



Module 6 – UNOCI



Scenarios and Snap Situations

Part VI: UNOCI CRSV Operational Scenarios

Scenario 1: Abduction and Rape

Scene 1.

Three local women request a female peacekeeper of the routine patrol in Village Benongossou near the Abidjan airport for a meeting with the Company Commander. Shortly, the three women meet the Company Commander in the community meeting room in the presence of few female peacekeepers.

One of the women in distress informs you the following:

- a. She is a widow (was married to a high ranking official).
- b. Some unknown persons are persistently threatening her to make a statement in public suggesting that her husband was murdered by a Presidential candidate (A).



- c. She is also under pressure from a female acquaintance who was mobilizing women in support of another Presidential candidate (B).
- d. She is unwilling to make any statements in this regard, since she actually does not know who killed her husband.
- e. However, threatened with serious consequences, including death, the woman fears that she could be raped or killed anytime.
- f. Since yesterday, she is noticing constant presence of some unknown persons in the vicinity of her house.
- g. She has also informed about the warnings and threat to close relatives and friends.

Further, the woman pleads that UN should protect her from the criminals.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your assessment of the situation as a Company Commander?
- b. What aspects will you keep in mind while engaging with local women approaching a UN COB?
- c. What assurance will you give to the group of women?
- d. What are your options and what would be your course of action?
- e. What measures would you like to institute to address the problem at the COB level?
- f. What recommendations would you like to give to the higher HQ?
- g. What additional support (if any) would you require to prevent an untoward incident?

Scene 2.

A patrol operating in the area notices suspicious activities of three men in civilian clothes in Benongossou. One man was carrying a bag in hand, the other two men appears to be hiding something under their shirt. After moving around for some time, the three men anchored themselves in the vicinity of the house of the women under threat. You see one man making a call with a cell phone. Shortly thereafter, a group of five men dressed in military attire and armed with rifles approaches the woman's house and links up with the men in civilian cloth. As you are in the process of reporting about this activity to the Company Commander, all of a sudden the three men are seen surreptitiously drawing out machetes and knives and stealthily making a beeline towards the Woman's house.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your assessment of the situation?
- b. As patrol leader, what indicators of CRSV did you observe?
- c. What actions will you take as a patrol leader and as a Company Commander?
- d. What additional assistance or resources will be required by the patrol?
- e. What measures at various levels of the Mission could have prevented such incidents of political nature?

(Actual Incident: On 24 December 2010, a 44 year-old widow of a high-ranking state official was abducted and raped in a nearby bush in Benongossou by three civilians accompanied by a group of men in military attire).

Scenario 2: Gang Rape

Scene 1.

During routine community engagements in a village in the Western part of CI, the village chieftain and a group of people inform the Community Liaison Assistant/focal point the following:



-
- a. A group of ten to fifteen armed militia men are operating clandestinely in the area and have been occasionally harassing the women and girls while on water/firewood collection as well as while farming.
 - b. In few instances, some men of the village were also brutally beaten up.
 - c. The villagers are worried that when most of men go out for farming and other subsistence activities, these armed militia men may attack the village and rape their women and girls.

Your information also confirms presence of the armed militia men in the vicinity. Their activities are assuming notorious proportions and if unchecked would lead to a major inter-tribal incident.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your assessment of the situation as a Company Commander?
- b. What are your options and what course of action would you take to address the problem?
- c. What measures do you suggest to improve security of the women and girls in the village?
- d. What proactive measures would you consider to engage/reign in the militia group in the area?

Scene 2.

A roving patrol deployed to protect the village was alerted by a villager through a cell phone and informs that approximately 10 to 15 armed men have moved into the village from the Western Side (opposite to where the patrol is located) and in buddy pairs have entered some houses.

At the same time, you could hear wailing of some women from the general direction of West.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your assessment of the situation as a patrol leader/Company Commander?
- b. As a patrol leader, what actions do you intend to take?
- c. As a Company Commander, what actions will you take to support the patrol and additionally what actions will you take with regard to the perpetrators?
- d. What additional support would you require from outside resources?

(Actual incident: On 4 January, at least 17 women, including a six-year old child, were gang-raped in Village Duékoué, by a group of ten armed militiamen who threatened to burn them alive if they resisted being raped).

Scenario 3: Attack on Civilian Vehicle

Intelligence reports indicate that armed militia men are operating in small groups and have been engaged in ethnically motivated attacks on vehicles and persons moving on foot. Reports also indicate many cases of vehicle ambushes, targeting the transients for snatching valuables and other logistical stores. Selectively (based on ethnicity), many women and girls have also faced ill-treatment and in appropriate touching and in certain cases, some of them were even raped.

One morning at 10.30 AM, the CLA/focal point of the COB gets information that a group of eight militia men have ambushed a pickup truck moving from X village to Y village from a local farmer, who was passing by from a distance. In the ensued discussion, the farmer provides the following additional information to the CLA/focal point:

- a. There are seven women/girls and five men in the pickup truck.
- b. After questioning the men and women, five women/girls and three men have been dragged out of the vehicles.
- c. The three men are being beaten by the armed men and body search of women is going on.



-
- d. While three men stood guard in the area, other five men are seen dragging the dismounted women/girls to the nearby bush.

The CLA/focal point informs you about the incident seek your further directions. You have a vehicle mounted patrol operating approximately five kilometres from the area of incident. The COB is approximately 10 kilometres from the incident site.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your assessment of the situation as a Company Commander?
- b. What are your options and what course of action would you take to respond to the impending CRSV?
- c. What tasks would you assign to CLA/focal point, the mobile patrol and to the platoons in the COB?
- d. What additional support do you require from neighbouring COBs/Units/HQ?
- e. What preventive measures could have averted such an incident?

(Actual incident: On 7 February 2014, 08 militiamen ambushed a vehicle and gang-raped 05 women and girls of Malinké ethnic group, while other 02 women of Guéré ethnic group were not assaulted).

Scenario 4: Rape in Illegal Detention

As per guidelines, you have been actively monitoring activities and developments in your AOR, particularly looking for early-warning indicators on sexual violence. Early one morning, a local medic informs you that a young woman with a severed small finger, bruises all over the body and profusely bleeding is admitted in the local clinic by two gendarmes in the wee hours of the morning.

The medic provides you the following additional information, as obtained from the injured women:

- a. She was arrested along with six other women on the previous day while taking part in a political demonstration.
- b. She was detained in Police Préfecture in Abidjan.
- c. At midnight, few masked gendarmes attempted to rape her, while in detention, which she resisted tooth and nail.
- d. The agitated masked men chopped her small finger in a fit of rage to submit her to the gang-rape.
- e. But due to incessant bleeding, the gendarmes decided to bring her to the local clinic.
- f. She fears that other six women must have been raped too, since she could hear some of the crying in pain.

Further, the medic has been told that the women will be taken back to the detention centre later in the day, once she is stabilised. Two gendarmes are stationed outside the clinic to keep a watch.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your assessment of the situation?
- b. What are your options and what course of action would you take to address the problem?
- c. Analyse and recommend responses to the following:
 - i. Engagement of local police;



- ii. Action against perpetrators; and,
 - iii. Assistance to the survivors.
- d. What measures do you recommend to prevent such incidents in future?

(Actual incident: On 18 December 2010, 07 women (arrested during a demonstration staged by RHDP supporters) were gang-raped on two occasions by masked gendarmes while in detention).

Scenario 5: Rape by Armed Groups and Survivor Assistance

Dona is a town in western Côte d'Ivoire, 50km from the Guinean border and only a few km from the Liberian border. The borders are unregulated and porous, allowing for the smuggling/trafficking of persons (including women and girls), drugs, small arms and natural resources. The area has witnessed frequent atrocities, sexual abuse, violence against mainly women and children, and the 'hunting' of families of pro-government security forces and party members.

Having received information of an impending attack on a nearby village, the Company commander launches a platoon to secure the village pre-emptively so as to prevent the anticipated attack. Midway from the COB, the platoon comes across a pregnant woman lying on the road. The woman appears to have been brutally beaten and is bleeding from her vagina. Smoke is visible in the distance.

The injured woman provides you with the following information:

- a. Six rebels, speaking Liberian and Sierra Leonean English, and Liberian and Ivorian Yacouba and some French, broke into her home, accusing her father (the local administrator in Dona) of being a traitor.
- b. The rebels gang-raped her and her two sisters in front of their parents, and repeatedly kicked her stomach.
- c. She does not know how she got to the road or what has happened to her family.
- d. The house is some 500m away.

Points for Deliberation:

1. What is your assessment of the situation?
2. What should the patrol/platoon commander do?
3. What should the patrol do with the woman and her family?
4. What actions are required to be taken at the COB level? What assistance do you require from Battalion/higher HQ?
5. What can the Mission do, more generally, to prevent foreign groups from terrorising the local population?



UNOCI CRSV Snap Situations

Snap Situation 1: Sexual Violence and Humiliation in Village

The FDS elements stationed in Boyapleu (Danané) have been involved in many human rights violations. In the recent past, nine women and girls, including pregnant women and a minor, were raped by the FDS elements, thus causing the departure of all young women from the village. Subsequently, some of the pregnant survivors gave birth to stillborn babies and suffered from various pains. Reportedly, the FDS elements are also frequently confiscating the food prepared by the women for their families and/or arbitrarily asked them to prepare meals for them. One day, the CLA gets information that four local women are abducted by the FDS and taken to their camps. The informer also tells you that the women are being held completely naked in their compound and are probably being gang raped.

What is your Response?

Snap Situation 2: Political Rape of Men and Women

On the run up to the presidential election, tensions are mounting between the ruling party, La Majorité présidentielle (LMP) and the opposition party, the Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP). Sporadic clashes and violence between the supporters of both ruling and opposition parties have impacted the overall security situation in the area.

Following two incidents in quick succession has further deteriorated the already fragile security, particularly for the women and girls in the area:

- a. A girl and three male supporters of RHDP were raped in the Abobo neighbourhood of Abidjan by armed youth belonging to LMP.
- b. Seven minors aged between 10 and 15 years were raped by RHDP supporters in the Port Bouët neighbourhood of Abidjan. One of the girls allegedly died as a result of the rape while the other survivors left their homes and went into hiding.

More revenge attacks/reprisals are expected to follow.

What is your Response?

Snap Situation 3: Movement Restriction

Although militia groups and urban youth remain the greatest threat to the civilian population, atrocities are also committed by government soldiers. In line with Security Council resolutions and the status-of-forces agreement between the UN and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, UNOCI should enjoy full freedom of movement throughout the country. Nevertheless, the Mission occasionally encounters restrictions, not the least by government troops.

In Goli in the South of the country, an elderly man from a nearby village approaches the local UN commander to report a case of gang rape committed by government soldiers. The elderly man requests the commander the following:

- a. Immediate assistance to the 12 rape survivors (8 girls & 04 women);
- b. Protection of the community from the soldiers; and,
- c. Action against perpetrators.



The commander decides to send a patrol to obtain further information and provide security. On its way to the village, (ten) 10 government soldiers tactically deployed in a checkpoint stops the UNOCI patrol. After questioning the patrol leader, the checkpoint commander denies access to the village and demands the UNOCI patrol to return to their base at once.

What is your Response?