

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARSTEN STORMER



WHY THEY HAPPEN

SO WHY DO ACID ATTACKS HAPPEN? MOST OFTEN, ACID ATTACKS ARE THE RESULT OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE. IT MAY OCCUR BECAUSE OF AN INSUFFICIENT DOWRY PAID BY THE WOMEN'S FAMILY WHEN SHE IS MARRIED, BECAUSE A WOMAN REFUSES TO MARRY A MAN OR REJECTS SEXUAL ADVANCES, OR SIMPLY DUE TO AN ARGUMENT OR MISUNDERSTANDING. THEY DO HAPPEN TO WOMEN MOSTLY BUT CAN BE INFLICTED ON MEN AS WELL.

WHO ARE THE PERPETUATORS?

THE ONES INFLICTING THE CRIME CAN BE ANYONE- A HUSBAND, FATHER, SISTER IN LAW, BROTHER, ETC. UNFORTUNATELY, IN MOST CASES THE PERPETUATORS RECEIVE LITTLE TO NO CONSEQUENCES DUE TO THE SHAME OF WOMEN SPEAKING OUT OR THE INJUSTICE OF LAW OFFICIALS.



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WHAT ARE ACID ATTACKS?

ACID ATTACKS "ARE THE DELIBERATE USE OF ACID TO ATTACK ANOTHER HUMAN BEING. THE VICTIMS OF ACID VIOLENCE ARE OVERWHELMINGLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND ATTACKERS OFTEN TARGET THE HEAD AND FACE IN ORDER TO MAIM, DISFIGURE AND BLIND. ACID HAS A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THE HUMAN BODY, OFTEN PERMANENTLY BLINDING THE VICTIM AND DENYING THEM THE USE OF THEIR HANDS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, MANY EVERYDAY TASKS SUCH AS WORKING AND EVEN MOTHERING ARE RENDERED EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE" (ACID SURVIVORS TRUST INTERNATIONAL). ACID ATTACKS DAMAGE ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE- SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY, PHYSICALLY, AND EMOTIONALLY.

ACID ATTACKS

What they are, how to properly react and aid, treatment, and how to prevent them

FOR THE ATIJEEVAN FOUNDATION



AN ALL INCLUSIVE GUIDE TO LEARN EVERYTHING ABOUT ACID ATTACKS WOMEN ALL AROUND THE WORLD ARE FORCED TO ENDURE AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE CHANGE TO BRING AN END TO THEM.

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TOO OFTEN, MANY ARE UNAWARE OF THE INJUSTICES WOMEN ARE SUBJECTED TO AROUND THE WORLD. ONCE YOU'VE EDUCATED YOURSELF, THE NEXT STEP IS TO EDUCATE OTHERS. YOU CAN DO THIS BY STARTING A BLOG OR WEBSITE, MAKING A CLUB AT YOUR SCHOOL, HOSTING A MOVIE NIGHT THAT SHOWS A DOCUMENTARY OR FILM ADDRESSING WOMEN'S RIGHTS, ORGANIZING AN ASSEMBLY AT YOUR SCHOOL, OR HOLDING A FUNDRAISER WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY. DO ANYTHING THAT BRINGS AWARENESS TO TOPICS THAT HAVE SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE. IT IS KEY THAT YOUR ACTIVITY REVOLVES AROUND THE CONCEPT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GOES BEYOND HOLDING A BAKE SALE OR CAR WASH DRIVE. SEEING IS BELIEVING, SO USING POWERFUL BUT HARD TO WATCH IMAGES AND VIDEOS ARE SURE TO DRIVE THE MESSAGE HOME WITH OTHERS. NETWORK YOURSELF AND CONTACT FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNER WITH THEM. START PETITIONS AND WRITE TO REPRESENTATIVES AND FOREIGN EMBASSIES DEMANDING CHANGE FOR WOMEN EVERYWHERE. SUPPORT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVOCATES THAT WORK TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS BY SPREADING THEIR MESSAGE AS WELL.

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[HTTP://](http://www.atijeevanfoundation.org/)

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WITH YOUR HELP CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

HOW TO AID AN ACID ATTACK VICTIM

IF YOU ARE AROUND SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF AN ACID ATTACK IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PROVIDE TREATMENT.

ACCORDING TO "STOP ACID ATTACKS" THESE ARE THE STEPS ONE SHOULD TAKE WHEN IN THE MIDST OF AN ACID ATTACK:

1. THE MOST IMPORTANT FIRST AID IS TO IMMEDIATELY WASH THE AFFECTED BODY PART OF A PATIENT WITH PLENTY OF FRESH OR SALINE WATER.
2. DON'T RINSE THE BURN AREA WITH DIRTY WATER AS IT CAN CAUSE SEVERE INFECTION.
3. KEEP FLUSHING THE AFFECTED BURN AREA WITH PLENTY OF COOL WATER, (NOT VERY COLD) UNTIL THE PATIENT'S BURNING SENSATION STARTS FADING. IT MAY TAKE 30-45 MINUTES.
4. REMOVE ALL THE JEWELRY OR CLOTHING WHICH HAD CONTACT WITH ACID.
5. DON'T APPLY ANY KIND OF CREAM, OINTMENT ON THE AFFECTED AREA AS IT MAY SLOW THE TREATMENT PROCEDURE BY DOCTORS.
6. IF POSSIBLE, USE STERILIZED GAUZE TO LOOSELY WRAP THE AFFECTED AREA. THE GAUZE PROTECTS THE SKIN FROM AIR, DEBRIS, DIRT AND CONTAMINATION.
7. RUSH THE PATIENT TO A BURN SPECIALTY HOSPITAL HAVING ISOLATED WARDS FOR BURN PATIENTS



Courtesy of Acid Survivors Foundation

THE DAMAGE OF ACID ATTACKS

PHYSICALLY

THE PHYSICAL DAMAGE OF ACID ATTACKS IS DETRIMENTAL. NITRIC OR SULPHURIC ACID SEVERELY DAMAGES ANY PART OF THE BODY AS IT IS SO STRONG THAT IT CAN MELT AWAY BONE. ACID ATTACKS CAN RESULT IN PERMANENT BLINDNESS, LOSS OF FUNCTION OF BODY PARTS, AND DEVASTATING SCARRING AMONG SOME.

EMOTIONALLY

ACCORDING TO ACID SURVIVORS TRUST INTERNATIONAL, "THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCARS MAY BE LESS VISIBLE BUT THEY ARE JUST AS REAL AND TRAUMATIC. THE SEVERE ISOLATION MANY SURVIVORS FACE AS THEY ARE OSTRACIZED FROM THEIR COMMUNITIES, LOSE THE ABILITY TO EARN A LIVING AND MUCH OF THE INDEPENDENCE THEY ONCE ENJOYED, CAUSES ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTY."

FINANCIALLY

ACCORDING TO ACID SURVIVORS TRUST INTERNATIONAL, "IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES WHERE MANY WOMEN DEPEND ON THE INCOME GENERATED BY THEIR HUSBANDS, WOMEN SURVIVORS FACE LITTLE CHANCE OF MARRIAGE, CONDEMNING THEM TO EXTREME AND INESCAPABLE POVERTY."

