



The Impact of Gender Based Violence on U.S. and Global Stability and Security

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2010 National Security Strategy



“Experience shows that countries are more peaceful and prosperous when women are accorded full and equal rights and opportunity. When those rights and opportunities are denied, countries often lag behind.”

*--2010 National Security Strategy
President Barack Obama*



Agenda



- Impact of GBV on U.S. & Global Security
- Background: Country – Armed Actors
- Impact of GBV in DRC on U.S. and Global Security
 - *UN, U.S. and DRC resolutions and legislation*
- Human Security through Protection Mechanisms
 - *Physical Security*
- Human Security through Human Development
 - *Social and Community Security (Education, Health & Religion)*
 - *Economic Security*
 - *Political Security*
- Recommendations
- Conclusions



Gender Based Terminology

- Gender Based Violence (GBV): any harm or suffering that is perpetrated against a woman or girl, man or boy and that has a negative impact on the physical, sexual or psychological health, development or identity of the person
- Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGVB): includes acts that inflict sexual harm or suffering, includes males but women and girls are the main victims/survivors



Gender Based Terminology



- Gender based: social construct vs biological
- Gender equity: rights – responsibilities – obligations – opportunities - access – participation
- Root cause: gender based inequalities and gender based discrimination



Types of Gender Based Violence

- *Rape*
- *Sexual assault*
- *Child marriage*
- *Interpersonal (domestic) violence (IPV)*
- *Honor killings*
- *Female genital mutilation*
- *Acid throwing*
- *Prostitution and trafficking*
- *GB infanticide –forced sterilization - forced abortion*
- *SGBV in armed conflict*



Impact of GBV on U.S. and Global Security



- Human, social and economic costs created by local, national and transnational crime at the expense of women, children, healthy families, societies and prosperous nations.
- Illustrations:
 1. Trafficking in persons (TIP)
 2. China One Child Policy
 3. Women and children as weapons of war in the DRC



Impact of GBV on U.S. and Global Security



1. Trafficking in Persons

- DOS TIP reports 12.3 million adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution globally. UNICEF reports 1.8M children enter the sex trade annually, mainly girls
- 700,000 trafficked annually
- 80% transnational boarder trafficking are women and girls
- 50 % are minors
- 14,000 – 17,000 trafficked into U.S., 83% of these involve sex trafficking
- \$31.6B in economic activity
- IMF estimates organized crime turnover at \$1.5T, of which TIP is third as a source of income
- Associated activities: money laundering, drug use, racketeering, extortion fraud, document forgery and increasing border control costs



Impact of GBV on U.S. and Global Security



- Civil systems costs
 - Judicial system
 - Health system
 - Social system
- TIP is becoming an increasing priority for governments per the national and global security and stability impacts



Impact of GBV on U.S. and Global Security



2. China's One Child Policy

- Intended consequence: population control
- Unintended consequences:
 - Infanticide
 - Gender selection with cultural preference for boys
 - Gendercide per ultra sound results and/or coercive abortions



Impact of GBV on U.S. and Global Security



- **National implications**
 - Disproportionate elderly population
 - Imposed low fertility rate
 - Doubling of crime rate in 20 years
 - Social unrest, mass incidents, elevated suicide
- **Added global implications**
 - 37M excess males of prime marrying, military age
 - A “bare branch” Army of bachelors from the world’s largest lonely hearts club?



Impact of GBV on U.S. and Global Security



- Rape and sexual assault in armed conflict
 - Deliberate and systematic
 - UNSC describes as tactic of war an threat to international security. Specifically prohibits use
 - Use: to humiliate, dominate, instill fear, disperse people
 - Purpose: personal gain, ‘soldier booty’, terrorize and control population, emasculate males.
 - Result: torn, fracture individuals, families and society, destabilizes community socially and economically



Impact of GBV on U.S. and Global Security

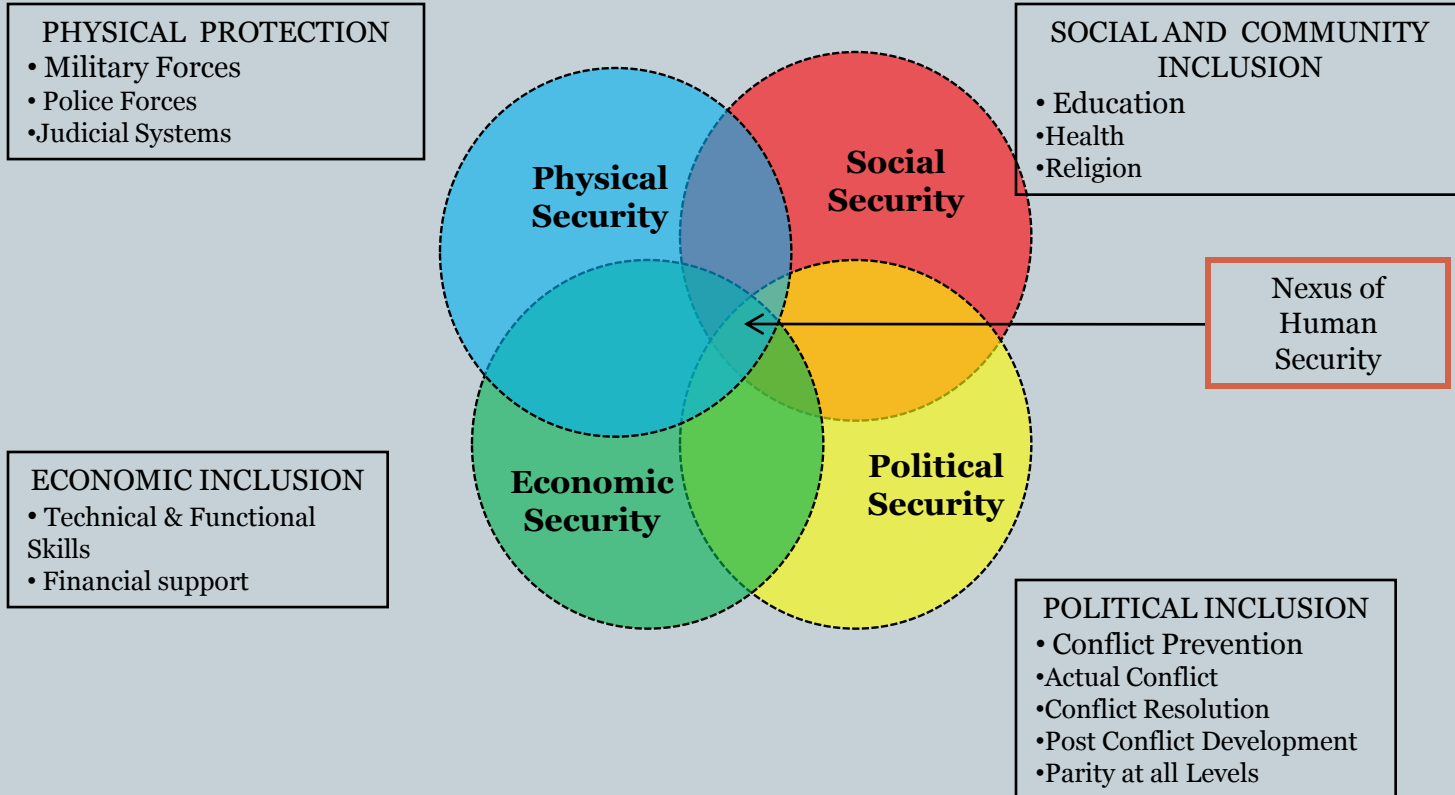


- Levels of assault
 - Direct
 - Structural
 - Cultural
- Hostage to environmental conditions: personal, social, economic, political
- Best response: Conditions based human security strategy allowing for access and participation



Human Security Model

Physical Protection – Human Development





DRC Country Background - Actors

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



¼ U.S. – 71 mil
One of poorest
Water/food/cpu stats

Agriculture
Hydro
Timber
Gold/diamonds

Minerals:
- coltan
- cassiterite
- cobalt
- cadmium
- tin
- uranium
- zinc





DRC Country Background - Actors



- **History**

- Colonized by Belgium
- 1960 independence, poorly prepared to govern
- 1994 Rwanda genocide spill over
- By 2008 1.69 – 1.80 rapes death toll 5M, millions displaced



DRC Country Background - Actors



- **Armed Actors**

- Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) – DRC National Army
- DRC Police Forces
- Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) – Rwandan militia
- Mai-Mai
- National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP)
- Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)
- Regional rebels
- UN Peacekeepers



Impact of GBV in the **DRC** on U.S. & Global Security



- **Utilitarian arguments to engage**
 - Protection of access to valuable natural resources
 - Regional instability due to food security and migration

- **Moral urgings**
 - Humanitarian crisis
 - Crimes of great magnitude
 - R2P



UN, U.S. and DRC Resolutions and Legislation



- **UN Resolutions**

- CSW – CEDAW
- DPFA
- UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820 – 1888-1889
- Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

- **U.S. Legislation**

- Public Law 109-456, DRC Relief, Security and Democracy Promotion Act
- Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act
- Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Sec 1502



- **DRC Legislations**

- DRC new Constitution and Articles 14 and 15, 2006
- Comprehensive Strategy on Combating Sexual Violence in the DRC
- National Action Plan



Human Security through Protection Mechanisms



- Physical Security. Legitimate governments protect their people, not prey on them.
- What foreign military will help the DRC? None
- DRC must reform it's security sector with a professionalized military – police –legal system to:
 - Establish a physical security and human development foundation
 - Stop and prosecute impunity
 - Manage it's mining industry which fuels GBV



Human Security through Protection Mechanisms



- National Forces Requisites
 - Professionalize: Vet – train – inculcate values – equip – pay and take care of families
 - Improve gender ratio
 - Temporary quota system
- Why Integrate?
 - Equality – practicality – it's smart
 - Empirical data



Human Security through Protection Mechanisms



- **Transitory Justice System**

- Judicial capacity to hold criminals accountable and prosecute
- Legitimize the governments “right to rule”
- Requisite for security and stability of the land
- Provide technical and financial support
- Examples



Human Security through Protection Mechanisms



- **End Impunity**

- Disarm – remove – arrest – prosecute all HR abusers
- Talk to neighbors
- Increase pressure and accountability on Great Lakes Region regarding the LRA Disarmament Act
- (U.S.) Consider passing similar legislation regarding the FDLR



Human Security through Protection Mechanisms

- Control the mining industry
 - IOT protect population safety profits & environment
 - Support and Accountability Strategies

- Mitigating support and accountability strategies
 - Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
 - Dodd-Frank Act, Sec 1502
 - External accountability
 - Greater mining company - corporate social responsibilities



Human Security through Human Development



- Interlocking axes of discrimination and oppression are obstacles along the pathway to human/institutional development, good policy and governance
 - Social and community security
 - educational security
 - health security
 - religion
 - Economic security
 - Political security



Social and Community Inclusion



- **Education**

- Status at 1960 Independence
- Males under educated/females more so
- Challenges
 - Identify why women and girls are not in school
 - Lack of infrastructure, teachers, materials
 - Financing

- **Mitigating Strategies**



Social and Community Inclusion



- **Health**

- **Challenges**

- Access: HIV/AIDS IAW SGBV, polygamy, SGBV fistulas, physical & psychological trauma
- Why? Infrastructure, SME, transport, affordability, distance, seasonal, child care, etc.

- **Mitigating Strategies**



Social and Community Inclusion



- Religion

- Christian 80% (50 – 30 – 10 – 10)
- Negative and positive leverage
- Constructive uses
 - Liberian story – Berkley Sudan Story
 - Forward deployed churches and faith based NGOs
- Development multiplier if properly used: trusted islands of integrity in seas of corruption



Economic Inclusion

- World Bank gender discrimination results in
 - greater poverty
 - Slower economic growth
 - Lower standard of living for respective societies
 - Inclusion is not just right it is smart
- Mineral fueled conflicts contribute to break down of economic infrastructure by
 - Break down of authority
 - Creation of predatory behavior



Economic Inclusion



- **Negative Outcome**
 - Top down economic structure does not serve the people
 - People rely on NGOs for subsistence
 - People nor the nation develop their own institutional capacity
- **Challenges**
 - Access to skills, financial start up and actual jobs
- **Mitigating strategies**



Economic Inclusion



- **Positive outcome**
 - economic empowerment has raised women's respect and status in the community and enhanced their social/ political inclusion



Political Inclusion

- Conflict, peace negotiation and resolution are political in nature
- Women are excluded or marginalized at best in these processes
- Why include women?
 - Signatories UN resolution and DRC and legislation
 - Fairness
 - Right thing to do
 - Perspective and impacts
 - Shown to transcend political, ethical and religious divides



Political Inclusion



- **Yet.....**
 - Under represented at best
 - Electoral Institute of Sustainability of Democracy in Africa rep
 - Transitional quotas to overcome insti & cul traditions/biases
 - National Democratic Institute (NDI) discussion
- **Tie foreign aid to measured progress in this area**



Recommendations to the DRC



- Receive and partner w/a U.S. Special Envoy IAW PL
- End impunity
- Establish ROL forces and legal systems
- Enact mineral trade controls
- Enforce existing gender equality resolutions and laws at all social, economic and political levels
- Resource, promote and target decentralized programming to build civilian and institutional capacity by women's participation



Recommendations to the U.S. and International Community



- Apply strong unified political pressure to the DRC to fulfill the recommendations
- Tie foreign aid to measured, traced & monitored outcomes (discuss budget and past)
- Cut off foreign aid if the DRC cannot or will not comply or make measurable advances with expectations



Recommendations to the UN

- Apply strong pressure to the DRC to fulfill the recommendations
- Apply strong pressure to the DRC to comply with UN resolutions and DRC legislation it has signed
- Expand sanctions and restrictions
- Encourage DRC and neighbors to assist the ICC in support of the issued arrest warrants



Not Recommended



- U.S. military intervention beyond training and LRA related logistics and intelligence support
- Endless foreign aid
- Note: We can and should be good partners but ultimately it is the responsibility and purview of the DRC citizens to develop their country



What to Do?



- **Wrong Response**

- BOG
- Neglect the problem

- **Better Response**

- ID conditions creating instability and violence from an HR lens
- Apply a bottom-up human security model to secure and develop the population
- Deliberately engage w/at gender inclusive human security approach



Conclusion



- GBV is a serious obstacle to equity, stability , security and peace
- GBV is rooted in equity and discrimination at the individual and structural level based on
 - Patriarchal norms
 - Social norms
 - Cultural norms
 - Traditions



Conclusion



- What's good?
 - A plethora of resolutions and legislation to address this global problem
- What's bad?
 - Lots of rhetoric - Weak or no political will as the national or international level to apply national or global solutions
 - People continue to suffer horrifically



Conclusion



- **Why engage?**
 - Moral imperative/application of justice
 - Inequity/HR violations are beyond our “professed values”
 - Exacts substantial burden on national/global economies, further suffering on entire societies
- **U.S. benefit**
 - Improved national status by non-kinetic intervention
 - Protect our access potential to valuable natural resources at a fair market value
 - Facilitate GLR stability
 - Meet our R2P international responsibilities