

Weekly Report

Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Initiatives Around the World

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

Rwanda genocide 'should simply never have happened'

- Rwanda has begun a week of official mourning to mark the 20th anniversary of the country's genocide.
- Events on April 7 included a wreath-laying ceremony at the national genocide memorial, followed by the lighting of a flame at the Amahoro Stadium in the capital, Kigali.
- Thousands of people packed the stadium, having queued for hours through the fog. Many of them reacted with uncontrollable emotion to the stories, speeches and performances recalling the genocide.
- Source: BBC News

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26926268 http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26917419

Resolution 2149 Adopted by UN Security Council Establishing Peacekeeping Force in Central African Republic

- Deeply concerned about the deteriorating security situation and ongoing human rights abuses in the Central African Republic, on April 10 the Security Council approved the establishment of a nearly 12,000-strong United Nations peacekeeping operation (MINUSCA) to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian access in the war-torn country.
- MINUSCA's mandate will focus on: protection of civilians; support for
 implementation of transition process; facilitation of humanitarian
 assistance; promotion and protection of human rights; support for justice
 and the rule of law; and, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.
- Source: UN Security Council
 http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2149(2014)

"We did not need to experience genocide to become better people. It simply should never have happened." – Rwandan President Paul Kagame

Life in the midst of horror in the Central African Republic

- Amnesty International's Donatella Rovera and Joanne Mariner report on a massacre in Bouguere, a town West of Bangui, where they saw the remains of dozens of men and women littering the streets.
- They report that what they saw in Bouguere is not an exception. In the village of Boboua, they found three bodies lying in front of a mosque. As they left the village, a frantic group of Muslim residents emerged from their hideouts in the bush and flagged down their vehicle. They told the AI representatives that anti-balaka fighters had attacked their village three hours earlier and killed the three men. They said that there were only 200 Muslims left and they were under serious threat. "We were born here," one of them exclaimed, "where can we go?"
- Source: Amnesty International http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/life-in-the-midst-of-horror-in-the-central-african-republic