Mental Health Consequences in Men Exposed to Sexual Abuse During the War in Croatia and Bosnia

Citation:

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Abstract:
In the research project on sexual abuse of men during the war in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, detailed information from 60 victims of such crimes was gathered. The aim of the research was to define key attributes of sexual abuse of men in war as well as consequences it had on the victims. A method of structured interview was used. Also, the statement of each victim was recorded. Victims were exposed to physical torture of their genitals, psycho-sexual torture and physical abuse. The most common symptoms of traumatic reactions were sleep disturbances, concentration difficulties, nightmares and flashbacks, feelings of hopelessness, and different physical stress symptoms such as constant headaches, profuse sweating, and tachycardia. In addition to rape and different methods of sexual abuse, most of the victims were heavily beaten. The conclusion is made that the number of sexually abused men during the war must have been much higher than reported.

Topics: Armed Conflict [1], Gender [2], Men [3], Health [4], Mental Health [5], PTSD [6], Trauma [7], Sexual Violence [8], SV against men [9], Torture [10], Sexual Torture [11] Regions: Europe [12], Balkans [13], Eastern Europe [14] Countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina [15], Croatia [16]

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