



Weekly Report

Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Initiatives Around the World

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- 1 Parliamentary Initiative
- 2 UN Initiative
- 3 NGO Initiative

“By combining ongoing research with the vast amounts of information already collected by the USC Shoah Foundation, I believe we will be able to decode the conditions that can lead to genocide”

– Steve A. Kay, dean of USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Genocide: A Preventable Crime - Panel discussion

- On January 15, 2014, the event Genocide: A Preventable Crime - Understanding Early Warning of Mass Atrocities, co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Rwanda, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and the Department of Public Information (DPI), was held.
- Speaking at the event, Senator Roméo Dallaire stated that today “we have actually been given the tools to fight impunity in the field, and not just in the courts afterwards” but member states are still “reticent because self-interest still dominates, and the human being is still the lowest factor of intervention, let alone prevention.”
- Senator Dallaire expressed that while today there appears to be a greater willingness of states to engage in the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity, a more effective means of responding to these situations is still needed. The Senator stressed the importance of not forgetting what happened in Rwanda and urged states to place saving human lives above strategic importance and other political considerations.
- The Senator also discussed the use of child soldiers as a primary weapon of war and as one of the primary warning signs of genocide.
- Source: UNIFEED, UN Web TV
Video Press Conference, Jan. 14:
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2014/01/un-dallaire-genocide/>
Video Event, Jan. 15 (minute 26):
<http://webtv.un.org/watch/genocide-a-preventable-crime-panel-discussion/3058914854001-full-text>

33 organizations and 33 Global Citizens call to end Rohingya genocide

- Speaking at the London Conference on Decades of State-Sponsored Destruction of Myanmar’s Rohingya, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Tomás Ojéa Quintana, stated “There are elements of genocide in Rakhine with respect to Rohingya ... It is crimes against humanity. The possibility of genocide needs to be discussed. This conference is very important as it does just that.”
- The conference marked the first time top legal experts, academics and activists have met at the London School of Economics and Political Science and initiated the public debate on whether the persecution of the Rohingya by Myanmar should be considered genocide under international law.
- The Rohingya have been subjected to a government-organized systematic campaign of mass killing, terror, torture, attempts to prevent births on the basis of ethnicity, forced labor, severe restrictions on physical movement, large scale internal displacement (estimated at 140,000), sexual violence, arbitrary arrest, summary execution, land-grab and community destruction.
- Source: Kaladan Press

<http://www.kaladanpress.org/index.php/news/360-news2014/april-2014/4506-33-organizations-and-33-global-citizens-call-to-end-rohingya-genocide.html>
<http://www.maungzarni.net/2014/04/press-release-united-nations-expert.html?m=1>



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Steven Spielberg launches center for genocide research

- On April 25, the establishment of the Center for Advanced Genocide Research, which aims to study how and why mass violence occurs, at the USC Shoah Foundation - Institute for Visual History and Education was announced.
- The center will study how to intervene and stop genocide in addition to understanding its causes. It will enable international researchers and scholars to collaborate and come together at a single institution to study genocide in ways that would otherwise be impossible.
- The Center will focus on interdisciplinary study organized around three themes to advance the analysis of genocide and systematic mass violence on an international scale: (1) Resistance to Genocide and Mass Violence; (2) Violence, Emotion and Behavioral Change; and, (3) Digital Genocide Studies.
- Source: Haaretz, USC News
<http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/jewish-world-news/1.587468>
<https://news.usc.edu/61943/new-usc-center-to-analyze-advanced-genocide-research/>