

www.**Breaking News English**.com  
Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

**The Breaking News English.com Resource Book**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

## United Nations says rape is a war crime

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0806/080620-rape.html>

### Contents

The Article	2
Warm ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

## THE ARTICLE

More than 60 nations met in the UN Security Council on Thursday to agree that sexual violence against women is a weapon of war. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced new measures to try to end what he called the "silent war against women and girls" in the world's war zones. He called on UN bodies, national governments, aid organizations and rape survivors to help end sexual crimes against women in conflict areas. He said: "Violence against women has reached unspeakable...proportions in societies attempting to recover from conflict." He announced the creation of a UN Messenger of Peace, whose job will be to combat sexual crimes against women. He also promised there would be a "zero-tolerance policy against sexual...abuse" by UN workers.

Rape has been an ugly, but common feature of many armed conflicts around the world. Women are often rejected by their family or community because of the shame rape brings. Other women become infected with HIV and AIDS. Ban Ki-moon said these terrible wrongs make it difficult for a nation to heal and make peace with itself "after the guns fall silent". Condoleezza Rice said rape is a "security concern" that seriously affects "not only the health and safety of women, but the economic and social stability of their nations." She expressed concern about the widespread use of rape in Darfur. Aid groups there say it is used as a weapon of ethnic cleansing and has become a part of life for most women. Sudan's government said: "There is no rape in Darfur," and that aid workers are just making up stories.

# WARM-UPS

**1. WAR CRIMES:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about war crimes. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*nations / violence / weapons / war zones / aid organizations / messengers of peace / armed conflicts / rejection / shame / AIDS / security concerns / ethnic cleansing*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. MESSENGER OF PEACE:** Can the new UN Messenger of Peace change troubled parts of the world? With your partner(s), discuss what (s)he should do to bring about change. Write your ideas below. Change partners and share your ideas.

	Possible solutions for change	Chances of success
Rape / sexual abuse		
Prostitution		
Child soldiers		
Child slavery		
Ethnic cleansing		
Suicide bombings		

**4. SENTENCE STARTERS:** Finish the following beginnings to sentences about feet and shoes. Show what you wrote to your partner(s). Talk about what you wrote.

- a) Sexual violence will stop when \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Armies guilty of sex crimes \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Sexual violence is \_\_\_\_\_
- d) The word 'rape' is \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Rape damages a whole nation \_\_\_\_\_

**5. HEADLINE PREDICTION:** With your partner(s), use the words in the "Chat" activity above to predict what the news article will be about. Once you have your story, change partners and share them. Who was closest to the real story?

**6. VIOLENCE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'violence'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. All of the countries in the UN have agreed that rape is a war crime. T / F
- b. The UN Secretary General described rape as being a silent war. T / F
- c. He said violence against women was controllable in conflict areas. T / F
- d. The UN will no longer tolerate its workers committing acts of abuse. T / F
- e. Women are rarely rejected by their family after they have been raped. T / F
- f. Ban Ki-moon said rape makes it difficult for war-torn nations to heal. T / F
- g. Condoleezza Rice said rape was a security concern for many countries. T / F
- h. The Sudanese government said rape was not happening in Darfur. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. nations     | a. voiced      |
| 2. measures    | b. acceptance  |
| 3. proportions | c. aspect      |
| 4. combat      | d. injustices  |
| 5. tolerance   | e. actions     |
| 6. feature     | f. fight       |
| 7. shame       | g. lies        |
| 8. wrongs      | h. countries   |
| 9. expressed   | i. humiliation |
| 10. stories    | j. levels      |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. sexual violence against women is         | a. many armed conflicts          |
| 2. the "silent war against women and girls" | b. making up stories             |
| 3. He called on                             | c. unspeakable...proportions     |
| 4. Violence against women has reached       | d. make peace with itself        |
| 5. a zero-tolerance                         | e. a weapon of war               |
| 6. an ugly, but common feature of           | f. UN bodies                     |
| 7. rejected by their family or community    | g. in the world's war zones      |
| 8. difficult for a nation to heal and       | h. ethnic cleansing              |
| 9. used as a weapon of                      | i. policy against sexual...abuse |
| 10. aid workers are just                    | j. because of the shame          |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

More than 60 nations met in the UN Security Council on Thursday to \_\_\_\_\_ that sexual violence against women is a weapon of war. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced new \_\_\_\_\_ to try to end what he called the "silent war against women and girls" in the world's war \_\_\_\_\_. He called on UN bodies, national governments, aid organizations and rape \_\_\_\_\_ to help end sexual crimes against women in conflict areas. He said: "Violence against women has \_\_\_\_\_ unspeakable...proportions in societies attempting to \_\_\_\_\_ from conflict." He announced the creation of a UN Messenger of Peace, whose job will be to \_\_\_\_\_ sexual crimes against women. He also promised there would be a "zero-tolerance policy against sexual...\_\_\_\_\_ " by UN workers.

*survivors*  
*recover*  
*zones*  
*abuse*  
*agree*  
*reached*  
*combat*  
*measures*

Rape has been an \_\_\_\_\_, but common feature of many armed conflicts around the world. Women are often \_\_\_\_\_ by their family or community because of the shame rape \_\_\_\_\_. Other women become infected with HIV and AIDS. Ban Ki-moon said these terrible \_\_\_\_\_ make it difficult for a nation to heal and make peace with itself "after the guns \_\_\_\_\_ silent". Condoleezza Rice said rape is a "security concern" that seriously affects "not only the health and safety of women, but the economic and social \_\_\_\_\_ of their nations." She expressed concern about the widespread use of rape in Darfur. Aid groups there say it is used as a weapon of \_\_\_\_\_ cleansing and has become a part of life for most women. Sudan's government said: "There is no rape in Darfur," and that aid workers are just \_\_\_\_\_ up stories.

*fall*  
*rejected*  
*making*  
*ugly*  
*ethnic*  
*brings*  
*stability*  
*wrongs*

## **LISTENING:** Listen and fill in the spaces.

More than 60 \_\_\_\_\_ Security Council on Thursday to agree that sexual violence against women is a weapon of war. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced \_\_\_\_\_ end what he called the "silent war against women and girls" in the world's war zones. He called on UN bodies, national governments, aid organizations \_\_\_\_\_ help end sexual crimes against women in conflict areas. He said: "Violence against women \_\_\_\_\_ ...proportions in societies attempting to recover from conflict." He announced \_\_\_\_\_ Messenger of Peace, whose job will be to combat sexual crimes against women. He also promised there would be a " \_\_\_\_\_ against sexual...abuse" by UN workers.

Rape has been \_\_\_\_\_ feature of many armed conflicts around the world. Women are \_\_\_\_\_ family or community because of the shame rape brings. Other women become infected with HIV and AIDS. Ban Ki-moon said \_\_\_\_\_ make it difficult for a nation to heal and make peace with itself "after \_\_\_\_\_ ". Condoleezza Rice said rape is a "security concern" that seriously affects "not only the health and safety of women, but \_\_\_\_\_ stability of their nations." She expressed concern about the widespread use of rape in Darfur. Aid groups there say it \_\_\_\_\_ ethnic cleansing and has become a part of life for most women. Sudan's government said: "There is no rape in Darfur," and that aid workers are \_\_\_\_\_ stories.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**sexual**' and '**violence**'.

<b>sexual</b>	<b>violence</b>

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 60</li><li>• silent</li><li>• bodies</li><li>• unspeakable</li><li>• messenger</li><li>• zero</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ugly</li><li>• shame</li><li>• heal</li><li>• seriously</li><li>• part</li><li>• stories</li></ul>
---	--

# STUDENT WAR CRIMES SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about war crimes in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# WAR CRIMES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'rape'?
- c) Are you surprised only 60 countries met in the Security Council to agree on rape being a war crime?
- d) What do you think of ban Ki-moon's call for an end to the "silent war"?
- e) Do you think the UN is fighting a losing battle?
- f) Will levels of sexual violence against women always be at unspeakable levels?
- g) What can rape survivors do to help fight the war against sexual violence?
- h) Do you think the UN's zero tolerance policy for its workers will work?
- i) What do you think of the idea of a Messenger of Peace?
- j) What would you do as the Messenger of Peace?

*United Nations says rape is a war crime - 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2008*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

# WAR CRIMES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Is this an important topic or is too sensitive to talk about?
- c) How can the UN help families support survivors of rape?
- d) Why do humans do such cruel things against other humans?
- e) If rape is a war crime, what should the punishment be?
- f) Do you agree with Condoleezza Rice that sexual violence is a threat to a country's security and social stability?
- g) Do you think making something a war crime will make it happen less?
- h) Why do you think Sudan's government would believe that aid workers make up stories about rape?
- i) What questions would you like to ask Sudan's president?
- j) Did you like this discussion on flip-flops and footwear?

*United Nations says rape is a war crime - 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2008*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

# LANGUAGE

More than 60 nations (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the UN Security Council on Thursday to agree that sexual violence against women is a weapon of war. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced new measures to try to end what he called the "(2) \_\_\_\_\_ war against women and girls" in the world's war zones. He called (3) \_\_\_\_\_ UN bodies, national governments, aid organizations and rape survivors to help end sexual (4) \_\_\_\_\_ against women in conflict areas. He said: "Violence against women has reached (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ...proportions in societies attempting to recover from conflict." He announced the creation of a UN Messenger of Peace, whose job will be to combat sexual crimes against women. He also promised there would be a "zero-tolerance policy against sexual...(6) \_\_\_\_\_" by UN workers.

Rape has been an ugly, but common feature of many (7) \_\_\_\_\_ conflicts around the world. Women are often rejected (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their family or community because of the shame rape brings. Other women become infected (9) \_\_\_\_\_ HIV and AIDS. Ban Ki-moon said these terrible wrongs make it difficult for a nation to heal and make peace with (10) \_\_\_\_\_ "after the guns fall silent". Condoleezza Rice said rape is a "security concern" that seriously affects "not only the health and safety of women, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the economic and social stability of their nations." She expressed concern about the widespread use of rape in Darfur. Aid groups there say it is used as a weapon of ethnic cleansing and has become a part of life for most women. Sudan's government said: "There is no rape in Darfur," and that aid workers are just making (12) \_\_\_\_\_ stories.

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |              |               |                 |                 |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) meet     | (b) meets     | (c) meeting     | (d) met         |
| 2.  | (a) silent   | (b) silenced  | (c) silently    | (d) silencing   |
| 3.  | (a) in       | (b) on        | (c) an          | (d) as          |
| 4.  | (a) criminal | (b) criminals | (c) crimes      | (d) criminalize |
| 5.  | (a) spoken   | (b) speech    | (c) unspeakable | (d) speaking    |
| 6.  | (a) abuser   | (b) abuse     | (c) abusive     | (d) abused      |
| 7.  | (a) arm      | (b) armour    | (c) armies      | (d) armed       |
| 8.  | (a) by       | (b) with      | (c) for         | (d) until       |
| 9.  | (a) to       | (b) with      | (c) in          | (d) at          |
| 10. | (a) herself  | (b) us        | (c) them        | (d) itself      |
| 11. | (a) so       | (b) and       | (c) but         | (d) that        |
| 12. | (a) up       | (b) in        | (c) for         | (d) of          |



# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about the UN Security Council meeting. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. WAR CRIMES:** Make a poster about the different conflicts around the world. Who is fighting? Why? Who is suffering? Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. LETTER:** Write a letter to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Ask him three questions about his speech. Give him three pieces of advice on what the UN needs to do to better combat sexual violence. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

**5. DIARY / JOURNAL:** You are the UN Messenger of Peace. Write your diary entry about one day in your work. Include your thoughts the good you are doing and if you are making a difference. Read your entry to your classmates in the next lesson.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. T      c. F      d. T      e. F      f. T      g. T      h. T

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. nations     | a. countries   |
| 2. measures    | b. actions     |
| 3. proportions | c. levels      |
| 4. combat      | d. fight       |
| 5. tolerance   | e. acceptance  |
| 6. feature     | f. aspect      |
| 7. shame       | g. humiliation |
| 8. wrongs      | h. injustices  |
| 9. expressed   | i. voiced      |
| 10. stories    | j. lies        |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. sexual violence against women is         | a. a weapon of war               |
| 2. the "silent war against women and girls" | b. in the world's war zones      |
| 3. He called on                             | c. UN bodies                     |
| 4. Violence against women has reached       | d. unspeakable...proportions     |
| 5. a zero-tolerance                         | e. policy against sexual...abuse |
| 6. an ugly, but common feature of           | f. many armed conflicts          |
| 7. rejected by their family or community    | g. because of the shame          |
| 8. difficult for a nation to heal and       | h. make peace with itself        |
| 9. used as a weapon of                      | i. ethnic cleansing              |
| 10. aid workers are just                    | j. making up stories             |

## GAP FILL:

### United Nations says rape is a war crime

More than 60 nations met in the UN Security Council on Thursday to **agree** that sexual violence against women is a weapon of war. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced new **measures** to try to end what he called the "silent war against women and girls" in the world's war **zones**. He called on UN bodies, national governments, aid organizations and rape **survivors** to help end sexual crimes against women in conflict areas. He said: "Violence against women has **reached** unspeakable...proportions in societies attempting to **recover** from conflict." He announced the creation of a UN Messenger of Peace, whose job will be to **combat** sexual crimes against women. He also promised there would be a "zero-tolerance policy against sexual...**abuse**" by UN workers.

Rape has been an **ugly**, but common feature of many armed conflicts around the world. Women are often **rejected** by their family or community because of the shame rape **brings**. Other women become infected with HIV and AIDS. Ban Ki-moon said these terrible **wrongs** make it difficult for a nation to heal and make peace with itself "after the guns **fall** silent". Condoleezza Rice said rape is a "security concern" that seriously affects "not only the health and safety of women, but the economic and social **stability** of their nations." She expressed concern about the widespread use of rape in Darfur. Aid groups there say it is used as a weapon of **ethnic** cleansing and has become a part of life for most women. Sudan's government said: "There is no rape in Darfur," and that aid workers are just **making** up stories.

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d    2 - a    3 - b    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - d    8 - a    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a