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May 26, 2015

Janet in New York Times: Why is Obama Administration Denying Abortions to Impregnated Boko Haram Victims?

Dear Friends,

In case you missed it, please see [my letter to the editor](#) which was published in Friday's New York Times.

You may remember that just a few weeks ago, over 600 Nigerian women and girls were rescued after being held captive by Boko Haram. Upon rescue, **ONE-THIRD** of these women were found to be visibly pregnant, a result of sexual violence and **forcible impregnation by Boko Haram**. These women will be denied access to lifesaving abortions largely because of U.S. abortion restrictions of humanitarian aid going to all women raped in war, including those in Nigeria.



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.

My letter to the editor challenges the Obama administration continued violation of the Geneva Conventions by denying abortions to impregnated war rape victims. Other countries have joined this call for a change in U.S. policy. Earlier this month, the UN Human Rights Council reviewed the U.S. human rights record and five countries **challenged the Obama Administration's continued imposition of abortion restrictions on U.S. aid for victims of rape**. The President has three months to respond to these recommendations.

Now is the critical time. Please continue to support our work to get President Obama to sign an executive order lifting the abortion restrictions and standing up for the rights and women and girls under the Geneva Conventions.

Warmly,
Janet



Janet Benshoof, President
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