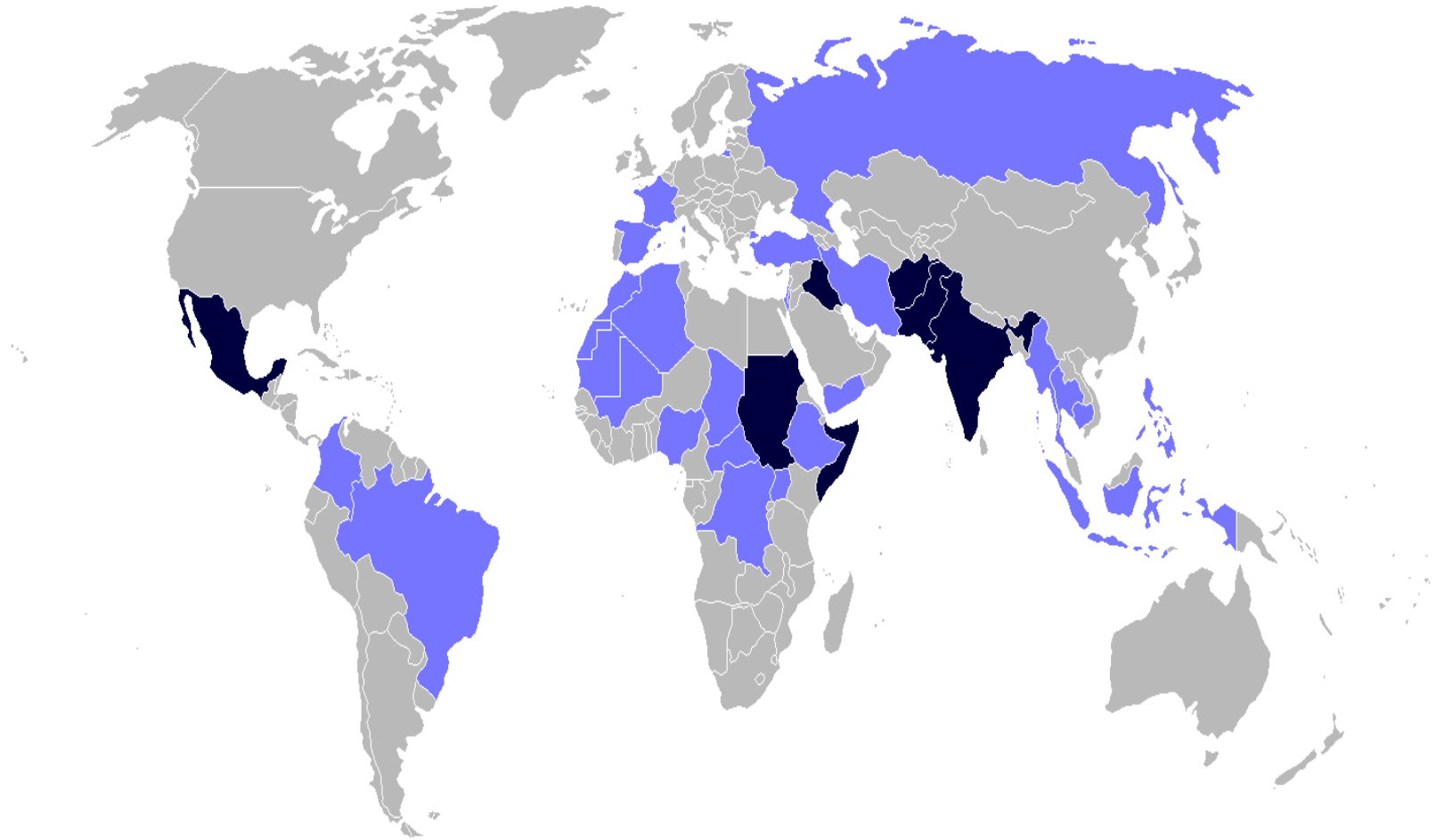




**SEXUAL VIOLENCE as a TOOL
of TORTURE and WEAPON
during CONFLICT**

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As of January 4, 2011, On going Conflicts World Wide*



* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ongoing_Conflicts.png

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

“Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work (WHO, p. 149).”

*“**Sexual violence** including **exploitation** and **abuse**, refers to any act, attempted or threat of a sexual nature that results, or is likely to result, in physical, psychological and emotional harm (UNHCR, 2003, p. 10).”*

Types of Sexual Violence

Physical Sexual Assault

Violence against the Sexual Organs

Emotional Sexual Assault/Exploitation

Sexual Verbal Abuse

Any combination of the above

What is the purpose of using Sexual Violence?

- Humiliation
- Ethnic Cleansing
- Expulsion
- Instill Psychological Trauma
- Warning
- Military Sexual Gratification and Demonstration of Power
- Breakdown Identity



WHO COMMITS SUCH ATROCITIES?

Consequences of Sexual Violence

- Physical
- Psychological
- Family, Social and Community




Impact of Sexual Violence on Male Victims

Barriers to Seeking and Utilizing Psychological Services

- ❖ Refugee Trauma
- ❖ Lack of information/knowledge
- ❖ Shame/stigma
- ❖ Language
- ❖ Fear
- ❖ Isolation
- ❖ Racial/Cultural factors
- ❖ Cognitive overload
- ❖ Other stressors

Considerations for Treatment


- Why now and Expectations?
- Building Safety and Trust
- Psychoeducation
- Practical needs/ basic necessities
- Individual vs. Group Treatment
- Use of Interpreters
- Additional interventions
 - Psychopharm consultation
 - Relaxation Training
 - Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions
 - Narrative Exposure Therapy
 - Genograms
 - Timelines
 - Play therapy/ Expressive Arts
 - Involvement in Community activities where possible



Importance of drawing on the woman's cultural heritage to inform and support the therapeutic process

Themes in Treatment

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Multiple Losses
- ❖ Grief and Mourning
- ❖ Shame and Anger
- ❖ Hope vs Despair
- ❖ Identity – Who or What am I?
- ❖ Role loss/ role change
- ❖ Cultural adaptation



Role of Clinicians: A Personal Perspective

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Recommended Documentaries

***Behind Forgotten Eyes* (2007).**

Behind Forgotten eyes combines first-hand accounts from both Korean women and Japanese soldiers who lived through one of the worst atrocities in humankind. This documentary focuses on Korea during the Japanese Occupation, when the well disciplined army used rape as a large part of its weaponry against civilians. When this naturally led to widespread venereal infection, the Japanese Government opened "Comfort Stations". Brothels filled at first by Japanese prostitutes, then by other nationalities. Then, as the front line became congested with troops, these comfort stations began to house forcibly conscripted locals. Young girls between the ages of fourteen and twenty-five, forced into sexual slavery to the Japanese army. And it went on for years.

It's a story that remained silent for decades. *Behind Forgotten Eyes* is helping to break that silence and raise the awareness of this very real war crime. But this isn't merely a well-meaning propaganda piece. This documentary is excellent, unconventional, challenging, shocking, appalling, nearly impossible to sit through but much less possible to turn away from.

***Operation Fine Girl: Rape Used as a Weapon of War in Sierra Leone* (2001).**

Countless atrocities were committed during the course of Sierra Leone's devastating, drawn-out conflict from 1991-2001. With civilians being the primary target of attack, women were particularly vulnerable to violence during the civil war. AFRC and RUF forces regularly kidnapped girls and young women, forcing them into sexual servitude for the forces, or into marriage with commanders. Women young and old were beaten, mutilated, raped, and killed by child soldiers and their adult commanders. For the rebels, sexual violence became a weapon to be used against the civilian populations, as a demonstration of its power and impunity.

***The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo* (2007).**

Winner of the Sundance Special Jury Prize in Documentary and the inspiration for a 2008 U.N. Resolution classifying rape as a weapon of war, this extraordinary film, shot in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), shatters the silence that surrounds the use of sexual violence as a weapon of conflict. Many tens of thousands of women and girls have been systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated and tortured by soldiers from both foreign militias and the Congolese army. A survivor of gang rape herself, Emmy Award®-winning filmmaker Lisa F. Jackson travels through the DRC to understand what is happening and why.