



GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

COVID-19
SPECIAL
REPORT

This document is meant to provide insight into the work of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hyperlinks, indicated by underlined text and the symbols below, will take you to the Global Centre's website, published pieces, interviews, social media posts and more.



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INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the work and initiatives of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect during the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Despite the impact of COVID-19, the Global Centre continues to fulfill its mandate to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes and to facilitate the effective implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). In doing so, the Global Centre has continued to work closely with governments, the United Nations (UN), international civil society, R2P Focal Points and the Group of Friends of R2P in both New York and Geneva.

Since the start of the pandemic in March, it has been clear that while COVID-19 cannot cause mass atrocities, it can be weaponized by repressive authorities to intensify identity-based conflicts, justify discriminatory policies and enhance the threat facing vulnerable populations. In divided and fragile societies, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased risk factors that could lead to crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

At the start of the pandemic, the Global Centre's Executive Director, Dr. Simon Adams, stressed that, "Now more than ever, it is essential that the entire global community respond to COVID-19 in ways that defend universal human rights, emphasize human solidarity, and uphold our responsibility to

protect vulnerable populations from atrocities." With COVID-19 enhancing fear and isolation, preventing mass atrocity crimes remains every government's solemn responsibility.

Despite shifting the operations of our New York and Geneva offices online since March, throughout the pandemic the Global Centre has continued to monitor, analyze and provide early warning of emerging atrocity risks while offering high-quality policy recommendations to UN member states and policymakers. The Global Centre has also mobilized action through its advocacy efforts for populations in [Afghanistan](#), [Yemen](#), [Venezuela](#) and elsewhere who are at increased risk because of COVID-19.

During this time, the Global Centre has celebrated a number of highlights, including the adoption of the first thematic resolution on R2P by the Human Rights Council (HRC). The Global Centre also hosted high-level events and discussions online on topics related to atrocity prevention. Lastly, in our new role as the Secretariat of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council (NGOWG/SC), the Global Centre has organized over 15 meetings with members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and top UN officials during 2020.

ATROCITY ALERT — —&—R2P MONITOR

ATROCITY ALERT is a weekly publication aimed at highlighting situations of particular concern. Since the pandemic was declared, the Global Centre has produced [28 Atrocity Alerts](#) that utilize an atrocity prevention lens to examine the increased risk posed by COVID-19 on vulnerable populations around the world. Four issues of *Atrocity Alert* examined thematic risk factors related to COVID-19, such as the proliferation of hate speech and the persecution of refugees and asylum seekers. To date 27 countries around the globe have been highlighted in COVID-19 related stories in *Atrocity Alert*.

While COVID-19 has brought many things to a halt, **respect for International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law should not be among them.** All parties to armed conflicts around the world should silence their guns, mitigate the risks posed by the pandemic and stop targeting vulnerable populations.



Jaclyn Streitfeld-Hall
Publications Director



In this week's issue of [#AtrocityAlert](#) we discuss how the [#COVID19](#) pandemic may affect vulnerable populations in existing atrocity situation and how it may exacerbate divisions and abuses of human rights in fragile societies.

[#R2P](#)



Read Now -> [Atrocity Alert Special Issue on COVID-19](#)
[globalr2p.org](#)

5:07 PM · Apr 1, 2020 · Twitter for Advertisers



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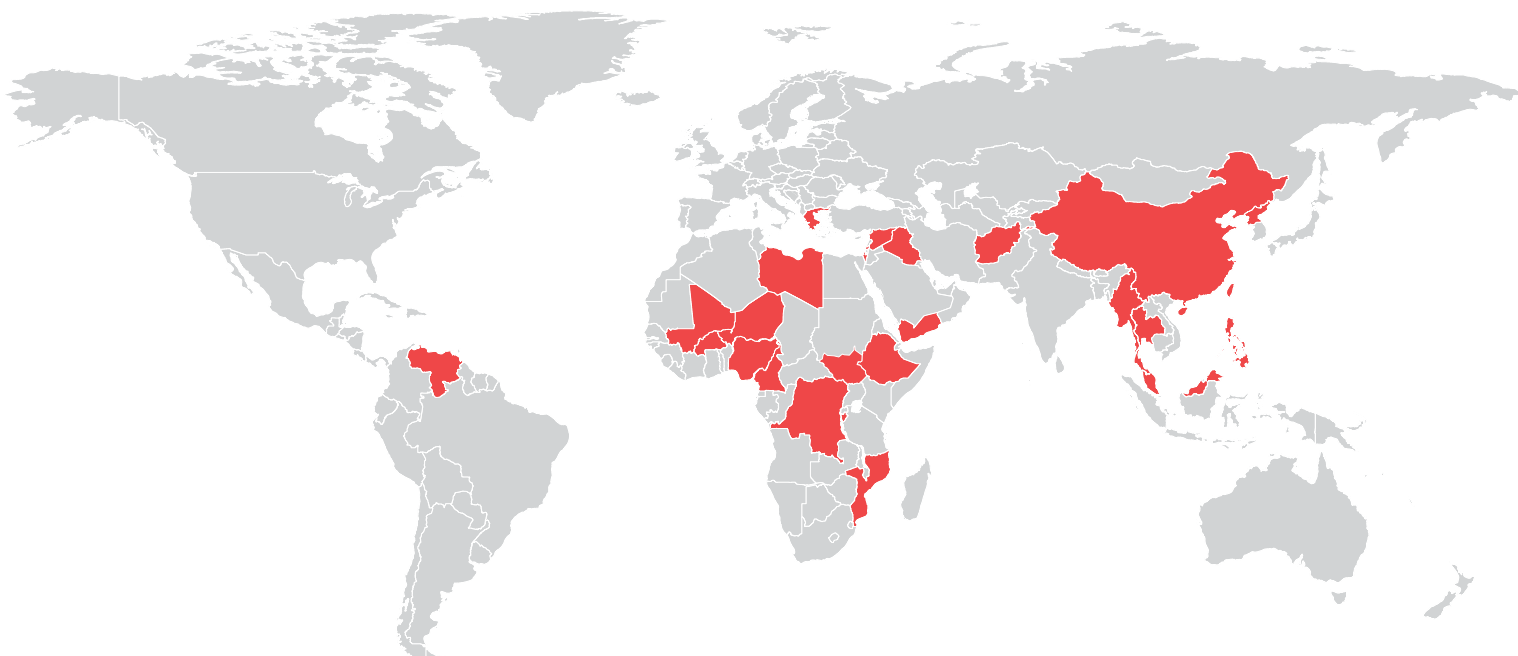
Atrocity Alert No. 206: United States, Iraq and Sudan



3 June 2020 | **ATROCITY ALERT**

MASS PROTESTS AGAINST POLICE VIOLENCE AND RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Since 26 May protests have taken place in more than 100 cities across the United States (US) in response to police brutality and structural racism targeting black people. Protests have been predominantly peaceful, however, some demonstrators have resorted to rioting and looting.



CRISES COVERED DURING COVID-19

The Global Centre has covered the impact of COVID-19 on 27 crises to date.

R2P MONITOR is a bimonthly publication providing analysis on situations where populations are threatened by mass atrocities as well as an assessment of international efforts to prevent and respond to them. **So far during 2020 the Global Centre has monitored and reported on 21 country situations for R2P Monitor.**

Notably, the Global Centre published its 50th issue of R2P Monitor on 15 March.

R2P Monitor, Issue 52, 15 July 2020

15 July 2020 | R2P MONITOR

R2P Monitor is a bimonthly bulletin applying the atrocity prevention lens to populations at risk of mass atrocities around the world. Issue 52 looks at developments in **Afghanistan, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Burkina Faso, Myanmar (Burma), Syria, Yemen, Burundi, Central African Republic, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Libya, Nigeria, South Sudan and Venezuela.**

MOBILIZING ACTION



CAMEROON

© Giles Clarke/UNOCHA via Getty Images



OVER 680,000

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

Political conflict over cultural rights and identity escalated in [Cameroon's](#) Anglophone regions in 2016. The crisis deepened after October 2017 when Anglophone separatists proclaimed independence, declaring a new state of "Ambazonia." Since October 2017 at least 650 civilians, 235 members of the security forces and nearly 1,000 alleged separatists have been killed as a result of a deteriorating armed conflict. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that at least 680,000 people have also been internally displaced in the north-west and south-west regions.

The UNSC has largely neglected the conflict, as Cameroon is not included on the formal agenda of the Council. During May the Global Centre's Senior Research Analyst, Ms. Juliette Paauwe, [spoke](#) on a panel as part of a webinar series hosted by The Global Campaign for Peace & Justice in Cameroon.

The UN Secretary-General's call on 23 March for a global ceasefire during the COVID-19 pandemic has largely been ignored in Cameroon, with continued military operations by both government forces and armed separatists. On 22 June the Global Centre [joined](#) five Nobel Peace Prize laureates, along with two former heads of state and other notable world leaders, to call upon all parties to the conflict in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon to declare a humanitarian ceasefire during the pandemic. Dr. Simon Adams appeared on several international news programs to amplify the "ceasefire challenge." A video of his [interview](#) on *Deutsche Welle Africa* on 22 June as been viewed more than 63,000 times.

The Global Centre has also shared the ceasefire challenge with all ambassadors on the UNSC.



© Kevin Frayer/Getty Images



APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION UIGHURS AND OTHER TURKIC MUSLIM MINORITIES CURRENTLY BEING DETAINED IN “RE-EDUCATION” OR “DE-EXTREMIFICATION” FACILITIES

While the COVID-19 pandemic has preoccupied the world since March, the persecution of Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, [China](#) has continued with impunity. During 2020 the Global Centre has continued its advocacy regarding the estimated 1 million Uighurs and other Muslim minorities who are being detained in “re-education” or “de-extremification” facilities. Through its publications and advocacy the Global Centre has highlighted that China is committing potential crimes against humanity and genocide.

During March the Global Centre [amplified](#) new evidence that factories in China are using forced Uighur labor and [joined](#) over 250 organizations calling on leading brands and retailers to ensure their products do not exploit the forced labor of Uighurs and other detainees. In July, the Global Centre highlighted the practice of forced abortions and issued a [statement](#) asserting that the Chinese government is violating customary international

law and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Global Centre also developed a campaign to urge UN member states not to vote for HRC candidates during the October elections if their government is responsible for perpetrating mass atrocity crimes. China was one of the three countries that was highlighted during the campaign. While China succeeded in its election bid, the number of supporting votes it received decreased as compared to 2016 and was their lowest since the founding of the HRC in 2006. There was also considerable media focus on the concerns raised by human rights organizations.

The Global Centre is now working behind the scenes to expand the coalition of governments and civil society organizations working to expose and end China’s abuses in Xinjiang.

THE SAHEL:



MALI & BURKINA FASO

© Olympia de Maismont/AFP via Getty Images



MORE THAN 1,000 CIVILIANS KILLED
IN CENTRAL SAHEL FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 2020

Populations in [Mali](#) and [Burkina Faso](#) face potential atrocity crimes as a result of ongoing attacks by armed Islamist groups and state security forces, as well as growing conflict between ethnic militias and community “self-defense groups.” In an already fragile security environment, where 1.6 million people have been displaced by violence, vulnerable communities are also facing the growing threat of COVID-19.

France and the G-5 Sahel countries launched the International Coalition for the Sahel, a security-oriented response to the conflict, on 30 June. In response, the Global Centre joined more than 35 local, regional and international NGOs to launch the [People's Coalition for the Sahel](#) during a virtual event on 16 July. More than 1,000 people tuned in for the [live launch](#) of the People's Coalition, including representatives from the African Union, Canada, European Union, Japan, United Kingdom, United States and West Africa, as well as journalists from international news organizations.



We've joined 35+ local, regional & int'l NGOs in establishing the [People's Coalition for the #Sahel](#), a people-centered vision for peace.

Catch the launch **LIVE** on Facebook en français now via [@fidh_un](#).

More on the [#SahelCoalition](#)



The People's Coalition for the Sahel Presentation of the Four People's Pillars | ...
The crisis in the Sahel is worsening. The increasing violence, which is sometimes extreme and perpetrated by various categories of actors, is forcing...
[globalr2p.org](#)

7:49 AM · Jul 16, 2020 · Twitter Web App



MYANMAR

© Stringer/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images



OVER 900,000 ROHINGYA HAVE FLED ATROCITIES
AND ARE CURRENTLY REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH

During 2018 and 2019 the Global Centre worked with the Global Justice Center (GJC) to ensure accountability for atrocities perpetrated by the government of [Myanmar \(Burma\)](#) against the minority Rohingya population in Rakhine State. This included working closely with The Gambia and their Minister of Justice regarding a potential case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for violations of the Genocide Convention. The Gambia formally filed a case at the ICJ on 11 November 2019. On 23 January the ICJ issued [four provisional measures](#) with which Myanmar must comply.

During 2020 the Global Centre has continued its advocacy on Myanmar through various publications and meeting with members of the UNSC, as well as sending [a letter](#) to Council members regarding Myanmar's Independent Commission of Enquiry and the Provisional Measures ordered by the ICJ. Together with GJC, the Global Centre also

submitted an analysis of Myanmar's lack of progress on improving human rights and ensuring accountability to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ahead of Myanmar's upcoming Universal Periodic Review. The Global Centre has also contributed to joint advocacy regarding the plight of Rohingya refugees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 20 May the Global Centre, GJC and Human Rights Watch co-hosted a virtual event analyzing the current situation in Myanmar and exploring concrete ways the authorities could effectively comply with the ICJ provisional measures. There were 700 registered participants from around the world. A recording of the event is available [here](#).

Our Myanmar expert, Ms. Nadira Kourt, has spoken at events and in the media throughout the pandemic. On 16 September Dr. Adams spoke at a

Global Justice Center
Human Rights Through Rule of Law

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

FACTSHEET | MAY 2020
Q&A: The Gambia v. Myanmar
Rohingya Genocide at The International Court of Justice

On 11 November 2019, the Republic of The Gambia filed suit against the Republic of the Union of Myanmar International Court of Justice ("ICJ") for violating the Genocide Convention. Two months later at the request of the Gambia, the ICJ ordered the government of Myanmar to take certain actions to protect the Rohingya via "provisional measures" while the case proceeds. This historic lawsuit brings a critical focus to Myanmar's responsibility for the Rohingya genocide.

The Gambia's case focuses on the actions of Myanmar's security forces, starting in October 2016 and then August 2017, where they engaged in so-called "clearance operations" against the Rohingya, a distinct Muslim minority, in Rakhine State. 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 killing and sexual violence, arbitrary detention, torture, beatings, and forced displacement. As a result, an estimated 745,000 people – mostly ethnic Rohingya – were forced to flee to Bangladesh. The "clearance operations" featured decades of institutionalized discrimination and systematic persecution of the Rohingya, including the laws that stripped the Rohingya of their citizenship and restricted their religious freedoms, as well as repression and marital rights.

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 against humanity, and war crimes, the commission of which evoke specific obligations and responsibility under international law. In its final report, published in September 2019, 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, emphasizing the need for accountability."

This fact sheet answers fundamental questions about the ongoing ICJ case, Myanmar's responsibility for genocide, and its impact on the Rohingya population. (Answers to questions about the early stages of the lawsuit are provided in the next fact sheet.)

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

There are two major pathways to justice and accountability for the crimes committed against the Rohingya: 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, so far, the only effort in a court to formally establish Myanmar's responsibility for genocide. While states and institutions have imposed sanctions on Myanmar, the state has otherwise not been challenged for its responsibility for international crimes. Similarly, policies at the UN Security Council have endorsed Myanmar's actions.

YouTube

P. Adem Carroll, Burma Task F... | Nadira Kourt (GCR2P)

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Jason Patinkin

Myanmar submits first court-ordered report to International Court of Justice - Q+A with Simon Adams

Behind the Scenes

The Rohingya Genocide and the ICJ: The Role of the International Community

by Nadira Kourt | July 28, 2020

(Editors Note: This article is part of a special Just Security forum on the ongoing Gambia v. Myanmar litigation at the International Court of Justice and ways forward.)

Sign

Featured: DOD Inspect Whitehouse Posse Comit

Rohingya Genocide: Strengthening the U.N. Response Three Years On

August 26, 2020 by Nadira Kourt

The Navigator
CENTER for GLOBAL POLICY

Rohingya Genocide: Strengthening the U.N. Response Three Years On
Issue No. 160

In the three years since Myanmar began perpetrating genocide against the Rohingya, little has been done to ease the suffering of the Rohingya, address the causes of the atrocities, or bring their perpetrators to justice. It is imperative that the United States use its influence on the U.N. Security Council to put pressure on Myanmar to end the violence and prevent similar crimes from happening in the future, which threaten to erode international norms, and with it global security.

This month marks three years since Myanmar's soldiers drove nearly 800,000 Rohingya, members of a Muslim ethnic minority group,

high-level event on the "Rohingya Crisis" co-hosted by the governments of Bangladesh, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Dr. Adams called for urgent Security Council action including the monitoring of Myanmar's compliance with the ICJ's provisional

measures order. Among many other Global Centre media appearances on this topic, Dr. Adams was interviewed by VOA News on 25 May to discuss the significance of Myanmar's first report to the ICJ.

ADOPTION OF THE FIRST HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT



On 17 July the HRC adopted a resolution on the "Fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as enshrined in the World Summit Outcome of 2005." While the HRC has, to date, adopted more than [50 resolutions](#) that include a reference to R2P, this constitutes the first stand-alone thematic resolution entirely on the principle of the Responsibility to Protect. The resolution is available [here](#).

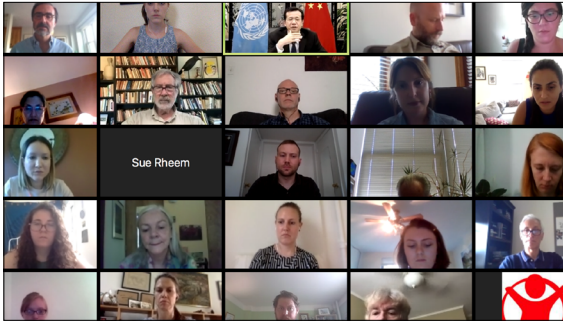
Despite the pandemic, the Global Centre worked in Geneva with a committed core group of countries who successfully led the resolution from drafting to adoption.

GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

The Global Centre serves as the Secretariat for the [Group of Friends of R2P](#) in both New York and Geneva. The Group of Friends helps to facilitate effective discussion on R2P-related issues, including conflict prevention, human rights and international justice through regular meetings at the Ambassador or expert level in both New York and Geneva. The Global Centre has arranged three virtual meetings so far this year, which involved participants from both Geneva and New York. More than 150 ambassadors and other diplomats from 46 countries have participated in the meetings.



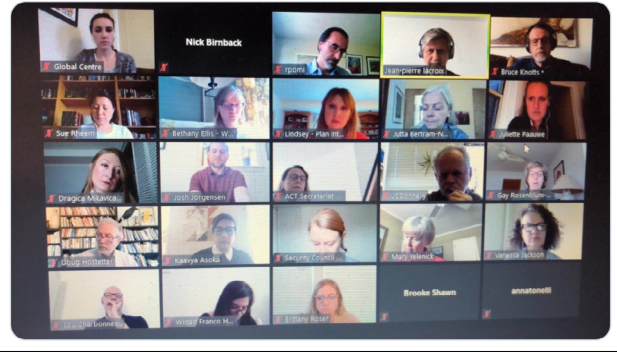
NGO WORKING GROUP ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL



At the start of 2020 the Global Centre became the Secretariat of the NGOWG/SC. The NGOWG/SC brings together 37 NGOs for briefings with UNSC Ambassadors and high-level UN officials. The Global Centre provides a Coordinator, Ms. Christine Caldera, who organizes the briefings. The NGOWG/SC has organized 19 briefings with Security Council Ambassadors and high-level UN officials so far during 2020. Fifteen of those briefings were conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Briefed NGO Working Group on Security Council. Highlighted @UNPeacekeeping priorities & need for partnerships in combating #COVID19. We deliver on mandates, support local efforts, adapt #A4P implementation and plan for the future. NGOs in host countries play an important role.



On 21 May the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix briefed the NGOWG/SC.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 24 February the UN Secretary-General António Guterres released a “Call to Action for Human Rights,” signaling his commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. The Global Centre coordinated a joint NGO letter to the UN Secretary-General on the urgency of implementing the Call to Action in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2 April letter also helped establish a regular NGO roundtable meeting with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to discuss ongoing areas for potential collaboration.

The UN Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights and the Prevention of Mass Atrocities

24 February 2020 | STATEMENT



Today, 24 February, UN Secretary-General António Guterres released a “Call to Action for Human Rights.” The Secretary-General’s Call to Action is a long-overdue public commitment to lead in promoting and protecting human rights globally and in coordinating UN responses to situations where

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Call to Action for Human Rights, the Secretary-General should now prioritize atrocity prevention and the improvement of the UN’s ability to react to emerging crises, in accordance with the recommendations of the Rosenthal Report.

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Following the announcement of the Call to Action, Global Centre Executive Director Dr. Simon Adams said, “We welcome the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights. Historically, nothing has tarnished the UN’s reputation more than the failure to protect civilians facing mass atrocity crimes. Today’s Call to Action is a reminder that the UN and the international community simply must do more to defend human rights and consistently uphold our collective responsibility to protect.”

R2P @15

PREVENT | PROTECT

BUILDING A WORLD WITHOUT MASS ATROCITIES

END IMPUNITY

Fifteen years ago the Responsibility to Protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity was unanimously adopted at the 2005 UN World Summit. The occasion of the [15th anniversary of the](#)

[adoption of R2P](#) presents the international community with an opportunity to deepen global commitment to R2P and set an ambitious and practical vision to ensure its consistent implementation in the years ahead.

R2P MINISTERIAL



Since its inception the Global Centre has co-hosted an annual Ministerial Meeting on R2P during the opening of the UN General Assembly session. On 24 September the Global Centre and the governments of Costa Rica, Denmark and Qatar co-hosted the 12th Annual Ministerial Meeting on R2P, entitled “Building Back Better: Strengthen the UN, Prevent Atrocities and Uphold Human Rights.” The purpose of this year’s meeting was to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of R2P and to offer member states the opportunity to reaffirm their global commitment to protect populations from mass atrocity crimes, to take stock of best practices with regard to the implementation of R2P, and to devise effective strategies for “Building Back Better” after the COVID-19 pandemic.



A record number of 35 states and 2 regional organizations participated in the 12th Ministerial Meeting. Among the speakers were 17 ministers and deputy ministers. This year’s Ministerial Meeting was open to the public to attend online, resulting in 250 registrations from 71 countries around the globe. A full recording of the event can be found [here](#).

R2P 15 EVENTS

A conversation with the [UN Special Advisers on the Responsibility to Protect](#)
Monday, 1 June, 9:00 New York | 16:00 Nairobi | 21:00 Beijing



Virtual public event: “A conversation with the UN Special Advisers on the Responsibility to Protect”

To mark the 15th Anniversary of R2P and to reflect upon the norm’s past, present and future, the Global Centre held an interactive conversation on 1 June with all former and current UN Special Advisers on R2P. This was the first time all four UN Special Advisers on R2P had spoken on a panel together.

During the 90-minute Q&A discussion, the Special Advisers shared thoughts on how implementation of R2P had evolved during their tenure. There were 426 registered participants from 71 countries. A recording of the event is available [here](#).

REFLECTIONS ON R2P AT 15


In lieu of hosting in-person events the Global Centre initiated a series of commentaries to commemorate “R2P at 15.” The first five reflections in this series were written by the former Chair of the International Commission on

Intervention and State Sovereignty – which defined R2P – and two former UN Special Advisers on R2P, as well as the Global Centre’s Executive Director and the Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect.



[R2P and the World in 2020 by Dr. Simon Adams](#)

[Reflections on R2P in 2020 by Dr. Karen Smith, UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect](#)





[Atrocity Crimes and Preventive Diplomacy by Ambassador Ivan Šimonović, former UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect](#)



[R2P: The Dream and the Reality by Hon. Gareth Evans, Chair, International Advisory Board, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect](#)



[The Responsibility to Protect at 15: A Promise Unfulfilled by Dr. Alex Bellamy Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect](#)

GLOBAL CENTRE ONLINE AND IN THE MEDIA

Despite travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Global Centre staff have continued to provide expert perspectives on atrocity prevention, international justice and R2P. Global Centre staff and publications have been featured on TV, in print news and on radio shows by over

35 international news outlets, including *Al Jazeera* (English and Arabic), *Associated Press*, *BBC*, *CNN*, *Deutsche Welle*, *The New York Times*, *Reuters* and *Voice of America* (English and Korean).



Savita Pawnday on *Afrique Media* discussing peace efforts in Cameroon



Nadira Kourt on *VOA Korean Service* discussing the Global Centre's *Atrocity Alert* on North Korea



Simon Adams on *BBC World* discussing the genocide of the Rohingya and the ICJ case

Photo Source: © UN Photo

Interview with Dr. Simon Adams on the US sanctions against the International Criminal Court for Voice of America

3 September 2020 | INTERVIEW

On 3 September Global Centre Executive Director Dr. Simon Adams was interviewed by Voice of America on the United States' sanctions that were committed during the war in Yemen.

Interview with Jahaan Pittalwala on the situation in Yemen by Voice of Islam

7 July 2020 | INTERVIEW

On 7 July Global Centre Research Analyst, Ms. Jahaan Pittalwala, was interviewed by Voice of Islam on the situation in Yemen, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the already dire situation in the country and what steps need to be taken to bring about an end to the protracted conflict.

A lack of accountability for violations and potential war crimes committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen have facilitated the continued risk of atrocities against civilians. **The Global Centre and its international and regional partners are fighting very hard to establish accountability for victims who have suffered from indiscriminate bombings and potential war crimes.**

Jahaan Pittalwala
Research Analyst

Made for minds.

Nobel Prize laureates call for Cameroon ceasefire

Members of the group's Nobel Prize laureates and former heads of states include 2019 laureate Malawi, former president of South Africa FW de Klerk and three former United States presidents to Cameroon.

The declaration was made after the **United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for global ceasefire** in countries in conflict to tackle the coronavirus outbreak.

"It is one of the **great neglected conflicts of our times**," said Dr. Simon Adams, Executive Director of The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect.

"The question of why now is something many people will be asking but I think there are many people in the world who don't know about Cameroon," Dr. Simon, also a signatory of the declaration, told DW.

"While people in West Africa and in Cameroon are very aware of the suffering and hardship that has

OPINION

Drawing a line in the sand: The UN has a responsibility to protect English speakers in Cameroon

The most recent analysis from the **Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect** considers Cameroon to be "in imminent risk of reaching a critical threshold" where mass atrocities may occur "in the immediate future." It cites the most up-to-date UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) report, which says 5,500 English-speaking Cameroonians fled their homes in just one week, between Dec. 9 and Dec. 15, 2019, because of military operations in northwest Cameroon; it also advocates for access to investigate human-rights violations and abuses and calls for a suspension of military aid to the country.

But despite the report's conclusion that the government must hold inclusive talks with the English-speaking community, mediated by a neutral player – the Swiss Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue has offered to serve in that role – the Cameroonian government has refused to take part.

24 organizations urge UN chief to blacklist Saudi coalition

By EDITH H. LEDERER June 22, 2020

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Two dozen human rights and humanitarian organizations urged among the letter's signatories were Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, **Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**, Medecins du Monde, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, Women's Refugee Commission and World Vision International.

In a letter to the secretary general released Monday, the organizations said they were "deeply disappointed and troubled" by the de-facto and "disregard" at the disparity between information to his annual report on children in armed conflict released a week ago and his decision on the blacklist.

WEBINARS

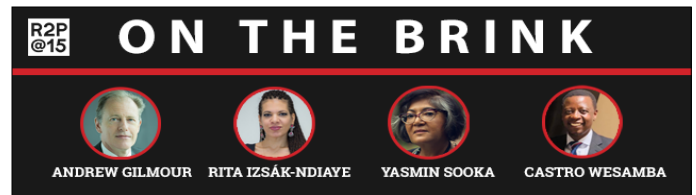
Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the Global Centre has adapted to restrictions by hosting and delivering remarks at virtual events, including [testimony](#)

delivered by Dr. Adams at a meeting of the Human Rights Subcommittee of the European Parliament.



Virtual public event: “Mass atrocities and international justice – an effective deterrent?”

On 17 July the international community commemorates the World Day for International Justice. In honor of this commemoration and the 15th anniversary of R2P, the Global Centre brought together world-renowned international experts and practitioners to reflect upon the role of the international justice system in atrocity prevention. Nearly 200 people from 58 countries watched the event. A recording is available [here](#).



Virtual public event “On the brink: the relationship between human rights violations and the threat of atrocity crimes”

On 21 July the Global Centre hosted an interactive conversation with four leading human rights and mass atrocity experts to examine how and why some identity-based conflicts reach a critical tipping point and what lessons can be learned about how to protect human rights and prevent atrocities. There were 289 registered participants from 58 countries. A recording of the event is available [here](#).

Atrocity prevention is a continuous process that requires constant engagement and dialogue with all groups of society. In states which have experienced tensions and violence along ethnic and religious lines, reconciliation and societal change can only be achieved through judicial and social accountability mechanisms that address the root causes of inter-communal grievances and violence.

Savita Pawnday

Deputy Executive Director

Remarks delivered during the [OSCE's Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Addressing All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination](#)



When it comes to Venezuela there is no “magic button” to press. A solution cannot be found through the use of force or by ousting the President. Regional and international actors, including the UN, must undertake **long-term diplomatic efforts to ensure an end to the atrocities.**

Elisabeth Pramendorfer

Senior Human Rights Officer

Remarks delivered during the webinar, “[UN Response to Venezuela: A Path Towards Justice for Victims](#)” co-hosted by Amnesty International, Centro de Justicia y Paz, Freedom House, Foro Penal, International Service for Human Rights and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

BUILDING BACK BETTER

What's in store for 2021?

The Global Centre has adjusted its work during the pandemic through virtual advocacy and continuing to engage with governments, the UN, international civil society, R2P Focal Points and the Group of Friends of R2P. The Global Centre will continue to respond to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic as a potential trigger for identity-based violence and continue to assist governments and policymakers to uphold their responsibility to protect. Together we can prevent mass atrocities and “Build Back Better.”

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

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