



# Weekly Report

## Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Initiatives Around the World

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**MAY 19-26, 2014**

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

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*“The Syrian people have a fundamental right to justice. The United Nations and its Member States have a fundamental duty to defend that right.”—  
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*

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### ***May 28: Ottawa premiere of Seeds of Hope!***

- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Ottawa’s first screening of Seeds of Hope will take place at the Mayfair Theatre at 6:30pm. The evening is presented by the British High Commission in Ottawa and the International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict ahead of the UK’s Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in June.
- In this feature-length documentary, filmmaker Fiona Lloyd-Davies explores how in the war-torn eastern Democratic Republic of Congo—one woman shines a beacon of hope for survivors of rape. Masika Katsuva, herself a survivor, has built a centre providing medical, practical, and psychological support which has helped over 6,000 women and children. Together, they cultivate crops of maize and beans—and share their experiences, to heal and rebuild their lives, and to plant their seeds of hope.
- The film will be followed by a panel discussion with filmmaker Fiona Lloyd-Davies, Senator Mobina Jaffer, and Nobel Women’s Initiative Executive Director Liz Bernstein, moderated by CBC’s Lucy van Oldenbarneveld.
- Source: Nobel Women’s Initiative  
<http://nobelwomensinitiative.org/2014/05/may-28-ottawa-premiere-of-seeds-of-hope/?ref=196>

### ***Russia, China block Security Council referral of Syria to International Criminal Court***

- Despite repeated appeals by senior United Nations officials for accountability for crimes being committed in Syria, the Security Council was unable today to adopt a resolution that would have referred the situation in the war-torn nation to the International Criminal Court (ICC), due to vetoes by permanent members Russia and China.
- The resolution, which was backed by the other 13 members of the Council, would have given the Court the mandate to investigate the horrific crimes committed during the course of the conflict in Syria, which since March 2011 has witnessed the deaths of over 100,000 civilians, the displacement of millions and widespread violations of human rights.
- “Since the outbreak of the war in Syria, I have persistently called for accountability for perpetrators of grave human rights violations, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The recent attacks against humanitarian convoys and personnel, which may constitute war crimes, add to the urgent need to see action now on accountability in Syria,” Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said in remarks delivered on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon prior to the vote.
- Source: UN News Centre  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47860>



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## ***Misleading Free Trade Report Ignores Emergency Facing Indigenous Peoples and Other Grave Human Rights Concerns in Colombia***

- As part of its Make It Visible – Colombia Indigenous Survival Campaign, Amnesty International Canada and the Assembly of First Nations are expressing serious concern that the Canadian government has once again issued a “human rights impact assessment” about commerce with Colombia that fails to acknowledge the deadly repression faced by Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendent communities, trade unionists and others in that country.
- In the news release, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada, Alex Neve stated that, “This report would have parliamentarians believe there are no trade and investment-related human rights concerns in Colombia. This flies in the face of abundant, well-documented evidence to the contrary from a growing chorus of respected Colombian and international organizations.” said Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada.
- Assembly of First Nations Spokesperson Quebec/Labrador Regional Chief Ghislain Picard stated, “We are calling on the Government of Canada to ensure that the human rights and Indigenous rights of Indigenous peoples in Colombia are respected and upheld.”
- Source: Amnesty International Canada  
<http://www.amnesty.ca/news/news-releases/misleading-free-trade-report-ignores-emergency-facing-indigenous-peoples-and>