

Gonzalez Ortega.

Please write to the Mexican government protesting these violations of women's rights. Impoverished women, without alternatives to health care, are being forced to take part in government-run health campaigns. In these campaigns, women receive contraceptive devices without their prior knowledge or informed consent.

Write to:

Lic. Ernesto Zedillo
Presidente de la Republica
Palacio Nacional
06067 Mexico, D.F. Mexico
Fax: 011-525-271-1764

Copies to:

Comision Internacional de los Profesionales de la Salud para la Salud y los Derechos Humanos
Edificio 22 Depto 904
Villa Olimpica, Delegacion Tlalpan
14020 Mexico D.F. Mexico

Source: The Sisterhood is Global Institute, 20 August 1996

SYSTEMATIC RAPE IN RWANDA

The French relief agency Doctors Without Borders has reported that "the scope of rape in Rwanda defies imagination... It appears that every adult woman and every adolescent girl spared from a massacre by militias was then raped."

While the Hutu-led "ethnic cleansing" in Rwanda is well documented and well known—an estimated 500,000 to one million Rwandans, largely of the Tutsi tribe, were killed—reports of systematic rape as a tactic of war have received little attention. One survey, conducted in the capital Kigali and several other areas by Rwanda's Ministry of Family and Women's Affairs, estimated that between April 1994 and April 1995 more than 15,700 girls and women between the ages of 13 and 65 were raped. In all areas in which the Hutu militia massacred civilians, they also raped women. Some women were gang-raped, some were forced to watch their families murdered and then were raped, and some

were taken as "prizes" of war and coerced into living in the homes of the men who raped them. In short, according to the report by Doctors Without Borders, rape was "systematic, arbitrary, planned, and used as a weapon of ethnic cleansing to destroy community ties."

Many of the details of the circumstances surrounding the rapes have been provided by the women who survived. As the United Nations International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague continues to investigate the atrocities and to seek indictment of human rights violations in both Rwanda and Bosnia, these women's voices must be heard.

Source: Ms., May/June 1996

PLEA FOR PEACE

May God's blessing be bestowed on you.

For the past 50 years, we have endured the Zionist terrorism. There are no words that can describe the nature and cruelty of these crimes. Some of these include forceful occupation of part of our land, destruction of our infrastructure, damaging of our plantations and crops and unlawfully consuming our water supplies, continuous air raids and shelling of villages and towns with weapons that are banned by international laws and the taking of helpless women and children as hostages and human shields.

After all these years of Jewish and Zionist hatred, the Israeli nation still has more to offer. They show their intentions to make peace by more shelling, destruction, invasion and crucifixion of innocent and harmless people. Israel had been successful in their Air-Sea-Land operations, attaining more than 50 air raids daily and more than 60 artillery rockets fired per hour from land and sea bases. And evidently, their targets are civilian cars, homes, hospitals, schools and even ambulances and pedestrians. Furthermore, they shelled and destroyed part of the

electricity networks and water tanks.

Last but not the least, they committed massacres, the worst of which was committed in the village of Qana, by shelling United Nations bases sheltering almost 300 civilians, mostly women, children and the elderly. Killed were 102 civilians; 150 were injured.

Israel's actions led to the evacuation of more than half a million civilians towards Beirut and the suburbs and the evacuees could do nothing but occupy schools, colleges and town halls.

From the heart of this resisting nation and in the face of the Zionist terrorism, we are urging you and all those who believe in humanity and human rights, to support and help us. Most of all, help us through mass media. In many press reports, the Zionist movement is able to hide the truth; facts are altered and forged. We are ready to provide detailed information, ranging from pictures, statistics and documents to help you in your efforts.

This is not just our cause but a cause for all mankind. We trust in your efforts and we are waiting your response to our call.

Your sisters in the
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