



PRESS RELEASE

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BUSIA GANG RAPE VICTIM

The National Gender and Equality Commission has noted with great concern the handling of the case in which a standard seven pupil in Busia County was gang raped and thrown into a pit latrine more than three months ago.

It is disturbing to hear from the police service that no suspects have been arrested so far. The explanation that the suspects have gone underground is at the very least preposterous and reeks of a calculated design to scuttle the case altogether.

Article 53 (c) of the Constitution grants all children protection from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment and hazardous or exploitative behaviour. In this case, the victim who is a primary school pupil suffered the worst form of sexual abuse and her aggravated situation has denied her the right to pursue education as she recovers from the harrowing ordeal.

The National Gender and Equality Commission calls upon the Inspector General of Police David Kimaiyo to ensure that suspects are arrested and taken to court. The inordinate delay in prosecuting this case is causing immense distress to the victim and her family. Justice delayed is justice denied.

We call upon the police service to heighten vigilance across the country to guarantee the safety of children and other vulnerable members and protect them from such heinous acts. It is expected that in line with Art.43 (1)(a) of the Constitution, the girl will be accorded free medical treatment and care to cushion the parents that are not able to meet the treatment costs.

Winfred Lichuma
Chairperson