

'Forced sex with dog': 98 Central African Rep. girls report shocking abuse by UN peacekeepers

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The <u>report</u> was released by AIDS-Free World, an international advocacy organization, on Wednesday. The group said that MINUSCA, the UN's peacekeeping mission in CAR, met with local leaders and victims *"who reported that troops from France and Gabon have sexually abused several girls in their province."*

The group cited three CAR girls who said that they, along with a fourth girl, were raped by UN peacekeepers.

The girls said they "were tied up and undressed inside a camp by a military commander from the Sangaris force (the French military intervention in CAR) and forced to have sex with a dog," the group wrote.

<u>AIDS Free World</u> New info shows huge numbers of previously unreported <u>#peacekeeper</u> sex abuse in <u>#</u> <u>CARcrisis</u>: <u>http://www.codebluecampaign.com/press-releases/2016/3/30...</u>





After the rape, each girl was reportedly given 5,000 Central African Francs (\$9).

"The three girls interviewed sought basic medical treatment. The fourth girl later died of an unknown disease. One of the survivors said that she was called 'the Sangaris' dog' by people in the community."

According to the group, the alleged perpetrators "left CAR, returning home in 2015."

Also the organization mentions one more case of a 16-year-old girl who was allegedly raped by a Congolese UN peacekeeper.

The girl's mother told police that the peacekeeper *"raped her daughter in a hotel room at 4pm on Monday, March 28, 2016."*

"When police questioned the accused in the presence of his UN military commander, the soldier confirmed that he 'had sexual intercourse' with the victim several times, and paid her between 2,000 and 3,000 Central African Francs [\$3-5dollars]."

The report was sent directly to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who immediately issued a response, expressing his horror.

"I am shocked to the core by the latest allegations of abuse by international forces in the Central African Republic. Our focus must be on the victims and their families. We are talking about women and young children who have been traumatized in the worst imaginable way," Ban said in a statement, <u>released</u> by UN.

He added that these crimes by UN peacekeepers "only fester in silence."

<u>**@UN Spokesperson</u>** "These crimes only fester in silence" - Ban Ki-moon on latest allegations of abuse in the <u>#</u> <u>CentralAfricanRepublic</u></u>



Statement of the Secretary-General on the latest allegations of abuse in the Central African Republic

I am shocked to the core by the latest allegations of abuse by international forces in the Central African Republic. Our focus must be on the victims and their families. We are talking about women and young children who have been traumatized in the worst imaginable way.

Yesterday, the Central African Republic inaugurated a new democratically elected President, marking the end of a transition period. The interventions of the international community helped save the CAR from an unspeakable fate. Yet we must face the fact that a number of troops who were sent to protect people instead acted with hearts of darkness.

These crimes only fester in silence. That is why the United Nations is shining a spotlight on these despicable, depraved and deeply disturbing allegations. I will continue to be unrelenting in confronting this scourge and raising it proactively at every opportunity. This constant and loud advocacy must be matched by the actions of Member States who alone have the power to discipline their forces with consequences. This is essential to restoring trust in the invaluable institution of peacekeeping and - even more importantly to provide a full measure of justice and healing to the affected communities.

New York 31 March 2016

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Earlier in March the UN Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) said it received new allegations which refer to incidents which occurred in 2014 and 2015 in the Kemo prefecture of the CAR.

The UN investigation into *"these sickening allegations, which suggest sexual abuse and exploitation of a large number of women and girls, must leave no stone unturned,"* said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

"We are taking these allegations – some of which are particularly odious – extremely seriously. It is vital that the victims are protected and receive all necessary care," he said.

The United Nations currently has 106,000 troops and police serving in 16 peacekeeping missions.