



MediCapt

Award-winning mobile app for safe documentation of forensic medical evidence to support prosecutions of sexual violence

Overview

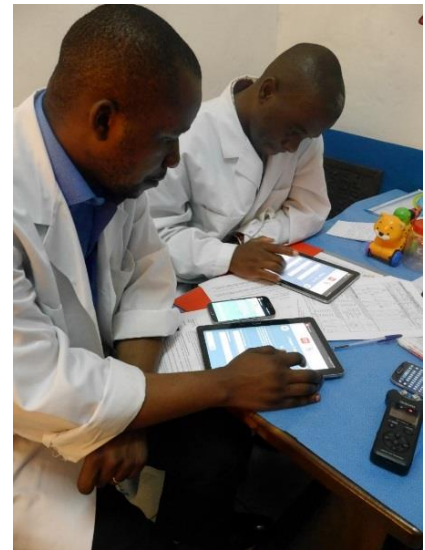
MediCapt is a mobile application, developed by the Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones at Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), to help clinicians more effectively collect, document, and preserve forensic medical evidence of sexual violence to support the prosecution of these crimes.

This critical tool converts a standardized medical intake form for forensic documentation to a digital platform and combines it with a secure mobile camera to facilitate forensic photography. By combining these components, MediCapt will help preserve critical forensic medical evidence of mass atrocities, including sexual violence and torture, for use in courts. Health care providers will use the app to compile medical evidence, photograph survivors' injuries, and securely transmit the data to authorities engaged in prosecuting and seeking accountability for these crimes.

Systemized Documentation

PHR developed MediCapt to support clinicians in the provision of medical care to survivors and the documentation of injuries. This new tool enables health professionals to gather the required medical data – in a standardized way – so that their legal counterparts can manage the entire evidentiary chain more effectively.

Among its many essential features, MediCapt includes sophisticated encryption, cloud data storage, high fidelity to chain of custody standards, and tamper-proof metadata. The app's data mapping feature will help to reveal patterns or prevalence of violence, including the widespread or systematic nature of offences critical to demonstrating crimes against humanity. MediCapt also facilitates early warning of and rapid response to mass crimes. Significantly, the app is designed to securely collect data in conflict zones, as well as remote locations where wireless data transmission is limited. The tool can also accommodate the various languages and literacy levels of its users.



Congolese doctors in Bukavu, DRC, test MediCapt.

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Forensic Photography

Forensic photography plays a critical role in documenting the physical injuries associated with sexual violence cases and, as such, it is important for medical professionals, law enforcement officials, and members of the judiciary to understand how to analyze and safely store the images collected.



PHR consultant Georges Kuzma and Dr. Nadine Neema Rukunghu test MediCapt's secure capture feature for forensic photography.

Collaborative Design and Pilot Testing

PHR is committed to employing a process called collaborative design or “co-design” whereby end-user feedback is sought early in the development process so that MediCapt truly responds to their needs. As part of this iterative development process, PHR continues to field test the app in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya. Wide adoption of this new technology will be a crucial contribution to ending impunity for these crimes.



Employing a process called “co-design”, PHR pilot tested MediCapt v2.0 with Congolese doctors in Bukavu, DRC in January 2015.

Awards

In 2013, MediCapt won first prize in the USAID-Humanity United Tech Challenge for Atrocity Prevention competition in the Safe Documentation category. The Tech Challenge emerged from President Barack Obama’s Genocide Prevention Initiative, launched in April 2012, under which he pledged to support creative 21st-century solutions to prevent mass atrocities.



MediCapt promotes the secure and standardized collection, transmission, and storage of forensic evidence for use in courts.



Physicians for
Human Rights

For more than 30 years, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has used science and the uniquely credible voices of medical professionals to document and call attention to severe human rights violations around the world. A Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate, PHR employs its investigations and expertise to advocate for persecuted health workers and facilities under attack, prevent torture, document mass atrocities, and hold those who violate human rights accountable.