



# THE ISG NEWSLETTER

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## LETTER FROM BURUNDI By Felicite Buzoca

by *Félicité Buzoca\**

*\*Pseudonym to protect the writer's identity. Felicite Buzoca is a former high-level government official who has been forced to flee to a neighboring country for speaking out against the abuses being committed by the regime. She maintains regular contact with developments inside Burundi.*

From April 2015 up until today, we are witnessing the killings of persons accused of being opposed to the illegal third term of President Nkurunziza on a daily basis in Burundi. More than 300,000 people have fled in the neighboring countries.

Men, mostly youths, have been targeted to be killed or put in jail, girls and women are regularly raped, and since about two months ago, there is a new kind of human rights abuse: the sequestration of children of elementary and secondary schools. Human rights workers have also raised concerns about possible cases of human trafficking.

President Nkurunziza had tried to manipulate the population in order to transform a political crisis into an ethnic one, but the population has on the whole managed to stay unified and is attempting to resist together this violation of the Arusha Peace Agreement and the Constitution of

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## LETTER FROM BURUNDI

Burundi, which had helped to stabilize the country for more than 10 years.

When protests started last year, Nkurunziza sent the police and his militia, the imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling party, to kill those who were protesting. Many people were killed and others fled into the neighboring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and DRC.

At that time, many authorities also began to give speeches full of hate and what appears to have been a manhunt started. Imbonerakure militias accompanied by the police destroyed many houses on the pretext of looking for armed rebels. Young men were jailed and killed; women and girls have been raped, some in front of their family members.

### **Even school children are not safe in Burundi**

Three weeks ago, 300 children of a primary school in Ruziba had been expelled from school because they were accused of having defaced the photo of President Nkurunziza that was on the cover of their school books.

Last month, policemen arrested school children who were protesting against the arrest of their schoolmates. Eleven students at the Secondary School of Muramvya Province--five girls and six boys between 13 and 19 years old -- have been in jail since last week. If they are held longer, they will miss their final exams.

To many Burundians, it can appear that President Nkurunziza has prepared for a long time to remain in power by force:

- Since he arrived in power, in 2005, he started to divide political parties by creating wings to weaken them. A 'wing' is a kind of hostile political takeover whereby the government weakens strong political parties by organizing a conven-

tion during which some of corrupted members become elected to replace the management as new leaders of that party, who become immediately recognized by the government. Since the new leaders are not the real key people of the party, we have two parties of the same name, one which doesn't have members but which recognized by the government and another — the real one — which is not recognized by the government, but which is operational on the ground.

- He created the imbonerakure from the youth wing of his party, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), and has sent them for training in the DRC since 2011. There are reports that they have been trained by former perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide, the interahamwe of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). The imbonerakure then started to arrest whomever they suspected to be against the Nkurunziza regime. We registered in the country many disappearances of people whose bodies were later found in the rivers, on the roads, or in the bushes.
- Since 2013 Nkurunziza has been importing weapons clandestinely. All workers in the service of SOBUGEA (the airport's handling service) were moved aside and replaced by agents of the President's Office. Nkurunziza used to hide this activity but now engages in it openly.

The information about the imbonerakure's training by Rwandan extremists in the DRC has been available since 2010, but nothing was done to stop it. One fears that President Nkurunziza and his militias are executing a similar plan as in Rwanda in 1994. The difference is that they have chosen another way of killing, one without the mass dimension, in order to avoid the awareness of the international community. Since all the private

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radios had been destroyed, it has become difficult to know what is happening in Burundi.

### **Genocide is on our doorstep**

As Colette Braeckman, a Belgian journalist, stated it in *Le Soir* on May 29, 2016, genocide is on our doorstep. (<http://blog.lesoir.be/colette-braeckman/2016/05/29/un-scenario-rwandais-se-dessine-au-burundi/>)

The authorities regularly give hate speeches, inciting violence towards all those who are opposed to the Nkurunziza regime. They allege that the people from the Tutsi ethnic group want to come back into power by force. After the cleansing all male adults and young people suspected to be against the third term from the Bujumbura District, it is now the turn of up country districts like Mwaro, Mugamba in Bururi, areas that are mostly populated by Tutsi. All young people in these regions are being hunted down, arrested, put in jail or killed. People are scared and don't know what to do. And actually, there is no longer the possibility to flee in the neighboring countries since policemen are watching to arrest whoever tries to cross the border.

In terms of transforming the political crisis into an ethnic one, Nkurunziza has now started to divide soldiers in the national army: the National Defense Force (FDN) is composed of ex-FAB (the defunct Armed Forces of Burundi: former soldiers who are majority Tutsi because FAB used to be a mono-ethnic army) and ex-PMPA (former Armed Political Parties and Movements, who were rebels and majority Hutu). In military camps, all ex-FAB soldiers are no longer allowed to possess their weapons, especially at night, when their weapons are taken and kept "in storage." All ex-FAB are suspected of being against the Nkurunziza regime;

they are regularly humiliated and arrested by imbonerakure and police forces. Some are killed and others are tried by civil courts (rather than military tribunals).

People are also frightened by the digging of trenches alongside the roads, which was ordered by President Nkurunziza, saying that they were for public toilets. People suspect he wants to use them as mass graves, since similar projects had been undertaken in neighboring Rwanda before the genocide in 1994.

To avoid the awareness and condemnation of the international community, the government has destroyed all the private media and are pursuing killings little by little, a small number per day, according to a plan commonly known as "opération kamwe kamwe." But even though private media have been silenced, social media are helping to alert outsiders to abuses being committed in the country.

The economy of the country is suffering, since the Burundian regime is under sanctions from donors who provide more than 50 percent of the country's budget. The administration is corrupt and they regularly arrest innocent people, accusing them of collaborating with rebel movements and demanding 200,000 Burundi Francs (almost \$100) to release them. The average income in Burundi is about \$20 per month, or \$240 per year.

President Nkurunziza is planning a referendum to change the Constitution so that there will be no more term limits. This would allow him to run in all future elections and control the country forever.

### **There is now a new fear in Burundi of government-sponsored human trafficking**

President Nkurunziza announced once in a speech that he negotiated about 120,000 jobs

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for Burundians with an unnamed Arab country. Sometime afterward people began to denounce the curious recruitment of young girls in the ruling party office. They were allegedly being sent for HIV test before being sent outside the country.

A few weeks ago, people noticed a strange movement of young girls passing through the airport, en route to Saudi Arabia and Oman. After inquiries, it has been found that these girls are being recruited by ruling party leaders, who then change their names, give them Muslim names, and force them to wear Muslim clothing before taking them to their new destination for jobs. And since last month, almost 110 young girls have traveled to Saudi Arabia.

We suspect a human trafficking. Human Rights Organizations are now investigating to find out what the young girls are going to do in these countries.

We fear that they are sent to be slaves because they don't know anything about their travel. From the time they arrive at the airport, all the documents are held by other people from the regime. There must be a particular attention to detect these movements and bring back our daughters.

### **There is a possibility to end the crisis by dialogue**

After much international and domestic pressure, President Nkurunziza finally accepted to attend negotiations in Arusha-Tanzania from 21 to 24 May, 2016, under the mediation of former President of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa. The East African Community (EAC) Secretary General, who is Burundian, Mr Liberat Mpfumukeko, managed to interfere in the organization of the first round of negotiations. Not invited were the political opposition groups, who are by necessity currently headquartered outside of Burundi and

who are united in the "Council for the Observance of the Constitution, Human Rights and the Arusha Peace Accord" (CNARED), which is composed of twenty-five political parties and former presidents of the country, former presidents of parliament, and former vice-presidents.

Most everybody denounced the maneuvers, which showed that Nkurunziza wanted just to play the game, simulating a willingness to negotiate with opponents with the aim of securing the release of funds from the international community

The mediator is now preparing a second round of talks and is in Belgium to meet with the opposition leaders of CNARED to assure them that there will be no more mistakes in the invitations, so that serious negotiations can start and continue until we reach an acceptable agreement.

Pressure must be kept on him Nkurunziza and his supporters, otherwise he will just come to the table to demonstrate that he is willing to negotiate, but, after achieving the release of some sanctions and securing some funds, he will go back on with killings. This risks giving the rebel movements another reason to take up weapons and fight.

If Nkurunziza doesn't negotiate with the real, strong and united opposition group CNARED, activists and opposition leaders in Burundi are calling on the African Union (AU) to impose economic sanctions.

The African Union should rethink its policy towards Burundi and agree to send a peacekeeping mission. The AU dropped its original plan to send 5,000 peacekeepers to Burundi to stop the country from spiraling into anarchy after the strife-torn nation's government declared it "too early" for a military intervention on its soil.

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To support successful negotiations, there must be:

- A commitment to existing sanctions and their strengthening;
- An effort to bring back to Burundi all the policemen and soldiers who are serving in peacekeeping missions in other countries, as it was asked in the “BRING BACK OUR SOLDIERS” petition.
- Financial and political support for the former President of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa to conduct negotiations with full independence and with his own secretariat (not using the EAC Secretary General, who is not neutral).
- Acceleration of the ICC process so that Nkurun-

ziza and his supporters are put out of action to ensure that they can do no further harm, as was done with Former President Gbagbo of Cote d’Ivoire;

- The imposition by the East African Community of an embargo on weapons sales to Burundi. The borders, especially with the DRC and Tanzania, should be secured and checked.

Burundi has to be carefully watched by international leaders, since there is currently no more independent media from which to derive information.

## LIVES AT RISK

BY ELISA VON JOEDEN-FORGEY

by Elisa von Joeden-Forgey

*NOTE: This report contains information and news about genocide and human rights around the world for the first six months of 2016. Please consult previous issues of the ISG Newsletter for previous reports. Country listings change with each issue. Please send material for inclusion in the up-coming newsletter to [Elisa.Forgey@stockton.edu](mailto:Elisa.Forgey@stockton.edu).*

### AFGHANISTAN

Fighting between the Taliban and government forces has escalated, with insurgent violence accounting for 70 percent of civilian casualties, according to Human Rights Watch. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan’s 2015 annual report documents the sharp rise in civilian casualties, caused mostly by the Taliban. Civilian casualty data from the first quarter of 2016 shows an increase from the same time period in previous years. The constant violence in Afghanistan has

created over 1 million refugees, many of whom have undertaken the perilous journey to Europe.

United National Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, “Afghanistan Annual Report: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,” February 14, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/unama](http://tinyurl.com/unama).

Human Rights Watch, “Afghanistan: Taliban Child Soldier Recruitment Surges,” February 17, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/HRWafghanistanTaliban](http://tinyurl.com/HRWafghanistanTaliban)

### AZERBAIJAN

On 2 April 2016 Azerbaijan attacked Armenian-controlled territory in Nagorno-Karabakh, leading to a four-day war in which 200 people on both sides died. The resumption of open hostilities in this simmering regional conflict has inflamed nationalist sentiments on both sides and has the potential of much more vicious and damaging fighting, as well as widespread fallout, if open conflict were to resume in the future. In particular,

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the conflict has the potential to draw in Russia and Turkey. The Armenian government has accused the Azerbaijan armed forces of committing atrocities against civilians and soldiers during the short war, including the murder and brutalization of elderly people. US Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez called for a “Leahy Law” investigation into these accusations against Azerbaijan, which receives millions of dollars in aid annually from the United States. The presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan met on May 16 to pave the way for a comprehensive settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. However, Turkey’s recent announcement that it will establish a military base in Azerbaijan is unlikely to contribute to long-term peace.

International Crisis Group, “Nagorno Karabakh: New Opening, or More Peril?” July 4, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/IntlCrisisGrp-Azerbaijan](http://tinyurl.com/IntlCrisisGrp-Azerbaijan)

Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Human Rights Defender, “Interim Public Report: Atrocities Committed by Azerbaijani Military Forces Against the Civilian Population of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Servicemen of the Nagorno Karabakh Defense Army on April 2-5 2016,” April 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/HumanRightsDefender-Azerbaijan](http://tinyurl.com/HumanRightsDefender-Azerbaijan)

### BANGLADESH

On July 1, 2016 six gunmen believed to have allegiance to ISIS stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka, a popular hangout for tourists and foreigners working in the country. The gunmen took the patrons hostage, separated them into two groups, and killed all of those who were not Bengali and could not recite passages from the Quran.

### BURMA/MYANMAR

Despite political elections in November 2015 that were a win for the National League for Democracy (NLD), the pro-democracy party of Aung San Suu Kyi, the position of Burma’s religious and ethnic minorities remains precarious. International leaders criticized Suu Kyi this spring for failing to address the situation of the Rohingya Muslim minority in particular. In May the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report on the Rohingya that found that the abuses committed against them by the state of Myanmar may amount to crimes against humanity. Other groups have called the fate of the Rohingya a “slow genocide” (see the previous ISG newsletter). In response Suu Kyi announced the creation on July 15 of a task force to prevent religious violence and threatened legislation against Ma Ba Tha, the organization of nationalist Buddhists behind much of the violence against minorities.

United Nations Human Rights Council, Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 28 June 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/ohchr-rohingya](http://tinyurl.com/ohchr-rohingya)

### BURUNDI

Since his contested reelection to a third term in July 2015, the government of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza has faced protests from opposition and civil society groups. Human Rights Watch issued a report accusing Nkurunziza of using excessive force against opponents even before the elections were held. Subsequent coordinated and targeted violence against opposition leaders and prominent members of civil society organizations have led to fears of impending genocide. These fears have been compounded by extremist rhetoric from President

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Nkurunziza and the president of the Burundian Senate, which is reminiscent of extremist rhetoric in neighboring Rwanda before the 1994 genocide of Rwandan Tutsis. Over 300,000 refugees have now fled to neighboring countries, where many of them face overcrowding, flooding, cholera and other illnesses.

Human Rights Watch, “Burundi: Intelligence Services Torture Suspected Opponents,” July 7, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/hrw-burundiMay2016](http://tinyurl.com/hrw-burundiMay2016)

International Crisis Group, “Burundi: A Dangerous Third Term,” No. 235, May 20, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/crisisgroup-burundi](http://tinyurl.com/crisisgroup-burundi)

Human Rights Watch, “Government Investigations Ignore State Abuses,” April 13, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/hrw-burundiApril2016](http://tinyurl.com/hrw-burundiApril2016)

### CANADA

Canada’s Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, has made good on his vow to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). On May 9, 2016 Canada officially adopted the UN declaration. In January 2016 the Government of Canada established a webpage with links to key documents related to Canada’s renewal of its relationship with Indigenous Peoples. It can be accessed here: [tinyurl.com/UNDRIP-canada](http://tinyurl.com/UNDRIP-canada)

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Peace deals signed in spring 2015 have held, though Seleka and anti-balaka rebel factions still control much of the country. Violence continues to erupt between opposing rebel forces. In February 2016 the CAR elected a new prime minister, who has reportedly restored a sense of hope to the country, evidenced by the return of refugees.

Still, the civil war has seriously compromised the country’s economy, and over 60 percent of its citizens live in poverty with little immediate hope of relief. Furthermore, human rights organizations have reported on security sector abuse, including sexual exploitation and murder committed by peacekeepers, as well as widespread sexual abuse of women by various rebel factions. In July 2016 France announced that it would withdraw its troops by October. At the same time, the European Union began a two-year military training operation in the country’s capital of Bangui. In addition to CAR’s internal strife, the Midyear 2016 Security Brief by Invisible Children reports that LRA fighters abducted 344 citizens of the CAR in the first six months of 2016.

Invisible Children, Midyear 2016 Security Brief, July 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/invisibleChildren-CAR](http://tinyurl.com/invisibleChildren-CAR)

Human Rights Watch, “Central African Republic: Police Unit Killed 18 in Cold Blood,” June 27, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/CAR-policecoldblood](http://tinyurl.com/CAR-policecoldblood)

Human Rights Watch, “Central African Republic: Raped and Abandoned as War Rages,” June 19, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/CAR-rapedandabandoned](http://tinyurl.com/CAR-rapedandabandoned)

Human Rights Watch, “Central African Republic: Murder by Peacekeepers — Discovery of Mass Grave Provides New Evidence,” June 7, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/CAR-massgrave](http://tinyurl.com/CAR-massgrave)

Human Rights Watch, “Central African Republic: Rape by Peacekeepers,” February 4, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/rapebypeacekeepers](http://tinyurl.com/rapebypeacekeepers)

### COLOMBIA

On June 23, 2016 parties to the 52-year conflict

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in Colombia signed agreements on the end of the conflict. The agreements spell out the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities; the arms abandonment process of the FARC; security guarantees for FARC guerrillas; preparation of the “reincorporation” process for guerillas; and the mechanism for a referendum on the final peace agreement.

International Crisis Group, “Agreements on the End of the Conflict and the Referendum Bring Peace in Colombia Closer,” June 23, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/crisisgroup-columbia-peace](http://tinyurl.com/crisisgroup-columbia-peace)

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Enough Project has issued a report that details the links between the illegal charcoal trade and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a rebel group that grew from the interahamwe and other Rwandan Hutu genocidaires who fled to the DRC after committing genocide against Rwandan Tutsis in 1994. The report calls the FDLR a “kingpin in Africa’s Great Lakes region’s organized crime networks and a continuing threat to human security.”

EnoughProject, “The Mafia in the Park: A Charcoal Syndicate is Threatening Virunga, Africa’s Oldest National Park,” June 20, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/threatToVirunga](http://tinyurl.com/threatToVirunga)

### DENMARK

Danish authorities denied the asylum applications of three Ugandan lesbian refugees on July 22, 2016, a decision that has come under fire from Danish LGBTQ advocacy groups. The women are to be sent back by August 2, 2016. Homosexuality is punishable in Uganda with life imprisonment.

“Denmark Slammed for Sending Lesbians to Uganda,” July 22, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/DenmarkLesbians](http://tinyurl.com/DenmarkLesbians)

### FRANCE

Reports on the Bastille Day (14 July) attack in Nice that killed 84 and wounded 256 initially identified the perpetrator as a mentally unstable “lone wolf” from Tunisia who had permits to reside and work in France. French authorities now believe that Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel planned the attack far in advance and worked with several accomplices, some of whom have been arrested. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack and released a new beheading video praising it, but ties have not been officially established by Western intelligence sources. In the context of rising anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiment in Europe, there are fears that this recent attack will contribute to the rising power of Islamophobic extremists and the right wing National Front.

Michael Birnbaum, “Nice Attack Propels Anti-Immigrant Sentiments into France’s Mainstream,” Washington Post, July 17 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/washingtonpost-NiceAttack](http://tinyurl.com/washingtonpost-NiceAttack)

### HONDURAS

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) comprehensive report on Honduras, released on February 18, 2016, documents widespread violence and insecurity in the country. Especially vulnerable are human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, women, children, adolescents and young people, LGBT people, migrants, campesinos, journalists and media workers, and “justice operatives.” The violence is a result of many factors, including organized crime and human trafficking, recruitment of children and adolescents, inadequate justice responses, political corruption, and high levels of poverty and inequality. The police forces are also accused of using illegitimate uses of force. This results in Honduras having

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one of the highest murder rates in the world (80 percent of which go unpunished) and a high rate of refugees, many of them unaccompanied children.

In March 2016, well-known native-rights activist Berta Cáceres was assassinated by an assailant who many believe are linked to the current regime. Since its seizure of power in 2009, the right-wing regime has ruled by military and police violence. There are reports of an “activist hit list” circulating among elite, US-trained security units. Two other women activists have been killed since Cáceres’s assassination. Cáceres’s family continues its calls for an independent investigation.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, “Situation of Human Rights in Honduras,” February 18, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/oas-Honduras](http://tinyurl.com/oas-Honduras)

Alex Emmons, “State Department Turns Blind Eye to Evidence of Honduran Military’s Activist Kill List,” *The Intercept*, June 23, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/Honduras-KillList](http://tinyurl.com/Honduras-KillList)

Salvador Edgardo Zuniga Cáceres, “They Murdered My Mother for Defending the Environment — Help Me Seek Justice,” *Greenpeace Blog*, July 3, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/Honduras-Greenpeace](http://tinyurl.com/Honduras-Greenpeace)

### HUNGARY

Hungary’s brutality in dealing with refugees from the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, and especially its policy of indefinite detentions of refugees, continues to rouse the concern of human rights groups.

Human Rights Watch, “Hungary: Migrants Abused at the Border — Ensure Asylum Access; Investigate Cruel, Violent Pushbacks,” July 13, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/hrwHungary-migrants](http://tinyurl.com/hrwHungary-migrants)

### INDIA

Indian security forces murdered a popular Kashmiri separatist, Burhan Muzaffar Wazi, on July 8, 2016, sparking widespread protests and lethal clashes between youthful protesters and Indian police. 40 people have been killed, including one police officer, and thousands more have been wounded, many of them threatened with blindness from pellets used by the police. The Indian police’s use of pellet guns in Kashmir has come under the scrutiny of human rights groups, who believe them to be an excessive use of force. Human Rights Watch has called for an investigation of the lethal use of force in Kashmir. The recent violence is occurring against the backdrop of long-term unrest. Kashmiris are living under curfew and without access to basic communication, which has been cut off by Indian authorities. Kashmir is subject to India’s Armed Forces Special Powers Act, which gives the military wide discretion in the use of arrest, killing, and property expropriation and destruction.

Human Rights Watch, “India: Investigate Use of Lethal Force in Kashmir — Response to Violent Protests Leaves More Than 30 Dead, Hundreds Injured,” July 12, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/hrwIndia-lethalforce](http://tinyurl.com/hrwIndia-lethalforce)

Ravi Nair, “Pellet Guns in Kashmir: The Lethal Use of ‘Non-Lethal’ Weapons,” *The Wire*, July 21, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/thewire-kashmir](http://tinyurl.com/thewire-kashmir)

### ISRAEL/WEST BANK/GAZA

The US annual report on human rights, released on April 14, 2016, alleges that Israel has used excessive force against Palestinians during the wave of violence that started in fall 2015. Out of the 149 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces, the

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report states that only 77 were attacking Israelis. The report also accuses Hamas of rampant human rights violations in Gaza, including security forces killing, torturing, arbitrarily detaining, and harassing opponents as well as launching rocket attacks against civilian targets in Israel.

United States Department of State, “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015, Israel and the Occupied Territories,” April 14, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/humanrightspractices-israel](http://tinyurl.com/humanrightspractices-israel)

### **KENYA**

Kenya has come under criticism for its stated plan to close the Dadaab refugee camp by November 2016. Dadaab is the world’s largest refugee camp, housing an estimated 340,000 mostly Somali refugees. The Kenyan Rift Valley Institute determined in a report last year that “forced repatriation of Dadaab’s 350,000 Somalis would violate Kenyan and international law, could destabilize Somalia and ultimately undermine Kenyan security.”

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, “Refugees in the Horn of Africa: Somali Displacement Crisis, Information Sharing Portal,” last updated May 31, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/UNHCR-KENYA](http://tinyurl.com/UNHCR-KENYA)

Rift Valley Institute, “Closing Dadaab,” 2015, available at: [tinyurl.com/closingDaDaab](http://tinyurl.com/closingDaDaab)

### **MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

In 2015 the number of arrivals to Europe by boat increased 5-fold from 219,000 in 2014 to 1,014,836 in 2015, according to the UNHCR. In 2016 these numbers show no signs of abating. 49 percent of these arrivals are from Syria, 19 percent from Afghanistan, 9 percent from Iraq, and the

rest from other countries, especially in northern and northeastern Africa. Deaths have also been increasing, as the international community and the European Union refuse to take responsibility for refugee lives. The International Organization for Migration’s Missing Migrants Project estimates that 3,673 people died making the crossing in 2015. From January through July 2016, 2,977 people have already drowned. Many of those lost have been children. The director George Kurian recently released a documentary about the journey made by Syrian refugees called “The Crossing,” which will screen in Europe and the US in 2016.

International Organization for Migration, Missing Migrants Project, Mediterranean Sea: [missingmigrants.iom.int/mediterranean](http://missingmigrants.iom.int/mediterranean)

“The Crossing: Photographs and Video by George Kurian,” Lens Culture, [tinyurl.com/georgeKurian-thecrossing](http://tinyurl.com/georgeKurian-thecrossing)

### **NIGERIA**

On 14 May 2016 African leaders met in Abuja, Nigeria for a Regional Security Summit to discuss the defeat of Boko Haram. Amnesty International called on the leaders to make justice a priority and to take steps to ensure the protection of civilians from both Boko Haram and government forces in the region. Human rights organizations have documented widespread human rights abuses by the governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger in their military engagements against Boko Haram.

Amnesty International, “Boko Haram Summit: Human Rights Must Be Foundation of Regional Response,” 14 May 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/bokoHaramSummit](http://tinyurl.com/bokoHaramSummit)

## LIVES AT RISK

### NORTH KOREA

Russian filmmaker Vitaly Mansky has directed a new documentary about life in North Korea entitled “Under the Sun.” Filmed with the permission of the North Korean government, which planned to use it as a propaganda film, “Under the Sun” documents the life of an 8-year-old North Korean girl as she prepares to join the Children’s Union, run by the governing Workers’ Party. By using elaborate strategies to trick the North Korean authorities, Mansky was able to take footage that documents the reality of life in North Korea beyond the propaganda.

Robert S. Boynton, “In ‘Under the Sun,’ a Documentary Masked and Unmasked,” *New York Times*, July 1, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/UnderTheSun-NKorea](http://tinyurl.com/UnderTheSun-NKorea)

### RUSSIA

Russia is committing human rights abuses against Salafi Muslims in Dagestan as part of a counterinsurgency campaign that includes “mop up” operations, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings, disappearances and torture. In a damning press release regarding Russia’s role in the Syrian conflict, Amnesty International accused the country and its Syrian Government allies of deliberately attacking hospitals. Russia has also been accused of using cluster munitions and incendiary devices in its attacks on Syrian targets, both of which are banned by international law. An online database of Russian attacks on Syria, as well as links to dozens of human rights reports, can be found here: [https://syrianarchive.org/p/blog/russian\\_attacks/](https://syrianarchive.org/p/blog/russian_attacks/).

Amnesty International, “Syrian and Russian forces targeting hospitals as a strategy of war,” March 3, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/russia-targetinghospitals](http://tinyurl.com/russia-targetinghospitals)

Human Rights Watch, “Russia’s Invisible War: Crackdown on Salafi Muslims in Dagestan” [VIDEO], June 17, 2015, available at: <https://youtu.be/rfjsgSiBkZQ>

### SOUTH SUDAN

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report in March that describes the horrific scale of human rights violations by all parties, including the systematic and deliberate killing of civilians. The report lays the responsibility for the majority of the crimes on state actors, who are committing, among other things, widespread sexualized violence against women. Between April and September 2015, there were 1300 reported rapes in just one of South Sudan’s ten states. The report calls this violence “one of the most horrendous human rights situations in the world, with massive use of rape as an instrument of terror and weapon of war.” In July a group of 30 human rights organizations issued a joint letter to the UN Security Council demanding an arms embargo be placed on South Sudan.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, “South Sudan Report: Widespread Human Rights Violations and Abuses,” March 11, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/SouthSudanReport-ohchr](http://tinyurl.com/SouthSudanReport-ohchr)

Human Rights Watch, “Joint Letter to the UN Security Council Members on South Sudan: Impose Arms Embargo,” July 21, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/SouthSudan-ArmsEmbargo](http://tinyurl.com/SouthSudan-ArmsEmbargo)

### SUDAN

The Government of Sudan under President Omar al-Bashir, indicted by the ICC for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, continues its systematic genocidal campaign against the

## LIVES AT RISK

populations of Darfur, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile in the south. It has also cracked down on opposition in the north. Many students and activists have been detained since mid-April after protests on university campuses over a variety of issues. Two students were killed and many others wounded as government forces used brutal means, including live ammunition, to put down protests.

Human Rights Watch, “Sudan: Students, Activists at Risk of Torture — Free Detainees; Investigate Abuses,” May 25, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/Sudan-studentsActivistsAtRisk](http://tinyurl.com/Sudan-studentsActivistsAtRisk)

### SYRIA

The Assad government continues its attacks against the Sunni civilian population, including the use of barrel bombs, chemical weapons, and other illegal munitions. The Syrian Center for Policy Research, collecting data on the ground in Syria, estimated in February 2016 that the death toll was 470,000 people over five years of fighting (400,000 as a direct result of the war and 70,000 as an indirect result of malnutrition, disease and lack of health care facilities). The United Nations and Arab League Envoy to Syria released an estimate on 23 April 2016 that put the figure at 400,000. Physicians for Human Rights reports that in the past five years the Syrian government has killed over 700 medical personnel.

Syrian Center for Policy Research, “Confronting Fragmentation,” February 11, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/Syria-confrontingFragmentation](http://tinyurl.com/Syria-confrontingFragmentation)

Ben Taub, “The Shadow Doctors: The Underground Race to Spread Medical Knowledge as the Syrian Regime Erases It,” The New Yorker, June 27, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/SyriasWarOnDoctors-NYer](http://tinyurl.com/SyriasWarOnDoctors-NYer)

### SYRIA/IRAQ

ISIS militants continue to commit genocide and crimes against humanity, including widespread sexualized violence, against religious, national and sexual minority groups, including the Ezidi religious minority, minority Christian populations, persons suspected of belonging to the LGBTQI community, and resistant Sunni Arabs. In March 2016, the US Department of State recognized the genocide being committed by ISIS against the Ezidi, the Christians and other minority populations. As ISIS loses ground in Iraq, it has stepped up its terror inside and outside of Iraq. On June 6, 2016 ISIS is reported to have burned nineteen Ezidi girls and young women alive. On July 9 an ISIS suicide attack in Baghdad killed almost 300 people and wounded hundreds more. There are reports that it has stepped up its persecution of Sunni Arabs in its northern Iraq stronghold of Mosul.

### TURKEY

Turkey’s human rights environment has deteriorated rapidly after the failed coup of 15 July 2016. In the wake of the coup, President Erdogan has declared a three-month state of emergency, which gives his government wide-ranging powers to rule by decree. Turkey has also suspended the European Convention on Human Rights. Thousands of soldiers have been arrested and more than 50,000 state employees have been fired, suspended or detained. The credentials of journalists have been revoked, over 1500 university deans have been fired, and academics have been placed under a travel ban. In its eastern regions, Turkey has been waging a vicious battle against Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) fighters since the ceasefire between the PKK and the Turkish military was broken in June 2015. Turkey has been accused of unlawful killings of civilians,

## LIVES AT RISK

mass forced civilian displacement, and widespread unlawful destruction of private property in the region and of committing atrocities, especially in the town of Cizre, where over 100 civilians are believed to have been killed by Turkish security forces. Turkey has blocked journalists and human rights groups from accessing this region.

Human Rights Watch, “Turkey: State Blocks Probes of Southeast Killings — Allow UN to Investigate Cizre Abuses; Repeal New Law to Block Prosecutions,” July 11, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/Turkey-BlocksProbesKillings](http://tinyurl.com/Turkey-BlocksProbesKillings)

### UGANDA

After the contested results of the February 18, 2016 presidential election gave sitting President Yoweri Museveni a fifth term in office, the opposition Forum for Democratic Change, led by opposition politician Dr. Kizza Besigye, also claimed victory and launched a “defiance campaign.” Besigye was arrested on charges of treason and his supporters brutally beaten by the police. The Uganda Human Rights Commission released a statement in May condemning these developments. In July the Ugandan government began proceedings against police commanders believed to have been involved in the beatings of protesters.

Uganda Human Rights Commission, “Statement on recent Human Rights Concerns in the Country,” May 31, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/UgandaHumanRightsConcerns](http://tinyurl.com/UgandaHumanRightsConcerns)

### UNITED STATES

As presidential campaigns pick up speed, the United States is facing an upswing in hate speech, hate groups, discriminatory legislation and hate crimes. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the number of hate groups has increased

by 30 percent since 2000. Discriminatory laws targeting especially LGBTQI people, massacres inspired by misogynist and right-wing ideologies, hate crimes against Jews, Muslims, and people of color, including indigenous people, growing anti-Semitism and racism on college campuses, and widespread police brutality against people of color challenge the security of these groups. Refugee children and families arriving from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras continue to be treated in ways violating international law, and political officials have called for banning Muslims from entering the country and for the registration and rounding up Muslims living in the USA.

On June 12, 2016 a gunman named Omar Mateen opened fire at the Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people and wounding scores of others. In a 911 call placed by Mateen, he declared his allegiance to ISIS, though there is no evidence of official ties to the terrorist organization and some reports suggest his motivation may have been hatred of gay people. According to the FBI, LGBTQ people are more likely to be the victims of hate crimes than any other group.

High numbers of unarmed African Americans have been killed by police officers in 2016. The police shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile within one day of each other in July 2016 led to renewed protests around the country against police brutality and in support of the growing Black Lives Matter movement. What appear to be “retaliatory” shootings of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge have radicalized the racist right wing in the country. The police are increasingly treating American citizens with startling brutality, behavior that is enhanced by the aggressive, misogynist, violent and hateful rhetoric of the Trump campaign. At the Republican National

## LIVES AT RISK

Convention in Cleveland, Ohio speakers called for the execution of Hillary Clinton and appeared to give the Nazi salute.

“Mapping Police Violence” [database]:  
<http://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>

Haeyoun Park and Iaryna Mykhyalysyn, “L.G.B.T. People Are More Likely to Be Targets of Hate Crimes Than Any Other Minority Group,” June 16, 2016, available at: [tinyurl.com/NYTimes-hatecrimesagainstLGBT](http://tinyurl.com/NYTimes-hatecrimesagainstLGBT)

## US SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY’S STATEMENT ON ISIS GENOCIDES

*John Kerry, Secretary of State  
Press Briefing Room, Washington, DC*

March 17, 2016

SECRETARY KERRY: Good morning, everybody.

In 2014, the terrorist group Daesh began to seize territory in Syria and Iraq, overrunning major cities and committing atrocities. The United States responded quickly by denouncing these horrific acts and — more importantly — taking coordinated actions to counter them. In September of that year, President Obama mobilized an international coalition, now 66 members strong, to halt and reverse Daesh’s momentum. And that is what we are doing.

In the 18 months since, coalition airstrikes have helped to liberate Kobani, Tikrit, Ramadi, and other key cities and towns. We have pushed the terrorists out of 40 percent of the territory that they once controlled in Iraq and 20 percent in Syria. We have degraded their leadership, attacked their revenue sources, and disrupted their supply lines. And currently we are engaged, as you all know, in a diplomatic initiative aimed at trying to end the war in Syria. That civil war fuels Daesh, and in doing what we are doing now, we are working to further

isolate, to weaken and ultimately to defeat them. We are working intensively to stop the spread of Daesh and its affiliates within and beyond the region.

All of this constitutes an extraordinary effort by a large segment of the international community and the United States. And that effort is fully warranted by the appalling actions of the organization that we oppose.

My purpose in appearing before you today is to assert that, in my judgment, Daesh is responsible for genocide against groups in areas under its control, including Yezidis, Christians, and Shia Muslims. Daesh is genocidal by self-proclamation, by ideology, and by actions — in what it says, what it believes, and what it does. Daesh is also responsible for crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing directed at these same groups and in some cases also against Sunni Muslims, Kurds, and other minorities.

I say this even though the ongoing conflict and lack of access to key areas has made it impossible to develop a fully detailed and comprehensive picture of all that Daesh is doing and all that it has done. We have not been able to compile a complete record. I think that’s obvious on its face; we don’t have

## US SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY'S STATEMENT ON ISIS GENOCIDES

access to everywhere. But over the past months, we have conducted a review of the vast amount of information gathered by the State Department, by our intelligence community, by outside groups. And my conclusion is based on that information and on the nature of the acts reported.

We know, for example, that in August of 2014 Daesh killed hundreds of Yezidi men and older women in the town of Kocho and trapped tens of thousands of Yezidis on Mount Sinjar without allowing access to food, water, or medical care. Without our intervention, it was clear those people would have been slaughtered. Rescue efforts aided by coalition airstrikes ultimately saved many, but not before Daesh captured and enslaved thousands of Yezidi women and girls — selling them at auction, raping them at will, and destroying the communities in which they had lived for countless generations.

We know that in Mosul, Qaraqosh, and elsewhere, Daesh has executed Christians solely because of their faith; that it executed 49 Coptic and Ethiopian Christians in Libya; and that it has also forced Christian women and girls into sexual slavery.

We know that Daesh massacred hundreds of Shia Turkmen and Shabaks at Tal Afar and Mosul; besieged and starved the Turkmen town of Amerli; and kidnapped hundreds of Shia Turkmen women, raping many in front of their own families.

We know that in areas under its control, Daesh has made a systematic effort to destroy the cultural heritage of ancient communities — destroying Armenian, Syrian Orthodox, and Roman Catholic churches; blowing up monasteries and the tombs of prophets; desecrating cemeteries; and in Palmyra, even beheading the 83-year-old scholar who had spent a lifetime preserving antiquities there.

We know that Daesh's actions are animated by an

extreme and intolerant ideology that castigates Yezidis as, quote, “pagans” and “devil-worshippers,” and we know that Daesh has threatened Christians by saying that it will, quote, “conquer your Rome, break your crosses, and enslave your women.”

Shia Muslims, meanwhile, are referred to by Daesh as, quote, “disbelievers and apostates,” and subjected to frequent and vicious attacks. In December, a year ago, a 14-year-old boy named Usaid Barho approached the gate of a Shiite mosque in Baghdad, unzipped his jacket to show that he was wearing an explosive vest and he surrendered to the guards. He had been recruited by Daesh in Syria, and joined to serve Islam, but he was told after his recruitment that, unless he obeyed every order, Shiites would come and rape his mother. Daesh said of Shias, and I quote, “It is a duty imposed upon us to kill them, to fight them, to displace them, and to cleanse the land of their filth.”

One element of genocide is the intent to destroy an ethnic or religious group, in whole or in part. We know that Daesh has given some of its victims a choice between abandoning their faith or being killed, and that for many is a choice between one kind of death and another.

The fact is that Daesh kills Christians because they are Christians; Yezidis because they are Yezidis; Shia because they are Shia. This is the message it conveys to children under its control. Its entire worldview is based on eliminating those who do not subscribe to its perverse ideology. There is no question in my mind that if Daesh succeeded in establishing its so-called caliphate, it would seek to destroy what remains of ethnic and religious mosaic once thriving in the region.

I want to be clear. I am neither judge, nor prosecutor, nor jury with respect to the allegations of genocide,

## US SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY'S STATEMENT ON ISIS GENOCIDES

crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing by specific persons. Ultimately, the full facts must be brought to light by an independent investigation and through formal legal determination made by a competent court or tribunal. But the United States will strongly support efforts to collect, document, preserve, and analyze the evidence of atrocities, and we will do all we can to see that the perpetrators are held accountable.

I hope that my statement today will assure the victims of Daesh's atrocities that the United States recognizes and confirms the despicable nature of the crimes that have been committed against them.

Second, I hope it will highlight the shared interest that otherwise diverse groups have in opposing Daesh. After all, the reality of genocide underscores even more starkly the need for a comprehensive and unified approach to defeating Daesh both in its core in Syria and Iraq and more broadly in its attempt to establish external networks.

Part of our response to Daesh must, of course, be to destroy it by military force, but other dimensions are important as well, and we dare not lose track of that. In the past two and a half years, the United States has provided more than 600 million in emergency aid to Iraqis who have been displaced from their communities by Daesh. We are working closely with local authorities to assist in the recovery of cities that have been liberated and whose residents face grave challenges — both material and psychological — and people who desperately need help in rebuilding their lives. We are funding the investigation of mass graves, and supporting care for the victims of gender-based violence and those who have escaped captivity.

We continue to engage with the government of Baghdad to make sure that its security forces

and other institutions are more representative and inclusive. And we are coordinating with our coalition partners to choke off Daesh's finances and to slow its recruitment of foreign fighters. And we are preparing for future efforts to liberate occupied territory — with an eye to the protection of minority communities. In particular, the liberation of Mosul, of Nineveh province in Iraq, and parts of Syria that are currently occupied by Daesh, and that will decide whether there is still a future for minority communities in this part of the Middle East. For those communities, the stakes in this campaign are utterly existential. This is the fight that Daesh has defined. Daesh has created this. Daesh has targeted their victims. Daesh has self-defined itself as genocidal.

So we must bear in mind, after all, that the best response to genocide is a reaffirmation of the fundamental right to survive of every group targeted for destruction. What Daesh wants to erase, we must preserve. That requires defeating Daesh, but it also demands the rejection of bigotry and discrimination — those things that facilitated its rise in the first place.

This means that, as more areas are liberated, residents will need help not only to repair infrastructure, but also to ensure that minorities can return in safety, that they are integrated into local security forces, and that they receive equal protection under the law. Our goal, after all, is not just to defeat Daesh — only to find that in a few years some new terrorist group with a different acronym has taken its place. Our purpose is to marginalize and defeat violent extremists once and for all.

Now, that is not easy; we know that. As President Obama and I have consistently said — it won't happen overnight. But today, I say to all our fellow

## US SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY'S STATEMENT ON ISIS GENOCIDES

citizens and to the international community, we must recognize what Daesh is doing to its victims. We must hold the perpetrators accountable. And we must find the resources to help those harmed by these atrocities be able to survive on their ancestral land.

Naming these crimes is important. But what is essential is to stop them. That will require unity

in this country and within the countries directly involved, and the determination to act against genocide, against ethnic cleansing, against the other crimes against humanity must be pronounced among decent people all across the globe.

Thank you.

[Learn more: Atrocities Prevention Report](#)

## ENGLISH TEXT OF THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT'S RESOLUTION ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

*On June 2, the German Parliament overwhelmingly adopted a resolution declaring the Armenian deportations and massacres in World War I a genocide and taking "historical responsibility" for Germany's role in it. Germany is the 26<sup>th</sup> country to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.*

### GERMAN PARLIAMENT [BUNDESTAG] RESOLUTION ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Full Text in English from Armenia News — NEWS.am:

"In the memory the Armenians' and other Christians' Genocide in the Ottoman Empire 101 years ago."

The Bundestag bows to the Armenians and other Christian minorities in the Ottoman Empire who were forcefully displaced and massacred 101 years ago.

The Bundestag condemns the actions of the Young Turks' Government that resulted in almost a complete extermination of the Armenians who had lived in the Ottoman Empire. Other Christian minorities — Assyrians, Chaldeans — fell victims to the pogroms as well.

Based on the decree of the Young Turks' government on April 24 of 1915 there began planned exiles and massacres of more than 1 million Armenians of the Ottoman Constantinople. The 20th century is marked with horrible fate of those people. Their

fate is an example of mass deportations, ethnic, expulsions and, of course, a genocide [*Völkermord*]. At the same time, we realize the distinct features of the Holocaust, for which Germany bears its guilt and responsibility.

The Bundestag recognizes the historical responsibility of Germany [in the Genocide of the Armenians].

The Bundestag honors not only the martyrs who fell victims to the incredibly brutal crime but also those who more than 100 years ago in that difficult situation opposed their government to save the Armenian women, children, and men.

The Bundestag calls on the Federal Government to pay attention to the remembrance ceremony of the victims of the massacres and deportations that took place in 1915.

## ENGLISH TEXT OF THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT'S RESOLUTION ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Thus, the Bundestag calls on the Federal Government

to continue further public discussions about mass deportations and exterminations of the Armenians in 1915 — 1916 as well as about the responsibility of the German Reich in that horrible event, in the spirit of the debates that took place in the Bundestag on April 24 of 2015 on the occasion of the 100th centennial of the Armenian Genocide;

to stimulate the Turkish side to face the expulsions and massacre perpetuated during that period and, thereby, lay the foundation for the necessary reconciliation with the Armenian side;

- to continue promoting reconciliation between the Armenians and the Turks , which should take place by reviewing the past, restoring relationships , and apologizing for the historical guilt;
- to continue undertaking scientific , civic, and cultural events in Turkey and Armenia;
- to re-evaluate the historical events , by means of which Armenia and Turkey will make the first step towards reconciliation; to support the settlement of the overdue matured Armenian-Turkish relationships;
- to stimulate the governments of Turkey and Armenia to restore stagnated inter-governmental relations;
- to make efforts in the matter of ratification the Zurich protocols of 2009 by the Turkish and the Armenian governments that envisage to create a commission of scholars to restore diplomatic relations and open borders;
- to stimulate Turkey to continue contributing to the preservation of the Armenian monuments in Turkey and intensify that process;

- to continue supporting research, cultural projects, and initiatives in Germany concerning the events of 1915-1916 as far as the financial means allow.

## TURKISH HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION LETTER TO GERMAN CONSUL

*In June 2016, after the German Bundestag passed a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide and taking historical responsibility for the German state's role in it, the Turkish government and press expressed outrage towards Germany and the German people. The Turkey-based Human Rights Association wrote to the German consul in Istanbul to apologize for the behavior of Turkish authorities and media. The Human Rights Association (HRA) is a non-governmental and independent voluntary organization. Founded by 98 human rights activists in 1986, the Association today has 28 branches, 4 representation offices, and 10,938 members. The oldest and largest human rights association in Turkey, the HRA's sole and explicit objective is to work for human rights and freedoms. The letter is reproduced below in its entirety.*

8 June 2016

Consulate General of the German Federal Republic  
İnönü Caddesi No. 10  
Gümüşsuyu  
İstanbul

Dear Dr. Georg Birgelen, Consul General of Germany,

As the Human Rights Association, Istanbul Branch, Committee Against Racism and Discrimination, we address you this letter to denounce and express shame for the extremely racist verbal and written attacks by the Turkish authorities, the media, and various nationalist elements of society, against Germany and the German people, following the German Parliamentary decision that recognizes the Armenian Genocide.

As human rights defenders and activists against racism, we appreciate the fact that the German state has condemned the Holocaust by all means, created places for Holocaust memorialization in all areas of life, variously memorialized the crimes of the Nazi regime, established an educational system that insists on historical truth rather than denialist history, and made these permanent as state policy. On 7 December 1970, German Chancellor Willi Brandt knelt before the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial and apologized to the Jewish people, thereby vividly demonstrating to the world what states must do with regard to crimes against humanity. Without a doubt, Germany was able to arrive at this point as a result of the endless efforts of human rights defenders, thinkers and writers, politicians, and all influential individuals of the public sphere. For we see every single day how difficult it is both for the state and for society to rid themselves of *all kinds of racism*. It is moreover impossible for a crime against humanity such as genocide to be atoned for, restituted, or redressed; nevertheless, all steps in this direction are conditions of being a society, and being human.

A natural, if belated, consequence of this state policy, the German Parliamentary decision of 2 June 2016 is exemplary in showing the approach that the world must take with regard to crimes

## TURKISH HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION LETTER TO GERMAN CONSUL

against humanity committed by states, in that in its decision to “remember and commemorate the genocide against Armenians and other Christians in the period 1915-16,” it has not only recognized the premeditated, systematic genocide perpetrated in Anatolia and Asia Minor, but also clearly stated that Germany was also responsible.

Opposed to this exemplary stance is the attitude in Turkey, which condones the crime. The insults and discourses of racial hatred directed toward Germany, German MPs, and the German people, as well as the actions in which such discourses were used, constitute crimes in the countries that enforce the standards of international law. Even more extreme racist insults and threats against German MPs of Turkish origin lay bare the dire situation in Turkey in terms of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

As human rights defenders in Turkey, we see these attacks by state authorities, the media, and nationalists as evidence that these crimes against humanity can always recur in this country. We believe that these discourses and actions are attacks on the will of elected representatives, on democracy, human rights, and universal law, not only in Germany but in all countries who have taken or will take a stance against the official view in Turkey.

We thus salute the German Parliament on the occasion of its decision and announce to the public opinion in your country that we deem the hatred and hostility against Germany and the German people to be hostility toward democracy and human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Human Rights Association,  
Istanbul Branch Committee  
Against Racism and Discrimination

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION  
ISTANBUL BRANCH COMMITTEE  
AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

## JOINT NGO STATEMENT AHEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF 28-29 JUNE 2016 — NGOS STRONGLY CONDEMN NEW EU POLICIES TO CONTAIN MIGRATION

*Human Rights Watch, 27 June 2016*

At the upcoming European Council, European Union (EU) leaders will discuss the European Commission's Communication on a new Partnership Framework with third countries. The Communication proposes an approach which aims to leverage existing EU and Member States' external cooperation instruments and tools in order to stem migration to Europe. The undersigned organisations express their grave concern about the direction the EU is taking by making deterrence and return the main objective of the Union's relationship with third countries. More broadly, this new Partnership Framework risks cementing a shift towards a foreign policy that serves one single objective, to curb migration, at the expense of European credibility and leverage in defence of fundamental values and human rights.

The proposed approach is inspired by the EU-Turkey deal which although touted as a successful example of cooperation, has actually left thousands people stranded in Greece in inhumane and degrading conditions. This has particularly affected children, with the result that hundreds of unaccompanied children have been held in closed detention facilities on the islands or forced to sleep in police cells on the Greek mainland. The wider repercussions of this should not be underestimated. It is hard to see how Europe can ask partner countries to keep their doors open, to host large-scale refugee populations and prevent further movements while at the same time Member States refuse to shoulder their fair share of responsibility for protecting people who flee their homes. The right to asylum is being significantly undermined, and it will become more and more challenging

for civilians in conflict zones to seek international protection.

The Commission's proposal ignores all the evidence on the ineffectiveness of deterrence strategies aimed at stopping migration. This approach will not only fail to "break the business-model" of smugglers but increase human suffering as people are forced into taking more dangerous routes. Moreover, despite the stated commitment to respect the principle of non-refoulement, there are no safeguards envisaged to ensure that human rights, rule of law standards and protection mechanisms are in place. As a result, people risk being deported to countries where their rights are not safeguarded. Responsibility and liability for human rights violations do not end at Europe's borders.

We are disappointed to see that once again the emphasis on deterrence leaves no clear commitments to open up safe and regular channels to Europe for those in need of international protection and for other migrants, e.g. through resettlement, humanitarian admission schemes, family reunification, educational visas, labour mobility and visa liberalisation. Resettlement, labour migration and visa liberalisation are only mentioned as possible leverage with partner countries in a quid pro quo approach.

Another major concern is the financing of the proposed Partnership Framework which would represent a wholesale re-orientation of Europe's development programming towards stopping migration. This is an unacceptable contradiction to the commitment to use development cooperation with the aim to eradicate poverty, as enshrined in

## JOINT NGO STATEMENT AHEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF 28-29 JUNE 2016

the Lisbon Treaty. Aid is for the benefit of people in need, and should not be used as a leverage for migration control. EU fundings should be transparent and adhere to clearly established principles, such as the Busan principles on effectiveness and the Paris principles of ownership by and alignment to partner countries' strategies. In addition, striking 'migration management' agreements with countries where grave human rights violations are committed will be counter-productive in the longer term — undermining human rights around the globe and perpetuating the cycle of abuse and repression that causes people to flee.

Migration has many drivers; people may be on the move in search of new livelihood opportunities, an education or to reunite with family, while conflict and violence, human rights violations, climate change, poverty and unemployment can all trigger migration and forced displacement. Any cooperation to manage migration should take into consideration this complex and multi-faceted reality, be evidence and needs-based, and ensure that the benefits of migration are maximised and the risks are mitigated.

If the EU wants to call for more global solidarity, it needs to set the right example. The EU, a project built on the rubble of a devastating war, is about to embark on a dark chapter of its history. We urge EU leaders to choose a rights-based system to manage migration, based on a viable long-term strategic vision, rather than pursuing an unattainable and inhumane deterrence objective and thereby abandoning its core founding principles.

As human rights, humanitarian, medical, migration and development agencies, and key implementing partners of development programmes in third countries, we call on European leaders to:

Reject the current Commission Communication

and develop a sustainable long-term and evidence-based strategy for migration management, in consultation with civil society and experts.

Facilitate safe mobility by opening and strengthening safe and regular channels to Europe both for those in need of international protection and other migrants including through resettlement, humanitarian admission and humanitarian visas, family reunification, worker mobility across skill levels and student visas. Member States must commit to clear benchmarks and appropriate timelines for implementing a migration framework that meets the needs of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, their families, as well as the needs and obligations of Member States.

Exclude any conditionality based on migration control indicators in the allocation of development aid to third countries. Development aid is a tool to fight poverty and inequality, not to manage migration. Vulnerable populations should not be punished because of concerns that are largely political.

Stop any readmissions or removals of people by the EU to a third country that violate — or risk violating — fundamental rights and rule of law, including the principle of non-refoulement. Ensure access to protection, justice and effective remedy for all people in migration and asylum procedures.

Ensure transparency in the development of any instruments to manage migration and accountability for human rights violations resulting from EU migration policies.

Commit to a foreign policy and action focused on preventing and unlocking protracted crises. While the Communication mentions the need to address root causes of displacement in the long term, it does not include engagement to prevent and manage crises.

# IMPUNITY AND JUSTICE: WHY THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST STAY ENGAGED IN SRI LANKA

BY ALAN KEENAN

*By Alan Keenan  
International Crisis Group  
17 June 2016*

As the United Nations Human Rights Council meets in Geneva this month, it's time to assess how far Sri Lanka has come since last year's passage of a landmark resolution to promote reconciliation, accountability and human rights.

Resolution 30/1, adopted in October, was a major achievement for the Council — and an important milestone in Sri Lanka's journey toward lasting peace and a just settlement of its decades-old ethnic conflict. Following years of bitter resistance by the previous Sri Lankan government to international efforts to encourage post-war reconciliation and accountability, the new government led by President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe displayed admirable political courage in negotiating a consensus resolution containing many of the elements needed for a sustainable peace.

However, Sri Lanka today is not yet the success story that many in the international community claim it to be. Progress on implementing the Council resolution has been slow and often grudging, and there are growing doubts about the government's political will and ability to see the complex process through. For Sri Lanka to stay on the path toward recovery, it needs sustained international support and engagement.

Speaking at this critical juncture, High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein this week encouraged the government to prepare a comprehensive strategy on transitional

justice with “inclusive and meaningful engagement from all Sri Lankans”. As Zeid prepares to report to the Council on 29 June on progress toward implementation of the resolution, member states should send strong public and private messages to the Sri Lankan government, offering financial, capacity-building and other tangible support for its efforts — as well as clear suggestions for improvement.

To read entire article, please see:  
[tinyurl.com/impunityandjustice](http://tinyurl.com/impunityandjustice)

**NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST**  
**WITH ABBREVIATED PUBLISHER DESCRIPTIONS**

**JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz and Donna Gosbee (eds), *Women and Genocide: Gendered Experiences of Violence, Survival and Resistance*** (Canadian Scholars' Press)

Illuminating the unique experiences of women both during and after genocide, JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz and Donna Gosbee's edited collection is a vital addition to genocide scholarship. The contributors revisit genocides of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, from Armenia in 1915 to Gujarat in 2002, examining the roles of women as victims, witnesses, survivors, and rescuers. The text underscores women's experiences as a central yet often overlooked component to the understanding of genocide.

**Stefan Ihrig, *Justifying Genocide: Germany and the Armenians from Bismarck to Hitler*** (Harvard University Press)

As Stefan Ihrig reveals in this first comprehensive study of the subject, many Germans before World War I sympathized with the Ottomans' longstanding repression of the Armenians and would go on to defend vigorously the Turks' wartime program of extermination. After the war, in what Ihrig terms the "great genocide debate," German nationalists first denied and then justified genocide in sweeping terms. The Nazis too came to see genocide as justifiable: in their version of history, the Armenian Genocide had made possible the astonishing rise of the New Turkey.

**Amy A. Randall, *Genocide and Gender in the Twentieth Century: A Comparative Survey*** (Blooms)

Genocide and Gender in the Twentieth Century brings together a collection of some of the finest genocide studies scholars in North America and Europe to examine gendered discourses, practices and experiences of ethnic cleansing and genocide in the 20th century. It includes essays focusing on the genocide in Rwanda, the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire, the Holocaust and ethnic cleansing and genocide in the former Yugoslavia.

**Sheri P. Rosenberg, Tibi Galis and Alex Zucker (eds), *Reconstructing Atrocity Prevention*** (Cambridge University Press)

In the two and a half decades since the end of the Cold War, policy makers have become acutely aware of the extent to which the world today faces mass atrocities. In an effort to prevent the death, destruction, and global chaos wrought by these crimes, the agendas for both national and international policy have grown beyond conflict prevention to encompass atrocity prevention, protection of civilians, transitional justice, and the Responsibility to Protect. Yet, to date, there has been no attempt to address the topic of the prevention of mass atrocities from the theoretical, policy, and practicing standpoints simultaneously. This volume is designed to fill that gap, clarifying and solidifying the present understanding of atrocity prevention. It will serve as an authoritative work on the state of the field.

**Philippe Sands, *East West Street: On the Origins of "Genocide" and "Crimes Against Humanity"*** (Penguin Random House)

*East West Street* looks at the personal and intellectual evolution of the two men who simultaneously originated the ideas of "genocide" and "crimes against humanity," both of whom, not knowing the other, studied at the same university with the same professors, in a city little known today that was a major cultural center of Europe, "the little Paris of Ukraine," a city variously called Lemberg, Lwów, Lvov, or Lviv.

**Ügur Üngör, *Genocide: New Perspectives on Its Causes, Courses and Consequences*** (University of Amsterdam Press)

The twentieth century has been called, not inaccurately, a century of genocide. And the beginning of the twenty-first century has seen little change, with genocidal violence in Darfur, Congo, Sri Lanka, and Syria. Why is genocide so widespread, and so difficult to stop, across societies that differ so much culturally, technologically, and politically?

## NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST

That's the question that this collection addresses, gathering a stellar roster of contributors to offer a range of perspectives from different disciplines to attempt to understand the pervasiveness of genocidal violence. Challenging outdated beliefs and conventions that continue to influence our understanding, Genocide constitutes a major contribution to the scholarship on mass violence.

**Keith David Watenpaugh, *Bread from Stones: The Middle East and the Making of Modern Humanitarianism*** (University of California Press)

*Bread from Stones*, a highly anticipated book from historian Keith David Watenpaugh, breaks new ground in analyzing the theory and practice of modern humanitarianism. Genocide and mass violence, human trafficking, and the forced displacement of millions in the early twentieth century Eastern Mediterranean form the background for this exploration of humanitarianism's role in the history of human rights.

Andrew Woolford , ***This Benevolent Experiment: Indigenous Boarding Schools, Genocide, and Redress in Canada and the United States*** (University of Nebraska Press)

Inspired by the signing of the 2006 Residential School Settlement Agreement in Canada, which provided a truth and reconciliation commission and compensation for survivors of residential schools, *This Benevolent Experiment* offers a multilayered, comparative analysis of Indigenous boarding schools in the United States and Canada. Because of differing historical, political, and structural influences, the two countries have arrived at two very different responses to the harms caused by assimilative education.

**To suggest a book for mention or review in future newsletters, please email [Elisa.Forgey@stockton.edu](mailto:Elisa.Forgey@stockton.edu)**

## CONFERENCE REPORT: THE SECOND GLOBAL FORUM AGAINST THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE BY FRANCESCA PIANA

By *Francesca Piana*  
*Swiss National Science Foundation*

The Second Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide took place on 23 April 2016 in Yerevan, Armenia. More than 100 years earlier, in 1915, the premeditated plan for the annihilation of Ottoman Armenians extended from Constantinople to the other provinces of the Ottoman Empire. To reflect on these events, a group of scholars — historians, anthropologists, political scientists, and legal scholars — gathered in Yerevan to discuss the question of genocide and the issues arising from it. Through comparative and inter-disciplinary angles, attention was devoted to two main topics, organized into two panels. The first panel pertained to framing genocide and post-genocide experiences within massive refugee crises and resettlement plans. The speakers were Frank Chalk, William Schabas, Aaron Fichtelberg, Sait Cetinoglu, Jack Nusan Porter, Francesca Piana, and Paul Levine. The second panel covered the question of genocide prevention within the framework of contemporary humanitarian crises globally. The speakers were Joe Verhoeven, Joachim Savelsberg, Alex Hiinton, Hayk Demoyan, Ove Bring, Enzo Cannizzaro, and Elisa von Joeden-Forgey. Academic presentations were preceded by speeches from political and public personalities, including the prize-winning *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius; the actor and co-founder of Not On Our Watch George Clooney; President of the Carnegie Corporation Vartan Gregorian; sociologist and IAGS president Andrew Woolford; and international legal scholar and ad hoc judge for the International Court of Justice Joe Verhoeven. Panels were followed by the powerful testimonies of genocide survivors and human rights activists from Rwanda, Iraq, Cambodia and the USA, among other countries.

Alongside the Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide, another event took place in Yerevan — the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. Established by the project 100 Lives, the Aurora Prize is named after Aurora Mardigianian, a survivor of the Armenian

genocide, whose memories were collected in the book “Ravished Armenia.” A movie was made out of the book in 1919 where Aurora played herself during the period of the genocide. The Aurora Prize was created to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide, the resilience of the survivors, and the help that Armenians received in times of great suffering. It aims to select one person whose work and humanitarian activities has had a lasting impact on the lives of destitute human beings nowadays. The selection criteria are courage to save the lives of people, a high sense of commitment, and a broad impact on the communities where she/he will be working and on those who could be inspired by such actions. The first Laureate of the Aurora Prize is Marguerite Barankitse, an energetic woman who contributed to saving the lives of 30,000 orphans during the civil war ravaging Burundi.

In my capacity as an historian of international humanitarian aid and refugee crises in the interwar period, I had the opportunity to present my work within the framework of the Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide. While sharing research findings with a broader audience is an essential part of scholarly work, the task is even more urgent in light of the denial of the Armenian genocide by the Turkish state and faced with the appalling humanitarian circumstances that millions of people still face globally. Walking the streets of Yerevan and travelling through Armenia, one could see the gigantic and visually impressive posters publicizing the Aurora Prize. These posters gave a sense of the globalizing dimension of humanitarian aid and hinted at the hope and commitment to end the suffering of people worldwide. But the posters were also a reminder that carefully contextualizing and explaining each humanitarian crisis, from the past and the present, is the only viable way to truly and consciously educate and awaken humanity.

The next Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide is scheduled for April 2018 and will engage the theme of “Education towards Prevention.” For more information on the Global Forum, please see: <http://gfyerevan.am>

## CONFERENCE REPORT: FROM TRUTH TO RECONCILIATION: TOWARDS A JUST FUTURE FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA BY JESSICA ADACH

*From Truth to Reconciliation: Towards a Just Future for the Indigenous Peoples of Canada*  
March 8-9, 2016

*McGill University, Montreal*

*Jessica Adach, Program Coordinator,  
International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, Toronto, Canada*

In December 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada released its final report, declaring that “cultural genocide” was committed by its government against Indigenous peoples. The report focussed specifically on the Indian Residential Schools (IRS) system that forcibly attempted to assimilate First Nations children through abuse and separation from their families.

In recognition of the importance of the TRC’s findings, the Zoryan Institute, in collaboration with McGill University’s Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, organized a conference entitled “From Truth to Reconciliation: Towards a Just Future for the Indigenous Peoples of Canada,” to examine the recommendations of the TRC and possible ways to implement its findings. The conference took place on March 8-9, 2016 in Montreal at McGill University.

Payam Akhavan, renowned human rights lawyer and professor of law at McGill, was instrumental in organizing panels in collaboration with Zoryan. The day started with a panel composed of Prof. Maureen Hiebert (University of Calgary), Prof. David MacDonald (University of Guelph) and Professor Emeritus Roger Smith (College of William and Mary) who discussed theories of genocide, the UN genocide convention, and

denial, discussing whether the Indian Residential Schools (IRS) and government response fit into these contexts.

David MacDonald noted Canada has recognized five genocides, including the 1915 Armenian genocide, yet has chosen to describe its treatment of First Nations children in residential schools as “cultural genocide.” “Does it make a difference if it’s UN (recognized) genocide or cultural genocide in terms of Canada?” MacDonald asked. “I think it does. I think you would then be looking at a real need for land claims and other issues to be resolved quickly. Canadians could see in a real way that these are very serious issues.”

A second panel, which included Aimee Craft (Research Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, doctoral scholar at the Trudeau Foundation), Aaron Mills (University of Victoria), and Prof. Anthony Hall (University of Lethbridge) discussed Indigenous interactions with land as critical to their identities. Panelists pointed out that for many Indigenous people, land does not correspond to property or ownership. The Crown created deed descriptions to demarcate land where the Indigenous peoples did not; for them land is not something to be owned, but is rather something to be shared. In fact, Indigenous peoples also understand land as a broader concept: as a teacher of relationships, a place to live, and what we are made of. Acknowledging this concept — of land as a shared teacher and provider — is crucial for reconciliation.

The final panel featuring legal consultant for the Innu nation in Quebec, Armand MacKenzie, and former CEO of the Assembly of First Nations,

## FROM TRUTH TO RECONCILIATION: TOWARDS A JUST FUTURE FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA

Bob Watts, elaborated on Indigenous territorial sovereignty and self-governance.

Phil Fontaine, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations and IRS survivor, and Doug White, former Chief of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, made compelling keynote speeches on perspectives of reconciliation. They mapped a critical distinction between justice brought against perpetrators of cultural genocide and the more positive act of reconciliation which is not preoccupied with criminality, but instead with uniting Canadians.

A key finding of the conference panels, discussion and keynote speeches was that education on this subject is an essential method of reconciliation. This is aligned with the Zoryan Institute's initiatives that focus on educational programming and public awareness. The Institute uses a comparative approach to study and teach about genocide to emphasize its effects on humanity.

Zoryan President Greg Sarkissian, a descendent of Armenian Genocide survivors, remarked: "I take pride in Canada's efforts to come to terms with the dark pages of our history [...] through its Truth and Reconciliation Commission, [Canada] is setting a model for reconciliation that other countries, such as the United States, Australia and many nations in Latin America, can adopt — not to mention the very nation that committed the Armenian Genocide — in order to foster dialogue and peace in the wake of such crimes against humanity."

Selected conference papers will be published in an upcoming issue of the Genocide Studies International journal, and video clips of the keynote speeches can be viewed on the Zoryan Institute's Youtube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxk3iNPbWckhFO-N2HvSrDA>

# CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT: A CONFLICT? GENOCIDE AND RESISTANCE IN GUATEMALA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016

Organized by the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research, co-sponsored by the University of Southern California Latino Alumni Association and the University of Southern California School of International Relations

December 2016 will mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Guatemalan peace accords that ended more than thirty years of civil war in 1996. University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research is convening an international academic conference bringing researchers from all disciplines as well as the fields of Latin American Studies and Genocide Studies to advance the discussion of “Genocide and Resistance in Guatemala.” The conference is being organized by Wolf Gruner, Center founding director, and Victoria Sanford, founding director of the Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies (CfHRPS) at Lehman College, City University of New York.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

### Sunday, September 11th

Arrival

#### Afternoon film screening

4:00 pm USC Ray Stark Theatre  
(in coop. with USC Cinema School series  
“Outside the Box Office”)

### Monday, September 12th

USC, Doheny Library, Library Friends Lecture  
Hall, room 240

#### Session : 9:00 am – 10:00am

##### **Welcome remarks:**

Stephen Smith, USC Shoah Foundation, Victoria Sanford, Lehman College, CUNY, Wolf Gruner, USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research

Presentation: Fredy Peccerelli, Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala (FAFG) / Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation

Guatemala: New Testimonies and the Guatemalan Genocide

#### Session 10:00 am – 12 pm

Studying Perpetrators

Chair: Carol Wise, International Relations, USC  
Sofía Duyos, Law, Madrid, España

Military Documents and Their Significance in Understanding the Genocide of the Ixil Mayans

Sergio Palencia Frener, Anthropology/Sociology, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla

Counterinsurgency in Chimaltenango, 1978-1983: Comalapa, San Martín Jilotepeque y Poaquil

Manolo e. Vela Castañeda, Sociology, Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México

Butchers: racism, specialization, group pressure, and incentives. Lessons from the Guatemalan genocide

#### Lunchbreak: 12 – 1.30 pm

#### Session 1:30 pm – 2:50 pm

Repression and Resistance

Chair: Bonnie Taub, Latin American Studies, UCLA

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Betsy Konefal, Latin American Studies, College of William and Mary

Mayan Repression, Resistance, and the Road to Genocide

Sandra Gruner-Domic, Social Anthropology, USC Shoah Foundation

Social and Personal Motivations for Women's Participation in Acts of Resistance Before, During, and After the Genocide in Guatemala

**Coffee Break**

**Session 3:20 pm – 4:30 pm**

Racist Discourse and Genocide

Chair/Moderadora: Norma Chinchilla, Sociology, CSU Long Beach

Brigitte M. French, Anthropology, Grinnell College

Rios Montt's Public Discourse and the Cultural Logic of the Guatemalan Genocide

Jorge Ramon Gonzalez-Ponciano, Anthropology, UNAM/Stanford University

Racism and the "Indian Problem" in the Guatemalan Press Before and After the Genocide

Evening event 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

USC, Doheny Library, Library Friends Lecture Hall, room 240

**Keynote:** Rosalina Tuyuc, CONAVIGUA (National Association of Guatemalan Widows), Guatemala

**Roundtable:**

Sobrevivientes y refugiados del Genocidio Guatemalteco (Survivors and Refugees of the

Guatemalan Genocide)

Rosalina Tuyuc, Dr. Marvyn Perez (Los Angeles), Victoria Sanford (Moderator/Moderadora)

**Tuesday, September 13**

USC, Doheny Library, Library Friends Lecture Hall, room 240

**Session 9:30 am – 10:50 am**

Transnational Impacts of Genocide

Chair: Susan Fitzpatrick-Behrens, Latin American Studies, CSU Northridge

Catherine Nolan-Ferrell, History, University of Texas at San Antonio

The Guatemalan Refugee Crisis in Southern Chiapas, 1980-1984

Silvia Posocco, Anthropology, University of London, UK

Traces, Remnants, Genocide: Transnational Adoption in Guatemala in the 1980s

**Coffee Break**

**Session 11:10 am – 12:30 pm**

International Solidarity and Demanding Justice

Chair: Patrick James, International Relations, USC

Morna Macleod, Latin American Studies, State Autonomous University of Morelos, Mexico

International Solidarity and Genocide in Guatemala in the Eighties

Susanne Jonas, Latin American & Latino Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

A Crucial Social Actor Against Genocide:

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Guatemalan Refugees and Migrants in the U.S.

**Lunch Break 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Session 2:00 pm – 4:00pm**

Post-Genocide Justice

Chair/Moderadora: Hannah Garry, Law/  
International Human Rights, USC

Roddy Brett, International Relations, University  
of St. Andrews, UK

The Ríos Montt trial as a consequence of the  
resistance of indigenous survivors

Marta Elena Casaus, History, Universidad  
Autónoma de Madrid

The rape of Ixil, Kekchí and Achí Mayan women:  
A comparative case of racism, genocide and  
femicide

Jo-Marie Burt, Political Science, George Mason  
University

The Guatemalan Genocide Case in Comparative  
Perspective

**Coffee Break**

**Session 4:15 pm – 6.15 pm**

Personal Reflections on Resistance

Chair/Moderador: Douglas Carranza, Central  
American Studies, CSU Northridge

Ricardo Falla, Anthropology, Santa María  
Chiquimula, Guatemala

Perspectives on Genocide and Resistance: A  
Personal Experience

Ana María Méndez Dardon, Law, Canada  
Personal story: Growing up in resistance

Miguel Zamora-Mills, International Relations,  
Guatemala

Resisting Impunity, Preserving Truth: Victim  
participation, the querrellante adhesivo, and the  
Rios Montt trial

**Evening event 7:00 pm – 9:00pm**

USC, Bovard Auditorium

“Somos Guerreras: Feminism, Hip Hop, and  
Guatemala”

An evening with Rebeca Lane — performance/  
**Wednesday, September 14th**

Villa Aurora, Pacific Palisades

**Session 9:30 am – 10:50am**

Genocide Denial in Guatemala

Chair: Beatriz Cortez, Central American Studies,  
CSU Northridge

Rebecca Clouser, International and Area Studies,  
Washington University, St. Louis

Elite erasures and lethal legacies: Examining  
genocide denial in Guatemala

Debra Rodman, Anthropology/Women Studies,  
Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA

Greasing Guatemala’s Military Machine:  
Genocide Denial in Eastern Guatemala

**Session 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Memory Politics and Cultural Resistance / Chair/  
Moderadora: Marjorie Becker, History and  
English, USC

Heather A. Vrana, History, Southern Connecticut  
State University, New Haven

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H.I.J.O.S.: A New Politics of Memory beyond  
Reconciliation

Emilio del Valle Escalante, Romance Languages,  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Maya Responses to Genocide in Guatemala: The  
Poetics of Survival in Sabino Esteban Francisco's  
Gemido de huellas

Betsabe A. Martínez Manzanero, Antropología  
Social, El Colegio de Michoacán, Mexico

Memory and Cultural Resistance among  
Guatemalan Mayans in Southern Mexico

**Concluding remarks:**

Victoria Sanford, Lehman College, City  
University of New York,

Wolf Gruner, USC Shoah Foundation Center for  
Advanced Genocide Research

**For further information and to register:**

<https://bit.ly/GuatemalaConference16>

Contact us with questions: [cagr@usc.edu](mailto:cagr@usc.edu)

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT: JUSTICE AND THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE

### 2017 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GENOCIDESCHOLARS(IAGS) CONFERENCE

The University of Queensland,  
St Lucia, Brisbane, Australia

9-13 July 2017

Nearly seven decades after the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the hopes embedded in that document remain largely unfulfilled. The theme of the 2017 IAGS conference revisits the two core components of the Convention: justice for acts of genocide and prevention of future genocides.

While the conference theme will concentrate on these twin notions of justice and prevention, the 2017 IAGS conference is open to any whose work connects with the study of genocide. We aim to bring together scholars, activists, artists and survivors to examine genocidal violence from a wide range of disciplines and approaches. Participants are encouraged to examine the interdisciplinary aspects of violence from around the world, and to question the methods and outcomes of truth-telling and justice-seeking mechanisms. We encourage presenters to examine the processes and politics, strengths and failures of attempts to deal with past mass atrocities, and to identify best practices for achieving justice. Scholars and practitioners working in the field of genocide and mass atrocity prevention are also encouraged to examine the causes and drivers which exacerbate or constrain violence, and to discuss strategies for both long- and short-term prevention and reaction to mass atrocity crimes.

Submissions exploring any topic related to the study of genocide are welcome, and submissions on the following themes are particularly encouraged:

- Application of international and domestic law for justice, accountability and prevention
- Theories and methods of prevention of genocide and mass atrocities
- Indigenous experiences of and responses to genocide, in particular Australian Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders
- Cases of genocidal violence in the Asia Pacific region
- Sexual and gender-based violence
- Genocide and disability
- Justice and prevention in the context of refugees of genocide
- Representations of genocide in culture, art and museum studies
- Genocide education
- Genocide and human rights
- Intersections between genocide studies and peace studies

We welcome proposals for single paper presentations and for thematic panels comprising no more than three presenters. Each speaker should aim to speak for no more than 20mins, with question time additional (time limits will be strictly enforced). Each submission (individual and panel) must include: an abstract of no more than 250 words, 4 keywords, the speaker's full name including title, position, contact details and institutional affiliation, as well as a short biography of no more than 150 words (no CVs, please). Panel

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT: JUSTICE AND THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE

submissions should also include a short description of the panel theme in addition to the abstracts and each speaker's details.

In addition to panels and papers, the organisers encourage other modes of presentation. To obtain formal guidelines for submitting a proposal for book launches, film screenings, cultural media, and artistic works/readings, please email the organisers directly ([IAGS2017@uq.edu.au](mailto:IAGS2017@uq.edu.au)). Decisions will be made based on available space, time, and funding, among other things. Proposals for workshops will also be considered. Applications must include a list of participants including a 150 word biography for each participant; and an abstract of no more than 250 words regarding the topic and the intended outcome of the workshop. These workshops will be outside the official conference, will not be funded, and can be held separately on 9 July; room availability is limited.

All submissions should be emailed to [IAGS2017@uq.edu.au](mailto:IAGS2017@uq.edu.au) by 15 December 2016. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by 15 March 2017. Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline. Multiple submissions are permitted, but due to the high number of submissions received, the Committee cannot guarantee acceptance of more than one submission.

We strongly encourage submissions from scholars and activists in the Asia Pacific region, as well as from post-graduate students and early career researchers. A limited number of scholarships will be awarded to postgraduates, unwaged or under-employed early career researchers, and participants from developing nations on a competitive basis. Further details will be available online soon.

The conference organisers anticipate that a special edition of *Genocide Studies and Prevention* will

arise from the 2017 conference. Presenters will be invited to submit a written version of their papers to the journal; a call for papers will be issued later by the journal. Submission of a manuscript does not guarantee inclusion in the special issue: a limited number of articles will be selected through a rigorous peer-review process. Manuscripts must be formatted in accordance with journal guidelines.

Please note that, in order to attend and/or present at the conference, you must be a member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS). For information on membership, please visit the IAGS website ([www.genocidescholars.org/membership](http://www.genocidescholars.org/membership)). This is additional and separate to the registration fee for the conference.

For more information on the 2017 conference, please visit the conference website [www.law.uq.edu.au/iags2017](http://www.law.uq.edu.au/iags2017) or contact the co-convenors, Dr Melanie O'Brien and Dr Annie Pohlman, via email: [IAGS2017@uq.edu.au](mailto:IAGS2017@uq.edu.au).

## ISG PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

All orders must be PREPAID with a check drawn on a U.S. bank made out to the Institute for the Study of Genocide. Please e-mail first to confirm availability of publication (e-mail [feinhelen@comcast.net](mailto:feinhelen@comcast.net)) and other information unless there is other ordering information for particular publications.

### *Darfur: Genocide Before Our Eyes*

ed. Joyce Apsel. Institute for the Study of Genocide, 3rd ed., 2007. \$20 in the U.S., \$25 in other countries by Global Priority Mail. Essays by Joyce Apsel on “Teaching About Darfur through the perspective of genocide and human rights”; Jerry Fowler, “The Evolution of Conflict and Genocide in Sudan,”; Eric Markusen and Samuel Totten, “Investigating allegations of genocide in Darfur”; Eric Reeves, “Darfur: Genocide before Our Eyes,”; Gregory Stanton, “Twelve Ways to Deny a Genocide”; and Jennifer Leaning, “The Human Impact of War in Darfur.” Also contains four maps, glossary, webography of sources on Sudan and the test of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. To order, first contact Joyce Apsel, [jaa5@nyu.edu](mailto:jaa5@nyu.edu)

### *The Prevention of Genocide: Rwanda and Yugoslavia Reconsidered*

(Institute for the Study of Genocide, 1994)

\$25 US / \$30 International (Prepaid, international money orders, U.S. Dollars only)

*Ever Again?: Evaluating the United Nations Genocide Convention On its 50th Anniversary.* (1998) Essays by noted scholars, journalist and lawyers. \$15 US / \$20 International

### *Teaching About Genocide: An Interdisciplinary Guidebook with Syllabi for College and University Teachers*

New Edition 2002, eds. Joyce Apsel and Helen Fein. Published for the Institute for the Study of Genocide in cooperation with the American Sociological Association. Syllabi by 22 noted teachers (in anthropology, history, international affairs, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, law, religion, sociology) on the Armenian genocide; the Holocaust; genocide and Holocaust; genocide; genocide, human rights and international affairs; essays by the editors; and selected internet websites on genocide. Cost for mailing in the US is \$18 for members of ISG, IAGS and ASA and \$22 for all others; add \$3 for Canada and Mexico and \$6 for other countries. To order, send check in US dollars drawn on a US bank or by credit card (American Express, MasterCard or Visa) to American Sociological Association: by mail (1307 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005-4701); telephone (202 383 9005, ext. 318), by fax (202 638 0882) or web ([www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)).

## SAVE OUR SPECIES: PAY YOUR ISG DUES

The Institute for the Study of Genocide exists to promote and disseminate scholarship and policy analyzes on the causes, consequences, and prevention of genocide. It is maintained by members' contributions and grants. The Newsletter is sent to all members of the ISG semiannually. Members will also receive working papers, annual meetings and conference notices, and voting rights at the annual meeting. Memberships are due annually. If you last paid dues in 2015, please rejoin for 2016 today. If you have received a complimentary copy of the Newsletter, please join us to be sure that you continue receiving copies. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Joyce Apsel, President ISG  
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