

Report: women's rights need protection



LONDON (AP) — For millions of women, the 1990s brought terror, discrimination and a denial of human rights, Amnesty International said in a report issued Tuesday to coincide with International Women's Day.

"Human rights violations against women are rampant partly because they remain largely hidden," it said. "Women are the invisible victims of the 1990s."

Amnesty International called on governments to adopt plans to promote and protect women's human rights.

"No country in the world treats its women as well as its men. Women from all social classes, cultures and races, in all societies, are at risk of abuse of their human rights," it said.

Women around the world are denied human rights because of

deeply rooted discrimination, wars and civil conflicts, and repression of their political or social activism, it said in the 135-page report.

War "is devastating women's lives in many quarters of the globe," the report continued. "Women who have taken no part in conflicts are being murdered, raped and mutilated."

Most casualties of war are women and children, and in conflict areas women are often targeted for reprisal killings, rape and sexual assault, the report said.

Women fleeing conflicts make up 80 percent of the world's refugee population, and they often must pay sexual favors to pass smugglers, border guards and security forces, it said.

"Governments have more or less ignored human rights violations against women — and sometimes effectively given a green light to torture or rape by

their police or soldiers," Amnesty International said.

The wars in Bosnia and Rwanda reminded the world how vulnerable women and their families are and "demonstrated that the deliberate violation of the human rights of women is a central component of military strategy in all parts of the world," the report said.

It cited examples of women raped in Chiapas in southern Mexico, where an armed peasant movement took control of several towns in January 1994, and of hundreds of women killed in fighting in Somalia and in Mali in west Africa.

Women activists have also been imprisoned, tortured or killed, the report said, citing examples in Mexico, Indonesia, El Salvador, Burma, China, Iran and Uzbekistan.

Launching a worldwide campaign to spotlight women's rights before the United Nations Conference on Women this Sep-

tember, Amnesty International said governments which pay little more than lip service to women's rights must be pushed into action.

"Governments are now sending worrying signals that they want to limit — rather than promote — women's civil and political rights at the U.N. conference," it said.

It said that at the conference in Beijing, governments should formally recognize their responsibility for all human rights violations against women by their security forces, and propose concrete action for promoting and preventing violations of women's human rights.

It said individual governments should safeguard the rights of women during armed conflict and stop rape, sexual abuse and other torture or ill-treatment by government agents. It also urged governments to stop the illegal detention and execution of women.

Cease-fire ends after holy month

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Muslim holy month of Ramadan was barely over Monday when the government abandoned a U.N. cease-fire and launched a major assault against a rival Islamic faction in south-western Kabul.

There was no immediate word on casualties, although many civilians live in the area.

The attack was seen as an attempt by President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government to gain control of the entire capital and strengthen its position ahead of a U.N.-sponsored peace plan.

Many had feared renewed fighting in Kabul after the weekend holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the month of Ramadan when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

"It's not a big surprise. Everyone was expecting there would be more fighting," said David Lockwood, the U.N. Development Program representative in Pakistan.

Jets bombed neighborhoods controlled by Hezb-e-Wahadat, a Shiite Muslim opposition group, and were followed by rocket, artillery and heavy machine gun fire that echoed throughout Kabul.

Streets near the front-line were virtually deserted Monday as the government barrage intensified. Kabul had been relatively calm in recent weeks since a U.N. peace mission announced an informal cease-fire last month.

"We launched an offensive ... from three directions this morning," said government spokesman, Dr. Abdullah, who uses only one name. "We have not met any considerable resistance and our troops are still moving forward. Fighting is continuing."

Rabbani's troops hold all of the devastated capital except for the southwest enclave. At least three of their rockets hit a Red Cross hospital on Monday.

"One rocket landed on the operating theater, wounding two employees," said Jacques Villetaz, acting head of the Red Cross delegation in Kabul. "We have had to suspend all operations until the fighting dies down."

He said two more rockets hit the roof of a ward filled with patients, but further details were not available.

The Islamic militias have notoriously poor aim and kill far more civilians than rival soldiers.

Monday's assault forced a U.N. peace negotiator to cancel his trip to Kabul. He was to try again Tuesday, Lockwood said.

The U.N. peace plan, which already has been delayed a month, calls for President Rabbani to hand over power to a multi-party governing council March 21.

The U.N.-devised council is seen as the best hope for ending the three years of civil war that erupted after the Islamic factions ousted the Soviet-backed communist government in 1992.

Bosnian Serbs continue to ban supply convoys

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnian Serbs followed through today on their threat to block aid convoys into Sarajevo, and a top U.S. official went to Croatia to try to prevent a spring war.

Snipers killed a 60-year-old man in his garden on the southern outskirts of Sarajevo on the fifth straight day of sniping in the Bosnian capital.

The Serbs said they would ban land convoys into Sarajevo for a week to press demands for a larger share of aid. Air supplies, which account for about 50 percent of the city's needs, were not affected.

The Serbs want 38 percent of the supplies, up from the 23 percent they get now, said Kris Janowski of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

"We think they are already getting their fair share," Janowski said.

In neighboring Croatia, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard C. Holbrooke was trying to persuade President Franjo Tudjman to withdraw his threat to evict 12,000 U.N. peacekeepers when their mandate expires March 31.

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 To be eligible, a candidate must be:
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 • A graduate student at the University enrolled for a minimum of three credit hours per term in three of the four academic quarters of his or her term as Editor.
 Applicants must be in good academic standing. Prior newsroom experience required.
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 The Editor of the ODE, who reports to a 10-person volunteer Board of Directors, has responsibility for all editorial operations and all editorial content of the newspaper. Term of office is June 6, 1995, through the last issue of Spring term 1996 and is preceded by an orientation period that begins no later than May 2 and extends through June 5. This is a paid position.
 Interested parties should pick up an application packet, which includes a job description, at the ODE front desk in Suite 300 EMU or call 346-5511 for more information.
 Completed applications must be returned to the ODE Board of Directors in the ODE office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 31, 1995. An individual will be selected by the Board on April 18, 1995.
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