Congoese doctor, Yazidi activist get Nobel Peace Prize

For efforts to end use of sexual violence as a weapon of war

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Denis Mukwege, a doctor who helps victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nadia Murad, a Yazidi rights activist and survivor of sexual slavery by the Islamic State, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2018.

They were honoured for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said. “Denis Mukwege is the helper who has devoted his life to defending these victims. Nadia Murad is the witness who tells of the abuses perpetrated against herself and others,” it said in its citation.

‘Greater visibility’

“Each of them in their own way has helped to give greater visibility to war-time sexual violence, so that the perpetrators can be held accountable for their actions,” it said.

Dr. Mukwege heads the Panzi Hospital in the eastern Congo city of Bukavu. The clinic receives thousands of women each year, many of them requiring surgery from sexual violence.

Ms. Murad is an advocate for the Yazidi minority in Iraq and for refugee and women’s rights, in general. She was enslaved and raped by Islamic State fighters in Mosul, Iraq, in 2014.

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