



Sisterhood
Is Global
Institute

Donor Direct Action
A Fund for Women

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Strengthening Women Worldwide

Mr. Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, DC

20 April 2019

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

I am writing to you on behalf of Donor Direct Action, a project of the Sisterhood is Global Institute which was founded in 1984 to support the global women's movement. We are deeply concerned by the indications we have that the US Government is threatening to veto the resolution on sexual violence in conflict to be presented on Tuesday in the Security Council. We work closely with Dr. Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, the Nobel laureates who have been recognized for their courageous efforts to end sexual violence in conflict, and who will both be attending the Security Council meeting to support this effort to move the agenda forward. It is unthinkable to me, as an American, that the US Government would veto the proposed resolution because it calls for access of sexual violence survivors to sexual and reproductive health services.

I know that you have not been supportive of this language, but urge you to recall that this resolution is about the Rohingya girls systematically raped in Myanmar, the Yezidi girls enslaved by ISIS, the Congolese girls who flock to Panzi Hospital seeking medical help and desperately needing comprehensive health services for the sexual violence they have endured. How can the United States turn its back on these girls and jeopardize this Security Council resolution, which we need to build political will to end sexual violence? Your actions will undermine these efforts, initially led by the United States which played such a significant role in the creation of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

I hope that you will support this much needed resolution. A veto of the resolution would do great damage to girls and women around the world who are raped with impunity in armed conflicts around the world and who have to live with the devastating consequences of this violence. Please stand up for these girls and make the country proud rather than bringing shame on us by opposing the Security Council call to end sexual violence in conflict.

Sincerely,

Jessica Neuwirth
Director

Donor Direct Action is a project of The Sisterhood Is Global Institute.

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