



**Laureates:**

Mairead Maguire, Ireland (1976)  
Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Guatemala (1992)  
Jody Williams, USA (1997)  
Shirin Ebadi, Iran (2003)  
Leymah Gbowee, Liberia (2011)  
Tawakkol Karman, Yemen (2011)

**Protect Dr. Denis Mukwege Upon his Return Home**

**11 January 2013**

The Nobel Women's Initiative—an organization created by women Nobel Peace laureates—calls on the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to protect Dr. Denis Mukwege as he returns home to Eastern Congo.

Dr. Mukwege is a world-renowned surgeon and director of the Panzi Hospital in Eastern Congo's South Kivu province. In October, Dr. Mukwege survived a violent attack and assassination attempt at his home in which several family members were held at gunpoint and his trusted guard, Joseph Bizimana, was killed. Due to fears for his safety, Dr. Mukwege and his family were evacuated from Eastern Congo in the days after the attack.

Dr. Mukwege is one of the DRC's strongest advocates in support of the women of Congo who are subject to high levels of sexual violence. Dr. Mukwege is also a founding member of the Advisory Committee of the *International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict*.

On 14 January 2013, Dr. Denis Mukwege will return to the Democratic Republic of Congo for the first time after the assassination attempt. The Nobel Women's Initiative supports the call of the International Campaign to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict to the DRC government to take all necessary steps to protect Dr. Mukwege and his family upon his return, and ensure that he and his colleagues can work in a safe environment.

The Nobel Women's Initiative supports Dr. Mukwege's work to treat the survivors of sexual violence, and it also calls upon the international community to focus its efforts on promoting and supporting such important work.

*Advocating for peace, justice and equality*