

...media reported that

...on Monday: "My feeling is that the North did not entirely reject

...secretary of state Rex Tillerson is also at the Asean forum, where he spoke about North Korea.

...committed to fully implementing the latest round of UN sanctions, the White House said in a statement.

...investigation, during that victims showed signs of blows and wounds "presumably" caused by knives.

India media storm over 10-year-old pregnant rape victim

BY AGENCIES

INDIA. A 10-year-old girl who is pregnant and has been denied an abortion, is at the centre of a media storm in India.

"We have seen lots of cases of teenage pregnancies involving 14 to 15-year-olds, but this is the first ever case that I have seen of a 10-year-old," said Mahavir Singh, of the Chandigarh State Legal Services Authority.

Mr Singh has been involved in a case which has shocked Chandigarh and the rest of India, that of a 10-year-old girl who became pregnant after allegedly being repeatedly raped by a relative. That relative is now in jail, pending

trial.

The girl in question has been described as a happy child who smiles easily. She is a class six student.

On July 28, India's Supreme Court rejected a petition filed on her behalf to allow her to abort, on the grounds that at 32 weeks, she is too far into her pregnancy.

A doctors' panel had advised the court that a termination at this stage would be "too risky" for the girl, and that the foetus was "doing well".

Indian law does not allow terminations after 20 weeks unless doctors certify that the mother's life is in danger. But in recent years, the courts have

received several petitions, many from child rape survivors, seeking to terminate pregnancies after 20 weeks. In most cases, these pregnancies are discovered late because the children are not aware of their condition.

In the case of this 10-year-old too, the pregnancy was discovered only three weeks ago when she complained of pain in her lower abdomen. Someone who interacts with the girl on a regular basis says: "She's very innocent and has no idea what's happened to her."

Her parents also missed the telltale signs, perhaps because she's "a healthy, chubby child. The child has still not been told about her pregnancy and, for those

dealing with her, talking to her is like treading on eggshells. She has been told that she has a big stone in her stomach and the bulge is because of that.

But in recent days, police, social workers and counsellors have been in and out of her house, and a media circus has grown up outside her home. "She might not understand the exact problem, the gravity of the situation, but I think she has an idea now," a senior official said.

Her parents are struggling to deal with the situation.

Policewoman Pratibha Kumari, who has investigated the case, describes them as a "very nice family, who are so

simple that they didn't even realise what this man was doing to their daughter".

The parents, she says, are understandably distraught. What has made their situation worse is that, ever since the news of the rape and pregnancy hit the headlines, they have been hounded by journalists.

"When the girl's father came to see me, he told me his biggest problem was the press. He said there were reporters outside his home all the time," Neil Roberts, chair of the Child Welfare Committee, told the *BBC*.

The media attention has meant the girl is likely to get the best medical care and is entitled to claim financial compensation from the government.

But the unwanted publicity is causing the family immense grief.