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## Yobe, Nigeria

In the Hausa language, "Boko Haram" means "Western education is sin." On Feb. 25, insurgents of the Boko Haram militant group attacked a school in the Yobe state of Northern Nigeria. At least 43 students and school members have been killed and most of the school has been burned to the ground, the BBC reports. In a public statement, Yobe state Governor Ibrahim Gaidam admitted that security agents failed to arrive at the school up to five hours after the massacre. Since 2009, over 10,000 people have been killed as a consequence of Boko Haram's campaign to establish an Islamic state within Nigeria.

## Sochi, Russia

After 17 days of global sport and competition, the 2014 Winter Olympic Games ended on Sunday, Feb. 23. Host nation Russia, which, according to The Guardian, spent over \$50 billion in preparation, finished first in the overall medal count. The Russians hope that the newly built ski resort and its lavish constituent venues will become year-round destinations for tourists and conferences. The 2018 Winter Olympic Games will be hosted by South Korea in Pyeongchang.

## Washington, D.C., USA

In his recent defense budget proposal, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel pushed for more cyberwarriors and agile special forces and fewer "big troop buildups." According to The Wall Street Journal, the new budget would reduce the U.S. Army to its smallest size — 440,000 troops — since World War II. Hagel hopes to appropriate more of the budget to targeting cyberthreats from the Far East and thwarting al Qaeda-affiliates in Africa. Those voicing concern over the proposed changes include Rep. Randy Forbes (R., Va.) and Martin O'Malley, Democrat and governor of Maryland. Congress will vote on Hagel's budget after President Barack Obama releases the details in the coming week.

## Mazatlan, Mexico

On Feb. 22, Mexican marines and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration captured Sinaloa cartel drug lord Joaquin Guzman in a condo in the beach resort town of Mazatlan. The capture and arrest came 13 years after Guzman escaped from a high-security prison in Mexico. Dubbed "the Osama bin Laden of the drug world," Guzman headed arguably the most prolific drug-trafficking organization in the world. According to Bloomberg News, the drug lord is being held in the central Mexican city of Toluca and has been charged in a federal indictment in Brooklyn, New York.

# One Billion Rising up against violence toward women

BY KELLI URESTI  
STAFF WRITER

This Valentine's Day, hundreds of thousands of people — men, women, boys and girls — performed a dance to speak out against violence toward women.

Studies show that one in three women around the world will be beaten or raped at least once in her lifetime.

"One Billion Rising is a campaign that a global activist movement called V-Day puts on to focus attention on the problem of violence against women," said Carolyn Hunt, co-founder and organizer with Bay Area Rising, in an email interview with The Guilfordian.

Eve Ensler, a visionary leader who also authored the "Vagina Monologues," founded one Billion Rising.

"(Ensler) knew the only thing we could do was to call upon one billion women and men to change this reality and to move the conversation from the margins to the mainstream," said Lindsey Horvath, Regional Coordinator

for the V-Day One Billion Rising Campaign, to The Guilfordian in an email.

Two hundred and seven countries participated in One Billion Rising, making Feb. 14 a special occasion to speak out against violence to women through dance.

"I think of the joy of life and the triumph of victims of violence over their perpetrators by moving bodies and giving thanks for life through the dances," said Hunt.

One Billion Rising is bringing change around the world through their campaign.

"In Peru, construction workers were declaring their workplaces 'harassment free,'" Horvath said. "In the Philippines, activists rose for economic and environmental justice, which are core issues in the fight to protect women and girls. In Los Angeles, we talked about the impact of sexual assault on women in the military."

Many people think violence against women to be a rare occurrence in American culture.

Horvath disagreed.

"The reality is that it's

everywhere," she said. "The president recently issued an order to address the epidemic of sexual assault on college campuses. When it's safer for girls to not get an education, when they are likelier to be raped because they chose to go to college, something is fundamentally wrong with our society."

That is why Horvath and other activists have joined the campaign: to bring awareness to and to empower survivors of gender-based violence.

"I have not heard of the One Billion Rising Campaign," said junior Jasmine Wilburn. "But I do know women who have been beaten. I see the pain they have to go through and the way their whole personality has changed because of it."

"I definitely think this is an issue worth standing up against — not just for women — for anyone enduring violence."

The fight is far from over, but One Billion Rising is looking to expand the scope of its efforts and response to this global problem.

"We would love not to have

to rise again next year because violence against women and girls would be over," said Horvath. "But, until that is our reality, we will rise, grow, reach more communities and take action to create justice in all its forms."

Visit [www.onebillionrising.org](http://www.onebillionrising.org) to catch a glimpse of the V-Day dances that took place throughout the world in February. You can also learn more about the One Billion Rising campaign and V-Day by following them on Twitter: @VDay.



**ONE BILLION RISING**  
**STRIKE | DANCE | RISE!**