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# Nobel peace prize shines light on rape in conflict

● Mukwege, dubbed "Doctor Miracle" for his work helping victims of sexual violence

● Murad for turning her experience into powerful advocacy for her Yazidi people

● The Nobel Peace Prize includes a gold medal, diploma and nine million Swedish Krona (880,000 euros, a million dollars)

AFP | Oslo, Norway



Nobel Peace Prize laureates Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad hug at the end of a press conference

Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad, an IS sex slave survivor, were presented with the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday, as they challenge the

world to combat rape as a weapon of war.

Mukwege, dubbed "Doctor Miracle" for his work helping victims of sexual violence, and Murad, who has turned her ex-

perience into powerful advocacy for her Yazidi people, will receive the prize at a ceremony in Oslo.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee in October said the

prize was "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict".

The laureates, who have dedicated their award to rape victims across the world, have said they hope the Nobel will raise awareness of sexual violence and make it harder for the world to ignore it.

"We cannot say that we didn't act because we didn't know. Now everyone knows. And I think now the international community has a responsibility to act," Mukwege told reporters at a news conference on Sunday.

The prize was not a "victory", but could be seen "as the start of a new struggle, a new struggle against this type of evil", he added.

The surgeon has spent 20 years treating the wounds and emotional trauma inflicted on women in the DR Congo's war-torn east.

"What we see during armed conflicts is that women's bod-

ies become battlefields and this cannot be acceptable," he said.

Fellow laureate Murad has become a tireless campaigner for the rights of Yazidis since surviving the horrors of captivity under the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria where they targeted her Kurdish-speaking community.

Captured in 2014, she suffered forced marriage, beatings and gang-rape before she was able to escape.

She said the Nobel was "a sign" for the thousands of women still held by jihadists.

"This prize, one prize cannot remove all the violence and all the attacks on pregnant women, on children, on women and give them justice," Murad said on Sunday.

But she said she hoped it would "open doors so that we can approach more governments", to bring the perpetrators to court and "so that we can find a solution and actually stop what is happening".

**Russia arms industry second behind US: Sipri**  
Stockholm, Sweden

Russia has overtaken Britain to become the world's second biggest arms producer behind the United States, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) said in a report published on Monday.

"Russian companies have experienced significant growth in their arms sales since 2011," Sipri senior researcher Siemon Wezeman said in a statement.

"This is in line with Russia's increased spending on arms procurement to modernise its armed forces."

Russia had 10 companies in Sipri's list of the world's "Top 100" arms-producing and military services companies in 2017, accounting for 9.5 percent of sales. The 10 companies' sales totalled \$37.7 billion (\$33 billion euros), Sipri said.

That put Russia in second place, a position that had been held by Britain since 2002. The United States topped the list with 42 companies and sales up by two percent to \$226.6 billion -- accounting for 57 percent of the Top 100's arms sales.

**Myanmar seizes heroin haul worth \$4.7m: police**  
Yangon, Myanmar

Myanmar has seized 370 kilogrammes (815 pounds) of heroin worth \$4.7 million during a raid in the northeast, police said, the latest big bust in the world's second-largest opium producer after Afghanistan. Weak rule of law and conflict-riddled border areas allow industrial-size trade in heroin, pills and crystal methamphetamine -- known as ice -- to flourish, even as massive drug seizures routinely grab headlines.

## Four killed as Hong Kong schoolbus mounts pavement

Hong Kong, China

Four people were killed when an empty runaway schoolbus mounted a pavement in a crowded Hong Kong neighbourhood yesterday, trapping passers-by underneath and injuring 10, police said.

Two women -- aged 80 and 70 -- and two men -- aged 83 and 77 -- were killed after the yellow bus careered out of control in the downtown North Point district.

Photographs in local media showed victims sprawled on the ground while others received medical treatment at the scene.

The vehicle rolled down the street after it was parked, ter-



Police investigate after an empty schoolbus crashed in the North Point district of Hong Kong

rifying passers-by as the driver ran towards it and tried in vain

to stop it, according to the police.

"We believe he might have forgotten to pull the hand-

brake or hadn't properly pulled it," chief inspector of police Sun Lun-yum told reporters.

The 62-year-old driver became trapped under the bus and was dragged along for about 20 metres before falling onto the road.

Police said the bus travelled for a total of 100 metres, hitting two taxis before finally crashing into a building in a narrow lane lined with shops.

In addition to the driver, who suffered injuries to his head, neck and back, a further nine pedestrians aged between 22 and 89 were taken to hospital for treatment. Several remain in a serious condition.

## Heavy screen time appears to impact childrens' brains: study

Washington, United States

Researchers have found "different patterns" in brain scans among children who record heavy smart device and video game use, according to initial data from a major ongoing US study.

The first wave of information from the \$300 million National Institute of Health (NIH) study is showing that those nine and 10-year-old kids spending more than seven hours a day using such devices show signs of premature thinning of the cortex, the brain's outermost layer that processes sensory information. "We don't know if it's be-

ing caused by the screen time.

We don't know yet if it's a bad thing," said Gaya Dowling, an NIH doctor working on the project, explaining the preliminary findings in an interview with the CBS news program 60 Minutes.

"What we can say is that this is what the brains look like of kids who spend a lot of time on screens. And it's not just one pattern," Dowling said.

The NIH data reported on CBS also showed that kids who spend more than two hours a day on screens score worse on language and reasoning tests.

The study -- which involves scanning the brains of 4,500 children -- eventually aims to show whether screen time is addictive, but researchers need several years to understand such

long-term outcomes.

"In many ways, the concern that investigators like I have is, that we're sort of in the midst of a natural kind of uncontrolled experiment on the next generation of children," Dimitri Christakis, a lead author of the American Academy of Pediatrics' most recent guidelines on screen time, told 60 Minutes.

Initial data from the study will begin to be released in early 2019.

The academy now recommends parents "avoid digital media use -- except video chatting -- in children younger than 18 to 24 months."

