



**Global
Justice Center**
Human Rights Through the Rule of Law



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Support Us

We need your support to continue fighting against this inhuman policy. Please consider [making a donation to support GJC's work](#) to end this discrimination against women and girls in war.

December 30, 2014

Will Pres. Obama listen this time? A fourth NYT editorial urging executive action to end abortion ban

Dear Friends,

The Global Justice Center is ending the year with a bang! Yesterday, the New York Times published its **fourth** [editorial](#) urging President Obama to lift the abortion ban on US aid for girls and women raped in armed conflict. The **first** Times editorial, published on September 7, 2011, acknowledged that the global campaign to ensure abortion access for survivors of war rape is being "led by the Global Justice Center along with Norway."

Yesterday's editorial supports the arguments first put forth by the Global Justice Center and now affirmed by the UK, France, the Netherlands, and the UN Security Council:

"A case can be made that this misreading of the Helms amendment violates Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, which entitles all victims of armed conflict, including rape victims in war zones, to nondiscriminatory medical treatment."

The Global Justice Center is actively advocating to the Obama Administration that a mere "tweaking" of the Helms amendment to permit exceptions for life or rape, without more, will not help the vast majority of women surviving war rape. President Obama must not only allow these exceptions but, critically, affirm the rights of girls and women raped in war to medical care governed by the Geneva Conventions, which trump local laws.

[Take a look at our map which tracks the devastating effects of the Helms amendment.](#)

Until this happens, women raped by ISIS in Iraq or Syria, or by Boko Haram in Nigeria, will continue to be forced to bear the children of their rapists.

The Global Justice Center got the first New York Times editorial opposing the Helms amendment, in 2011, after some 38 years. That was just the start and [our campaign](#) has taken off since then. But, until every woman and girl raped in war is provided access to safe abortion services, our work is

not done.

We need your support in our efforts to combat the effects of the Helms amendment. Please consider making an [end-of-year donation](#) to our campaign to end decades of discrimination against war rape victims and ensure they have access to lifesaving care.

Thank you for helping us and please-we need you more than ever!

Janet Benshoof

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