Bad things that have happened to older people when there is war and fighting in their countries

No One is Spared:
Abuses against older people in armed conflict
About us

We are called Human Rights Watch.

We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

About this report

This report is about bad things that have happened to older people when there is war and fighting in their countries.

War is when armies from different countries fight each other.

War is also when an army fights a group of people who do not agree with the government.
From 2013 to 2021 we looked at what has happened to people when there is war in their countries. That includes older people.

We looked at what has happened to older people in these places:

- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Ethiopia
- Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nagorno-Karabakh
- Niger
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Ukraine

This report is about:

- What we found out
- What we think should happen next
What has happened to older people in these places

There are laws in the world about keeping people safe when war and other problems happen.

That includes older people.

But many older people have not been safe during war.

Armies and groups of people who are fighting have often broken the laws.

They have often treated older people very badly and stopped them from getting their rights.
Older people being hurt or killed

Armies and fighting groups have often come to places where older people live and done bad things to them.

For example, they have killed many older people.

They have also taken some older people away and put them in prisons.

But the older people did not do anything wrong.

Armies and fighting groups have also hurt many older people.

For example, they have hit or kicked older people.

Some armies and fighting groups have forced older women to have sex or to do sexual things.
Older people who could not leave

Many older people could not leave their homes when fighting started.

For example, some older people could not leave because they had a disability.

Some older people stayed because they thought that the fighters would not hurt them.

Some older people wanted to stay to keep their homes safe.

Older people losing their homes and other things

Some armies and fighting groups have damaged older people’s homes and things.

Some older people lost their homes and everything they had because of that.
Finding it hard to get support

Some older people have been treated badly if they had to leave their homes.

For example, some older people have been hurt while they lived in camps.

Camps are for people who have left their homes and have nowhere to live.

Some older people have been left without medicine, food or water in the camps.
What should happen next

There are some things that governments and other organizations should do next.

Things for governments to do

Governments should follow laws in the world about keeping people safe when there is war.

That includes older people.

Governments should make sure that soldiers or fighters who do bad things to older people go to court and prison.

Governments should support older people who have been hurt or had to leave their homes.

Governments should not stop other organizations from supporting older people as well.
Governments might pay for some support that people get when there are big problems in the world. Like war and floods. They should make sure that older people get that support as well. Older people should not be left out.

**Things for groups fighting against the government to do**

The groups should follow laws in the world about keeping older people safe during war. They should make sure that fighters get in trouble if they hurt or kill older people.

**Things for organizations that support people’s rights to do**

The United Nations is a group of countries that should be working together to make the world safer for everyone.
The United Nations and other organizations support people when there are big problems in the world.

But they should do more to keep older people safe and make sure that they get their rights.

The United Nations should look into bad things that have happened to older people during wars.

They should give information to the public about what has happened.

The United Nations should work with governments and other organizations.

They should make sure that older people get the right support if they have to leave home because of war.
The support might include:

- Food
- Health support and mental health support
- A safe place to stay
- Information about the support

The United Nations and other organizations should also make sure that camps are easy for older people to live in.

For example, they should make sure that toilets and wash places are easy for older people to get to and use.

They should also make sure that older people can help to make plans about:

- Keeping people in the country safe
- Stopping wars and fighting
- Giving people the right support when war and other problems happen

That is to make sure the plans work well for older people.