

**“The Greatest Silence: Rape in Congo”**  
SYNOPSIS

Violence against women in conflict has been called one of history’s greatest silences.

This documentary, filmed in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo over several months in 2006 and 2007, breaks the silence that has surrounded the tens of thousands of women and girls who have been kidnapped, raped, sexually enslaved and tortured in that country’s intractable civil war.

The film travels to hospitals, shelters and remote villages to find rape survivors, all of whom have been shamed and abandoned. The filmmaker, herself a survivor of gang rape, shares her experience with the women she meets. They in turn recount their stories with an honesty and immediacy that is pulverizing, describing in intimate detail the unimaginable. Activists, peacekeepers, priests and physicians give their perspectives on the fate of Congo’s women, and in several chilling segments the filmmaker confronts Congolese soldiers who are unabashed, even boastful, about the rapes they have committed.

It is a journey into “a Hell on earth for women”, a search for the brave survivors of sexual violence who pay witness to their own experience and break their silence, providing a piercing perspective on the horror, struggle and ultimate grace of their lives.