



Weekly Report

Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Initiatives Around the World

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**MAY 26 - JUNE 2,
2014**

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

"The [Security Council] demands that all militias and armed groups and elements put aside their arms, cease all forms of violence and destabilizing activities immediately in order to end the cycle of violence and retaliation," – United Nations Security Council

Parliament unanimously adopts NDP motion in commemoration of Rwandan genocide

- On the twentieth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, Parliament has unanimously adopted an NDP motion to re-affirm Canada's commitment to preventing genocides.
- "The Rwandan genocide was made possible by the indifference and inaction of the international community," said NDP Foreign Affairs critic Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre). "On this day, Canada must make the prevention of mass atrocities a foreign policy priority and join many of our international allies and partners in appointing a National Focal Point for the Responsibility to Protect."
- The motion states, "That the House of Commons solemnly commemorate the Rwandan genocide on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; reflect upon the lessons learned since the genocide, including the importance of reconciliation; and reaffirm its commitment to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."
- Source: NDP News
<http://www.ndp.ca/news/parliament-unanimously-adopts-ndp-motion-commemoration-rwandan-genocide>

Central African Republic: Security Council condemns latest wave of violence

- Strongly condemning the latest wave of fighting in the Central African Republic, including Wednesday's deadly attack in the capital, Bangui, on a church that was sheltering thousands of people, on May 30, 2014, the United Nations Security Council demanded that all armed groups put aside their weapons and take immediate steps "to end the cycle of violence and retaliation."
- In a statement to the press, the Council "condemned in the strongest terms" the recent attacks in CAR, including those committed on 28 May on the Church of Notre Dame de Fatima in Bangui in which civilians, including displaced persons and a priest, were killed and others were injured and abducted.
- The members of the Council called on UN Member States and regional and international organizations to increase troop, financial, logistical and in-kind contributions to MISCA to enable it to implement fully its mandate and help prepare for the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA on 15 September 2014.
- Earlier in the day, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) also condemned the attack against innocent civilians sheltering at the church and said such violence endangers some of the last havens for those fleeing rampant violence in the war-battered country. "Churches, monasteries and mosques have [until] now been safe havens for internally displaced persons across the CAR," spokesperson Fatoumata Lejeune-Kaba told reporters at a briefing in Geneva. "UNHCR strongly condemns this attack against innocent civilians. We call again on all sides of the armed conflict to protect civilians, in line with their obligations under international law," she said.
- Source: UN News Centre
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47928&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1=-.U4kzOvldUrU>



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Students to Propose Action Against Atrocities as Bronx High School of Science Hosts Model United Nations on Holocaust, Genocide Prevention, 2 June

- Students from the Bronx High School of Science in New York will present their recommendations for world action to prevent atrocity crimes at the first ever Model United Nations simulation on the Holocaust and Genocide Prevention, to be held on 2 June.
- As a first step, a preparatory workshop on Sunday, 18 May, gave students the chance to examine issues that contributed to the rise of the Holocaust, and learn about the international legal framework for the prevention and punishment of genocide and other atrocity crimes. A discussion on specific case studies with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect helped to sharpen the students' analytical skills and prepare them for a debate during the actual simulation of preventive action.
- The Model UN simulation will also enable the students to deepen their research, problem-solving and public speaking skills while they learn the art of diplomacy and how the General Assembly makes decisions. The topic and location of the simulation are also significant because the Bronx High School of Science houses a Holocaust Museum and Studies Center dedicated to memory as well as the search for the causes of human behaviour and the consequences of extreme prejudice. The Museum is run by students and serves to educate all about the history of the Holocaust while helping to promote tolerance in a very diverse public school. The Museum and the Social Studies Department, which provides guidance to the school's Model UN Club, were co-organizers of the event.
- Source: UN Media Centre
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2014/pi2095.doc.htm>