



**GLOBAL CENTRE
FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO PROTECT**

A N N U A L
2019
R E P O R T

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE

WHO WE ARE

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

The **Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect** is the leading international authority on R2P. Since its inception in 2008 the Global Centre has played a unique “insider/outsider” role at the United Nations as the only organization carrying out monitoring, research and advocacy on all current and potential mass atrocity situations around the globe. The Global Centre works with various governments to translate this research into actionable policy.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

This year the world will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations. But celebrations recognizing this historical landmark will occur at a time when the entire post-1945 structure of human rights, humanitarianism and multilateral diplomacy appear to be under threat. Not since the UN was first formed have so many people been displaced by persecution, conflict and war. Not since the peak of the Cold War has the UN Security Council appeared so bitterly divided and incapable of decisive action. And as a new decade begins, there are renewed threats to international peace and security, and fresh assaults on human dignity.

This year will also mark the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at the 2005 UN World Summit. Much progress has been made with R2P over the last decade and a half, but the scale of international failure in Syria, Myanmar (Burma) and Yemen has contributed to a perception that R2P, the UN, and all the ideas and institutions that are supposed to protect human rights and safeguard humanity are simply not working. For example, the 2017 genocide against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar has been to Asia what the 2015 Syrian refugee crisis was to Europe. It has forced all governments in the region – as well as civil society, the media and the public – to reflect on what it means to uphold international law and protect vulnerable populations in the twenty-first century.

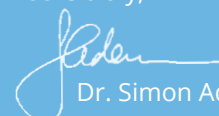
However, these disturbing global trends are not the whole story. Mass protests during 2019 have shaken authoritarian regimes across the world and in Sudan, a government that was responsible for decades of mass atrocity crimes was brought to its knees. Omar al-Bashir, who has spent years evading justice at the International Criminal Court, is now under house arrest in Khartoum and may be held accountable for his crimes in a domestic court. Even China – which has used its veto power to defend Syria and Myanmar from collective action at the UN Security Council – has faced unprecedented global scrutiny for its mass detention of over 1 million ethnic Uighurs and for its violent repression of protesters in Hong Kong.

During 2019 the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect worked with our friends and allies at the UN and beyond on practical measures to prevent mass atrocity crimes, to protect populations at risk, and to see perpetrators punished. For example, last year, for only the third time in history, a case was filed against a state at the International Court of Justice for breaching its obligations under the Genocide Convention. It was a privilege for the Global Centre to be able to collaborate with the government of The Gambia and our NGO partners in order to help end impunity for the genocide against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar. We were especially proud that the first formal public announcement of this historic case was made by Gambia's Justice Minister, Abubacarr Tambadou, at an event that we co-hosted on the margins of the UN General Assembly last September.

This annual report provides an overview of that campaign and other initiatives, and underlines the fact that R2P remains the most effective principle around which the international community can coalesce when vulnerable populations face the threat of atrocities. We believe that if we want to avoid endlessly repeating the failures of the past, human rights and humanitarian principles cannot continue to be selectively applied or diluted and discarded. Norms, laws and institutions remain essential. Just as the UN Charter represents a vision of a world where all human beings can live free and equal in dignity and rights, R2P is a promise to act on behalf of people for whom mass atrocities are not abstract words, but real acts that pose an existential threat to them, their loved ones and their communities.

During 2020 we will remain focused on mobilizing action wherever and whenever people face the threat of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We hope that you will continue to stand with us.

Yours truly,


Dr. Simon Adams

WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT?

The Responsibility to Protect – **known as R2P** – is an international norm that seeks to ensure that the international community never again fails to halt **genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity**. R2P was adopted by more than 170 heads of state and government at the 2005 UN World Summit and stipulates that all states have a responsibility to protect their populations from these mass atrocity crimes and ensure their prevention.

R2P'S THREE PILLARS:

PILLAR I

Every state has the Responsibility to Protect its populations from the four mass atrocity crimes.

PILLAR II

The wider international community has the responsibility to encourage and assist individual states in meeting that responsibility.

PILLAR III

If a state is manifestly failing to protect its populations, the international community must be prepared to take appropriate collective action, in a timely and decisive manner and in accordance with the UN Charter.

OUR GOALS

FOR 2019



MOBILIZE

Mobilize appropriate international responses to situations where populations are at risk of mass atrocity crimes, particularly through action at the UN Human Rights Council, General Assembly and Security Council.



MONITOR

Conduct in-depth research and analysis of mass atrocity situations in order to provide high quality policy recommendations to UN member states and international civil society.



BUILD

Continue building dedicated institutions, networks and capacities at the national, regional and multilateral level to effectively prevent mass atrocity crimes.



IMPLEMENT & INNOVATE

Develop and explore new ways to expand support for R2P and its implementation

2019

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

GLOBAL CENTRE PUBLISHES ITS 8TH OCCASIONAL PAPER

[10 January](#)

EVANS-SAHNOUN LECTURE ON R2P
[New York](#) | [30 January](#)

MARCH

DELIVERED REMARKS AT "R2P IN THE AMERICAS" CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE STANLEY FOUNDATION

[Washington, D.C.](#) | [21 March](#)

MAY

CO-HOSTED 9TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF R2P FOCAL POINTS

[Brussels, Belgium](#) | [13-14 May](#)

APRIL

PARTICIPATED IN THE ROHINGYA NGO STRATEGY COORDINATION MEETING

[Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia](#) | [29 March-4 April](#)

JUNE

CO-HOSTED "WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT" EVENT

[Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [17 June](#)

CO-HOSTED "R2P AND HATE SPEECH" EVENT
[New York](#) | [26 June](#)

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOLDS FORMAL DEBATE ON "R2P AND THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE, WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

[UN HQ New York](#) | [27-28 June](#)

SEPTEMBER

GLOBAL CENTRE STAFF TRAVELLED TO THE GAMBIA TO DISCUSS FILING OF A GENOCIDE CASE AGAINST MYANMAR AT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

[Banjul, The Gambia](#) | [3-7 September](#)

CO-HOSTED FOUR SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE 42ND SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

[Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [9-27 September](#)

CO-HOSTED TWO HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS DURING THE OPENING OF THE 74TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[New York](#) | [23-27 September](#)

OCTOBER

CO-HOSTED "VENEZUELA ON THE BRINK: THE URGENCY OF AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS" EVENT

[New York](#) | [2 October](#)

HOSTED A MEETING WITH UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND MEMBERS OF THE UN GROUP OF FRIENDS OF R2P

[New York](#) | [22 October](#)

DECEMBER

CO-HOSTED TWO SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT ANNUAL MEETING

[The Hague, Netherlands](#) | [2-7 December](#)

GROUP OF FRIENDS OF R2P

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF COMMITMENT



Record turnout for the Group of Friends' meeting in New York with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, 6 November 2019.

Since its establishment in 2008 in New York, the **Group of Friends of R2P**, an informal intergovernmental coalition of states committed to the promotion of R2P, has achieved considerable progress within the UN system. During 2015 a parallel Group of Friends of R2P was established in Geneva, with the membership mirroring that of the New York-based group. In 2019 the Group of Friends welcomed two new members, Ireland and the Marshall Islands, bringing the membership to 53 UN member states plus the European Union (EU). The Global Centre acts as the secretariat for the Group, facilitating Ambassador and Expert-level meetings, assisting with the drafting of statements and setting the annual Programme of Work.

Mobilizing the Group of Friends in 2019

During 2019 there were seven members of the Group of Friends serving on the UN Security Council (UNSC). The Global Centre facilitates Ambassador-level dinners for members of the Group of Friends who are also sitting on the UNSC, including one hosted by the Permanent Mission of Belgium in May 2019. Group members use these dinners to strategize on how best to advance the institutionalization of R2P in the UNSC and to discuss mass atrocity situations

hear perspectives from civil society and senior UN representatives, and explore possible UNSC action.

In Geneva the Group delivered numerous joint statements during Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions, including during interactive dialogues with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and thematic Special Procedures mandate holders. On 17 April the UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Karen Smith, briefed ambassadors of the Group of Friends on her mandate and the role that Geneva mechanisms can play in strengthening the linkages between R2P and human rights.

The Global Centre utilizes the Group of Friends as a key partner in its efforts with the UN General Assembly (UNGA). During 2019 the Global Centre convened five meetings of the Group of Friends in New York, which included briefings with on the status of Human Rights Up Front in the UN system and sustainable development. The Group of Friends also delivered a joint statement during the UNSC Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (Sexual Violence in Conflict), providing them with a key opportunity to highlight to the broader UN membership the linkages between R2P and other protection agendas.



R2P AND THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

During 2019 the Global Centre continued to work with the UN Security Council regarding R2P and the need to address mass atrocity situations.

© UN Photo/Kim Haughton

Serving as an advisor to and advocate with UNSC members, the Global Centre urges the Council to uphold its commitment to R2P, human rights and the protection of civilians. It does so through bilateral meetings with mission experts and ambassadors, confidential briefings and workshops, letters and statements. The Global Centre also advocates for regular briefings from UN human rights mechanisms in an effort to bring attention to atrocity situations.

During 2019 the UNSC passed five resolutions referencing R2P, including on the situations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan, as well as the on the thematic issue of “silencing the guns in Africa.” The decrease in R2P resolutions as compared to recent years is symptomatic of broader trends in Council dynamics, including increasingly difficult political dynamics that have proven to be an obstacle

to achieving consensus on most thematic issues and country situations. As a consequence, the Council has frequently resorted to adopting short technical rollovers rather than politically substantive resolutions.

5

UNSC
RESOLUTIONS
PASSED IN 2019
REFERENCING R2P

C . A . R | D . R . C
S O U T H · S U D A N

MOBILIZING ACTION

AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL



CAMEROON

© Reuters



OVER 530,000

PEOPLE DISPLACED BY CONFLICT IN THE NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST REGIONS

During 2019 the Global Centre increased its advocacy efforts regarding the crisis in Cameroon. The Global Centre has called upon the UNSC to take action to avoid further escalation, despite the absence of Cameroon from the Council's formal agenda. During May the Global Centre engaged with Council members ahead of the 13 May Arria Formula meeting on the humanitarian situation in Cameroon, highlighting the risk of atrocity crimes and the impact of grave human rights violations and abuses on the deteriorating humanitarian situation. During the meeting several UNSC members emphasized the importance of addressing issues of cultural identity and human rights in order to resolve the armed conflict in Cameroon.

During June, ahead of a briefing by the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the Global Centre lead a joint NGO advocacy campaign. An NGO letter was sent to all UNSC members and widely circulated

on social media urging members to pay particular attention to the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in Cameroon during the briefing and UNOCA consultations.



We've joined [@amnesty](#), [@hrw](#), Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme [#Cameroun](#), and other NGOs to call on members of the [#UNSC](#) to prioritize the situation in [#Cameroon](#) at the [@UNOCA_NEWS](#) briefing scheduled for tomorrow 4 June: bit.ly/2XjldHO

[#R2P](#)



10:40 AM · Jun 3, 2019 · Twitter Web Client

View Tweet activity

31 Retweets 29 Likes



MOBILIZING ACTION MYANMAR



Top: (L) Global Centre and Global Justice Center staff with Minister Tambadou in Banjul, The Gambia. (R) Rohingya refugees, © Reuters
Bottom: (L) The Peace Palace, © Ankorlight. (R) Simon Adams with Minister Tambadou and Bangladesh's Foreign Minister H.E. Abdul Momen



OVER 745,000

ETHNIC ROHINGYA HAVE FLED GENOCIDE AND CROSSED INTO BANGLADESH SINCE AUGUST 2017

Throughout 2019 the Global Centre continued to call attention to mass atrocity crimes perpetrated by the security forces against the ethnic Rohingya minority in Myanmar (Burma). This has included advocacy with key actors, such as UN Secretary-General António Guterres and his Special Envoy on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, as well as the UNSC, UNGA and various member states. The Global Centre has conducted targeted advocacy urging governments to suspend their assistance to Myanmar's military and to place targeted sanctions on key military officials responsible for atrocities. So far Australia, Canada, the United States and the EU have applied such sanctions.

UNSC

The Global Centre has advocated for a UNSC resolution imposing targeted sanctions and an arms embargo on Myanmar. Additionally, the Global Centre has engaged with UNSC members on the case filed

by The Gambia against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for violating its obligations under the Genocide Convention.

Together with key NGO partners, the Global Centre sent a letter to the Secretary-General in response to his review of UN operations in Myanmar, conducted by then Global Centre International Advisory Board (IAB) member Gert Rosenthal, urging the UN to learn from the prevention failures in Myanmar and ensure "the development of a plan for UN agencies to warn the UN Security Council to prevent and respond to serious human rights violations" in the future.

The Global Centre also organized two briefings between Special Envoy Schraner Burgener and over 20 NGO partners.

UNGA

Throughout 2019 the Global Centre engaged with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, and Chair of the FFM for Myanmar, Marzuki Darusman, as well as Special Envoy Schraner Burgener, urging them to make use of their platforms to press the UNGA to adopt a strong resolution on Myanmar. This included outreach ahead of their official briefings at the General Assembly as well as amplifying their findings and recommendations in advocacy with member states.

The Global Centre was also actively involved in efforts to strengthen language on accountability for mass atrocity crimes within the Third Committee resolution on "The Situation of Human Rights of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar." This included participation in briefings in advance of the Third Committee negotiations. On 31 October the UNGA passed the resolution, calling for accountability for those responsible for mass atrocities, human rights violations and abuses against the Rohingya in Myanmar.

Implementing and Innovating: Pursuit of justice for the Rohingya Genocide

According to the HRC-mandated Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) on Myanmar, the treatment of the Rohingya population in Myanmar amounts to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. And yet, despite extensive documentation and global outcry, Myanmar has continued in its discriminatory treatment of the Rohingya and evaded responsibility for these atrocities.

The Global Centre, together with the Global Justice Center (GJC), developed a campaign to pursue state accountability for the genocide of the Rohingya by pursuing a case before the ICJ for violations of the Genocide Convention. Since 2018 the Global Centre has advocated for a range of states parties to the Genocide Convention to take a case forward to the ICJ. Several states approached by the Global Centre

noted that they would be interested in supporting a case, but lacked political will at the highest levels to initiate it.

In early 2019 The Gambia, with the backing of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), expressed willingness to take a case forward. Upon the invitation of the Minister of Justice, Global Centre staff travelled to The Gambia in September to discuss a possible case and identify areas of collaboration. As a result of this meeting, during September the Minister of Justice of The Gambia, Hon. Abubacarr M. Tambadou, spoke at an event hosted by the Global Centre on the sidelines of the opening of the 74th UN General Assembly, where he publicly announced that following a meeting of OIC members earlier that day, The Gambia would file a case against Myanmar at the ICJ for breaching its obligations under the Genocide Convention. Subsequent to this event, the Global Centre has maintained direct contact with Minister Tambadou and continued to work with the GJC and The Gambia concerning the case.

Immediately following the filing of the case by The Gambia on 11 November, the Global Centre co-sponsored an event together with nine NGO partners in The Hague, publicly addressing the implications of state responsibility under the Genocide Convention, including for deterring further crimes. Minister Tambadou, the legal counsel for The Gambia and Rohingya representatives all spoke at the event.

Together with the GJC, the Global Centre also published a Q&A document, explaining the ICJ process and how it differs from other bodies for international justice, as well as outlining the role of parties to the Genocide Convention and UNSC. This document has been utilized and widely circulated amongst UN Staff, diplomats, NGOs and the public.

R2P AND THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Throughout 2019 the Global Centre continued to expand and institutionalize its work in Geneva, aiming to strengthen the link between R2P and the work of the HRC and its mechanisms and procedures.

© UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

The Global Centre believes that the HRC can and should play a more prominent role in implementing R2P through its procedures and mechanisms. In 2019 the Global Centre expanded its engagement in Geneva, aiming to bridge the gap between the peace and security and human rights agendas. This has been pursued through the full-time employment of a Senior Human Rights Officer in a permanent office space in Geneva.

Universal Periodic Review

During 2019 the Global Centre continued to utilize the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** as a unique mechanism to institutionalize structural prevention by encouraging states to assess and strengthen their national capacity to identify mass atrocities risks and develop prevention and mitigation strategies.

Prior to each UPR session the Global Centre sent letters encouraging governments to include specific policy recommendations to states under review

and also held bilateral meetings with country experts at Geneva Missions. In addition to broad recommendations on institutionalizing mass atrocity prevention, the Global Centre also provided tailored recommendations for countries experiencing potential mass atrocities, including Afghanistan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), DRC, Eritrea, Nicaragua, Iraq and Yemen. In total, at least 47 member states included the Global Centre's suggested recommendations in their UPR submissions in 2019.

During the UPR Pre-Session on the DPRK the Global Centre was the only globally-focused human rights organization selected to brief states alongside other DPRK-focused organizations based in the Asian region. During the intervention, the Global Centre assessed ongoing violations of civil and political rights in the context of crimes against humanity and provided recommendations for the upcoming review.

Engaging with Special Procedures

During 2019 the Global Centre actively engaged with **Special Procedures** mandate holders in Geneva. Special Procedures are a central element of the UN human rights system and are mandated by the HRC to report and advise on human rights violations that, if not addressed, may escalate to mass atrocities.

As part of ongoing efforts to bridge the gap between New York and Geneva, the Global Centre, in cooperation with the Netherlands, organized an informal briefing by three Special Rapporteurs during October in New York for members of the Group of Friends of R2P. During the briefing, the Special Rapporteurs on minority issues; on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and on promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, all discussed their mandates in relation to atrocity prevention and how the work of Special Procedures can be more systematically integrated into the peace and security agenda.

Advocating on Country Situations

The Global Centre advocated for the inclusion of strong mass atrocity prevention language in country-specific and thematic resolutions adopted during the three HRC sessions. During 2019 the HRC passed seven country-specific and thematic resolutions referencing R2P, including on the situations in Burundi, CAR, DPRK, South Sudan and Syria. The HRC also adopted a landmark resolution on the establishment of a FFM for Venezuela.

The Global Centre mobilized support for action on country situations not yet on the HRC's formal agenda. During the 41st session of the HRC, the Global Centre, which has been monitoring the risk of atrocity crimes in the Philippines since October 2016 in relation to the so-called "war on drugs," consulted with the government of Iceland, which sponsored the first HRC-resolution on the Philippines. The resolution urged the government to carry out impartial investigations and ensure accountability. It also requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights present a report on the human rights situation in the country.



Members of the Group of Friends attended the discussion with UN Special Rapporteurs organized by the Global Centre, 22 October 2019, New York.



Thank you to @UPRinfo for the privilege of speaking on behalf of @GCR2P at the HRC #UPR33 Pre-Session on ongoing widespread and systematic violations of human right in #DPRK together with inspiring colleagues from @NKHumanRights, @twtnKDB, @committeehrk. #R2P



#HRC41 passes the first ever resolution on the promotion and protection of #humanrights in the #Philippines with 18 in favor, 14 against and 15 abstentions. Calls for @mbachelet to write a report on the 1000's of killings in #Duterte's "drug war."

#R2P

L.20 - Promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines

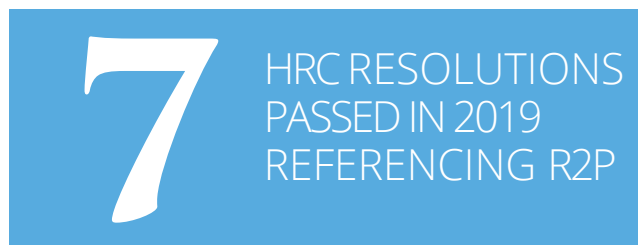
ABST	AFGHANISTAN	YES	CZECH REPUBLIC	YES	PERU
NO	ANGOLA	ABST	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	NO	PHILIPPINES
YES	ARGENTINA	YES	DENMARK	NO	QATAR
YES	AUSTRALIA	NO	EGYPT	ABST	RWANDA
YES	AUSTRIA	NO	ERITREA	NO	SAUDI ARABIA
YES	BAHAMAS	YES	FIJI	ABST	SENEGAL
NO	BAHRAIN	NO	HUNGARY	YES	SLOVAKIA
ABST	BANGLADESH	YES	ICELAND	NO	SOMALIA
ABST	BRAZIL	NO	INDIA	ABST	SOUTH AFRICA

Events on the margins of HRC Sessions

This year the Global Centre organized and co-hosted a number of thematic and country-specific events in Geneva. During the 40th session of the HRC in March, the Global Centre co-hosted an event on “South Sudan – no lasting peace without justice,” calling for the mandate renewal of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. The mandate of the Commission was later renewed for one year.

During June the Global Centre organized a full-day conference on “Women, Peace and Security and the Responsibility to Protect.” This event was co-hosted by the governments of Botswana and Canada, with the aim of identifying how to bring together the two protection agendas and strengthen the systematic integration of a gender lens into R2P policies, strategies and practices. The panel discussions included experts from Afghan civil society, the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation, Geneva Call, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Justice Rapid Response.

During the 42nd session of the HRC in September, the Global Centre co-hosted four events on Burundi, Sudan, Venezuela and Yemen. One event, entitled “Sudan – ensuring a credible HRC response,” discussed the need for the rapid establishment of fully-mandated UN human rights country office. Following the event, on 25 September, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Sudan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs signed an agreement to establish a country office in Khartoum.



S Y R I A | C . A . R
S O U T H · S U D A N
N O R T H · K O R E A

Simon Adams speaks on the panel of “Why is a UN Commission of Inquiry needed for Venezuela?” at HRC42, 9 September 2019, UN Geneva.



Panel for the event co-hosted on the margins of HRC42 on ensuring accountability for crimes committed in Yemen, 12 September 2019, UN Geneva.

Other meetings and conferences

In addition to the events organized and co-hosted by the Global Centre, Global Centre staff participated in a number of high-level events throughout the year in Geneva. On 21 February Deputy Executive Director Savita Pawnday delivered remarks at “Never again: how to address hate crimes as early indicators of mass atrocities?” hosted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

As a member of the steering group for Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC), on 11 April the Global Centre co-hosted an event in Geneva on “Reflecting upon over 70 years of the Genocide Convention: Challenges and ways forward in atrocity prevention.”

During 10-12 December Senior Human Rights Officer Elisabeth Pramendorfer attended the 33rd International Conference of the ICRC in Geneva.

MOBILIZING ACTION

AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

YEMEN

© Ahmad Al-Basha/AFP



OVER 16,000
CIVILIANS KILLED SINCE MARCH 2015

ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT HAVE COMMITTED
WAR CRIMES

The Global Centre undertook a targeted advocacy campaign calling for the renewal and strengthening of the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts (GEE) on Yemen, established in 2017 to monitor and report on the human rights situation and provide guidance on accountability for atrocities. The Global Centre emphasized the ongoing need for independent monitoring as all parties to the conflict continue to commit violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

The Global Centre co-hosted a side event at the 42nd session of the HRC in September entitled “Yemen: The need to strengthen international accountability” alongside seven other civil society organizations. The side event featured the Chairperson of the GEE, Kamel Jendoubi, and focused on the importance of renewing and strengthening the Group’s mandate. The Global Centre also joined civil society organizations in delivering a joint statement at the interactive dialogue on Item 2 during the HRC session, urging member states to renew and strengthen the GEE’s mandate, particularly in relation to the collection and

preservation of evidence. Parallel to these initiatives, the Global Centre continued to highlight atrocities committed in Yemen and advocate for justice and accountability. **On 26 September the HRC voted to renew the mandate of the GEE.**



GCR2P @GCR2P · Sep 10, 2019

16,000+ civilians have been killed in the conflict in #Yemen. We call on #HRC42 to renew the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen and expand its capacity to identify specific perpetrators of mass atrocities.

For more on the situation: bit.ly/YemenAtRisk

#R2P

We strongly encourage member states to:

- Renew and expand the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen, including expanding capacity to identify specific perpetrators of mass atrocity crimes
- Support language in the resolution which highlights: “Impunity for potential atrocity crimes constitutes one of the greatest challenges to the protection of civilians, and ensuring accountability for such crimes is a key element in preventing future violations.”

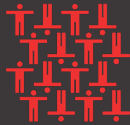
YEMEN IN THE HRC

MOBILIZING ACTION

VENEZUELA



(L) Simon Adams speaking at “Venezuela on the Brink,” 2 October 2019, New York (R) Graphics from a Global Centre social media campaign urging member states to not elect Venezuela to the Human Rights Council.



OVER 8,300

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS AND 12,000 PEOPLE ARBITRARILY DETAINED SINCE 2014

HRC

During August and September 2019, ahead of 42nd session of the HRC, the Global Centre conducted an extensive advocacy campaign focusing on the need for an HRC-mandated investigative mechanism for Venezuela. This included the organization of two expert-level briefings for over 40 member states, including a closed briefing for the core group of states that eventually sponsored a resolution. Briefers included representatives from Human Rights Watch and Venezuelan-based human rights organizations, Acción Solidaria and Provea, as well as the Global Centre. In addition, the Global Centre contributed to a joint NGO policy brief outlining the need for an investigative mechanism, utilized by member states during consultations for the resolution.

The advocacy campaign continued with an HRC event co-hosted with Venezuelan human rights defenders. These efforts contributed to the adoption of a resolution on 27 September establishing an independent FFM for Venezuela, mandated to investigate ongoing serious violations and abuses of human rights with a view to ensure full accountability for perpetrators.

UNGA

During October, ahead of the elections for the 2020-2022 HRC term, Costa Rica announced its candidacy

as an alternative to Venezuela, which was running for a seat on the HRC. Given Venezuela's ongoing serious violations and abuses of human rights, which may amount to crimes against humanity, the Global Centre advocated extensively in support of Costa Rica's candidacy.

On 2 October Executive Director Simon Adams delivered remarks during an event co-hosted by the Global Centre, Amnesty International, Centro de Justicia y Paz, International Service for Human Rights and Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello entitled, “Venezuela on the Brink: The urgency of appropriate international response to the crisis.” The event, where several Venezuelan human rights defenders also spoke, focused on Venezuela's possible election to the HRC and the need for the creation of an international Commission of Inquiry on the situation.

The Global Centre also participated in a joint social media campaign with other civil society organizations to encourage member states to not vote for Venezuela. Disappointingly, although the UNGA eventually elected Venezuela to the HRC, Costa Rica received 96 votes in favor, while Venezuela barely secured sufficient votes for their seat.



R2P AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Throughout 2019 the Global Centre engaged with the broader UN membership via the UNGA.

© UN Photo/Manuel Elias

Engagement with the broader UN membership is crucial for achieving support for the prevention of mass atrocities and the implementation of R2P. One way in which the Global Centre does this is through concerted advocacy ahead of the annual UNGA debate on R2P.

On 27 and 28 June the UNGA held its second consecutive formal plenary meeting on the “Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.” Ahead of the debate the Global Centre coordinated a campaign aimed at bolstering participation by UN member states and suggested talking points to be highlighted in national statements. The Global Centre also assisted in drafting a joint statement by the Group of Friends.

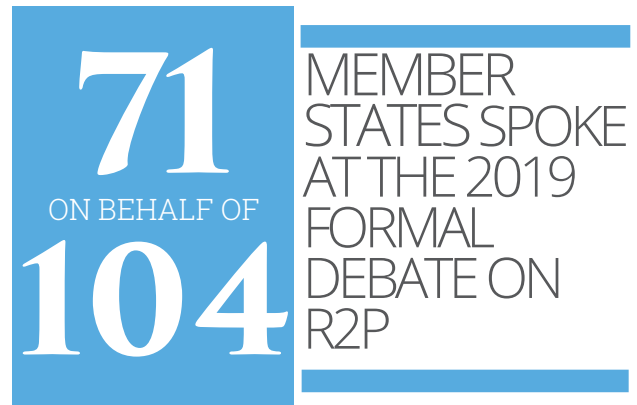
The day before the debate the Global Centre co-hosted an event with the Delegation of the EU

entitled “R2P and Hate Speech.” The UN Special Adviser on R2P, Karen Smith, and Executive Director Simon Adams delivered remarks at the event that highlighted the new UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech and how hate speech and the marginalization of minorities increases the risk of atrocities. Both speakers focused on the need for the UN, civil society, governments and the private sector to work together to curb hate speech and incitement.

In light of the debate’s success, on 16 September the UNGA voted to include a supplementary item entitled, “the Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,” on its draft agenda for the third year in a row. With Global Centre support, a cross-regional group of seven member states (Denmark, Guatemala, Netherlands, Romania, Rwanda, Ukraine and Uruguay) requested the President of the

General Assembly include this item in the agenda. Ahead of the vote, the Global Centre reached out to over 180 UN member states to encourage them to support the initiative. A clear majority of member states voted in favor of the inclusion on the draft agenda and subsequently supported its inclusion as a supplementary item on the final agenda on 20 September.

The formal debate has a number of procedural benefits as compared to the previous informal interactive dialogue format. Formal debates allocate more time for member state interventions and provide an opportunity for states to have an on the record exchange regarding best practices on the



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ON BEHALF OF
104
MEMBER STATES SPOKE AT THE 2019 FORMAL DEBATE ON R2P

prevention of, and response to, atrocities. This also enables the UNGA to maintain a full record of the response of states to the Secretary-General's annual report on R2P.

MOBILIZING ACTION AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY



UN General Assembly High-Level Week

Every year the opening of the UNGA in September provides the Global Centre with an opportunity to highlight developments regarding R2P and discuss strategies for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. During the opening of the 74th session, the Global Centre co-hosted two high-level events as well as a lunch with R2P Focal Points who were in New York. Global Centre staff also delivered statements at two other high-level events.



A Pathway to a Sustainable Solution to the Rohingya Crisis

On 25 September the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN and the Global Centre co-hosted an event on the Rohingya crisis. The event featured remarks by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, H.E. Dr. AK Abdul Momen, and Minister of Justice of The Gambia, Hon. Abubacarr M. Tambadou, among others. The panellists focused their remarks on the current crisis faced by Rohingya refugees and on ensuring accountability for the crimes committed against the Rohingya, namely genocide and crimes against humanity. The event was moderated by Executive Director Simon Adams.

During the event Minister Tambadou made the formal public announcement that The Gambia would be officially submitting a case at the ICJ regarding Myanmar's breach of the Genocide Convention.

Confronting Hate and Protecting Rights: UN Initiatives to Promote Inclusion and Ensure Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Belief

On 26 September the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, the Permanent Missions of Argentina and the Netherlands, the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Article 19, Club de Madrid, the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights and the Global Centre co-hosted an event on protecting the freedoms of expression and belief while countering hate speech. The event focused on the recent launch of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech and how to enlist governments, political and religious leaders, national human rights institutions, and civil society to battle the spread of hate speech. Deputy Executive Director Savita Pawnday served as an expert panellist during the event.



Simon Adams poses with panellists at "A Pathway to a Sustainable Solution to the Rohingya Crisis," 25 September 2019.



At our [#RohingyaCrisis](#) event, [@Gambia_MOJ](#)'s Hon. Abubacarr Tambadou announces that his government will be soon officially submitting a case on behalf of the OIC at the International Court of Justice [@CIJ_ICJ](#) against [#Myanmar](#) for violating the [#GenocideConvention](#).



6:52 PM · Sep 25, 2019 · [Twitter for Android](#)

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Savita Pawnday delivered remarks on the panel of "Confronting Hate and Protecting Rights," 26 September 2019.



[Jaclyn Streitfeld](#) [@JaclynGCR2P](#) · Sep 26, 2019
[@UN_GP_RtoP](#) describes why the UN Plan of Action on [#HateSpeech](#) is of critical importance as we've observed rising dangerous rhetoric around the world. [#R2P](#)



RESEARCH AND MONITORING

The Global Centre provides policy-relevant research and strategic guidance to governments, UN officials and civil society on how to prevent or halt mass atrocity crimes.

The Global Centre's publications and analysis inform decision makers about situations where action needs to be taken to prevent identity-based conflict and protect populations from mass atrocities. The *R2P Monitor*, *Atrocity Alert* and other publications, including various statements, policy briefs and the *Occasional Paper* series, have enhanced the Global Centre's reputation as the leading organization doing policy-focused research on the responsibility to protect and mass atrocity crimes.

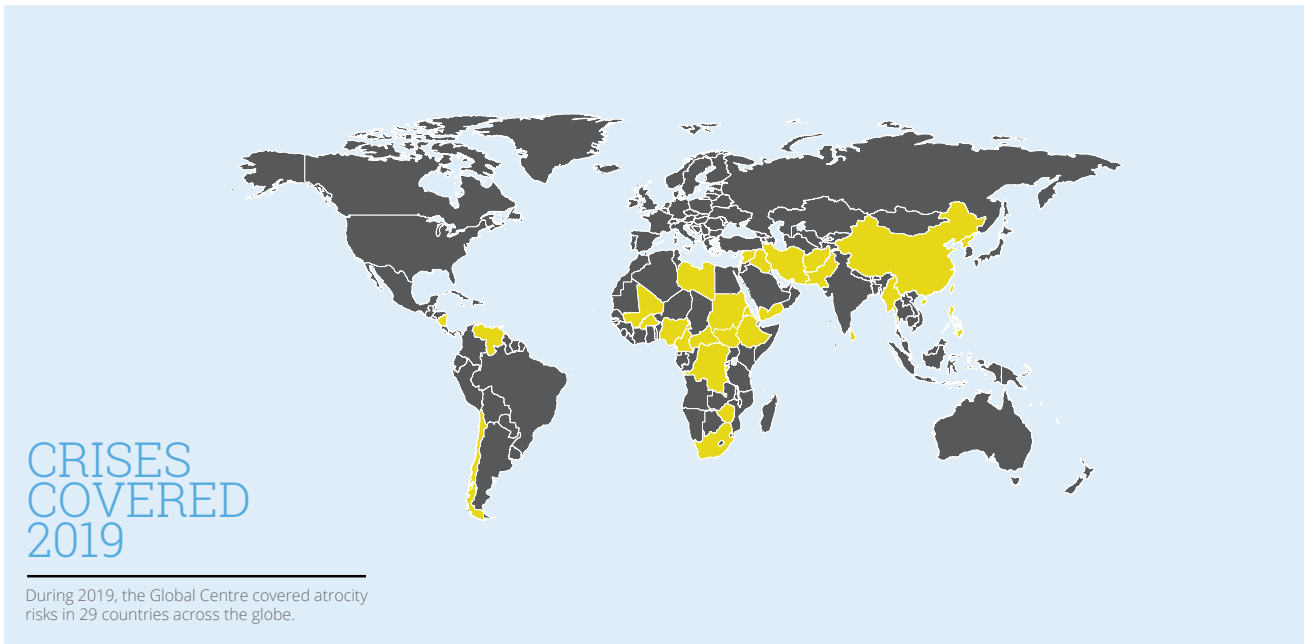
The Global Centre's publications help shape the narrative around country situations and try to focus the attention of the international community on the risk of atrocities. During 2019 Global Centre staff conducted research and analysis of populations who are experiencing or are threatened by potential mass atrocity crimes in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, CAR, Cameroon, Chile, China, DPRK, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Libya, Mali, Myanmar (Burma), Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Through the

R2P Monitor and *Atrocity Alert*, as well as public statements highlighting imminent atrocity risks, the Global Centre tried to mobilize appropriate international action.

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GLOBAL CENTRE
PUBLICATIONS
RELEASED
DURING 2019

The Global Centre's *R2P Monitor*, a bimonthly publication, provides analysis on situations where populations are threatened by mass atrocities as well as an assessment of international efforts to prevent and respond to them. The *R2P Monitor* is circulated to all UN missions in New York, as well as members of the HRC, and has established itself as a credible source for any diplomat or practitioner who works in the area of mass atrocity prevention. During 2019 the Global Centre released Issues 43-47 of the *R2P Monitor*.



Since it was introduced in 2016 as a weekly publication, *Atrocity Alert*, has established itself as a respected and timely source of information regarding recent developments in situations where populations are at risk of, or are enduring, mass atrocity crimes. Each weekly e-mail provides a concise and accessible bulletin on evolving crises and allows the Global Centre to highlight situations that may be neglected by the wider international community, such as Cameroon and the situation of the Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, China. The Global Centre has also utilized *Atrocity Alert* as a device to provide early warning on situations where the risk of atrocities may grow if urgent steps are not taken by the government, including during protests in Chile and Iran and in response to xenophobic violence in South Africa. Several governments have indicated that *Atrocity Alert* is regularly re-circulated to relevant Country Desks and Embassies responsible for featured countries. During 2019 the Global Centre released 50 issues of *Atrocity Alert*.

In addition to its work on populations at risk, the Global Centre also publishes timely background briefings and event summaries related to the development of the Responsibility to Protect. This includes publishing profiles of all elected members of the UNSC and HRC

regarding how their country has implemented R2P and providing guidance on how they can prioritize atrocity prevention during their tenure on these important international bodies. During November the Global Centre published a policy brief clarifying the added value of HRC-authorized investigative bodies, including Commissions of Inquiry and FFMs, to the prevention of, and accountability for, atrocity crimes.

12 GLOBAL CENTRE PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN 2019 INCLUDING ON

I R A Q | M Y A N M A R
S U D A N | S Y R I A
V E N E Z U E L A

2019 PUBLICATIONS SPOTLIGHT

During 2019 the Global Centre utilized its various types of publications to respond to urgent crises around the globe.

“IF NOT NOW, WHEN?”:

The Responsibility to Protect, the Fate of the Rohingya and the Future of Human Rights

Dr. Simon Adams



ROHINGYA OCCASIONAL PAPER

In 2019 the Global Centre released its 8th Occasional Paper focusing on R2P and the Rohingya genocide. Occasional Papers provide deep analysis of a particular mass atrocity situation or thematic area.

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

The Persecution of the Uighurs and Potential Crimes Against Humanity in China

The treatment of Uighurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) has increased concerns over the risk of potential atrocity crimes in China. The arrival of Chen Quanguo as Chinese Communist Party Secretary in charge of XUAR in August 2016, along with a 92 percent increase in security spending in Xinjiang from 2016-17, resulted in a dramatic increase in the scale and intensity of social and religious control in the region.¹ China's blunt approach to combatting religious extremism has resulted in large-scale arbitrary detention, severe restrictions on religious practices, and pervasive surveillance and control of the Muslim population of Xinjiang. Such actions may constitute crimes against humanity perpetrated against

According to Adrian Zenz, a leading expert on the issue, "There is virtually no Uighur family without one or more members in such detention, and a rising number of Kazakhs and other Muslim minorities are likewise affected."² Reports suggest that in some cases, all adults of an extended family have been detained.³ As a result, children are treated as de-facto orphans and reportedly taken into state-run child "welfare centres" while their parents and extended family members undergo "re-education training" sessions on Mandarin, Chinese law, ethnic and national unity, de-radicalisation and patriotism.⁴

Detention for "re-education training" is reported to last

UIGHUR POLICY BRIEF

In April the Global Centre joined the Asia-Pacific Centre for R2P in releasing a joint policy brief analyzing the situation of the Uighurs in Xinjiang, China.

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

11 April 2019

Bashir Arrested, Sudan at the Crossroads

Today, 11 April, President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan was removed from power and arrested by the Sudanese army following four months of mass protests. Bashir, who has ruled Sudan since a 1989 military coup, is also wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Sudan is now at a crossroads. The removal of Bashir is an important victory for the hundreds of thousands of protesters who have taken to the streets since 19 December. Today should mark the beginning of a historic transition from military rule and lead to an inclusive dialogue regarding the deep social cleavages and political grievances of the people of Sudan. While Sudan's Minister of Defense, Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf, has announced that the military will oversee a two-year transition of power, at the time of publication it is unclear whether the demonstrators will accept this plan or demand power be handed to a civilian government.

The overthrow and arrest of President Bashir also provides an opportunity to reflect upon the atrocity crimes perpetrated in Sudan during his three decades in power. Following a referral by the UN Security Council in 2005, Bashir and other government officials - including the head of the ruling National Congress Party, Ahmed Haroun, who was also arrested today - were indicted by the ICC for crimes perpetrated in Darfur following a military campaign that was launched in 2003. Government forces allegedly killed thousands of civilians, burned villages and forcibly transferred hundreds of thousands of people, and raped thousands of women. The documented evidence of these atrocities is both shocking and comprehensive.

SUDAN STATEMENT

In April the Global Centre released a statement on the rapidly developing situation in Sudan following the arrest of President Omar al-Bashir after months of deadly protests across the country.

GLOBAL JUSTICE CENTER
Human Rights Through Rule of Law

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

FACTSHEET | NOVEMBER 2019
Q&A: The Gambia v. Myanmar
Rohingya Genocide at the International Court of Justice

Starting in October 2016 and then again in August 2017, Myanmar's security forces engaged in so-called "clearance operations" against the Rohingya, a distinct Muslim ethnic minority, in Rakhine State, Myanmar. The operations, in particular those that started in August 2017, were characterized by brutal violence and serious human rights violations on a mass scale. Survivors report indiscriminate killings, rape and sexual violence, arbitrary detention, torture, beatings, and forced displacement. Reports have also shown that security forces were systematically planning for such an operation against the Rohingya even before the purported reason for the violence – retaliation for small scale attacks committed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) – occurred. As a result, an estimated 84,000 people – mostly ethnic Rohingya – were forced to flee to Bangladesh.

According to the UN Human Rights Council-mandated *Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar* (IFFM), the treatment of the Rohingya population during the "clearance operations" amounts to genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, the commission of which evokes specific obligations and responsibility under international law. In its final report, published in September 2018, the IFFM concluded that "the State of Myanmar breached its obligation not to commit genocide" and found that Myanmar "continues to harbor genocidal intent" towards the Rohingya.

On November 11, 2019, the Republic of the Gambia filed suit against Myanmar in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for violating the Genocide Convention. This momentous lawsuit has a critical focus on Myanmar's responsibility as a state for genocide and complicity in Myanmar's ongoing investigations into individual accountability. **This fact sheet answers fundamental questions about the ICJ case, and seeks to clarify available avenues for justice for the crimes committed against the Rohingya population.**

1. What effects are currently under way to hold either the state of Myanmar or individuals accountable?

There are currently two major pathways to justice and accountability for the crimes committed against the Rohingya: (1) Myanmar's responsibility as a state; and (2) individual criminal responsibility of those who planned, participated in, or sanctioned crimes.

Concerning Myanmar's responsibility as a state, the Gambia's ICJ lawsuit under the Genocide Convention is the first and only effort in a court to formally establish Myanmar's responsibility for genocide. While some states and institutions have imposed sanctions on Myanmar, the state has otherwise not been challenged on its responsibility for international crimes. Similarly, politics at the UN Security Council have rendered any sort of action on Myanmar by the Council impossible thus far. More clarity on the Gambia's case are explained in the questions and answers below.

Potential venues for holding individuals to account include domestic courts in Myanmar, domestic courts in third-party states under the theory of *universal jurisdiction*, and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

At present, domestic courts, either in Myanmar or in third-party states, do not appear to be viable venues for

JOINT Q&A DOCUMENTS

This year the Global Centre joined partners in releasing Q&A documents on Venezuela and Myanmar.



GLOBAL NETWORK OF R2P FOCAL POINTS

Building a global community of commitment to prevent mass atrocities.

Participants at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, Brussels, Belgium, 14 May 2019.

During 2019 the Global Centre continued its work as the secretariat of the [Global Network of R2P Focal Points](#), which is now in its 10th year of existence. The network is comprised of 61 governments, in addition to the EU and Organization of American States (OAS), that have demonstrated a commitment to upholding R2P by appointing a senior level official responsible for the promotion of atrocity prevention within their national system. A notable addition to the network during 2019 was the OAS, which joined after the Global Centre's advocacy to encourage regional organizations to become more involved in the Global Network.

During May the Global Centre, in partnership with the European External Action Service and the European Commission, organized the 9th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points in Brussels, Belgium. This was the first meeting of the

Global Network hosted by a regional organization, bringing together senior government officials from more than 45 countries as well as representatives from the UN, EU, OAS, African Union, OSCE and Council of Europe.

During the meeting R2P Focal Points discussed the unique role regional organizations play in preventing and responding to atrocities and innovative measures implemented by such organizations. Participants discussed how R2P Focal Points can influence decision-making within their governments on particular mass atrocity situations and examined the cases of Myanmar, Venezuela and Yemen. In doing so, they discussed national and global best practices in the development of tools to prevent and halt genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Led by expert presentations, R2P Focal Points also discussed the linkage between



Global Centre staff and participants of the 9th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, 13-14 May 2019, Brussels Belgium.

R2P and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, particularly with regard to addressing sexual and gender-based violence.

On 27 September the Global Centre, alongside the Permanent Delegation of the EU, hosted an annual working luncheon with members of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points who were in New York for the opening session of the UNGA. Attendees were briefed by the UN Special Adviser for R2P, Ms. Karen Smith, and Chief of the Rule of Law Unit of the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Alejandro Alvarez.

Throughout 2019 the Global Centre also continued to develop the Manual for R2P Focal Points. The Manual, which was presented to R2P Focal Points during the meeting in Brussels, describes how R2P relates to multiple subject-areas (human rights, development, justice and accountability, etc.) and what actions R2P Focal Points can take to support their government's efforts regarding mass atrocity prevention. R2P Focal Points are also encouraged to advance the responsibility to protect within their regions and incorporate a "mass atrocity prevention lens" into their day-to-day work.

Steering Group of the Global Network

During March 2019 a Steering Group of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points was established to strengthen the Network by undertaking relevant activities at and in between its annual meetings. The

current Steering Group members are: Australia, Denmark, Ghana, Lithuania, Slovenia and the Global Centre. The Steering Group aims to identify best practices for governments, as well as strategies that will enhance the role of R2P Focal Points within the national and multilateral context.

During June, under the leadership of the Steering Group, 54 members of the Global Network sent a letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres to draw his attention to the important role R2P Focal Points play in both national and multilateral contexts. The letter also welcomed the opportunity to learn more about how he intends to integrate R2P into his prevention agenda.

During December the Steering Group sent an appeal to all R2P Focal Points ahead of a number of important anniversaries in 2020, including the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the 25th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, the 45th anniversary of the genocide in Cambodia and the 15th anniversary of the adoption of R2P. The Steering Group called upon R2P Focal Points to take action to mark these anniversaries.

GLOBAL CENTRE IN THE WORLD

Throughout 2019 Global Centre staff participated in conferences, events and meetings across the globe. The Global Centre also continued to engage with GAAMAC, the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention and the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention.

FEBRUARY



22 February: Program Manager and Myanmar (Burma) expert Nadira Khudayberdieva spoke at a conference on “Human Rights in Myanmar in Comparative Perspective” at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, along with Global Centre IAB member and former UN Special Adviser on R2P, Dr. Jennifer Welsh. The conference focused on the human rights situation in Myanmar and opportunities for international action.

APRIL



14 – 16 April: Simon Adams delivered remarks at the “International Conference on National, Regional and International Mechanisms to Combat Impunity and Ensure Accountability Under International Law” co-hosted by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar and the European Parliament in Doha, Qatar.

16 – 18 April: Savita Pawnday and Senior Research Analyst Juliette Paauwe attended the 7th annual meeting of the European Association of Peace Operations Training Centers in Belgrade, Serbia. The meeting brought together personnel from Training Centers across Europe to discuss peacekeeping training. The Global Centre brought attention to its “Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection” program, which includes a Training of Trainers course on R2P.

MARCH



21 March: Executive Director Simon Adams delivered remarks at an event entitled “The Responsibility to Protect in the Americas” hosted by the OAS, in partnership with the Stanley Foundation, in Washington, D.C.

25 – 29 March: Deputy Executive Director Savita Pawnday went to Binghamton University, as a Practitioner-in-Residence. The aim of the program is to connect atrocity prevention practitioners with the university community and enhance practitioner-academic collaboration. Ms. Pawnday visited multiple classes, met with faculty and gave public lectures about R2P and her work at the Global Centre.

29 March – 4 April: Nadira Khudayberdieva attended the Rohingya Strategy Coordination Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, alongside relevant local, regional and international actors, who discussed opportunities for action in response to the Rohingya genocide.

MAY

9 May: **Simon Adams** delivered remarks at the “Cultural Heritage Under Siege” event at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, California.

9 – 10 May: **Senior Human Rights Officer Elisabeth Pramendorfer** participated in the fourth “Responsibility to Protect in Theory and Practice” conference held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The conference brought together scholars and practitioners to engage in an interdisciplinary debate on the theoretical and practical implications of R2P.

10 – 11 May: **Juliette Paauwe** attended a retreat on “Examining Unarmed Civilian Protection in the UN Context: a complement and contribution to POC” in Tarrytown, New York. The retreat, organized by Australia, Senegal and Uruguay, as well as Nonviolent Peaceforce, brought together member states, UN officials and civil society representatives.

19 – 24 May: **Publications Director Jaclyn Streitfeld-Hall, Nadira Khudayberdieva and Juliette Paauwe** attended the American Express Leadership Academy at the Thunderbird School of Executive Education within Arizona State University in Phoenix, Arizona. During the week the three Global Centre staff participated in training activities designed to enhance global leadership skills among individuals from the non-profit sector.

JUNE

June: **Nadira Khudayberdieva** was named Leader of the Year by Weidenfeld Scholars of the University of Oxford, her alma mater, for exemplary leadership in the fields of international development, governance and peace. She delivered remarks at Oxford University regarding her work with the Global Centre.

13 – 15 June: **Simon Adams** participated in a conference on international intervention convened by the Chair of the IAB, Gareth Evans, hosted by the Ditchley Foundation in the United Kingdom.

AUGUST

27 August: **Nadira Khudayberdieva** attended a conference hosted by the Asia-Pacific Centre for R2P on “Young People’s Unique Voices on Atrocity Prevention and R2P” in Jakarta, Indonesia.

SEPTEMBER

3 – 7 September: **Simon Adams and Nadira Khudayberdieva**, together with partners from the GJC, traveled to Banjul, The Gambia. During the trip the group met with Hon. Abubacarr M. Tambadou, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of The Gambia, to discuss preparations for the submission of a genocide case against Myanmar in the ICJ. The GJC/Global Centre delegation also visited the National Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations.

OCTOBER

1 – 2 October: **Savita Pawnday and Elisabeth Pramendorfer** attended the Vienna Conference on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare in Vienna, Austria.

DECEMBER

2 – 6 December: **Simon Adams, Juliette Paauwe and Elisabeth Pramendorfer** attended the 18th session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the ICC in The Hague, Netherlands. During the session the Global Centre co-hosted two events on accountability for possible mass atrocity crimes committed in Venezuela and Myanmar.

GLOBAL CENTRE ONLINE AND IN THE MEDIA

During the last year the Global Centre consistently engaged with the global media, including TV, print and radio interviews with journalists from news outlets such as Al Jazeera (English and Arabic), AP News, BBC, CNN, The Chicago Tribune, China Global Television Network, Euronews, The Toronto Star, Voice of America and The Washington Post.



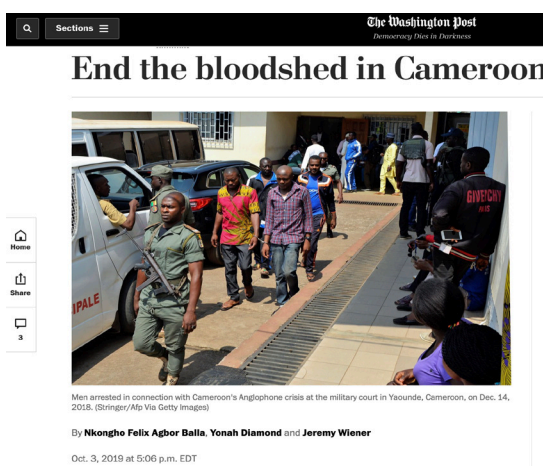
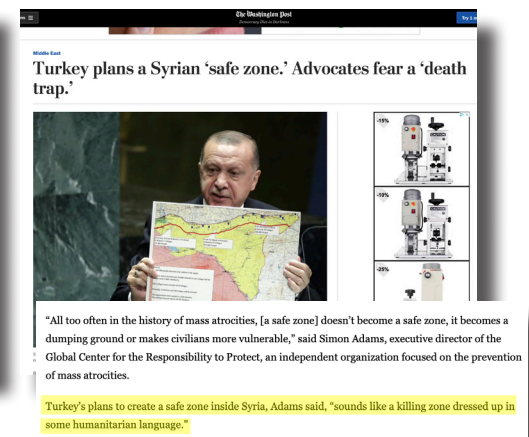
Simon Adams on CNN International



Nadira Khudayberdieva on Alhurra News discussing the genocide against the Rohingya



Simon Adams on Al Jazeera English discussing the situation in the DR Congo



In addition to interviews with Global Centre staff, both of the Global Centre's main publications, *Atrocity Alert* and *R2P Monitor*, were featured in news articles on the situation in Cameroon.

Last month, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect released a publication underlining the gravity of the crisis and warning that "the risk of mass atrocity crimes occurring in the immediate future is very high." While the military and armed separatist forces are both guilty of violence, the government has already perpetrated crimes against humanity, as documented in a report co-authored by our Cameroon-based Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.



IMPLEMENTING AND INNOVATING

Throughout 2019 the Global Centre explored alternative avenues of justice for mass atrocity crimes.

Every year the Assembly of State's Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC meets to discuss and decide upon matters key to the functioning of the Court. The ASP brings together delegates from all states parties to the Rome Statute, as well as international lawyers, experts, academics, and practitioners and offers a platform for advocacy on international justice for atrocity crimes.

This year, for the first time, the Global Centre co-hosted two ASP side-events. The Global Centre led the organization of "Paths to Justice and Accountability for Venezuela – ongoing initiatives by the international community" co-hosted with Defiende Venezuela and Un Mundo Sin Mordaza. The event brought together governments, civil society and human rights defenders to discuss different avenues for accountability in Venezuela, particularly

focusing on how various initiatives, including the recent HRC-mandated FFM and the Panel of Independent International Experts of the OAS, can contribute to the ICC's preliminary examination.

The second event, entitled "Accountability for International Crimes committed against Ethnic Minorities in Myanmar – Discussing Complementary Avenues for Justice," was co-hosted with the Global Justice Centre, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice and the government of Liechtenstein. The panel discussed how potential proceedings at the ICC, ICJ, as well as under universal jurisdiction, can act in complementarity to bring justice and accountability for atrocities in Myanmar.

MEET THE TEAM



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