The race against rape

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Rape is an extremely delicate issue for women, victims and non-victims alike. It’s a crime that not only hurts a woman at the time of its perpetration, but devastates her entire life. It is very rare to find a woman who recovers fully from rape. It is therefore a heinous crime that should attract a serious punishment  
  
I do not think it is just mere sexual satisfaction that is responsible for the increase in rape cases in our society in recent times. Obviously not. It has gone far beyond sexual gratification. It has become a demon of destruction, veering into the realm of the rituals and wreaking havoc around the nation like no other.  
  
Our young girls are abused with impunity. The nation’s moral is going downhill. Our mothers used to be so precious but today, they are looked down upon and are dragged to the mud with so much humiliation.  
  
I have sat and thought of the destructive nature of rape and I have come to the conclusion that the nation needs to take more stringent measures to deal with this devilish act. The perpetrators of this act have no conscience and are working tirelessly towards making sure they destroy the pride of womanhood. Every sane society should be rid of them.  
  
I’ve watched the trend of punishment in some places concerning crimes, the way the law is upheld, and of a truth, the fear of the law in the hearts of men has become the very beginning of wisdom for them. The law has brought so many inveterate criminals to correction and sanity by putting the fear of God and man into them. This has worked to a great extent. Armed robbery is no longer as rampant as it used to be. If a man steals and is made to lose an arm, stealing becomes completely unattractive to him. I am therefore suggesting that cutting off the leg of a rapist will send a very clear warning to the hearts of those planning such evil and will at the same time serve as adequate punishment and a deterrent to perpetrators.  
  
The Senate passed the Sexual Offences Bill, which prescribes imprisonment for a rapist and anyone who has sexual intercourse with children under 11 years.  
  
I will implore our lawmakers to realise that this is Nigeria and NO mother will bring her girl-child to court on account of rape. No girl-child will want to be so exposed and disgraced. No family will want such humiliation. This is the reason why rape cases are hardly brought before the court of law. The rapist knows too well that the shame and disgrace of rape are heavier on the victims who in most cases are young females.  
  
They know that no mother will want to expose her daughter to public ridicule. They know that the female gender has no voice in our society. They are seen as underlings, meaning they actually can do next to nothing. If one is therefore tagged a victim of rape, marriage becomes somewhat impossible. Shame of facing one’s peers will overtake one. The girl-child involved will feel rejected by her society.  
  
Pity will become the order of the day in her home and no child grows well in such situations. Such a child begins to develop a low self-esteem, while the perpetrator swaggers away unshackled, unabashed, roaming the streets with reckless abandon, ready to hump every girl-child on his way. We can’t allow this evil to continue. We can’t allow the process of going through debasing court sessions, which exposes the young girl to public shame to hamper justice. Let a different arbiter be appointed to dispense justice in a rape case. I suggest this matter be left in the hands of medical doctors if equity and fairness must be respected.  
  
Besides, it’s high time someone struck a disabling blow at the very heart of this demon in order to render him incapacitated!  
  
It’s high time rapists were treated as pariahs and be fed with maggots!  
  
Let the drum of the spirits be made to sound very close to their ears so they would know that “surugede” is a dance unto death!  
  
Terror has been unleashed on the female gender and the perpetrators must be met with terror.  
  
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