

# Delve Deeper into "LUMO"

A film by Bent-Jorgen Perlmutt and Nelson Walker III

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Martha Perry of the Princeton Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "LUMO" that premieres on September 18, 2007 at 10 PM (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

*The agonies of present-day Africa are deeply etched on the bodies of women. In eastern Congo on the Rwanda border, vying militias, armies and bandits use rape as a weapon of terror. Lumo Sinai was just over 20 when marauding soldiers attacked her. A fistula, common among victims of violent rape, rendered her incontinent and threatens her ability to bear children. Rejected by her fiancé and cast aside by her family, she awaits reconstructive surgery. "LUMO" is her story, tragic for its cruelties but also inspiring for the struggle she wages and the dignity she displays, with the help of an extraordinary African hospital, to overcome shame, fear and the affliction that robs her of a normal life.*

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## ADULT NONFICTION

### Amnesty International.

**Democratic Republic of Congo: Mass Rape – Time for Remedies.** London: Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 2004. Compiled from year-long research, this report includes interviews in the Congo with survivors of rape, local human rights activists, local and international humanitarian organizations, and government and armed group representatives. <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engaf620182004>

### Amnesty International.

**Democratic Republic of Congo: Mass Rape – Surviving Rape: Voices from the East.** London: Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 2004. A report based on testimonies given by four Congolese rape victims, a Congolese human rights activist, and the head nurse of a rural health center. <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engaf620192004>

Csete, Joanne and Juliane Kippenberg. **The War Within the War: Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Eastern Congo.** New York: Human Rights Watch, 2002. A thorough report addressing the context, background, aftermath, legal issues, and local and international responses to sexual violence being used as a weapon of war in Eastern Congo against women and girls. <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/drc/>

Edgerton, Robert B. **The Troubled Heart of Africa: A History of the Congo.** New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002. A complete history of the Congo from the time of the Portuguese explorers in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries to its present-day conflicts, with a look towards an uncertain future affecting the entire continent.

Fleischman, Janet. **Shattered Lives: Sexual Violence During the Rwandan Genocide and Its Aftermath.** New York: Human Rights Watch, 1996. A thorough report addressing the context, background, aftermath, legal issues, and local and international responses to sexual violence against women and girls during the Rwandan genocide. <http://www.hrw.org/reports/1996/Rwanda.htm>

Graff, Kristina and Maggie Bangser. **Faces of Dignity: Seven Stories of Girls & Women with Fistula.** Dar es Salaam: Women's Dignity Project, 2003. Recounts the stories of seven girls and women living with obstetric fistula and paints a portrait of resilience and strength in spite of tremendous personal loss.

Green, December. **Gender Violence in Africa: African Women's Responses.** New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. Green compares the effects of gender violence throughout sub-Saharan Africa, describing gender violence as a multilayered phenomenon operating within three contexts: the family, the economy and the state.

Hamlin, Catherine and John Little. **The Hospital by the River: A Story of Hope.** Grand Rapids, MI: Monarch Books, 2004. This is the story of Dr. Catherine Hamlin and her husband Reg who, on a

Christian mission, established a medical center in Ethiopia, treating thousands of women suffering from obstetric fistula.

Hatzfeld, Jean. **Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak: A Report.** New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. Foreign correspondent Hatzfeld interviews ten Hutus who admit to taking part in the Rwandan genocide. The thoughts, motivations and regrets of these men reveal how an ordinary person can become capable of committing unimaginable atrocities.

MacKinnon, Catherine. "Crimes of War, Crimes of Peace," in **On Human Rights: the Oxford Amnesty Lectures 1993.** Ed. S. Shute and S. Hurley. New York: Basic Books, 1993. Two essays written by law professor and women's rights activist, Catherine MacKinnon, addressing the issue of gender-based violence during the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflicts, as well as women's rights in times of peace.

Nzongola-Ntalaja, Georges. **The Congo from Leopold to Kabila: A People's History.** London; New York: Zed Books, 2002. A political examination of the history of the Congo from its European colonization and exploitation to its present-day conflicts.

Ohambe, Marie Claire Omanyondo et al. **Women's Bodies as a Battleground: Sexual Violence against Women and Girls during the War in the Democratic Republic of Congo: South Kivu (1996-2003).** Sud-Kivu: Réseau des Femmes pour un Développement Associatif (RFDA): Réseau des Femmes pour la Défense des Droits et la Paix, 2004. A comprehensive and methodical report on the crisis of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, linking it with the overall state of women's rights in Africa.

Scherrer, Christian P. **Genocide and Crisis in Central Africa: Conflict Roots, Mass Violence and Regional War.** Westport, CT: Praeger, 2002. Explores the background to the conflicts in the Great Lakes Region as well as what the international community might

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do to break this tragic cycle of violence and despair.

Temple-Raston, Dina. *Justice on the Grass: Three Rwandan Journalists, Their Trial for War Crimes and a Nation's Quest for Redemption*. New York: Free Press, 2005. Examines the role three media executives from Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTL) and the tabloid newspaper *Kangura* played in stirring ordinary Rwandans into becoming murderers during the 1994 genocide and Rwanda's quest to bring them to justice.

## ADULT FICTION

Dongala, Emmanuel Boundzéki (translated from the French by Maria Louise Ascher). *Johnny Mad Dog*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. With alternating narrations of two teenage Congolese, this book offers two very different perspectives during the nation's conflict. One voice is that of the arrogant and ignorant Johnny, a young member of a violent militia, while the other is that of Laoklole, a bright girl who struggles to save her family from the mayhem and somehow maintain a hopeful future.

Iweala, Uzodinma. *Beasts of No Nation*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2005. A disturbing, but compelling read, Iweala's debut novel tells the harrowing experiences of a child soldier during a conflict in an unnamed West African nation.

Taylor, Jeffrey. *Facing the Congo: A Modern-Day Journey into the Heart of Darkness*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2000. While primarily a travel book describing the experiences of journalist Taylor as he sets off down the Congo River in a dugout canoe, this book puts forth a close look at the Democratic Republic of Congo and its region.

## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Booher, Dianna Daniels. *Rape: What Would You Do If...?* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: J. Messner, 1991. Grades 7 and up. Although focusing on rape in the United States, this book addresses issues such as motives behind rape, potential rapists, prevention, and ways to cope with the aftermath of rape.

Willis, Terri. *Democratic Republic of Congo (Enchantment of the World. Second Series)*. New York: Children's Press, 2004. Grades 4-6. Introduces young readers to the Democratic Republic of Congo with facts about the geography, history, wildlife, economy, government, people, religion, and culture of the region.

## FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Jansen, Hanna (translated from the German by Elizabeth D. Crawford). *Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2006. Grades 9 and up. Based on the memories of the author's adopted Tutsi daughter, this fictionalized biography tells the story of eight year old Jeanne as she witnesses the murder of her family and destruction of her home during the 1994 genocide.

Stassen, Jean-Philippe (translated from the French by Alex Siegel). *Deogratias: A Tale of Rwanda*. New York: First Second, 2006. Grades 10 and up. Set in Rwanda before and after the Tutsi genocide, and seen through the eyes of a young Hutu boy, this graphic novel reveals the grip of madness and horror on one young man and his country.

## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES/ BROADCASTS

CNN Presents: "The Killing Fields: Africa's Misery, the World's Shame." Original Air Date: October 8, 2006. Anderson Cooper, Jeff Koinange, Sanjay Gupta and John Roberts examine the many problems that face Africa today, including increasing sexual violence towards African women. <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0610/08/cp.02.html>

"God Sleeps in Rwanda." A film by Kimberlee Acquaro and Stacy Sherman. *Women Make Movies, 2004. (29 min.)* This 2005 Academy Award nominated documentary presents the stories of five female Rwandan genocide survivors as they rebuild their lives, showing how women are picking up the pieces and creating hope in a nation recovering from its past atrocities. [www.godsleepsinrwanda.com](http://www.godsleepsinrwanda.com)

"In the Tall Grass: Inside the Citizen-Based Justice System in Gacaca." A film by J. Coll Metcalfe & Eugene Cornelius. *Choices, Inc., 2006. (57 min.)* Focuses on the Hutu and Tutsi as they struggle through Rwanda's unique reconciliation process: Gacaca, a network of grassroots community courts. Shows the challenges faced by post-genocide countries as they transition from violence to peace. [www.nationalfilmnetwork.com](http://www.nationalfilmnetwork.com)

"Love, Labor, Loss." A film by Lisa Russell, Carrie Svigen and Christian Huguenot. *Governess Films, Inc., 2006. (66 min.)* This documentary follows five women in Niger, West Africa suffering from obstetric fistula and a U.S. - Niger medical mission working to repair their fistulas to give them a second chance at a normal life. [www.governessfilms.com](http://www.governessfilms.com)