

## **Dr. Denis Mukwege & Mrs. Margot Wallström**

**Director of the Panzi Hospital, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) &  
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict**

### ***“Combating Sexual Violence: Prevention, Protection and Services for Survivors”***

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

Dr. Denis Mukwege is the director of the Panzi Hospital, established in 1999 in Bukavu, capital of South Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In this war-torn region, an estimated five million people have been killed over the past sixteen years. Rape, torture and mutilation are common where rebel forces attempt to institute a reign of terror and fear in order to seize control of mineral-rich areas. While its primary objective was to make health care available to the population of Bukavu on a non-profit basis, it very soon became a reference centre for the victims of sexual violence. At Panzi Hospital, Dr. Mukwege and his team help those women regain the will to live. The treatment of their physical and emotional injuries is combined with a socio economic rehabilitation process to re-integrate them into society. This approach helps them recover physically and mentally, pick-up their lives and so regain a certain measure of dignity.

**Dr. Mukwege’s** work reaches beyond hospital treatment. He wants to put in place, in Eastern Congo, an integrated health care system that meets the terrible challenges of violence and chaos. In addition, he has campaigned untiringly for the women of this region, denouncing the unbelievable acts of violence committed against them.

In 2008, he received the Olof Palme Prize and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights.

The remarkable activities of Dr. Mukwege have lost none of their relevance. He is unquestionably a symbol of resistance and hope, a campaigner for peace and development.

**Mrs. Margot Wallström** has been a long time advocate of the rights and needs of women throughout her political career, first as a Swedish Minister and later as an Environment Commissioner and Vice President of the European Commission.

She has been actively engaged in promoting the participation of women in peace-and security issues, most notably the injustice and violence faced by women during armed conflict. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed her as his special representative on sexual violence in conflict; she has played a leadership role in raising awareness about the urgency to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

She has received several honorary doctorates and awards for her work on sustainable development and climate change, and has also done extensive work to endorse a European Union-Africa partnership on renewable energy and to champion equal opportunity.