



Gender Minister Wants Tougher Action for Rapists

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS

23 November 2007

Posted to the web 23 November 2007

By Sebo Daniels

Gender and Development Minister, Vabah Gayflor, has underscored the need for tougher actions to be taken against rapists around the country.

She said rape is 'wicked' meaning that it damages the growth and development of teenagers between the ages 3 -14 thereby making it difficult for them to contribute meaningfully to society. She added that the situation is too pathetic as babies wearing diapers are often victims of rape.

She made the pronouncement this Wednesday during the regular UNMIL weekly press briefing at the Pan African Plaza, the official seat of the mission. Ads by Google

Addressing journalists at the briefing, Minister Gayflor added that the anti-rape campaign is gradually gaining grounds as some international organizations like the Women Global Leadership (WGL) has been eyeing the Ministry for more collaboration in a bid to enhance concrete partnership.

Meanwhile, some guests who spoke at the program lamented the sad incident of rape in the country and termed it as barbaric and inhumane.

Because of this, they made a passionate appeal to well meaning Liberians to join the 16-day campaign to intensify the awareness of the danger of rape and the consequences accompanying the crime to deter others from engaging into such act.

One of the guests identified as Ms. Rozanne Chorlton, UNICEF - Liberia Representative also expressed shock and indignation at the increased number of rape cases.

She said it is difficult to obtain the exact number of rape cases due to some compromises made by the families of rape victims and the rapists.

Speaking also, Mr. Gabriel Williams, Deputy Minister for Public Affairs at the Ministry of Information warned potential rapists to be careful, meaning that government will deal drastically with any one caught in the act.

He made reference to a recent case involving a foreign national who was allegedly involved in a rape case and attempted to flee the country.

Meanwhile, UNMIL senior gender advisor, Ms. Joana Foster, has called on the community to play a proactive role aimed at working closely with the Ministry of Gender to expose rape cases in the country.

She stated that no progress would be made at alleviating the rape problem in Liberia unless strong partnership and a framework are put in place to deal with the situation.

In a related development, the Minister of Gender Ministry, Ms. Gayflor, has confirmed the 16 days of activism on sexual and gender based violence to commence from November 25 to December 10, 2007.

Copyright © 2007 The Inquirer. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).

