Urban Inequality and The Rise of Social Crisis Rape

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High and Rising Violence against Women

*2010: 7.2% of women worldwide reported non-partner sexual violence = 216 mill

South Africa: 60,000 rapes reported per year

Brazil: 150% increase in sexual violence in the past five years

India: Shocking assaults in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad

14.8% women dom. sexual abuse = 60-90 million women?

Mexico: Femicide
Hotspots of Violence against Women

All different regions and cultures, but many are

• Modernizing, not poorest or most patriarchal
• Beyond conflict zones, also SOCIAL conflict and urban crisis
• Rising harms: weapons, gangs, children

• rapidly developing
• urbanizing--high levels of migration from rural to urban
• youthful populations
• high levels of social inequality
• shifting gender roles
## Correlates of Sexual Violence
*(current as of 2012, unless indicated)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Avg annual GDP growth over 5 yrs</th>
<th>Urban population (% of total)</th>
<th>Avg urban pop growth over 5 yrs</th>
<th>GINI (0=equality 100=inequality)</th>
<th>Male Youth Unemployment (% of male 15-24)</th>
<th>Gender Inequality Index Rank</th>
<th>Corruption (x/100)</th>
<th>Weighted rape index (1-10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>54.7 (2009)</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>33.9 (2010)</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Africa</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>63.1 (2009)</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>47.2 (2010)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>40.1 (2009)</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>38.1 (2011)</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>30.8 (2008)</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Connections and Explanations

- Displaced young men: youth unemployment
- Vulnerable young women: labor migration
- Crowding and resource competition
- Urban governance crisis: transport
- Rule of law gap: policing
- Patriarchal attitudes: women as “disposable people” and acceptable targets (men and women share this socialization)
What we need to know:

• Gangs and collective violence drivers
• Thresholds or tipping points?
• Conflict triggers
• Special challenges of reporting and evidence for VAW
• Why is violence more gender-based in some places and not others? (WHO Asia study)
• Controlling for other factors
Current Interventions

- Civic mobilization--Delhi protests, NGO advocacy in new courts
- Legal reform--South Africa (but shantytown gaps), India
- Enforcement and policing--Brazil
- Urban policy--Global Safe Cities
- Technology and communications--Harassmap
- Cultural change and education--Promundo
The urban conflict lens: what does it add?

- Male at-risk youth employment
- Target young urban migrant females, not generic “female empowerment”
- Gendered policing
- Housing and transportation, like refugee camps
- Cultural change must address inequality, not just gender attitudes and conflict resolution