Reviewer's report

Title: Exposures to war-related traumatic events and post-traumatic stress disorder among displaced Darfuri female university students: An exploratory study

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Reviewer: Ulrike Ehlert

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript refers to the assessment of psychopathological consequences in a small sample of selected female students from Darfur. Although it is important to assess such consequences I have some major concerns referring to the methods of assessment.

Overall comment: The authors should not use the phrase prevalence since they did not choose a representative sample of Darfuri female university students.

Title and Abstract: The authors should change the title of their manuscript and the abstract of the manuscript due to the fact that they did not assess diagnoses via interviews but simply assessed symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) via questionnaire.

Page 3, 2nd paragraph, introduction section: The paragraph on reasons for PTSD is related too narrow to war experiences and traumas. Should be described in a broader context (life threatening circumstances).

Page 4, 2nd paragraph, introduction section: “Given the momentum that the present Darfuri crisis is taking,”, this phrase is unclear and should be rewritten. Same to “measure PTSD amongst a sample” (see comment above), the expression “PTSD symptoms” should be used.

Page 5, 1st paragraph, participants: It should be written that female students were assessed only and at least one reason should be given for that decision.

Page 7 f., methods section: “A total of 49 war-related trauma items (20 Darfuri items added onto the existing 29 items) made up Part I of the Darfuri HTQ version”. Besides translation and back-translation, did the authors assess any statistical analyses to validate the questionnaire? What about any checks of reliability? Although it seems to be difficult to translate a questionnaire into foreign languages, it seems to be really necessary to prepare a careful statistical background for the new questionnaire to avoid miss-calculations of subjects potentially suffering from PTSD symptoms.

Page 11 f., results section: “About two-thirds of the students…” From the total sample or those who experienced trauma. Numbers should be given additionally.

Page 12, results section: As stated above, the following phrase is incorrect: “Prevalence for post-traumatic stress disorder”.

With respect to the abovementioned methodological problems, the discussion section should be rewritten after the statistical problems are solved.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.