



Weekly Report

Global Initiatives on Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity

Mary Kapron

**MARCH 31 - APRIL
7, 2014**

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

Libya recognizes rape as a weapon

- A new unprecedented constitutional decree in Libya is recognizing the use of rape as a weapon in the 2011 uprising that ousted Muammar Gaddafi.
- In an unparalleled judicial decision, the new decree will move to the Libyan National Congress to become passed into law. The decree deems rape survivors as “official war victims” and will include provisions for financial assistance and physical and psychological health care for rape survivors.
- Source: Nobel Women’s Initiative News
<http://nobelwomensinitiative.org/2014/02/libya-recognizes-rape-as-a-weapon/?ref=196>

At Brussels conference, Ban says genocide prevention is global responsibility

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared that defending human rights is a global responsibility and called on all Governments to renew their commitment to vigilance and political will to prevent mass atrocities from ever occurring again.
- He commended the progress that has been made in holding accountable genocide perpetrators and cited the establishment of special international criminal tribunals for Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone and Cambodia as “breakthroughs against impunity” and proof that “the rule of law keeps gaining ground.”
- He highlighted that the biggest challenge of all remains the mobilization of political will. In a world where atrocity crimes are of the realm of global concern, Ban deplored that “the international community often proves reluctant to act, at times even when atrocity crimes are happening.”
- Source: UN News Centre
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47477&Cr=genocide&Cr1=-.Uz60vvdUrU>

“We pay tribute to the memory of victims through remembrance and reflection. But it is perhaps through our prevention and protection efforts that we honour them even more.” – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

ICBL Members call for mine free world on International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (April 4)

- Landmines continue to maim and take the lives of some 10 persons every day. In over 60 countries and territories people’s lives and livelihoods are still at risk of landmines and explosive remnants of war. 36 countries have yet to renounce antipersonnel landmines by joining the Mine Ban Treaty.
- ICBL members and civil society groups around the world are undertaking actions calling on governments to complete their obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty including meetings with government officials in Libya, billboards calling for completion of landmine clearance in Afghanistan, a photo exhibition on humanitarian mine action in the USA and outreach to mine affected villages in Senegal.
- Source: International Campaign to Ban Landmines
<https://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Library/News/Mine-Action-Day-2014>