

Minister pre spravodlivosť a ľudské práva  
Bessolé René Bagoro  
c/o Amnesty International Burkina Faso  
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Burkina Faso

Dear Minister,

I am deeply concerned about the widespread practice of early and forced marriage in Burkina Faso, and particularly the Sahel region. As you will know, early and forced marriage is banned under your country's laws, as well as under international and regional human rights treaties to which Burkina Faso is party.

But in practice, studies have shown that at least one third of girls in Burkina Faso are married before the age of 18, with far-reaching consequences for their health, safety and human rights.

Minister, I urge your government to:

- Enforce and ensure the application of national laws and international obligations banning forced and early marriage.
- Guarantee protection as well as shelter and support services for victims of early and forced marriages.
- Raise awareness in the population about the ban on forced and early marriage, and also about where girls can find assistance if they are at risk.

Yours,