

GLOBAL CENTRE
FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO PROTECT

A N N U A L
2021
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.

This document is meant to provide insight into the work of the Global Centre during 2021. 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.









CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	2
2021 GOALS & HIGHLIGHTS	4
MOBILIZING ACTION: ISRAEL & THE OPT, ETHIOPIA, AFGHANISTAN, SUDAN, MYANMAR, CENTRAL SAHEL & YEMEN	6
UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY & NGO WORKING GROUP ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL	17
BUILDING GLOBAL PREVENTIVE CAPACITY: GROUP OF FRIENDS OF R2P, GLOBAL NETWORK OF R2P FOCAL POINTS & THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR R2P	19
MONITOR: PUBLICATIONS, ATROCITY ALERT & R2P MONITOR	23
EVENTS & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT: EVENTS, WEBINARS & OTHER EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS	26
GLOBAL CENTRE IN THE MEDIA	29
IN MEMORIAM	30
MEET THE STAFF	31

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Last year was yet another undeniably difficult year for us all. The world continued to face unprecedented challenges resulting from the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Protracted conflicts in Syria, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued while the number of active conflicts reached a record high in 2021. The UN Security Council remained deadlocked by deepening internal political divisions, failing to fulfill its mandate and take timely, concrete action in response to many of today's most serious human rights crises, including in Ethiopia and Myanmar (Burma).

Despite these challenges, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect continued to act on our mandate to advocate for populations at risk of atrocity crimes. During 2021 we provided early warning to help prevent and halt atrocity crimes in over 28 countries with publications like Atrocity Alert and R2P Monitor. We worked with a core group of countries to facilitate the adoption of the first General Assembly resolution on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) since 2009. In September we co-hosted the largest Ministerial Meeting on R2P and the relationship between Women, Peace and Security and the atrocity prevention agenda, with over 61 member states and 20 Foreign Ministers delivering a statement during the meeting.

2021 also marked a new beginning – the Global Centre took over as the Secretariat of the International Coalition for the Responsibility

to Protect, and revived this network of more than 50 civil society organizations from around the world. With core values like community, diversity and solidarity to guide its actions, the Global Centre, through the Coalition, will amplify voices of affected communities from across the world and advocate for populations at risk of atrocity crimes.

Following concerted advocacy efforts, the Global Centre celebrated the notable progress made towards accountability for atrocity crimes in 2021. In partnership with key civil society organizations, the Global Centre mobilized the UN Human Rights Council to establish investigative mechanisms for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Ethiopia. We also worked with partners to mobilize appropriate international action, including ensuring accountability for atrocities in Yemen and Myanmar, while supporting efforts to end impunity in the Central African Republic, Venezuela and Afghanistan. This year we also saw significant advances in states utilizing the principle of universal jurisdiction to pursue accountability for crimes committed in Syria and Myanmar. The Global Centre will continue to push for accountability, ensuring that victims achieve the justice they deserve.

Throughout the year we continued to bring experts together to examine how to better protect populations and identify strategies to expand support for atrocity prevention and R2P. We hosted several successful virtual public events – if you missed these discussions, there are links embedded in

this annual report. Notably the Global Centre launched a new podcast, "Expert Voices on Atrocity Prevention," which features one-on-one conversations with practitioners from the field of human rights, conflict prevention and atrocity prevention.

In 2021 we also witnessed some changes in the leadership of the Global Centre. After 10 years, Dr. Simon Adams stepped down as the Executive Director. The Global Centre team and I would like to thank Dr. Simon Adams for his decade of unwavering leadership and contributions to strengthening international commitment to R2P. I would also like to take this moment to pay tribute to the immeasurable contributions made by Edward C. Luck and Edward Mortimer, two members of the Global Centre's International Advisory Board and champions of R2P, whom we lost in 2021.

Looking ahead, we will continue to fulfill our mandate and work to protect vulnerable populations around the globe and to amplify the voices of the affected populations at risk of atrocities. We stand in solidarity with protesters in Myanmar who demanded that international actors uphold their R2P, with Afghan women who continue to fiercely stand up to the Taliban and advocate for their fundamental human rights, with the thousands marching in Sudan for democracy, and with all individuals and grassroots movements around the world fighting for human rights and dignity.

Savita Pawnday Executive Director





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.



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



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.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH

HOSTED "CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MASS ATROCITIES: CRIMES AGAINST YAZIDIS AND UYGHURS" EVENT

RELEASED A COMMENTARY ON MYANMAR
25 March

JUNE

CO-HOSTED "THE POWERS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PREVENT AND HALT MASS ATROCITY CRIMES" EVENT

Virtual | 3 June

CO-HOSTED "THE CURRENT SITUATION IN MYANMAR: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ROHINGYA MINORITY" EVENT

Virtual | 15 Jun

CO-HOSTED "ATROCITIES IN TIGRAY: NECESSARY ACTION ON ETHIOPIA AT HRC47" EVENT

Virtual | 28 June

DECEMBER

RELEASED A COMMENTARY ON YEMEN

CO-HOSTED "FROM EARLY WARNING TO EARLY ACTION: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN ADVANCING ATROCITY PREVENTION" EVENT

Virtual | 7 Decembe

CO-HOSTED "THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN COMBATTING GENOCIDE DENIAL" EVENT

Virtual | 9 Deceml

SEPTEMBER

CO-HOSTED "MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: R2P AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ATROCITY PREVENTION" EVENT

Virtual | 20 September

JANUARY

DELIVERED ORAL EVIDENCE TO A UK FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON XINJIANG DETENTION CAMPS

Virtual | 13 January

GLOBAL CENTRE LAUNCHED "EXPERT VOICES ON ATROCITY PREVENTION" PODCAST

22 January

MAY

MODERATED THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL INTERSESSIONAL PANEL ON R2P

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD ITS FORMAL DEBATE ON R2P

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED ITS FIRST RESOLUTION ON R2P SINCE 2009

FATOU BENSOUDA DELIVERED THE EVANS-SAHNOUN LECTURE ON R2P

APRII

DELIVERED REMARKS AT "EU COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON PEACE MEDIATION" EVENT Virtual | 27-29 April

OCTOBER

HELD TWO CLOSED BRIEFINGS WITH UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES (SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON MINORITY ISSUES & SPECIAL ENVOY TO MYANMAR)

Virtual | 4 & 27 October

NOVEMBER

RELEASED "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COMMISSION OF ATROCITY CRIMES" BRIEF

4 November

AUGUST

RELEASED A STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

17 August

4 | GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT



Historic Commission of Inquiry established on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

From 10-21 May 2021 armed conflict intensified in Israel, Gaza and other parts of the Occupied Palestinian **Territory (OPT)** after weeks of tensions and protests against the possible forced eviction of several Palestinian families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of Occupied East Jerusalem. During this escalation 270 Palestinians, including 66 children, were killed and 1,900 injured by Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. At least 12 civilians died as a result of Hamas indiscriminately firing rockets on civilian areas in Israel. Over 58,000 Palestinians in Gaza were forcibly displaced. The escalation led to increased identitybased violence inside Israel and the Occupied West Bank. Israeli security forces were also complicit in some violent attacks by Jewish settlers on Palestinian citizens of Israel.



"Forced evictions of Palestinian families from East Jerusalem are rooted in the Israeli government's apartheid policies. This transfer of Israeli settlers to occupied territory may amount to a war crime." - Jahaan Pittalwala

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) convened a Special Session on the crisis on 27 May. Ahead of the Special Session, the Global Centre engaged in a targeted and intensive advocacy campaign, urging the Council to establish an independent international Commission of Inquiry (CoI) mandated to address the root causes of violations of international law in the OPT, specifically through an open-ended mandate given the systematic nature of ongoing violations.

Following these efforts, for the first time in history, the HRC adopted a resolution **establishing a Col** on Israel and the OPT with an open-ended mandate. Notably, the CoI was mandated to investigate all international law violations leading up to and since April 2021, as well as to identify the root causes of recurrent tensions and instability, including systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial or religious identity in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel.



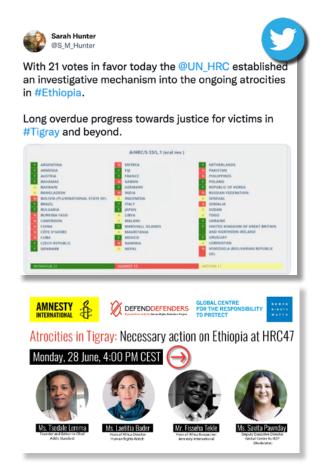


HRC establishes an investigative mechanism on Ethiopia following sustained advocacy from the Global Centre

On 4 November 2020, following months of escalating political tensions, the federal government of **Ethiopia** launched a military offensive in the Tigray region against the governing Tigray People's Liberation Front. The resulting conflict has killed thousands of people and internally displaced an estimated 2.1 million. According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), all parties to the conflict - including Tigrayan forces and federal government forces, as well as their Eritrean and militia allies - have committed violations of international law that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. In 2021 the conflict expanded into neighboring Amhara and Afar regions, causing mass displacement and leaving 9.4 million people in need of emergency food assistance.

Throughout 2021 the Global Centre was instrumental in coordinating joint advocacy efforts in partnership with other international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to demand various UN bodies take urgent action to halt atrocities in Ethiopia. In February the Global Centre's former Executive Director, Dr. Simon Adams, wrote a letter to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Audrey Azoulay, urging her to speak out against the destruction of cultural heritage during the conflict.

The Global Centre routinely urged the UN Security Council (UNSC) to hold public meetings and take robust action on the situation in Ethiopia. On 9 March the Global Centre spearheaded a joint NGO letter to H.E. Ms. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Permanent Representative of the United States (US) to the UN, calling for the US Mission to continue pressuring the UNSC to hold public meetings and include Ethiopia in the formal agenda of the UNSC. Since the letter, and subsequent joint advocacy, the UNSC

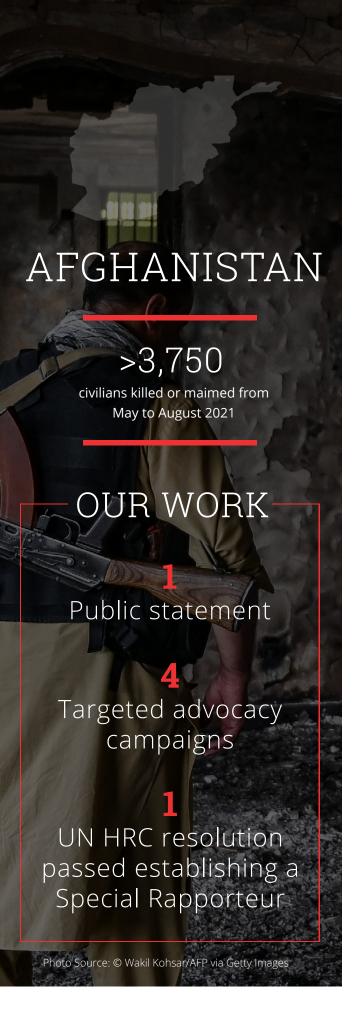




held three public briefings on Tigray during 2021. The Global Centre led joint efforts aimed at ensuring the HRC mandated an investigation and continued monitoring the human rights situation in Ethiopia. In January 2021 the Global Centre coordinated NGO advocacy with a joint letter calling upon the HRC to hold a Special Session on Tigray to establish an investigative mechanism. Following joint NGO advocacy in March, OHCHR and EHRC announced the launch of a joint investigation on the situation in Tigray. The Global Centre subsequently coordinated a coalition of NGOs calling for a formal monitoring and reporting mandate on Ethiopia for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet. In June a group of 12 NGOs published a joint letter calling upon the High Commissioner to provide updates to UN member states at subsequent HRC sessions in an enhanced interactive dialogue.

The Global Centre also coordinated and co-hosted an event on the sidelines of the 47th session of the HRC exploring why a formal mandate on Ethiopia was necessary. The Global Centre's Executive Director, Savita Pawnday, moderated the event. Following this advocacy, the HRC adopted **Resolution 47/13**, which included recommendations from the NGO coalition and mandated the High Commissioner to present updates on Ethiopia at the 48th and 49th sessions.

Throughout November and December, the Global Centre, together with Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and DefendDefenders, spearheaded a campaign calling upon the HRC to hold a Special Session on the situation in Ethiopia. The NGO coalition worked closely with the European Union (EU) and allied states to ensure support for the initiative. The Global Centre coordinated a joint letter signed by 27 NGOs and participated in several confidential briefings with UN member states urging them to establish an investigative mechanism on Ethiopia. Following these advocacy efforts, on 13 December the EU formally requested a Special Session. On 17 December the HRC held the Special Session and established an investigative mechanism into the alleged atrocity crimes in northern Ethiopia. The mechanism has been mandated to investigate crimes committed during the conflict, as well as collect evidence and identify those responsible for future prosecution.



Global Centre continues to advocate for a strong monitoring mechanism in Afghanistan

Following a military offensive launched by the Taliban in May 2021, on 15 August <u>Taliban forces entered Kabul</u>, effectively overthrowing the Afghan government. According to the UN Assistance Mission in <u>Afghanistan</u> and OHCHR, over 3,750 civilians were killed or maimed between 1 May and 15 August by Taliban attacks and retaliatory airstrikes by the former Afghan government. Civilians in areas forcibly captured by the Taliban during their offensive also faced summary executions, enforced disappearances and the looting and burning of homes.

In response to the escalating human rights crisis in Afghanistan, the HRC convened a Special Session on 24 August. Ahead of the session, the Global Centre helped spearhead a multi-faceted advocacy campaign, including member state briefings, bilateral meetings and joint letters, to urge the HRC to establish an independent international mechanism mandated to monitor the human rights situation in Afghanistan. Despite concerted campaign and diplomacy efforts, no such mandate was established.

In the weeks following the Taliban takeover, the Global Centre increased its efforts, alongside other civil society organizations (CSOs), to press the HRC to establish a monitoring mechanism at the 48th regular session between September and October. The Global Centre helped facilitate advocacy efforts, including letters to high-level government officials, a public **open appeal** to UN member states and briefings to government officials on the unfolding risks to populations and the need for a dedicated monitoring mechanism.

In an important first step, the HRC passed a resolution in October that established a **Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan**. Ahead of the March 2022 session, the Global Centre continues to advocate for the creation of a more robust monitoring mechanism.

HRC holds Special Session following the military coup in Sudan leading to the designation of an Expert on **Human Rights**

Civilians in **Sudan** are facing an increased risk of mass atrocity crimes due to the ongoing political instability following the military coup on 25 October. Hundreds of thousands of protesters continue to peacefully demonstrate across the country, demanding freedom, justice and a civilian-led government. At least 80 people have reportedly been killed and thousands more seriously injured in and around the capital, Khartoum, due to the use of excessive force by security forces. Sudan's security forces and military leaders, including the coup leaders, have a history of violent crackdowns on dissent, posing an increased risk of atrocities amid ongoing protests.

In the days following the coup, the Global Centre joined a joint advocacy initiative, calling upon the HRC to respond promptly to the unfolding crisis in Sudan by convening a Special Session. The joint initiative also called for the adoption of a resolution requesting the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights set up a fact-finding mission to monitor, verify and report on the situation in Sudan to prevent further human rights violations and abuses, identify perpetrators and ensure accountability. This joint advocacy initiative was followed by targeted advocacy, conducted by Global Centre experts, urging individual member states to support the Special Session and the establishment of an investigative mechanism.

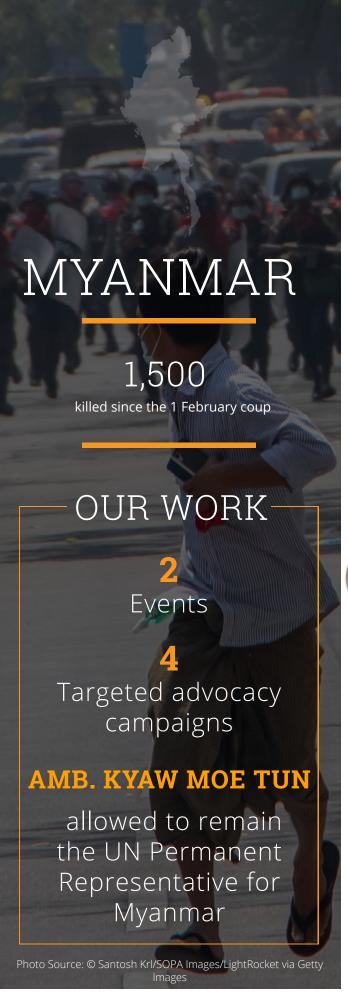


"Instead of forcing a new power-sharing arrangement, the international community must ensure that the Sudanese people's demands for democracy and justice are sufficiently taken into account."

- Juliette Paauwe

On 5 November the HRC convened a Special Session on the unfolding crisis in Sudan, resulting in the appointment of Mr. Adama Dieng, former Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, as the Expert on Human Rights in Sudan.





Global Centre continues to demand action on Myanmar

The Global Centre has conducted research and advocacy on the plight of ethnic and religious minorities in Myanmar (Burma) for more than a decade. The risk of atrocities in the country further increased in February 2021 when Myanmar's military – the Tatmadaw – headed by Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing, overthrew the country's civilian-led government and declared a state of emergency. Since the February coup security forces have killed at least 1,500 people and detained more than 8,300 for resisting the coup. UN experts have said that abuses committed by the military since the coup may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

During 2021 the Global Centre facilitated virtual meetings between NGOs working to address the situation in Myanmar with the UN Secretary-General's former Special Envoy on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener.



"Almost one year since the coup, the Security Council and ASEAN have still failed to uphold their responsibility to protect the people of Myanmar. The Council and individual states – especially those from ASEAN – should immediately impose arms embargoes on Myanmar."

- Nadira Kourt

While the UNSC met nine times and adopted eight statements on Myanmar in 2021, the Council did not authorize any measures in response to the coup and ensuing atrocities. During May the Global Centre helped coordinate a joint statement from over 200 organizations, calling for a UNSC-enforced global arms embargo on Myanmar. The letter was shared with UNSC members and widely covered by the media, including The New York Times, Reuters and Al Jazeera. Former Global Centre Executive Director, Dr. Simon Adams, participated in a UN Press Correspondents' conference attended by dozens of journalists.

In November the Global Centre and 520 other CSOs released a **joint statement** urging the UNSC to address the escalating violence in Myanmar and reiterating the



Last week we joined 200+ NGOs in demanding the **#UNSC** implement a global arms embargo on #Myanmar.

At the press launch of our #NotOneBulletMore call @PamelaFalk asked what other states and regional organizations can do on #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar. Our ED @SAdamsR2P's response

The state of the state of







calls for a global arms embargo. The Global Centre, with members of the Asia Justice Coalition, also issued a joint statement that condemned the escalating violence in upper Myanmar and called for an arms embargo and a referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

During May the Global Centre submitted written evidence to the United Kingdom (UK) Parliament in response to the Foreign Affairs Committee's inquiry on the Myanmar crisis.

The Global Centre also actively engaged in advocacy regarding Myanmar's credentials at the UN. Following the coup, the UN General Assembly and its credentials committee had to decide whether to accept the credentials of the military junta or the democratically elected representatives of the National Unity Government (NUG). Ahead of the opening of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, the Global Centre helped facilitate a joint appeal, which was endorsed by 358 Myanmar-based and international CSOs, urging the UN to retain Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, representative of the NUG, as the Permanent Representative of Myanmar. This open letter was

shared with all Permanent Missions in New York and was widely covered by the media, including **Foreign** Policy, Al Jazeera, Irrawaddy and the Philippine Star. On 6 December the General Assembly adopted a resolution to defer the decision on who will represent Myanmar at the UN, effectively permitting Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun to remain in his position.

Throughout 2021 the Global Centre engaged with members of the NUG, including Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun. These interactions provided the Global Centre with opportunities to seek ways to support the NUG, as well as advocate for an inclusive, rightsbased and democratically-led government.

The Global Centre also continued to advocate for justice and accountability for the Rohingya genocide and addressing its root causes, including the denial of citizenship and access to basic services. On 15 June the Global Centre co-hosted a high-level event, with the governments of Bangladesh, Canada, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, on the situation in Myanmar and the implications of the military coup for the Rohingya minority.



Central Sahel: The Global Centre continues to highlight the world's fastest growing displacement crisis

Populations in the Central Sahel – Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger – are facing atrocity crimes as a result of increasing attacks by Islamist armed groups, counterterrorism operations by security forces, as well as intensifying conflict between ethnic militias and community "self-defense groups." Attacks against civilians by Islamist armed groups have almost doubled every year since 2016, with more than 800 civilians killed in attacks attributed to these groups during 2021. More than 2.1 million people are internally displaced as a result of conflict and insecurity, making the Central Sahel one of the fastest growing displacement crises in the world.

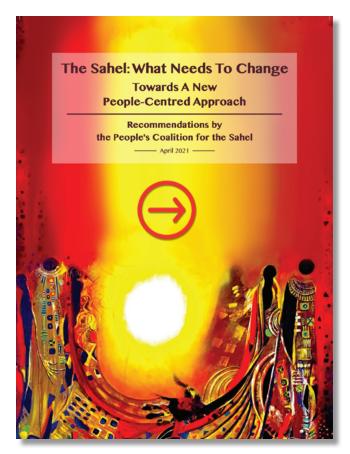
In July 2020 the Global Centre joined approximately 50 local, regional and international NGOs to launch the **People's Coalition for the Sahel**, an informal and diverse alliance that amplifies Sahelian voices and expertise to urge governments to reorient their approach to the conflicts in the Sahel. The People's Coalition engages collectively through **public statements**, private advocacy meetings, press releases and media appearances.



"Sahelian governments must act urgently to address the root causes of conflict in order to end the intensifying violence and uphold their responsibility to protect."

- Christine Caldera

As part of the People's Coalition, the Global Centre contributed to the development of the landmark report, "The Sahel: What Needs to Change," which was published on 13 April 2021. The report recommended a reorientation from the current security-oriented response to one that prioritizes civilian protection. On 16 April the People's Coalition launched the report at a virtual event with participation from several ambassadors, including the French and German Envoys for the Sahel, and other top officials, including the High Representative





of the International Coalition for the Sahel. The report has served as an important advocacy tool. As a result of the report and subsequent private advocacy meetings, Sahelian governments and their international partners, including France, UK and EU, have committed to changing their strategies to the crisis in the Sahel in line with the recommendations of the People's Coalition.

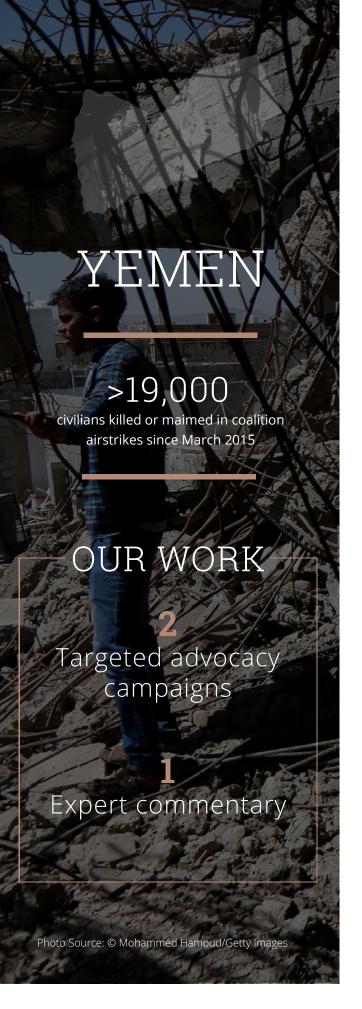
During September Christine Caldera, the Global Centre's Research Analyst monitoring the Central Sahel, was invited alongside five other People's Coalition members, to brief the UK's Special Envoy to the Sahel. Ms. Caldera delivered remarks on the need to make civilian protection central to the mandate of all military operations and how to





systematically measure the impact of military operations on civilians.

In light of the deteriorating security situation, 28 members of the People's Coalition for the Sahel, including the Global Centre, released a statement in December, urging policymakers to revise the current counter-terrorism strategy – which has failed to adequately protect populations and prevent atrocities – and pressuring Sahelian governments and their international partners to be more transparent and accountable during military operations. The statement was shared with the press and on social media channels.



Global Centre demands an accountability mechanism through the General Assembly as HRC fails to renew mechanism on Yemen

On 7 October the HRC failed to adopt the mandate renewal of the Group of Eminent Experts (GEE) on <u>Yemen</u>. The GEE was established by the HRC in 2017 to monitor and report on all alleged violations and abuses of international law in Yemen and, where possible, to identify those responsible. From 2018-2021 the GEE produced four annual reports detailing likely war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by all parties to the conflict.

The vote followed a sustained campaign of diplomatic and political pressure on HRC voting members by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), whose conduct has been under investigation by the GEE. Airstrikes by the Saudi/UAE-led coalition have killed or maimed more than 19,000 civilians since March 2015. The vote marked the first time a mandate for a human rights monitoring mechanism was voted down at the HRC since its creation in 2006.

Following the HRC's failure to renew the GEE, a group of NGOs, including the Global Centre, spearheaded an advocacy campaign to ensure that violations and abuses in Yemen continue to be monitored and that survivors and victims may one day be able to realize their rights to justice and reparation. On 2 December the Global Centre, alongside more than 80 NGOs, launched a joint appeal urgently calling upon the UN General Assembly to establish a new accountability mechanism for Yemen. To launch the global appeal, the Global Centre's Executive Director, Savita Pawnday, delivered remarks at a press conference with Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Mwatana for Human Rights and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. During December Jahaan Pittalwala, the Global Centre's Research Analyst monitoring Yemen, also provided expert analysis on why the UN General Assembly should help end impunity in Yemen.



The Global Centre was actively involved in countryspecific initiatives and activities throughout all three regular sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in 2021. During the 46th session of the HRC, the Global Centre, together with a group of international and regional NGOs, spearheaded advocacy efforts to ensure the renewal of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. At the 47th session, the Global Centre led efforts resulting in the successful adoption of a resolution on the Tigray region in Ethiopia and co-hosted two side-events, one on the situation in Tigray and the other on Venezuela with a group of international and national human rights organizations. During the 48th session in September, the Global Centre was actively involved in advocacy on resolutions for Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Yemen.

The Global Centre also advocated for necessary action during the HRC's Special Sessions on Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Israel and the OPT, and Myanmar, including through participation in informal negotiations on resolutions and bilateral discussions with UN member states.

Ahead of the three sessions of the Universal Periodic Review in 2021, the Global Centre provided targeted



recommendations to address risk factors of atrocity crimes, particularly focusing on the review of Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger and Somalia. In December the Global Centre also conducted extensive advocacy, including through bilateral meetings and joint NGO briefings, ahead of the review of Venezuela in January 2022.

The Global Centre also participated in the intersessional meeting on the prevention of genocide on 10 February and submitted a written contribution to OHCHR.

On 11 May the HRC held its first intersessional panel discussion to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The intersessional panel was requested in Resolution 44/14, on which the Global Centre worked together with a group of cross-regional delegations in 2020. The intersessional panel was moderated by Ms. Savita Pawnday, and brought together the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; then UN Special Adviser on R2P, Karen Smith; a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Global Centre International Advisory Board member, H.E. Ms. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye; and others to discuss best practices on strengthening national policies to implement R2P. Twenty UN member states and the EU delivered remarks at the event. The Group of Friends (GoF) of R2P and the Steering Group of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points also delivered statements.





On 18 May 2021 the UN General Assembly adopted its first resolution on R2P since 2009, deciding to include R2P on the annual agenda of the General Assembly and formally requesting that the Secretary-General reports annually on the topic. This marked the second stand-alone resolution on R2P adopted in less than 12 months after the HRC adopted its first thematic resolution on the topic in July 2020. This highlights the progress made in institutionalizing R2P and atrocity prevention throughout the UN system, and underlines the commitment by an overwhelming majority of UN member states to uphold R2P.

The Global Centre has served as the Secretariat of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council (NGOWG/SC) since January 2020. The NGOWG/SC brings together more than 35 NGOs for briefings with UN Security Council ambassadors and highlevel UN officials. The Global Centre provides a Coordinator, Christine Caldera, who organizes the briefings. Under the leadership and coordination of the Global Centre, the NGOWG/SC had 25 virtual briefings with Security Council Ambassadors and high-level UN officials, as well as one General Membership meeting, during 2021. The NGOWG/ SC served as an important avenue through which the NGO community could continue to engage in dialogue with the Security Council and highlevel officials while UN Headquarters in New York remained closed to civil society throughout 2021.



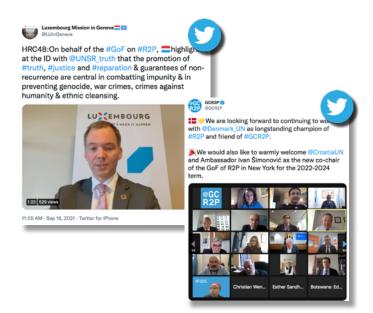


0

BUILDING GLOBAL PREVENTIVE CAPACITY

During 2021 the Global Centre continued to build global capacity for atrocity prevention by supporting dedicated institutions and networks on a national, regional and multilateral level through work as the Secretariat of the UN Group of Friends of R2P in New York and Geneva, the Global Network of R2P Focal Points and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect.

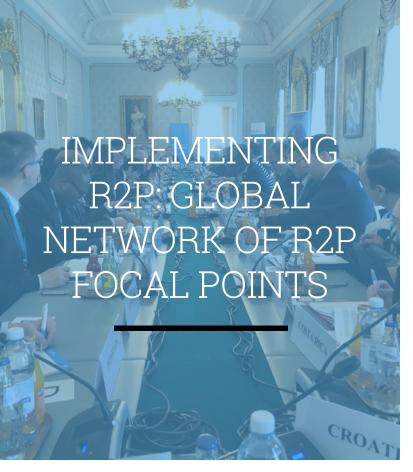




The Global Centre serves as the Secretariat for the **Group** of Friends of R2P in both New York and Geneva. Together with the co-chairs of the GoF, the Global Centre helps to facilitate effective discussions on R2P-related issues, including conflict prevention, human rights development and international justice, through regular meetings with ambassadors and experts.

In Geneva the GoF held two ambassador-level meetings and two expert-level meetings during 2021 and delivered joint statements during all three regular sessions of the HRC. The GoF also delivered a statement during the HRC's intersessional panel discussion to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity on 11 May. In September the GoF delivered a statement highlighting the role of UN Special Procedures in the prevention of atrocity crimes.

In New York the GoF held two ambassador-level meetings and three expert-level meetings during 2021 and delivered a joint statement during the UN General Assembly debate on the Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in May. During the first ambassador-level meeting, the GoF met with the new UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu. The GoF also played an instrumental role in the preparation and outreach for the UN General Assembly's resolution on R2P and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity adopted on 18 May.



The Global Network of R2P Focal Points was established in 2010 to improve national and international efforts to prevent and halt atrocities. Membership in the Global Network has expanded to include more than 60 senior-level representatives from countries in all regions of the world, as well as two regional organizations – the EU and Organization of American States.

During 2021 the Global Centre continued to engage with the Steering Group of the Global Network — Australia, Denmark, Ghana, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovenia — to share updates on R2P and develop activities for the Global Network.

The Global Centre organized virtual briefings for the Global Network throughout 2021, including with UN officials and experts from countries at risk of atrocities. On 31 March the Global Centre organized a virtual meeting with Special Adviser Nderitu, and then Special Adviser on R2P, Karen Smith. During September, following the deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan, the Global Centre organized a briefing with Shaharzad Akbar, Chairperson of the



Shaharzad Akbar, Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

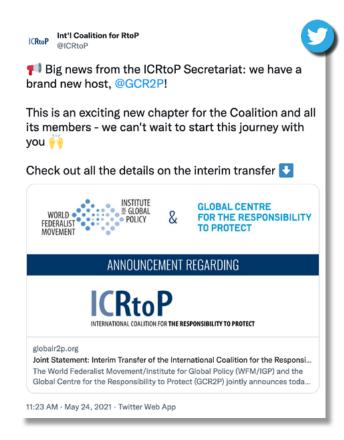
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, who discussed the current situation and the risks faced by vulnerable groups, including women, children and minorities. The Global Centre also facilitated a meeting in October with the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Dr. Fernand de Varennes, who briefed members of the Global Network on situations around the world where minorities are facing a risk of atrocity crimes and offered practical recommendations on how to more effectively protect vulnerable populations.

The Steering Group of the Global Network also delivered a statement at the HRC's intersessional panel discussion to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity on 11 May.

Following this intersessional meeting and other significant successes in atrocity prevention and R2P, including the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on R2P, the Steering Group issued a letter to the Global Network, urging R2P Focal Points to build on these successes through greater outreach to permanent missions in New York and Geneva, bolster support for CSOs and other actions.

The Global Centre also supported a member of the Steering Group - Australia - in creating a guidance document on Women, Peace and Security and R2P. This document offers practical recommendations to R2P Focal Points and will be included as an annex in the Manual for R2P Focal Points.

NEW BEGINNINGS: INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT



On 17 May the Global Centre took over as the Secretariat of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P). ICR2P is a crossregional network of CSOs and NGOs dedicated to the promotion of human rights, the prevention of atrocities and the effective and consistent implementation of R2P. Founded in 2009 by eight organizations, the Coalition now includes more than 50 members representing all regions of the world.

In its role as the new Secretariat of ICR2P, the Global Centre set out to revitalize the Coalition and develop clear programming to amplify the individual and collective endeavors of its members. From June to December the Global Centre worked to build the essential foundations of a strong coalition, including by extending invitations to key global atrocity prevention organizations, as well as important local and national CSOs, to join ICR2P.

The Global Centre conducted six in-depth regional consultations with all ICR2P members to discuss their goals for the present and future of the Coalition. The consultations provided an opportunity to hear directly from Coalition members on how ICR2P could best serve them individually and collectively, as well as how the Secretariat and Steering Committee can most effectively strengthen a community of commitment around human rights protection, atrocity prevention and R2P. Based upon feedback received during the consultations, the Global Centre, alongside the Steering Committee, has begun to develop a strategic plan.

Under the Global Centre's leadership as Secretariat, the Coalition will bridge multilevel advocacy gaps, particularly between the UN and local actors. The Global Centre plans to ensure ICR2P is an innovative and powerful voice on situations and themes relevant to atrocity prevention and R2P, particularly in relation to early warning on emerging crises, as well as in solidarity with vulnerable populations at risk of mass atrocities.



MONITOR

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. Publications like R2P Monitor, Atrocity Alert and more provide decision-makers advice on what needs to be done, and by whom, to protect vulnerable populations.

PUBLICATIONS

The Global Centre published more than 125 statements, open letters, policy briefs and commentaries during 2021.

The Global Centre produced statements on a wide range of topics related to R2P, as well as country-specific statements, such as on the <u>situation in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover</u> and on the <u>tenth anniversary of the conflict in Syria</u>. The Global Centre also produced profiles of newly-elected <u>UNSC</u> and <u>HRC</u> members.

The Global Centre wrote and/or signed on to 46 open letters and joint statements advocating for action in mass atrocity situations, including populations at risk in **Cameroon**, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Sudan,

Highlighting Prevention: "Expert Voices on Atrocity Prevention" podcast



During 2021 the Global Centre launched a podcast series entitled "Expert Voices on Atrocity Prevention." The podcast, hosted by the Global Centre's Research Director, Jaclyn Streitfeld-Hall, features one-on-one conversations with practitioners from the field of human rights, conflict prevention and atrocity prevention. These conversations aim to provide a glimpse of the personal and professional side of how practitioners approach human rights protection and atrocity prevention.

During 2021 the Global Centre produced and released eight episodes of Expert Voices on Atrocity Prevention, available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, SoundCloud and YouTube. Episodes of Expert Voices on Atrocity Prevention currently average more than 250 listeners across all platforms.

The 2021 episodes featured the following guests: H.E. Ms. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, Ms. Myra Dahgaypaw and Ms. Wai Wai Nu, Ms. Radhya Almutawakel, H.E. Mr. Stephen Rapp, Mr. Omar Shakir, Dr. Simon Adams, Mr. Charles Petrie and Dr. Karen Smith. The episodes covered a wide range of topics related to the prevention of atrocity crimes, including the protection of minority rights, the pursuit of international justice, challenges in the UN system when responding to atrocities, and the situations in Israel and the OPT, Myanmar and Yemen.

PROVIDING EARLY WARNING THROUGH **ATROCITY** ALERT AND R2P MONITOR





A quarterly bulletin by the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a global norm, unanimously adopted by heads of state and government at the 2005 UN World Summit, aimed at preventing and halting Genocide, War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes Against Humanity, R2P stipulates that:

- » Every State has the Responsibility to Protect its populations from the four mass atrocity crimes (Pillar I).

R2P Monitor applies an atrocity prevention lens to the following situations of concern:

Mass atrocity crimes are occurring and urgent action is needed.

he situation is reaching a critical

R2P Monitor:

- » Provides background on populations at risk of mass atrocity crimes, with particular emphasis on key events and actors and their connection to the war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
- history in relation to mass atrocity crimes; the factors that have enabled

R2P Monitor is a quarterly publication providing analysis on situations where populations are threatened by mass atrocities, as well as an assessment of international efforts to respond to them. During 2021 the Global Centre reported on 21 country situations in R2P Monitor.



Atrocity Alert No. 282: Cameroon, China and Bosnia and Herzegovina

15 December 2021 | ATROCITY ALERT

Atrocity Alert is a weekly publication by the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect highlighting situations where populations are at risk of, or are enduring, mass atrocity crimes

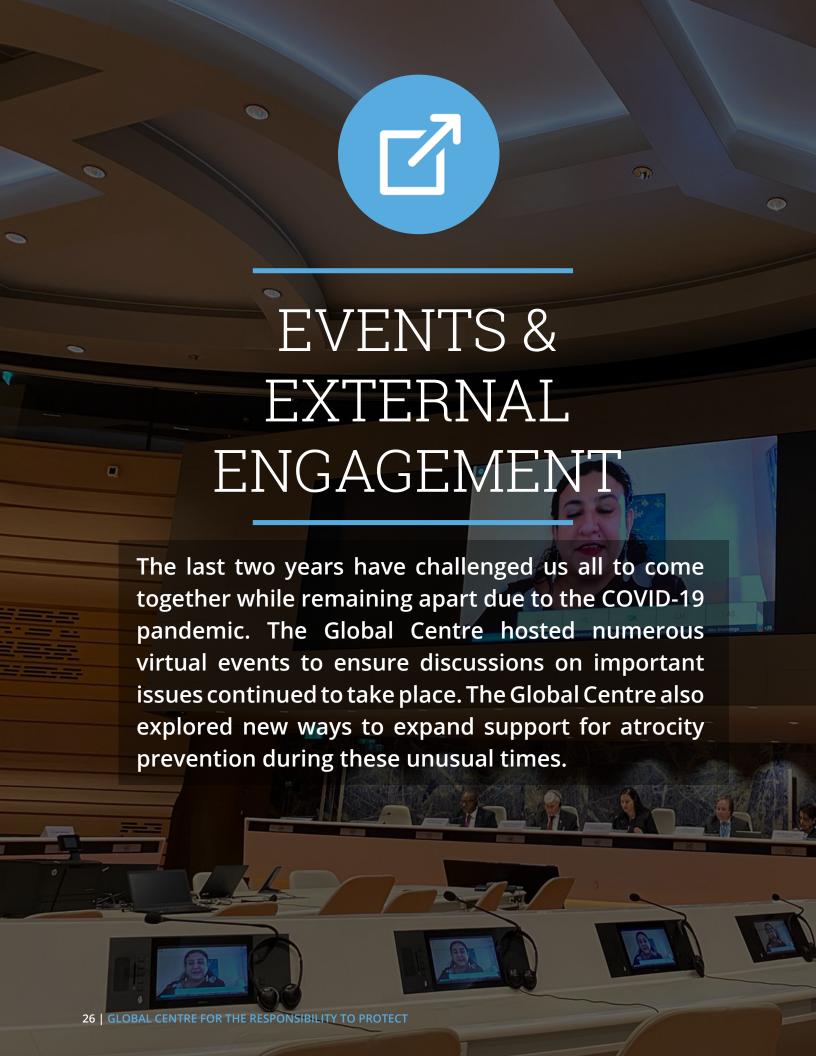


Since it was first introduced in 2016, Atrocity Alert has established itself as a respected and timely source of information, often providing early warning regarding situations where populations are at risk of mass atrocity crimes. The Global Centre has also utilized Atrocity Alert to highlight crises that may be neglected by the international community. During 2021 the Global Centre released 49 issues of Atrocity Alert on 28 countries.

DURING 2021 THE GLOBAL CENTRE COVERED:

COUNTRIES 28 IN ATROCITY **ALERT**

 $21_{_{R2P\,MONITOR}}^{_{COUNTRIES\,IN}}$



EVENTS

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the Global Centre has continued to adapt to restrictions by hosting numerous virtual events. With these events the Global Centre brought together experts in atrocity prevention, human rights, international law, country situations and more to discuss how we can overcome impediments to this work and identify solutions.



CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MASS ATROCITIES: CRIMES AGAINST YAZIDIS AND UYGHURS

On 22 March the Global Centre hosted an event on the destruction of cultural heritage focused on the crimes against the Yazidi and Uyghur populations. During the event panelists explored the connection between the destruction of cultural heritage and commission of mass atrocities and examined actions the international community can take to protect vulnerable populations.

UNPRECEDENTED ATTENDANCE AT THE 13TH ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING ON R2P

On 20 September the governments of Costa Rica, Croatia and Denmark and the Global Centre co-hosted the 2021 Ministerial Meeting on R2P on the sidelines of the opening of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly entitled, "The Responsibility to Protect and the Role of Women and Girls in Atrocity Prevention." Thirty-five member states and two regional organizations delivered a statement during the meeting, including 14 Ministers for Foreign Affairs and six vice or deputy ministers. A total of 61 member states attended the meeting.



Simon Adams

EVANS-SAHNOUN LECTURE ON R2P

On 18 May the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN and the Global Centre held the 2021 Evans-Sahnoun Lecture on the Responsibility to Protect. The 2021 Evans-Sahnoun Lecture explored the relationship between international justice and R2P, as well as the historic importance of ensuring accountability for atrocities. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Fatou Bensouda, then Chief Prosecutor of the ICC

FROM EARLY WARNING TO EARLY ACTION: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN ADVANCING ATROCITY PREVENTION

On 7 December the Global Centre joined the Permanent Missions of Costa Rica, Luxembourg, Sierra Leone and Switzerland in co-hosting this event which explored ways UN HRC special mandate holders can overcome challenges and address how the UN system can better act on early warning signs to prevent atrocities.



WEBINARS AND OTHER EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

Throughout 2021
Jaclyn StreitfeldHall delivered
presentations
to students at
universities around
the globe on R2P and
country crises



ZOOM

Juliette Paauwe spoke on a panel entitled "The World's Most Neglected Crisis: Cameroon,"

Savita Pawnday
called for General
Assembly action to
ensure accountability
in Yemen at a press
conference for UN
correspondents,
2 December



While restrictions on in-person meetings and events continued due to COVID-19, Global Centre staff continued to provide expert analysis to governments, practitioners, universities and more. This virtual environment increased opportunities for staff to attend events without travel and time constraints.

Throughout 2021 Global Centre staff led discussions at over 20 universities, contributed to over 10 graduate-level research projects, and spoke on behalf of the Global Centre at 25 external events, hearings and more.



Dr. Simon Adams delivered oral evidence at a UK House of Commons Foreign Select Committee inquiry on the situation of mass detentions in Xinjiang, 12 January







Sarah Hunter discussed the reasons behind the international community's failure to act on the crisis in Tigray, Ethiopia for Tigray Youth Network, 20 November





interviews, quotes, op-eds and more

international media

During 2021 the Global Centre also consistently engaged with the global media through over 100 interviews, quotes, op-eds and analysis. Global Centre staff and publications were featured on TV, in print news and radio shows with journalists in 75 international news outlets, including AFP, Al Jazeera (English and Arabic), Associated Press, BBC, CBS, CNN, Foreign Policy, NBC, the New York Times, Reuters, VICE and Voice of America.

GLOBAL CENTRE IN THE MEDIA







Jahaan Pittalwala interviewed on TRT World regarding the termination of the mandate of the GEE on Yemen



Dr. Simon Adams interviewed on CNN regarding the situation in Myanmar



Op-ed on the UN Fact-Finding Mission in Venezuela, penned by Elisabeth Pramendorfer



Dr. Simon Adams quoted in VICE News regarding the situation in Myanmar



Christine Caldera quoted in BBC News regarding the situation in the Central African Republic





Savita Pawnday interviewed on R2P and mass atrocity prevention on Rights Talk podcast



IN MEMORIAM

During 2021 we mourned the passing of both Dr. Edward C. Luck and Edward Mortimer, two longtime scholars and champions of atrocity prevention and the Responsibility to Protect. They have inspired the world with their intellect, expertise and commitment to human decency. We are thankful to have known them and learned from their great minds. May they rest in peace.



DR. EDWARD C. LUCK 1948-2021

EDWARD MORTIMER 1943-2021



MEET THE TEAM



MS. SAVITA PAWNDAY **Executive Director**



MS. JACLYN STREITFELD-HALL Research Director



MS. NADIRA KOURT Program Manager



MS. SARAH HUNTER Communications and Digital Media Officer



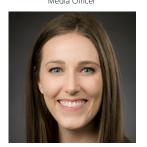
MS. JULIETTE PAAUWE Senior Research Analyst



MS. ELISABETH PRAMENDORFER Senior Human Rights Officer



MS JAHAAN PITTAI WALA Research Analyst



MS CHRISTINE CALDERA Research Analyst & Coordinator for the NGO Working Group on the Security Council



MR. LIAM SCOTT Research Associate



DR. ELI KARETNY Financial Officer

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies The CUNY Graduate Center 365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5203 New York, NY 10016

Phone: +1 (212) 817-1929 Email: info@globalr2p.org www.GlobalR2P.org

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY

Gareth Evans (Chair), Victoria Holt, Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, Ivan Šimonović, John Torpey, Bruno Stagno Ugarte, John Torpey and Jennifer Welsh

FOUNDING PATRONS

Kofi Annan, Lloyd Axworthy, Jan Eliasson, Lee Hamilton, David Hamburg, Prince El Hassan bin Talal, Sadako Okata, Fidel V. Ramos, Mary Robinson and Desmond Tutu

2021 SPONSORS

Governments of Australia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Asia Justice Coalition, Carnegie Corporation of New York, J. Paul Getty Trust, along with other anonymous foundations and individual donors.

GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies The CUNY Graduate Center 365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5203 New York, NY 10016

Phone: +1 (212) 817-1929 Email: info@globalr2p.org www.GlobalR2P.org

Front Cover: STR/AFP via Getty Images