



# DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON GIRLS

SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
AGAINST GIRLS IN HAITI

STOP VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

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Cover photo: Girl sitting in a school yard in rural Haiti, near Cayes Jacmel.

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TO HELP**

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CONFLICT OR A FORGOTTEN  
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TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

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## **DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON GIRLS**

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS IN HAITI**

Sexual violence, against girls in Haiti is pervasive and widespread. Recent studies have suggested that more than half of reported rapes involve girls aged under 18. Rapes by groups of armed men remain prevalent and the marked rise in the number of rapes during the period of carnival is also deeply disturbing. The authorities have taken steps in recent years to address violence against women and girls. However, despite such initiatives, the Haitian government is a long way from fulfilling its obligations to protect girls.

The public security situation in Haiti has been the focus of much international concern and Amnesty International recognizes the serious and long-standing difficulties facing the Haitian authorities. Strengthening development, good governance and the rule of law in Haiti are important priorities. However, there can be no security if a large section of the population is prevented from participating fully in their community by the threat or consequences of violence.

This report focuses on sexual violence in the family and community – the places where most violence against women and girls take place. At its heart are the experiences of girls who spoke to Amnesty International, describing the consequences of rape for their health, their place in society and their futures.

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