battues. Les hommes sont également harcelés et nous voulons aussi entendre leurs histoires. Nous voulons également que le gouvernement privatise l'eau afin que les femmes et les filles ne soient pas violées lorsqu'elles vont chercher de l'eau », a-t-il déclaré.

Education is key to fighting SGBV- Makerere Law Don



EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION

Even in homes which are private settings, some women have become aggressive against their husbands but they are not keen on reporting their problems to police due to the culture stigma that is attached to it.

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This is from the roles that are specified for women for instance but which can be done by men. So, young boys grow up with a discriminatory mind against girls and women in general.

Q: How far has affirmative action gone in addressing some of the issues to do with SGBV?

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Les délégués discutent lors de la conférence



Ben Twinomujuni, professeur à la faculté de droit de l'Université Makerere, dans une interview avec RTF

implementation and evaluation.

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Even in homes which are private settings, some women have become aggressive against their husbands but they are not keen on reporting their problems to police due to the culture stigma that is attached to it.

Q: There have been circumstances where it has been culturally argued that some women are responsible for SGBV especially in the way they express themselves, such as dressing. What is your view?

Ben Twinomujuni: That is a patriarchal way of viewing violence against women. In the first place; the freedom of expression includes the right to choose what to wear.

women's right to integrity also covers this. So, men view women's bodies as a source of beautification and sex objects. But if you say a woman should put on a long dress, what if I'm attracted to her ears? Should she cover her face as well?

Q: Is the legal regime sufficient enough to address SGBV in Uganda?

Ben Twinomujuni: We have laws which are adequate to tackle gender violence starting with the constitution which is the supreme law. Secondly, it has a whole chapter on human rights and freedoms (Chapter 4) which protects women from discrimination in all fields especially based on sex.

To me, it even has a specific provision on women's human's rights under Article 33. And one of those rights is the right to be free from gender and sexual based violence. Freedom from torture, cruel and inhuman treatment protected under Article 44. Uganda is also signatory to the International Convention on Elimination on all forms of Torture Against Women and the Maputo Protocol which are both aimed at protecting the rights of women.

La Première Dame appelle à la collaboration pour lutter contre le genre et la violence sexuelle



Première Dame Janet K. Museveni

La première dame de l'Ouganda Mme Janet K. Museveni a appelé à la collaboration et à la concertation entre les Etats membres de la Conférence Internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL) pour renforcer leur lutte pour les droits de l'homme, les droits des femmes et la dignité humaine. "C'est lorsque nous collaborons ensemble que nous utiliserons les systèmes et les structures mis en place pour lutter contre la violence sexuelle et sexiste dans la Région, a déclaré Mme Museveni lors d'une conférence sur la CIRGL à Kampala.

Voici son discours légèrement modifié

Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'accueillir vos Excellences et Mesdames et Messieurs les visiteurs en Ouganda. Merci d'être venu assister à la conférence régionale en cours qui examine les stratégies de mise en œuvre de la Conférence internationale sur les instruments régionaux des Grands Lacs sur la violence sexuelle. J'espère sincèrement que les expériences et les connaissances pratiques que vous avez acquises dans la lutte contre la violence sexuelle et sexiste seront

utilisées au cours des deux jours de délibérations pour affiner les stratégies de mise en œuvre des instruments respectifs.

Je sais que vous avez pris le temps de venir à la Conférence pour assister à cette rare occasion de l'ouverture du Centre régional de formation pour la prévention et la répression de la violence sexuelle et sexiste pour lequel j'ai été gracieusement honoré d'officier.

Je félicite le Secrétaire Exécutif, l'Ambassadeur Zakary Muburi -Muita et votre équipe dirigée par M. Nathan Byamukama, le Directeur Ag de cette Facilité qui a travaillé dur avec le soutien du Gouvernement Néerlandais représenté par la GiZ pour mettre en place cette belle maison permanente. Cette facilité contribuera grandement à renforcer les capacités des Etats membres de la Conférence internationale sur les régions des Grands Lacs en mettant en œuvre des programmes de formation pertinents visant à renforcer les capacités des parties prenantes dans la mise en œuvre d'interventions viables.

Les deux activités parallèles qui vous ont activement engagé sont un jalon dans notre

histoire de la lutte contre les effets cuisants de la violence sexuelle et sexiste parmi les femmes et les enfants de notre région.

Vous vous rappellerez que lors du Sommet de 2011, le 15 décembre 2011, j'ai dénoncé les valeurs sociétales désintégrées de nos communautés africaines qui menaçaient l'institution de la Famille émanant notamment de l'augmentation douloureuse des comportements indésirables et des pratiques culturelles négatives telles que mutilations qui blessaient les femmes et les filles.

J'ai également souligné la vulnérabilité des jeunes garçons et des hommes à la violence sexuelle et sexiste, y compris la honte associée à l'abus des nourrissons, des enfants et leur non-déclaration à ceux qui ont autorité.

Avec les expériences que vous avez acquises au cours des six dernières années, notre région est mieux placée pour éradiquer les effets indésirables de la violence sexuelle et sexiste.

Maintenant que nous avons notre propre maison et à la fin de la Conférence nous avons identifié des domaines d'action, y compris le renforcement de nos priorités dans la

mise en œuvre des résolutions de la Déclaration de Kampala, nous devons agir rapidement pour mettre en place des lois et des politiques efficaces. L'accès en temps opportun et les soins prodigués aux victimes et aux survivants de toutes les formes de violence sexuelle et à base de gérants.

J'appelle les gouvernements à soutenir cette Facilité dans son rôle de répondre aux besoins de renforcement des capacités des mécanismes nationaux luttant contre la violence sexuelle et sexiste entre les Etats membres.

L'établissement peut élaborer des modalités pour renforcer la collaboration dans les domaines du mandat avec des institutions professionnelles telles que le FIDA afin qu'elles soient renforcées et renforcées avec les différents acteurs et parties prenantes pour atteindre les communautés où elles sont le plus nécessaires.

Unissons-nous tous pour renforcer notre lutte pour les droits de l'homme, les droits des femmes et la dignité humaine en partenariat, en coopération et en consultation. C'est lorsque nous collaborons ensemble que nous utiliserons les systèmes et les structures mis en place pour lutter contre la violence sexuelle et sexiste dans la Région.

Le Centre régional de formation que nous avons ouvert aujourd'hui nous aidera à mener la lutte sur ce front. Nous devons soutenir l'institution en confirmant les dirigeants qui l'ont conduite à son état actuel à partir de rien et au milieu de ressources financières limitées.

J'invite nos gouvernements, en particulier les ministères responsables de l'éducation, à soutenir cette facilité pour réaliser son rêve de devenir un centre d'excellence pour la région.

Permettez-moi également d'adresser mes remerciements au ministère ougandais du Genre, du Travail et du Développement social, qui a fourni un petit bureau à partir duquel ce nouveau bureau plus important et permanent s'est développé depuis l'ouverture officielle du Fonds en 2014.

En tant que gouvernement de l'Ouganda, nous continuerons d'aider la Facilité à mettre en place un centre qui sera autosuffisant avec ses programmes de formation à l'avenir.

Avec ces mots, permettez-moi de proposer un toast et de déclarer que ce centre régional de formation est officiellement ouvert.

Pour Dieu et mon pays
Hon. Janet K. Museveni
Première dame et ministre de
l'Éducation et des Sports

Le Secrétaire exécutif de la CIRGL veut que les auteurs de violences sexuelles soient punis

L'Ambassadeur Zachary Muburi-Muita, secrétaire exécutif de la Conférence internationale sur les violences sexuelles et sexistes, a déclaré à une conférence régionale contre la violence basée sur le genre de souligner comment les auteurs de tels crimes peuvent être efficacement poursuivis et punis;

Ci-dessous son discours abrégé à l'ouverture de la Conférence régionale sur les stratégies de mise en œuvre des instruments de la CIRGL sur la Conférence sur la violence sexuelle et sexiste au Monyonyo Commonwealth Resort Hotel, Kampala Uganda Speke Resort Hotel Munnyonyo

Il est maintenant de pratique courante qu'en dépit des défis de la lutte contre la violence sexuelle et sexiste dans la région, des pays spécifiques ont commencé à innover et à mettre en œuvre les résolutions de la CIRGL, les cadres de l'UA et de l'ONU visant à combattre la SGBV

Il y a des preuves dans presque tous les pays que les pays ont une intention délibérée et enregistré des progrès dans la lutte contre l'impunité envers les auteurs de violence sexuelle et sexiste.

La conférence donnera l'occasion aux délégués d'entendre ce qui se passe dans divers pays concernant les mesures prises pour lutter contre la violence sexuelle et sexiste.

La conférence permettra à la CIRGL de documenter les bonnes pratiques en vue de les intégrer dans le mandat et l'opérationnalisation de la fonction RTF et des manuels de formation.

En ce qui concerne la réponse du système de justice pénale à la violence sexuelle, certains pays ne parviennent toujours pas à prendre des mesures bien adaptées aux obligations internationales régionales et nationales visant à prévenir la violence contre les enfants et les femmes.

Les contrevenants échappent encore aux poursuites et aux sanctions pour leurs crimes simplement parce que, dans certains États membres, les institutions mandatées sont inefficaces dans l'exécution de leur mandat.

Ceux qui viennent en prison en guise de punition n'obtiennent pas de thérapies correctionnelles liées à leurs crimes respectifs.

Il n'est pas exagéré d'affirmer que dans la plupart de nos pays, la majorité des personnes incarcérées sont victimes de crimes liés à la violence sexuelle.

Par conséquent, les retards dans la conduite et la conclusion des enquêtes, des poursuites et des jugements sur les crimes de SGBV doivent être annulés.

Les mauvaises méthodes de

traitement des cas, y compris la mauvaise gestion des expositions, l'enregistrement médiocre des déclarations, les exigences d'admission probantes périmées pour n'en citer que quelques-unes qui mènent à de piètres résultats pour les victimes doivent être résolues de manière décisive.

Il est décevant de constater que dans certains pays, ceux qui sont libérés faute de preuves, retournent répéter les mêmes crimes qu'ils ont commis avant le procès et en tant que tels, les tendances à continuer à traiter les conséquences des VSBG et non les causes.

Plus nous améliorons nos compétences en matière de documentation et d'enquête sur la violence sexuelle et sexiste, mieux cela vaut pour la justice et plus la région se sent à l'abri des crimes de violence sexuelle et sexiste.

C'est pour ces raisons que notre région a établi des tribunaux spéciaux pour la SGBV dans le cadre de directives spécifiques et d'actions de cours.

Cette conférence sera l'occasion pour les pays de développer des options viables qui mettront fin aux défis de la SGBV.

Tous les engagements et stratégies antérieurs seront donc revus afin de proposer des solutions réalistes que nos pays pourront revenir en arrière et mettre en œuvre.

Cette conférence coïncide avec la commémoration de 16 jours d'activisme pour mettre fin à la violence contre la violence sexuelle et



Zachary Muburi-Muita, Secrétaire exécutif de la Conférence internationale sur la région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL) parle de la violence sexuelle

sexiste.

Il s'inscrit également dans la foulée de la journée internationale des droits de l'homme célébrée le 10 décembre 2016,

Plus important encore, aujourd'hui, le monde célèbre la Journée internationale du sida.

J'attire donc l'attention des délégués sur le fait que nous nous souvenons des droits des femmes et des filles alors que nous examinons les stratégies pour notre engagement à éradiquer la violence sexuelle et sexiste et le lien inextricable entre le VIH / SIDA et la violence sexuelle et sexiste.

Invité d'Honneur, Mesdames et Messieurs, votre participation à cette conférence nous donne beaucoup d'anticipation et de joie, d'autant plus que nous nous réunissons pour apprendre les uns des autres et pour paraphraser ce que quelqu'un a dit: quelques-uns, voire aucun, des défis actuels compris ou résolu sans travailler dans un contexte régional.

Faisons ensemble face à ce défi régional. Je nous souhaite de bonnes délibérations et de bons résultats.



M. Nathan Byamukama, Directeur par intérim du Centre régional de formation (L) et M. Zachary Muburi-Muita suivent les travaux de la conférence.



Invité d'Honneur, Mesdames et Messieurs, votre participation à cette conférence nous donne beaucoup d'anticipation et de joie, d'autant plus que nous nous réunissons pour apprendre les uns des autres et pour paraphraser ce que quelqu'un a dit: quelques-uns, voire aucun, des défis actuels compris ou résolu sans travailler dans un contexte régional.



Delegates register to attend the Munyonyo Conference



Astrid Karanira, the Head of Support at GIZ



Delegates stand to sing the National Anthem



Delegates from Angola stand as the National Anthem is played



Ms Christine Butegwa who moderated the first session



Ms Regina Ossebi, the representative of the National Coordinator Congo Brazaville



Col Charles Wacha (R) with other security officers who attended the conference



Prof Ben Twinomujuni at the conference



General Irvine Aryeetey (R), the MONUSCO commander



Delegates at the conference stand as the National Anthem plays



Ms Regina Ossebi, the representative of the National Coordinator Congo Brazzaville



A delegate at the conference

