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August 12, 2015

When will the U.S. uphold the principles of the Geneva Conventions for women raped in war?



Dear Friends,

Today marks the 66th anniversary of the United States signing the Geneva Conventions. Yet, due to U.S. policy, women and girls raped in war are still denied their right under international law to all necessary medical care, including access to safe abortions.

This includes the women and girls brutally raped and forcibly impregnated by Boko Haram in Nigeria.

This summer, lawyers from the Global Justice Center traveled to Nigeria in support of our new *Gender, Genocide and the Responsibility to Rescue* project. While there, GJC met with local members of civil society and the government to discuss the response to violence being committed against women and girls throughout the country. We learned that many are concerned about the immediate needs of victims of violence—food, shelter, and medical care—this includes access to abortion services. The impact of US abortion restrictions is devastating in countries like Nigeria, where women and girls who are raped in war are routinely denied access to life-saving

abortions.



For the women and girls kidnapped and raped by terrorists groups, the time is more urgent than ever for President Obama to overturn Helms, and guarantee them their rights under the Geneva Conventions.

Support for lifting the US abortion ban is growing domestically and internationally, including at the UN and European Union. In July, GJC [sent a joint letter to President Obama](#) signed by over **50 human rights, legal, medical and religious organizations** urging the White House to issue an executive order lifting the abortion ban on U.S. aid to female war rape victims, as this ban violates the rights of the "wounded and sick" under common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

Women and girls who have survived the horrific atrocities of war should not have their suffering exacerbated by an unlawful U.S. policy. By supporting our work, you can tell President Obama that he can and must uphold the rights of women in war.

Warmly,
Janet

Janet Benshoof, President
Global Justice Center

The Global Justice Center works for peace, justice, and security by enforcing international laws that protect human rights and promote gender equality. We rely on people like you to make change happen in the parts of the world most in need. Any donation of yours will be augmented \$1 for every \$3 you give by an anonymous donor.

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