

## Human Rights Abuse: Hideous Bite of a Woman by her Husband following a Sexual Assault

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**Abstract:** Bite of wives by their husbands is non common in partner violence in Mali. Violence against women is growing worldwide. It may be a pitfall for husbands since they can be prosecuted in case their wives report them to the judiciary. We report the case of a 34- year- old woman bitten by her husband during a sexual violence.

**Keywords:** criminal, bite, violence.

### INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is a pattern of assault and coercion, often including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults and adolescents use against their intimate partners [1]. Physical and sexual abuse of women is a prevalent problem, and women are more likely to be victims of assault, rape or murder by a male partner or ex-partner than by all other types of assailants combined [2]. Approximately 1.5 million women are raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at least once annually [3].

### CASE REPORT

A 34-year-old housewife assaulted by her husband during a coercive sexual intercourse. According to the victim, she was not feeling well when her husband requested for a sexual intercourse. Despite her unwillingness to accept, the husband tried to subdue her; then arose a struggle which ended up with the bite of the victim.

At admission on request of the Judiciary, the victim was complaining of sharp pains and was anxious. The clinical findings were: a contused wound of the right eye brow (Fig. 1) with a swelling of the upper and lower lid.

She was hospitalized and the wound was sutured in the operating room the same day. Her husband was taken by the Police into custody.



Fig. 1: Photograph of the assaulted woman

### DISCUSSION

The current case is both a family and intimate partner violence. Family violence usually results from the abuse of power or the domination and victimization of a physically less powerful person by a physically more powerful person [4].

Women subjected to domestic violence may suffer from a range of psychiatric symptoms, including anxiety and depression [5]. Intimate partner violence affects the health of many women in the World through physical injuries but also the psychological consequences.

In a study carried out by the World Health Organization [6] about domestic sexual violence against women, 20 to 25% of the participants reported that intimate partner violence was the direct cause of their physical injuries.

Violence varies from one culture to another. Low-violence cultures share certain key characteristics that include strong sanctions against interpersonal violence [7]. Intimate partner violence is an unlawful and degrading act which must be punished by the judiciary. In many developing countries women are not considered as equal to men and to not have to argue when dealing with these latter particularly their husbands.

The Human Rights Act 1998 [8] states in his article 3: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

## CONCLUSION

The current case is a double infringement of the law, since the woman was victim of both voluntary injury and sexual violence. Any violence against women by men must be prosecuted no matter the relationships between them.

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