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Aan: Veerle Solia
Onderwerp: Addressing India's Rape Problem

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THE WEEK IN RIGHTS

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Addressing India's Rape Problem



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Amid the global outrage over the death of the 23-year-old student who was gang raped and beaten in New Delhi, Indian lawmakers should focus on changing the criminal law to better protect women and girls from sexual assault.

Currently, the law narrowly defines rape as penile penetration, with other sexual offenses falling under the heading of "insult" to women's "modesty."

This undermines women's rights and allows attackers to evade justice. It also reinforces damaging ideas of female modesty with their tendency to blame the victim – ideas reinforced by some Indian leaders who see forcing women to wear "sober and dignified" clothing as a solution to sexual assault.

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[In Zimbabwe, Rights Reforms Needed Before Elections](#)

To hold credible, free, and fair elections in 2013, Zimbabwe's government needs to level the political playing field and create a rights-respecting environment now. This means amending repressive laws and replacing partisan police chiefs and election officials with impartial professionals.

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[Saudi Arabia Executes Sri Lankan Migrant Worker](#)

Saudi Arabia is one of just three countries that executes people for crimes they committed as children. Rizana Nafeek, convicted of killing a baby in her care when she was 17, is yet another victim of the deep flaws in Saudi Arabia's judicial system.

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Delegates to the mercury treaty negotiations should seize this last chance and draft effective health strategies to prevent and treat mercury poisoning, as millions of people around the globe are exposed to mercury on a daily basis, in artisanal mining and elsewhere.

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Human Rights Watch - 350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor New York, NY 10118 USA
Tel: 1-(212) 290-4700 | news@hrw.org

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