

# R2P MONITOR

15 JULY 2016  
ISSUE 28

A bimonthly 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).
- » The wider international community has the responsibility to encourage and assist individual States in meeting that responsibility (Pillar II).
- » 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 (Pillar III).

## R2P Monitor applies the Responsibility to Protect lens to the following situations of concern:

### CURRENT CRISIS

Mass atrocity crimes are occurring and urgent action is needed.

### IMMINENT RISK

The situation is reaching a critical threshold and the risk of mass atrocity crimes occurring in the immediate future is very high if effective preventive action is not taken.

### SERIOUS CONCERN

There is a significant risk of occurrence, or recurrence, of mass atrocity crimes within the foreseeable future if effective action is not taken.

## 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 threat, or commission, of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
- » Offers *analysis* of the country's past history in relation to mass atrocity crimes; the factors that have enabled their possible commission, or that prevent their resolution; and the receptivity of the situation to positive influences that would assist in preventing further crimes.
- » Tracks the *international response* to the situation with a particular emphasis upon the actions of the United Nations (UN), key regional actors and the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- » Suggests *necessary action* to prevent or halt the commission of mass atrocity crimes.

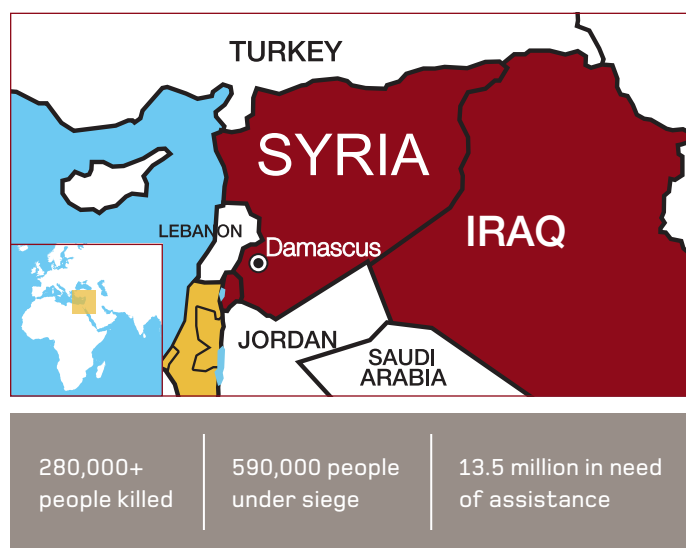
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## CURRENT CRISIS

Mass atrocity crimes are occurring and urgent action is needed.



## SYRIA

*Populations continue to face mass atrocity crimes committed by state security forces and affiliated militias in Syria's ongoing civil war. Various armed opposition groups and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant are also committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.*

### BACKGROUND

Despite more than five years of conflict, violence has increased in Syria since mid-April, when the government launched an offensive to retake Aleppo. This followed a fragile cessation of hostilities, brokered by the United States and Russia, which came into effect on 27 February. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that more than 1,000 civilians were killed during the first two months of the cessation. On 13 July the UN warned that escalating violence in and around Aleppo is putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk of injury and death.

Between 22 April and 7 June the SOHR documented 544 civilian deaths as a result of government attacks in Aleppo, including the bombing of hospitals, schools and displacement camps. On 23 June the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs told the UN Security Council (UNSC), "There is something fundamentally wrong in a world where attacks on hospitals and schools [...] have become so commonplace that they cease to incite any reaction."

The February cessation enabled a UN-backed humanitarian task force to deliver desperately-needed aid to besieged areas throughout the country, but as the cessation neared collapse the Syrian government returned to blocking access. The government has previously obstructed the delivery of cross-border humanitarian aid, contravening multiple UNSC resolutions. Over 13.5 million Syrians remain in need of protection and humanitarian assistance, with 5 million people

in inaccessible areas, some 590,000 of whom are living under siege. The UN Secretary-General has accused all sides in Syria of using starvation as a weapon of war.

On 17 May the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) - including the UN, European Union (EU), League of Arab States and other countries - called upon the World Food Program (WFP) to carry out air drops to besieged areas if the government continued to deny humanitarian access. On 10 June a WFP convoy was able to enter Darayya to deliver food for the first time since 2012. The government then approved WFP's access to all 19 besieged locations. On 15 June more than 60 Syrian civil society organizations accused the UN of breaching its neutrality by allowing the government to control the flow of aid to besieged communities.

A third round of indirect talks between Syrian government and opposition factions, mediated by UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura, was suspended on 18 April amidst the collapsing cessation of hostilities. Briefing the UNSC on 29 June, de Mistura emphasized that a political transition remains "a priority" but the next round of talks will not begin until August.

Since the conflict began in 2011, all sides have committed mass atrocities and over 280,000 people have been killed. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that as of 23 June there were over 4.8 million Syrian refugees and at least 6.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) - the largest number of people displaced by any conflict in the world.

The UN Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry (CoI) has asserted that government forces have committed crimes against humanity as a matter of state policy. The government has conducted airstrikes in residential areas, contravening UNSC Resolution 2139, which demanded all parties cease attacks on civilians and the use of indiscriminate weapons. The Syrian Network for Human Rights reported that 17,318 indiscriminate barrel bombs were dropped in Syria during 2015, killing 2,032 people.

Government-allied militias have committed large-scale massacres and perpetrated war crimes and gross violations of international humanitarian law (IHL). The CoI has reported that pro-government forces have conducted widespread attacks on the population, committing crimes against humanity, including "extermination, murder, rape or other forms of sexual violence, torture, imprisonment, enforced disappearance and other inhuman acts."

Several armed opposition groups have also committed war crimes, violated IHL and targeted religious minorities for attack. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses a direct threat to civilians as its fighters have carried out crimes against humanity, including mass killings and sexual enslavement, in

areas under their control. According to the SOHR, between June 2014 and March 2016 ISIL executed 4,064 people, including 2,200 civilians. ISIL bombings killed nearly 150 people in the government-controlled cities of Jableh and Tartous on 23 May, with ISIL targeting the minority Alawite community.

An international coalition, led by the United States, is currently conducting airstrikes against ISIL in Syria. The SOHR reported that at least 4,195 ISIL fighters and 391 civilians were killed during coalition airstrikes between September 2014 and April 2016.

Russia commenced airstrikes in Syria on 30 September 2015, claiming it would help defeat ISIL. However, most airstrikes have targeted other opposition forces. The SOHR reported on 29 May that Russian airstrikes had killed 2,270 ISIL fighters and 2,099 civilians, including over 500 children.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar are providing arms to some rebel groups. Meanwhile, Iran continues to provide crucial economic, military and political support to the Syrian government. Hezbollah has directly engaged in fighting against Syrian rebels on both sides of the Syria-Lebanon border.

## ANALYSIS

A sustained cessation of hostilities is vital for the protection of civilians and reviving the stalled peace talks. With all sides in Syria committed to an outright military victory, the lives of countless civilians are imperiled by the ongoing civil war.

The government, with support from its allies, continues to utilize its military resources to retain power at all costs and perpetrate crimes against humanity and war crimes against armed rebels and populations presumed to be supporting them. Russian airstrikes have enabled the government to regain significant territory previously lost to opposition forces.

The fracturing and radicalization of the opposition compounds the difficulty of achieving a negotiated political settlement. ISIL, which is not part of the peace talks, and several other armed groups continue to pose a direct threat to civilians, especially those from minority religious communities.

External political influence upon the Syrian government, via the UN and regional actors, remains weak. Despite adopting several resolutions concerning humanitarian access and chemical weapons, the UNSC has been unable to enforce their full compliance, with significant divisions over Syria evident amongst the permanent members.

The government of Syria has not only manifestly failed to uphold its Responsibility to Protect, it bears primary responsibility for the ongoing commission of mass atrocity crimes.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Following the outbreak of violence during March 2011, the international community responded by censuring the Syria government for its widespread violations of human rights.

Despite this, the UNSC has failed to adequately respond to the conflict. The Col, UN Secretary-General and High Commissioner for Human Rights have all called for the situation in Syria to be referred to the ICC. [For responses prior to November 2015 see GCR2P's [Timeline of International Response to the Situation in Syria](#).]

Since 14 November the ISSG has met five times, agreeing on the need to convene Syrian government and opposition representatives in formal negotiations under UN auspices. On 18 December the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 2254, endorsing an ISSG Road Map for a peace process, including a nationwide ceasefire and accelerating the delivery of humanitarian aid. On 26 February the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 2268, endorsing the 22 February cessation of hostilities agreement and calling upon all sides to allow unrestricted humanitarian access to civilians.

The UN Human Rights Council has adopted 17 resolutions condemning atrocities in Syria. The latest, adopted on 1 July, stressed that the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities.

On 12 May the UNSC issued a Press Statement expressing outrage at recent attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, stressing that these may amount to war crimes. The Council also reaffirmed the "primary responsibility of the Syrian government to protect the population in Syria."

## NECESSARY ACTION

Syrian government forces and armed opposition groups must facilitate immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access to civilians trapped or displaced by fighting, in keeping with UNSC Resolutions 2139, 2165 and 2258. The international community must intensify efforts towards finding a potential political solution to the conflict while increasing assistance to populations affected by the civil war.

The UNSC needs to take proximate steps to end atrocities in Syria, including imposing an arms embargo and referring the situation to the ICC. The UNSC must take expeditious action to end the use of indiscriminate and illegal weapons and hold all perpetrators accountable.

Russia, Iran and Hezbollah must cease enabling the crimes of the Syrian government. Countries opposed to the rule of President Bashar al-Assad must withhold all support from armed groups who commit war crimes or target minority communities. All foreign states participating in airstrikes in Syria must ensure all necessary precautions are taken to avoid civilian casualties and uphold IHL.

Russia and the United States need to press their respective Syrian allies to reestablish the cessation of hostilities and engage in meaningful negotiations over how to fundamentally resolve Syria's conflict.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » [Statement of the ISSG](#), 17 May 2016
- » [Statement to the UNSC on Syria](#), OCHA, 23 June 2016
- » [UN HRC Resolution, The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic](#), 1 July 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Syria](#)



85,000 civilians fled  
Fallujah between May  
and June

3 million Iraqis still  
living under ISIL  
control

## IRAQ

*The extremist armed group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Iraq. As they confront ISIL, Iraqi Security Forces and Shia militias are also committing grave human rights abuses.*

## BACKGROUND

The security situation in Iraq remains dire as a result of ongoing attacks by ISIL, who have declared a caliphate spanning Syria and Iraq. Widespread fighting between the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and ISIL, as well as several other armed groups, has also led to sectarian violence and gross human rights abuses.

The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) reported that 382 civilians were killed in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict during June, bringing the total number of civilians killed this year to 2,735. UNAMI's reporting does not account for civilian casualties during recent fighting in Fallujah.

OCHA estimates that as of 12 June, 10 million people in Iraq – nearly one third of the population – are in need of humanitarian assistance, with over 3.3 million people internally displaced, more than half of whom are children. OCHA also reported that at least 3 million Iraqis are still living in areas under ISIL control.

On 22 May the ISF began a major offensive to retake Fallujah from ISIL. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 85,000 civilians fled the city during fighting. While the government instructed residents to leave via safe corridors

established by the military, ISIL prevented many from doing so, including by killing those attempting to flee.

On 7 June the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights cited "credible reports" that some Sunni civilians fleeing Fallujah also faced severe human rights violations by Shia militias participating in the battle alongside the ISF. On 13 June the Iraqi government announced preliminary findings from an investigation, reporting the death of 49 people and the disappearance of at least 600 after being taken into custody by Shia militias between 2 and 4 June.

The Iraqi government declared that it had retaken Fallujah on 26 June.

ISIL continues to systematically attack and persecute vulnerable ethnic and religious minority communities, including Christians, Shabak, Yazidis and Turkmen, causing their mass displacement. On 4 July the Minority Rights Group released a report warning that many of Iraq's minority communities are "on the verge of disappearance," with thousands of people from ethnic and religious minority communities having been "murdered, maimed or abducted." More than 3,500 women and children, mainly Yazidi, also remain enslaved by ISIL.

On 16 June the UN Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry (Col) on Syria reported that ISIL "has committed the crime of genocide as well as multiple crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Yazidis," including killings, sexual slavery, enslavement, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and forcible transfer. The International Organization for Migration reported that by the end of 2015, 143,000 families had been displaced from Nineveh province.

ISIL also routinely targets civilians from the majority Shia population in sectarian bombings. On 3 July a bomb was detonated in a busy marketplace in Baghdad amidst crowds of people celebrating Ramadan. The bombing killed at least 250 people, marking the deadliest attack since 2007.

UNAMI and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have reported that ISIL's violations, which include targeted killings, forced conversions, slavery and sexual abuse, "may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and possibly genocide." On 17 March United States Secretary of State John Kerry declared that ISIL is committing genocide against Christians, Yazidis and Shiites.

The United States has been conducting airstrikes against ISIL in Iraq since 8 August 2014, following the Iraqi government's request for assistance after the group seized the northern town of Sinjar. Since then Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Jordan, Netherlands and United Kingdom have joined the military coalition against ISIL in Iraq, with some also participating in airstrikes on ISIL in Syria.

Responding to sectarian terrorist attacks and the rise of ISIL, some Shia militias have carried out violent reprisals against Sunni civilians. The ISF has also been accused of extrajudicial killings, illegal detention, torture and other violations of IHL and international human rights law (IHRL). OHCHR has expressed concern at reports of forced evictions and extrajudicial killings committed by Iraqi and Kurdish security forces and affiliated militias "against Sunni Arab communities in parts of Iraq that have been reclaimed from ISIL." Amnesty International reported on 20 January that Kurdish Peshmerga forces have destroyed thousands of homes of perceived ISIL "sympathizers" across 13 towns and villages in northern Iraq, possibly amounting to war crimes.

## ANALYSIS

ISIL poses an existential threat to ethnic and religious minorities, who face the risk of further mass atrocities, as well as a direct threat to members of the majority Shia community. ISIL has consistently failed to protect civilians in areas under military occupation and is committed to the extermination of all religious communities and minority cultures that do not conform to its strict interpretation of Islam.

Despite a November 2010 power-sharing agreement between political parties representing Shias, Sunnis and Kurds, many Sunnis felt marginalized under former President Nouri al-Maliki. The government's violent response to a Sunni protest movement that started in December 2012 further aggravated these divisions. ISIL exploited widespread disaffection to build alliances with Sunni tribes and seize large swathes of territory and resources. Cultural identities and religious loyalties continue to be manipulated by various political forces in Iraq. Some Shia militias, mobilized by the government to fight ISIL, pose a direct threat to Sunni civilians.

There are especially grave fears for the fate of civilians detained during fighting between ISIL and the ISF and allied Shia militias in Fallujah. Human rights violations continue to be perpetrated by Shia militias and the ISF, who often commit abuses in the name of counterterrorism.

The Iraqi government is unable to uphold its Responsibility to Protect and needs ongoing international assistance.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

In addition to United States support to the Iraqi government, several EU member states, as well as Albania and Canada, have provided ongoing assistance to Kurdish fighters battling ISIL.

On 25 May the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq, Ján Kubiš, urged all parties to strictly adhere to IHL and "undertake every effort to protect the lives of civilians" in Fallujah.

On 7 June the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights urged the Iraqi Government to "show its commitment to protecting civilians" by fully investigating alleged human rights violations against civilians fleeing from ISIL. On 5 July the High

Commissioner condemned the Baghdad terrorist attack and called upon the Iraqi government to do more to protect civilians from ISIL and to "halt uncontrolled militias from continuing to take revenge on civilians fleeing towns recaptured from ISIL." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Special Representative Kubiš also condemned the Baghdad bombing.

## NECESSARY ACTION

The international community should continue to provide support to the Iraqi government to combat the threat ISIL poses to vulnerable populations, especially religious and ethnic minorities.

While confronting ISIL and other armed groups, the government must protect civilians and address the underlying sources of conflict between Sunnis, Shias and Kurds in Iraq. The government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government must strictly uphold their obligations under IHL.

The government must condemn human rights abuses and actively prevent reprisals committed by the ISF and allied militias against Sunni civilians in areas recaptured from ISIL.

Iraq's international supporters must ensure that the ISF and Kurdish forces strictly and consistently comply with their obligations under international law. The Kurdistan Regional Government is also in need of international support to defend vulnerable populations from ongoing ISIL attacks.

All members of the international anti-ISIL coalition must abide by IHL and take all necessary measures to mitigate the risk to civilians.

The UNSC should refer ISIL's genocide against the Yazidis to the ICC for investigation.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » [UNAMI Website](#)
- » [Casualty Figures](#), UNAMI, 1 July 2016
- » ["They Came to Destroy: ISIS Crimes Against the Yazidis,"](#) Report of the HRC Col on Syria, 16 June 2016
- » ["No Way Home: Iraq's minorities on the verge of disappearance,"](#) Minority Rights Group International, 4 July 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Iraq](#)





3,600+ civilians killed

2.8 million people  
displaced by violence

## YEMEN

*Mass atrocity crimes are being committed in Yemen as pro-government forces and a regional military coalition fight against Houthi rebels, who have taken control of much of the country.*

### BACKGROUND

Despite an 11 April ceasefire and intermittent peace talks between the government and Houthis that began in Kuwait on 21 April, the conflict in Yemen continues to leave civilians facing mass atrocity crimes. The UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, has requested that all parties to the conflict engage in meaningful political negotiations, despite the fact that rocket and mortar attacks increased during June.

During 2014, amidst a UN-facilitated political transition process, the Houthis, an armed Shia movement from northeast Yemen, and military units loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, took control of the governorates of Saada, Hodeida, Dhamar, Amran and Sana'a. On 26 March 2015 Saudi Arabia and a coalition of nine other countries responded to a government request for regional military intervention. Growing violence forced President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to seek temporary refuge in Riyadh. Despite military setbacks, Houthis and pro-Saleh forces still control much of Yemen, including Sana'a.

Violence between Houthi rebels and various pro-government forces, as well as sustained Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, have resulted in more than 3,600 civilians killed, including at least 900 children, since March 2015. According to OCHA, the majority of the violence has taken place in populated areas. More than 2.8 million Yemeni civilians have been forcibly displaced while an estimated 21.2 million people, over 82 percent of the population, require humanitarian assistance. The UN Secretary-General has reported on the particularly dire effect on children, noting widespread recruitment by armed groups, sexual violence, abductions and military attacks on schools.

Houthi and government-allied forces have both targeted civilian infrastructure and international humanitarian workers. The

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Kyung-wha Kang, reported that between March 2015 and April 2016 more than 170 schools and 70 health facilities were destroyed. The Houthis have also been accused of indiscriminately shelling civilian areas while Saudi airstrikes have reportedly included banned cluster munitions. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has said that respect for the distinction between civilian and military targets has been "woefully inadequate" by both sides.

The UN and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have made numerous attempts to broker peace between parties to the conflict. The current round of negotiations were suspended from 29 June through 15 July so that parties could discuss elements of a proposed "Roadmap" prior to formalizing their commitments.

Other armed groups have taken advantage of the conflict to perpetrate violence against civilians. Since March 2015 ISIL has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on Shia mosques and detonated car bombs in Sana'a. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) also gained influence during 2015, but has since retreated from several cities it previously controlled. On 27 June ISIL claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Mukalla that killed more than 40 people.

### ANALYSIS

All sides of the conflict have perpetrated indiscriminate attacks and targeted civilian infrastructure, amounting to possible war crimes and crimes against humanity. Failure to abide by the cessation and attempts by the Houthis to subvert the political transition are in violation of various UNSC resolutions. While UN officials have noted that peace talks have been "constructive," civilians continue to suffer the costs of humanitarian crisis and ongoing conflict.

Yemen has become another proxy battlefield between Saudi Arabia and Iran. While Saudi Arabia remains the main force backing the regional military coalition, Iran has allegedly provided substantial military assistance to the Houthis.

Fighting between Houthi rebels and pro-government forces threatens to further fracture Yemeni society along tribal and sectarian lines. Terrorist groups, such as AQAP and ISIL, are trying to exploit tensions between Shia and Sunni populations to increase their influence.

The Yemeni government is unable to uphold its Responsibility to Protect and requires international support.

### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

In 2011 the UNSC adopted Resolution 2014, which condemned human rights violations by the government of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and affirmed Yemen's primary responsibility to protect its population.

The UNSC imposed sanctions on former President Saleh and Houthi leaders in November 2014 and has extended the mandate

of the Panel of Experts on Yemen until 27 March 2017. On 15 February 2015 the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 2201, condemning the Houthis armed takeover of the capital.

On 14 April 2015 the UNSC passed Resolution 2216, establishing an arms embargo against Houthi leaders and some supporters of former President Saleh, and demanding the Houthis withdraw from all areas they seized during the conflict. On 24 February 2016 the UNSC renewed the sanctions regime for an additional year.

The UN Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect issued a statement on 17 February calling upon the international community – and particularly on the UNSC – to help end the Yemen conflict. The Special Advisers also urged all parties to the Arms Trade Treaty to respect their commitments.

On 4 June the UN Secretary-General condemned the use of heavy weapons, including rockets, on Taiz markets and urged all parties to respect the ceasefire. On 10 June OHCHR also condemned attacks on Taiz. The Secretary-General attended the peace talks in Kuwait on 26 June, reminding parties of their moral and political responsibility to end the conflict.

## NECESSARY ACTION

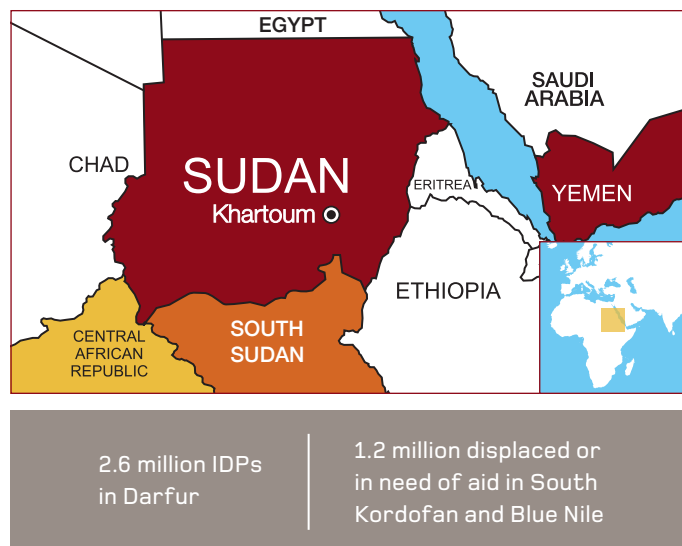
The distinction between military and civilian targets is central to IHL and must be adhered to. Parties to the conflict must halt the use of illegal and indiscriminate weapons, including banned cluster munitions. All parties must uphold their Responsibility to Protect vulnerable populations regardless of their tribal, religious or political affiliations.

All parties to the conflict must respect agreed ceasefires in order to ensure humanitarian access to vulnerable civilians in desperate need of food, water and medical supplies.

The UNSC, GCC and all parties to the conflict need to ensure that Resolution 2216 is fully implemented and that Yemen returns to the political transition process. The government and Houthis must not allow ceasefire violations to derail negotiations. The UN Human Rights Council should establish an international commission of inquiry to investigate serious violations in Yemen since March 2015.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2215](#), 14 April 2015
- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2266](#), 24 February 2016
- » [UNSC Presidential Statement, S/PRST/2016/5](#), 25 April 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Yemen](#)



## SUDAN

*Populations in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur continue to face mass atrocity crimes perpetrated by the Sudanese Armed Forces, affiliated militias and armed rebel groups.*

### BACKGROUND

For over five years the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and armed rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) have been engaged in hostilities in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, directly threatening vulnerable civilians. The government of Sudan continues to prohibit access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile and is systematically preventing aid from reaching populations at risk of starvation. According to OCHA, since June 2011 the conflict has resulted in over 1.2 million people "internally displaced or severely affected and in need of humanitarian assistance," while more than 250,000 have fled to South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Following several failed negotiations, the African Union (AU) High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) for Sudan proposed a Roadmap agreement to halt the conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. On 23 March the Chair of the AU Commission welcomed the signing of the agreement by the Sudanese government and called on opposition groups to endorse the Roadmap by 28 March, but the main groups have refused to sign. On 19 June the SPLM-N accepted a four-month ceasefire in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, which was announced by President Omar al-Bashir on 17 June.

Prior to the proposed ceasefire there had been a reported escalation in fighting, with ground assaults and aerial bombardments across South Kordofan and Blue Nile as the SAF launched an offensive to seize rebel-held areas. Indiscriminate aerial bombings during April around Heiban and Um Dorein resulted in civilian casualties and the displacement of approximately 20,000 people. Due to an intensification in fighting, including the bombing of an elementary school in Heiban on 25 May, 3,000 refugees arrived in South Sudan during May.

Sudan has consistently failed to honor AU-brokered agreements and UNSC resolutions calling for a cessation of hostilities. The SAF has committed war crimes, including extrajudicial killings, forced displacement and widespread sexual violence against civilians in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. It has also engaged in "scorched earth" tactics, systematically targeting food sources and deliberately destroying civilian infrastructure, including at least 26 health facilities since 2011. The SPLM-N has also perpetrated war crimes, including indiscriminate attacks on civilian-populated areas, alleged recruitment of children and attacks on UN personnel.

The situation in Darfur also continues to deteriorate, with civilians facing ongoing inter-communal violence, as well as attacks by the SAF and Rapid Support Forces, a pro-government militia with aerial and ground support from the SAF. Heavy clashes between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid in Jebel Marra, North Darfur, since mid-January has led to the displacement of over 129,000 civilians. The government continues to prevent humanitarian access to areas around Jebel Marra. Previous fighting between the SAF and rebel groups contributed to the displacement of more than 233,000 people during 2015. A total of 2.6 million people are now displaced in Darfur.

The government has systematically obstructed the AU-UN hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID), tasked with a civilian protection mandate, from carrying out human rights monitoring. The UN Secretary-General has condemned repeated attacks on UNAMID, including the killing of peacekeepers.

## ANALYSIS

The government has a history of perpetrating atrocities in Darfur and during its civil war with the south. It has consistently defied external pressure to halt mass atrocity crimes. Such crimes are currently being committed in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, where patterns of violence targeting civilians for their perceived support of the SPLM-N have been witnessed for over five years.

The UNSC and AU have failed to push the government and SPLM-N to honor past agreements on the cessation of hostilities and delivery of humanitarian assistance. Indiscriminate bombings of rebel-held areas by the SAF demonstrate an unwillingness to distinguish between combatants and civilians, actions that amount to crimes against humanity.

Despite the presence of UNAMID, civilians have not been afforded adequate protection in Darfur. Ongoing inter-communal violence and SAF operations contribute to the risk of further mass atrocity crimes. Attacks on UN peacekeepers constitute war crimes, while restrictions on their freedom of movement contravenes the Status of Forces Agreement between the UN and the government.

Not only is the government of Sudan manifestly failing to uphold its Responsibility to Protect, it is directly responsible

for perpetrating mass atrocity crimes in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

The UNSC has adopted 62 resolutions on Sudan since 2004, most of which have not been fully implemented. The response of the international community to mass atrocities in South Kordofan and Blue Nile has been grossly inadequate. [See also, [GCR2P's Timeline of International Response to the Situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States.](#)]

In 2007 the ICC indicted three members of the current government, including President Bashir, for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur. President Bashir was also indicted in 2010 for perpetrating genocide in Darfur. The ICC issued an additional arrest warrant during September 2014 against rebel leader Abdallah Banda for war crimes resulting from an attack on AU peacekeepers during 2007 in northern Darfur. None of the indictees have been surrendered to the Court. On 15 December 2015 the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC criticized the UNSC for failing to meaningfully assist in the arrest of indicted suspects.

On 10 February the UNSC extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 12 March 2017.

On 28 May Norway, United Kingdom and United States issued a statement condemning the Sudanese government's aerial bombardment of civilians in Kauda and Heiban, South Kordofan. The statement recalled that the "Sudanese government has a responsibility to protect all its citizens" and urged all parties to end hostilities and facilitate immediate humanitarian access.

On 29 June 2016 the UNSC adopted Resolution 2296, which extended UNAMID's mandate until 30 June 2017. The resolution emphasized that those responsible for violations of IHL and abuses of human rights "must be held accountable and that the Government of Sudan bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes."

## NECESSARY ACTION

After more than 10 years and 62 resolutions it is time for the UNSC and other member states to review their entire approach to endemic conflict and ongoing atrocities in Sudan. The UNSC should immediately expand the arms embargo on Darfur to include South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The government must abide by the AUHIP Roadmap and other parties, including the SPLM-N, should endorse the agreement. The UNSC and AU must ensure the government and SPLM-N facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as stipulated in the 2011 Framework Agreement and 2012 cooperation agreements. The UNSC should mandate the establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry for South Kordofan and Blue Nile and actively support efforts to bring ICC indictees to justice.



States with major investments in Sudan, including China, Qatar, Iran and Saudi Arabia, should press the government to fulfill its commitments. The UNSC should ensure that violators of the arms embargo are held to account.

The government and SPLM-N, in accordance with UNSC Resolution 2046, must cease armed hostilities and address the underlying causes of the conflict. The government must stop obstructing UNAMID and allow them to uphold their mandate, including investigating gross human rights violations. Mediation efforts should be facilitated between the government and armed groups operating in Darfur.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » [UNAMID Website](#)
- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2265](#), 10 February 2016
- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2296](#), 29 June 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Sudan](#)



1 million Rohingyas are subject to systematic persecution and the denial of their ethnic identity

## BURMA/MYANMAR

*Stateless Rohingya in Burma/Myanmar face systematic persecution that poses an existential threat to their community. Patterns of human rights violations against them amount to crimes against humanity.*

### BACKGROUND

Discriminatory state policies and systematic persecution in Burma/Myanmar threaten the existence of the more than 1 million stateless Rohingya, a distinct Muslim ethnic minority group. On 20 June the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report on the human rights situation of the Rohingya in Burma/Myanmar, detailing a “pattern of gross human rights violations,” including discriminatory practices targeting Rohingya on the basis of their ethnic and/or religious identity. These “widespread and systematic” abuses amount to crimes against humanity.

Despite the historic 8 November democratic elections, Rohingyas were largely disenfranchised in advance of the vote and continue to be denied citizenship and other fundamental human rights. While the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) won the elections, it did so while excluding all Muslims as candidates. NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi has publicly stated that the government will not use the term “Rohingya,” cautioning against “emotive” and “controversial” terms.

More than 140,000 people, mostly Rohingyas, remain segregated in IDP camps as a result of previous inter-communal violence. After visiting during February 2016, the Director of Operations for OCHA, John Ging, described the “appalling” conditions in Rohingya displacement camps and appealed for an end to the “discriminatory and repugnant policies” of segregation and disenfranchisement.

On 29 March the former government lifted the state of emergency in Arakan/Rakhine state – imposed during 2012 amidst inter-communal violence – but the new government has done little to ensure freedom of movement or access to vital humanitarian assistance. Many Rohingyas in Arakan/Rakhine state also face the ongoing threat of sporadic violence at the hands of Buddhist extremists who reject their right to exist in Burma/Myanmar.

On 31 March 2015 the former government invalidated the identification cards held by many Rohingyas, forcing them to apply for citizenship as “Bengalis,” suggesting their illegal migration from Bangladesh. This follows the government denying Rohingyas the ability to self-identify on the national census of March 2014, the first since 1983. The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, has highlighted the “right of the Rohingya to self-identification according to international human rights law” in her reports.

On 31 August Burma/Myanmar's former President, Thein Sein, signed into law the last of four so-called “Protection of Race and Religion” bills. These discriminatory laws place harsh restrictions on women and non-Buddhists, including on fundamental religious freedoms, as well as reproductive and marital rights.

The former UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, has said that a failure to address the ongoing human rights situation in Arakan/Rakhine state “will ultimately mean the extermination of the Rohingyas.”

The cumulative impact of deteriorating living conditions, combined with ongoing persecution by the government and some Buddhist chauvinist groups, has led tens of thousands of Rohingyas to flee to neighboring countries, where they are often subject to further abuse, human trafficking and refoulement. UNHCR reported that at least 32,600 people, mostly Rohingyas, fled Burma/Myanmar during 2015.

The country's military forces (Tatmadaw) also pose an ongoing threat. While the previous government signed a ceasefire

agreement on 15 October with eight ethnic armed groups, conflict between the Tatmadaw and several other groups continues. Fighting between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army over the past five years has displaced nearly 100,000 civilians.

Burma/Myanmar's new parliament convened for the first time on 1 February. U Htin Kyaw, a confidant of Aung San Suu Kyi, was elected President by parliament and began his term on 1 April. On 6 April parliament created the position of State Counselor for Aung San Suu Kyi.

## ANALYSIS

The previous government's refusal to grant the Rohingya access to citizenship or end discriminatory state policies, encouraged violations of their fundamental human rights and reinforced the dangerous perception of the Rohingya as ethnic outsiders. The Protection of Race and Religion bills appeared to be intended to eradicate the Rohingya's legal right to exist as a distinct ethnic group.

While the NLD government inherited these discriminatory laws and anti-Rohingya policies, it has demonstrated no willingness to repeal them. The 8 November elections legitimized a state that continues to deny the Rohingya their most fundamental human rights. Disenfranchisement, combined with years of persecution, exclusion and poverty, is causing Rohingyas to flee from Burma/Myanmar, despite the refusal of several countries in the region to offer asylum. The NLD government has a historic opportunity to end discriminatory policies and drastically improve the plight of the Rohingya, but currently appears unwilling to do so.

On 25 June the military-dominated parliament defeated a bill that would have abolished the Tatmadaw's veto power over constitutional amendments. With a pervasive culture of impunity, the military has not been held accountable for previous mass atrocity crimes.

The government of Burma/Myanmar is failing to uphold its primary Responsibility to Protect with regard to the Rohingya.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Following decades of military dictatorship, democratic reforms have contributed to rapprochement between Burma/Myanmar and the international community, including the lifting of sanctions by a number of countries. [For responses prior to March 2016, see [GCR2P's Timeline of International Response to the Situation of the Rohingya and Anti-Muslim Violence in Burma/Myanmar](#).]

In her 18 March 2016 report, Special Rapporteur Lee called upon the NLD "to take immediate steps to put an end to the highly discriminatory policies and practices against the Rohingya and other Muslim communities."

On 23 March the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution expressing serious concern over human rights violations,

particularly against the Rohingya, and urged the government to repeal discriminatory legislation.

On 20 June the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights urged the NLD to end systemic discrimination and ongoing human rights violations against the Rohingya and other minorities.

Special Rapporteur Lee concluded a 12-day visit to the country on 1 July, calling upon the government to "demonstrate that instigating and committing violence against an ethnic or religious minority community has no place in Myanmar."

On 7 July the EU Parliament passed a resolution calling upon the government to abolish discriminatory policies and restore the Rohingya's citizenship.

## NECESSARY ACTION

The government of Burma/Myanmar must uphold its Responsibility to Protect all populations, regardless of their ethnicity or religion. The NLD government should immediately abolish the Rakhine Action Plan and end institutionalized discrimination against the Rohingya, including the denial of citizenship. It must hold accountable all those who commit human rights abuses, including Buddhist chauvinists of the Ma Ba Tha who incite ethnic and religious intolerance and violence.

In Arakan/Rakhine state the government must facilitate the safe, voluntary return of IDPs to their communities. Neighboring countries should offer protection and assistance to Rohingya asylum seekers.

The international community must urge the NLD government to develop a comprehensive reconciliation plan, including establishing a commission of inquiry into crimes committed against the Rohingya in Arakan/Rakhine state. The government must demonstrably improve the welfare of ethnic and religious minorities and repeal discriminatory laws that pose an existential threat to the Rohingya community.

A central component of the government's reform process must include constitutional reform that addresses the needs of ethnic minorities, as well as the development of an independent judiciary as a means of safeguarding human rights and tackling the culture of impunity regarding past mass atrocity crimes.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » [UN HRC Resolution, A/HRC/31/24](#), 23 March 2016
- » [Human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar](#), OHCHR, 20 June 2016
- » [Statement of the UN Special Rapporteur](#), 4 July 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Burma/Myanmar](#)

## IMMINENT RISK

The situation is reaching a critical threshold and the risk of mass atrocity crimes occurring in the immediate future is very high if effective preventive action is not taken.



1.8 million IDPs

600+ civilians killed  
by the ADF since  
October 2014

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

*Populations in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo remain at imminent risk of possible mass atrocity crimes perpetrated by armed groups.*

### BACKGROUND

Pervasive insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has allowed armed groups to perpetrate mass atrocity crimes against civilians. Armed groups – such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and various Mayi-Mayi militias – have been operating in the DRC for more than 20 years and continue to sporadically attack vulnerable populations in a region that is home to 1.8 million IDPs.

Despite offensives conducted by the government's armed forces (FARDC) with assistance from the UN's stabilization mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and its force intervention brigade, violence committed by dozens of armed groups continues throughout the eastern DRC. Populations in Maniema, Katanga and North Kivu have been particularly affected by fighting between various Mayi-Mayi groups and the FARDC. Several armed groups have also been implicated in kidnapping humanitarian workers.

The FARDC launched offensive operations against the FDLR in February 2015. Although the FARDC has reportedly liberated many localities previously occupied by the group, the FDLR continues to threaten civilians. Mayi-Mayi militias, particularly the Raia Mutomboki, have also fought with the FDLR. Inter-communal clashes have sparked violence between armed groups affiliated with the FDLR, and those affiliated with

ethnic Nandes in Lubero and Walikale, North Kivu. On 16 June MONUSCO troops reportedly killed seven members of a Kobo and Nande-affiliated militia that was preventing food deliveries to a primarily Hutu IDP camp. This follows rising tensions between Hutu and Nande militias in Buleusa, including attacks on IDP camps and reprisal killings.

On 26 January, following a nearly year-long suspension, MONUSCO and the FARDC agreed to resume joint operations against the FDLR. According to OCHA, 35,000 IDPs have fled camps in North Kivu since 28 March as a result of FARDC clashes with the FDLR and local militias.

Elsewhere in North Kivu the ADF and other armed groups have been sporadically attacking villages near Beni, massacring civilians and perpetrating possible crimes against humanity. The ADF is suspected of killing more than 600 people since October 2014 and has also attacked MONUSCO helicopters and convoys. The ADF is suspected of killing nine people who were found "hacked to death" near Oicha on 5 July.

The UNSC has raised "deep concerns about the risk of instability, insecurity, the potential for violence, human rights violations and abuses and violations of [IHL]" ahead of presidential elections. President Joseph Kabila's term is constitutionally-mandated to end in 2016, but the government says it lacks the capacity to hold the required elections. Civilians have already been killed in election-related protests in Kinshasa and Goma amid reports of growing political repression.

### ANALYSIS

While military measures are taken against the FDLR, ADF and other armed groups, civilians remain at risk of reprisal violence. The FARDC and MONUSCO have failed to adequately respond to early warning of attacks, particularly around Beni. The FARDC has also been implicated in attacks on civilians, including widespread sexual violence, and often fails to hold its members accountable for human rights violations.

The weakness of government structures undermines attempts to prevent atrocities. This is particularly evident in the eastern DRC, where the government has previously lost control of vast areas to various rebel groups. Instability caused by disagreements over the country's presidential elections may be further exacerbated by these weaknesses. The government's response to protests leaves populations at risk of potential political violence.

Despite the government and MONUSCO encouraging militias to participate in Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) programs prior to launching offensives against them, rebel groups continue

to perpetrate abuses against civilians. Competition for control of minerals, as well as underlying conflict between communities that consider themselves indigenous and those perceived as outsiders, has enabled the proliferation of armed groups, which will continue to emerge even after the eradication of the ADF and FDLR if these issues are not resolved. While the government has undertaken important reforms, impunity for crimes committed against civilians remains rampant.

The government of the DRC has struggled to uphold its Responsibility to Protect and its own forces have been complicit in some previous mass atrocity crimes. The DRC needs ongoing international support to prevent recurring violence.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

The international community has responded to violence in the eastern DRC by taking measures to confront various armed groups. According to MONUSCO, more than 1,000 people, including both FDLR and their dependents, have participated in DDRRR in Walungu and Kisangani. The UNSC currently subjects 9 entities and 31 individuals in the DRC to sanctions. [For responses prior to March 2016, see [GCR2P's Timeline of International Response to the Situation in the DRC](#).]

On 30 March the UNSC extended MONUSCO's mandate to March 2017, emphasizing that the DRC government "bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes." The following day the UNSC issued a Presidential Statement reiterating that the 2013 Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework remains essential to peace and security in the Great Lakes Region.

The international community has responded with concern to growing repression ahead of the country's elections. On 6 June the AU, UN, EU and International Organization of the Francophonie issued a statement emphasizing the importance of concluding a national dialogue and that the facilitation group, led by Edem Kodjo, needs to assist in finalizing an elections plan. On 4 July the AU-led "Support Group for Facilitation of the National Dialogue in the DRC" held its inaugural meeting.

On 23 June the UNSC passed Resolution 2293 extending the sanctions regime until 1 July 2017 and including for the first time individuals found to be "planning, directing or committing acts that constitute human rights violations." The UNSC also reiterated its call for the government to hold presidential elections by the end of 2016.

## NECESSARY ACTION

The DRC government and MONUSCO must ensure that protecting civilians remains a primary priority as they address the threat posed by armed groups. The FARDC and MONUSCO need to increase their capacity to respond to early warning of inter-communal violence and attacks by armed groups.

MONUSCO should also support the government in facilitating local peacebuilding initiatives and encourage civil society to help

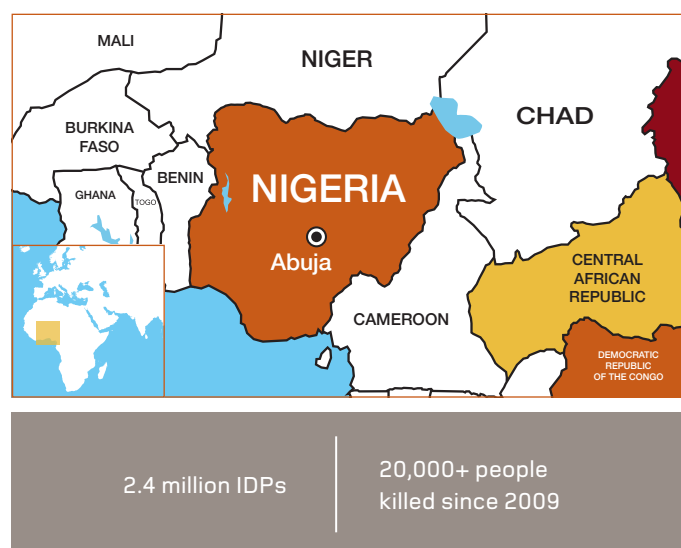
facilitate DDRRR. The government, with MONUSCO's support, should enhance security and protection measures, particularly in eastern DRC, in advance of the 2016 elections.

The FARDC must not permit individuals who have previously committed atrocities to join its forces and should train all recruits in the protection of civilians, respect for human rights and IHL. The government should remove all FARDC members accused of serious human rights violations from leadership positions.

The UN, AU, International Conference for the Great Lakes Region and Southern African Development Community should ensure that all signatories to the PSC Framework continue to fulfill their commitments and provide resources necessary to successfully facilitate the National Dialogue.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » [MONUSCO Website](#)
- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2277](#), 30 March 2016
- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2293](#), 23 June 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: DRC](#)



## NIGERIA

*Mass atrocity crimes continue to be threatened by the extremist group Boko Haram in northern Nigeria. Excessive use of force by security forces, recurring inter-communal violence and increasing instability in the Niger Delta region also constitute a serious threat to civilians.*

## BACKGROUND

Despite more than a year and a half of military operations against Boko Haram by the regional Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), sporadic attacks by the extremist group continue in Nigeria as well as neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. More than 20,000 people have been killed in Nigeria since Boko Haram launched its armed offensive in 2009. Since July 2015 Boko Haram has also reportedly conducted at least 200

attacks in northern Cameroon, killing 480 people. According to OCHA, there are currently 2.4 million IDPs in Nigeria and 155,000 Nigerian refugees in neighboring countries.

According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), since April 2014 at least 1.3 million children have been uprooted by Boko Haram violence in Nigeria and neighboring countries, while one of every five suicide bombers used by Boko Haram in 2015 was a child. On 29 June a boy blew himself up, killing 11 people at a mosque in Cameroon. The group has also targeted schools for attack, including the 2014 abduction of 276 girls from Chibok and the 2015 abduction of 300 elementary students in Damasak. The vast majority of abducted children remain missing.

The Boko Haram conflict has sparked a humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin. On 22 June Médecins Sans Frontières reported that a "catastrophic humanitarian emergency" was unfolding at an IDP camp in Bama, Borno state, where at least 1,233 people have died in the past year, many from starvation or illness. According to OCHA, an estimated 7.3 million people in Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states are food insecure, with 3 million in urgent need of assistance. OCHA has also reported high levels of sexual and gender-based violence in and around displacement sites.

As the government addresses the Boko Haram insurgency, several other localized conflicts, rooted in long-standing grievances over land and resource allocation, have escalated in Nigeria's "middle belt" and Niger Delta regions. Inter-communal clashes between semi-nomadic herdsman and settled farming communities have resulted in hundreds of deaths in 2016. Newly-formed militant groups in the Niger Delta, including the Niger Delta Avengers and Joint Niger Delta Liberation Force, have perpetrated attacks on oil and gas installations as well as security personnel.

Nigerian security forces have been accused of failing to protect populations and committing human rights abuses against civilians, including arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings, as well as of concealing evidence of such crimes. At least 347 civilians were killed during clashes between security forces and a Shia group, the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, in Kaduna state during December 2015.

## ANALYSIS

The reemergence of armed groups in the Niger Delta region and attacks on oil and gas installations puts increasing strain on a government that is already struggling to protect vulnerable civilians from the Boko Haram insurgency. Although much of the government's attention has been directed towards defeating Boko Haram, other conflicts also threaten the stability of the state and have the potential to fracture Nigerian society.

While large-scale attacks by Boko Haram have become less frequent, the group continues to target civilians and security personnel in Nigeria and neighboring countries. Large-scale displacement and insecurity have increased unemployment and poverty within Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, which is already

experiencing a severe decrease in government revenue due to depressed oil prices. Destroyed civilian infrastructure across the northeast and ongoing threat of Boko Haram attacks makes the return of displaced populations dangerous and severely limits humanitarian operations.

Ongoing human rights abuses by Nigeria's security forces demonstrate an urgent need for comprehensive security sector reform.

The government of Nigeria currently lacks the capacity to adequately uphold its Responsibility to Protect and needs ongoing support from the international community.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

During February the United States announced that it will provide training to approximately 750 soldiers from selected units of the Nigerian army and deploy special operations advisers to enhance military capacity to defeat Boko Haram. During her April visit to the region, United States Ambassador Samantha Power announced \$40 million in humanitarian assistance to the Lake Chad countries. On 11 April the EU allocated 67 million Euros for the rehabilitation and re-integration of captured Boko Haram members.

On 14 May representatives from the four Lake Chad Basin states, together with international partners, including the EU, France, United Kingdom and United States, met in Abuja for the second Regional Security Summit on efforts to defeat Boko Haram. Ahead of the Summit, the UNSC issued a Presidential Statement, recognizing that some acts perpetrated by Boko Haram "may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes" and stressing that those responsible must be held accountable.

On 27 June the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, released \$13 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to provide life-saving assistance to 250,000 people in areas of north-east Nigeria.

## NECESSARY ACTION

As Nigeria faces multiple security crises it is essential for the government to prioritize the protection of vulnerable civilians. However, the government must also address the root causes of conflict through social initiatives and political reforms that tackle corruption, poor governance and land rights, as well as access to employment and educational opportunities. The government must urgently address long-standing grievances in the Niger Delta, including serious environmental degradation and disputes over resource allocation.

Governments involved in the MNJTF and ongoing military operations against Boko Haram need to mitigate the risk to civilians and strictly adhere to IHL and IHRL. Captured Boko Haram leaders should be held accountable for crimes against humanity committed in areas under the group's command and control.

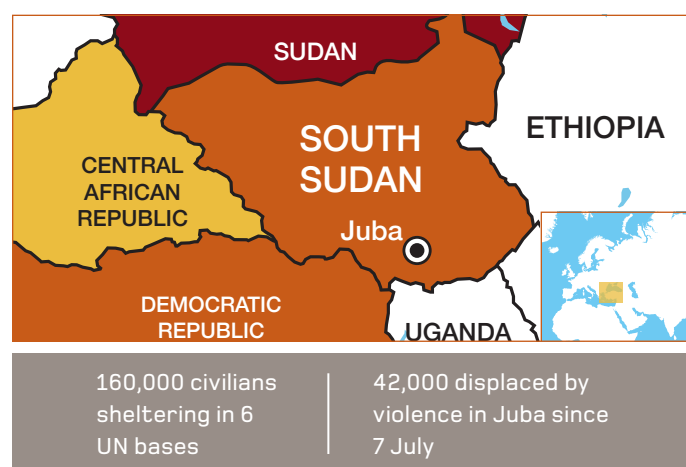


Greater steps must be taken to rescue and reintegrate civilians abducted by Boko Haram. The return of refugees and IDPs should be conducted on a strictly voluntary basis. The UN, AU and other regional organizations, as well as individual governments, should urgently assist Nigeria in meeting the humanitarian needs of affected communities and continue to provide technical and military expertise to help combat Boko Haram.

The Nigerian government should also conduct thorough investigations into alleged abuses by the security forces, including for crimes committed during counter-insurgency operations. The government needs to urgently undertake comprehensive security sector reform to ensure that the army and police are trained to protect civilians and prevent mass atrocities in a manner consistent with international law.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » "Nigeria: Two years on, abducted Chibok girls are still unaccounted for despite promises of action," OHCHR, 12 April 2016
- » "Nigeria: The Challenge of Military Reform," International Crisis Group, 6 June 2016
- » GCR2P Populations at Risk: Lake Chad Basin



## SOUTH SUDAN

*The possible resumption of civil war in South Sudan poses an imminent threat to populations who may be targeted on the basis of ethnicity and presumed political loyalties.*

### BACKGROUND

Violence between elements of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the SPLA in Opposition (SPLA-IO) reignited in Juba on 7 July, two days before South Sudan observed the fifth anniversary of its independence. Heavy fighting, including tanks and helicopter gunships, was reported in Juba, particularly in the Jebel area near a UN base protecting thousands of civilians.

Hundreds of people, including civilians and two UN peacekeepers, were reportedly killed during five days of fighting. Two UN compounds were hit by mortar and artillery fire, killing at least eight people. Approximately 42,000 people were displaced

in Juba. Many civilians attempting to flee to UN bases were reportedly prevented from doing so and some were allegedly subjected to targeted killings. At the time of publication a fragile ceasefire appeared to be holding in Juba.

Instability elsewhere in South Sudan has been increasing for weeks, with reports of major fighting between the SPLA and ethnic Fertit in Wau state on 24 June. The violence in Wau resulted in 43 people killed and over 70,000 people displaced. According to the UN, at least 12,000 people are now being protected near its base in Wau.

During August 2015 President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, leader of the SPLA-IO, agreed to end the country's 2013-2015 civil war by signing the "Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan." The power-sharing agreement called for a permanent ceasefire, as well as the establishment of an independent Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS) to investigate mass atrocities committed during the conflict. Machar returned to Juba on 26 April to be sworn in as First Vice President, and the Transitional Government was formed on 29 April. Despite some progress, the UNSC, UN Secretary-General, AU and various international partners had warned that President Kiir and First Vice President Machar were failing to genuinely commit to implementation of the peace agreement.

The civil war was the result of a conflict that started on 15 December 2013 between soldiers from rival SPLA factions. Over the following 18 months, the worst fighting was between ethnic Dinka and Nuer soldiers loyal to President Kiir and Machar, respectively. At least 24 armed militias loosely aligned with either side, including the powerful Nuer White Army, have been operating in South Sudan.

Between 2013 and 2015 parties to the civil war engaged in widespread extrajudicial killings, torture, child abductions and sexual violence, targeting civilians as part of their military tactics. OHCHR published a report on 11 March, noting that all parties to the conflict had committed systematic violations which may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity. UNICEF estimates that more than 16,000 children were forcibly recruited during the civil war. The AU's Commission of Inquiry reported that between December 2013 and September 2014 government and rebel forces committed "indiscriminate killings of civilians" in Juba, Bor, Bentiu and Malakal.

On 17 February there was an outbreak of inter-communal violence inside the UN site in Malakal, which was sheltering 48,000 IDPs. There are allegations that some SPLA soldiers entered the camp and fired upon civilians before being repelled by peacekeepers from the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The fighting left 25 people dead and displaced over 26,000. On 11 March the UN established a High-Level Board of Inquiry to investigate UNMISS' response and subsequently accepted responsibility for failing to adequately protect civilians.

At least 50,000 people were killed during the 2013 to 2015 civil war, which has resulted in nearly 1.7 million IDPs and 706,000

refugees, according to UNHCR. Prior to the recent violence in Juba and Wau over 160,000 people were still taking refuge in six UNMISS bases across the country, which have been frequently targeted for attack. Since the resumption of heavy fighting between 7 and 11 July, more civilians have sought UN protection, which UNMISS lacks the capacity to adequately provide.

## ANALYSIS

Political instability, endemic corruption and sustained violence have been pervasive in South Sudan for the majority of its five years of independence. The resumption of fighting in Juba and Wau puts civilians at grave risk of mass atrocity crimes. Attacks on populations sheltering at UN protection sites demonstrates a clear disregard for international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Despite the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity, the peace agreement was never fully implemented and the root causes of the conflict have not been adequately addressed. The rapid descent into large-scale fighting in Juba highlights the difficulty of achieving a sustainable peace process under the current political leadership. Ethnic tensions also continue to be exacerbated by officials using hate speech to incite violence.

A pervasive culture of impunity has fueled recurring cycles of armed violence and mass atrocities in South Sudan. With ongoing resource deficits and a hostile operating environment, UNMISS is still struggling to protect vulnerable populations.

The Transitional Government of National Unity, led by President Kiir and First Vice President Machar, has failed to uphold its Responsibility to Protect and ensure accountability for mass atrocity crimes. UNMISS requires urgent international assistance in order to uphold its civilian protection mandate.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

[For responses prior to December 2015, [see GCR2P's Timeline of International Response to the Situation in South Sudan.](#)]

On 15 December the UNSC adopted Resolution 2252, which extended UNMISS' mandate until 31 July 2016. The resolution emphasized that the government of South Sudan "bears the primary responsibility to protect its populations from crimes against humanity, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and genocide."

On 22 March the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution establishing a commission to investigate human rights abuses in South Sudan.

On 31 May the UNSC adopted Resolution 2290 extending the sanctions regime until 31 May 2017 and the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 1 July 2017. The resolution also emphasized that the "Transitional Government of National Unity bears the primary responsibility to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity."

Six senior military figures, three from each side, are currently subject to sanctions.

On 25 June the UN Secretary-General called on all sides in Wau to cease hostilities and allow humanitarian access to affected populations. The UNSC issued a Press Statement on 1 July reiterating that attacks against civilians may constitute war crimes and calling on the Transitional Government of National Unity to investigate and prosecute those responsible.

The UN Secretary-General, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), AU and other key international partners have condemned the renewed violence in Juba and urged all parties to cease armed hostilities. On 10 July the UNSC held an emergency meeting and issued a Press Statement condemning attacks against civilians and demanding that President Kiir and First Vice President Machar urgently end the fighting.

## NECESSARY ACTION

The Transitional Government of National Unity must restore the cessation of hostilities and fully implement all provisions of the August 2015 peace agreement. The UNSC and IGAD should immediately impose an arms embargo and extend targeted sanctions to include any political and military leaders deemed responsible for the resumption of armed hostilities in Juba and elsewhere.

UNMISS must robustly implement its civilian protection mandate. The international community should immediately enhance UNMISS' capabilities through the provision of additional aviation assets, including tactical military helicopters and unarmed unmanned aerial systems. If armed clashes in Juba and elsewhere resume, the UNSC should authorize the deployment of additional troops to support UNMISS. The government and SPLA-IO must ensure that UNMISS has the ability to move freely to all parts of the country without threats to its personnel and respect the inviolability of UN compounds.

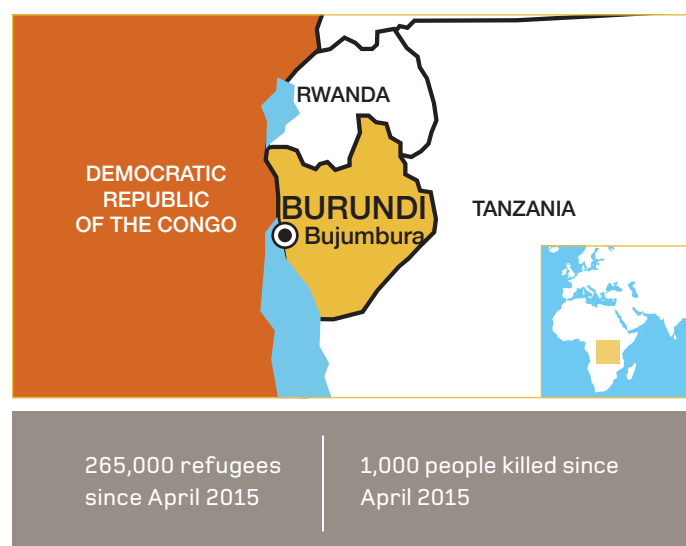
The AU should expeditiously establish the HCSS and ensure it has the resources to investigate and prosecute individuals responsible for mass atrocities committed since December 2013. The government, AU and the international community must hold those responsible for atrocities in South Sudan accountable, regardless of affiliation or position.

## MORE INFORMATION:

- » [UNMISS Website](#)
- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2290](#), 31 May 2016
- » [UNSC Press Statement, SC/12431-AFR/3407](#), 1 July 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: South Sudan](#)

## SERIOUS CONCERN

There is a significant risk of occurrence, or recurrence, of mass atrocity crimes within the foreseeable future if effective action is not taken.



## BURUNDI

*Civilians in Burundi face a serious risk of potential mass atrocity crimes as ongoing political violence continues to destabilize the country.*

### BACKGROUND

There is a serious risk of mass atrocity crimes in Burundi as a result of targeted killings of political and military officials, widespread violations of human rights and ongoing clashes between the security forces and armed elements of the opposition. The UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, have warned of a possible relapse into civil war and ethnic violence if the crisis is not resolved.

Since 26 April 2015 at least 1,000 people have been killed in civil unrest. The crisis developed following the announcement by the ruling Conseil National Pour la Défense de la Démocratie–Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (CNDD-FDD) that President Pierre Nkurunziza would seek a third term in the country's elections. President Nkurunziza's candidacy was regarded by the political opposition and many civil society groups as being in violation of the constitution and the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, which brought an end to a civil war that claimed over 350,000 lives between 1993 and 2005.

High Commissioner Zeid and the UN Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) have raised concern over reports of extrajudicial executions, mass arrests, illegal detention and torture during the first six months of 2016, as well as systematic targeting of members of the opposition and of the former Burundian army. Members of the current Burundian army and police,

as well as of the ruling CNDD-FDD, have also been targeted in reprisal killings.

OHCHR has also reported cases of sexual violence by the security forces. Independent media outlets have been systematically destroyed or shut down. There are ongoing reports of hate speech and incitement to violence on the basis of ethnicity by some government officials and some opposition supporters.

UNHCR reported that over 265,000 Burundians have fled the country in the past year, and over 101,000 are internally displaced. Refugees have reported harassment, enforced disappearances and murder, including by the Imbonerakure, the CNDD-FDD's paramilitary youth movement. There have also been allegations of recruitment of refugees into armed groups.

### ANALYSIS

There is a risk that the political crisis in Burundi could deteriorate into an armed conflict between forces loyal to the President and those that oppose his third term. Any further deterioration of the security situation would significantly increase the risk of mass atrocity crimes. A protracted conflict in Burundi could have significant repercussions for peace and security throughout the Great Lakes Region.

Despite a sustained period of stability since the end of the 1993–2005 civil war, recurring political and ethnic conflict have previously caused mass atrocity crimes in Burundi. There is a risk that the army, which has been a source of stability since the end of the civil war, could fracture along political and ethnic lines. Tensions between the army, traditionally dominated by the ethnic Tutsi minority, and ethnic Hutu political organizations have previously been a perennial source of conflict.

The Burundian government must take urgent action to uphold its Responsibility to Protect. The international community must also be prepared to respond in a timely and decisive manner should the situation rapidly deteriorate.

### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

On 9 November 2015 the UN Secretary-General appointed Jamaal Benomar as his Special Adviser on Burundi.

On 25 to 26 February an AU delegation, comprised of five Heads of State, visited Bujumbura. Following this, the AU authorized the deployment of an additional 400 personnel to serve as human rights observers and military experts. Resource constraints and delays imposed by the government of Burundi have inhibited the deployment.

On 15 April the UN Secretary-General presented three options to the UNSC on an enhanced UN presence, including: a 20–50 person police assessment presence; 228 individual police to monitor the situation; or deploying up to 3,000 personnel, including Formed Police Units, as part of a UN protection and monitoring presence. The UNSC has taken no further action on Burundi.

On 25 April the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC opened a Preliminary Examination into the situation since April 2015.

Political dialogue between the government and some opposition political parties was convened in Arusha, Tanzania from 21 to 24 May under the auspices of the Facilitator of the East African Community, former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa. Dialogue resumed on 12 July, but the government walked out and at least five opposition parties boycotted the talks.

The AU Peace and Security Council called for immediate and inclusive talks following a high-level visit to the country between 22 and 26 June.

## NECESSARY ACTION

Immediate steps must be taken by the government and opposition to avoid further militarization and/or ethnicization of the political crisis. Allegations of human rights abuses, torture and extrajudicial killings should be subject to thorough and independent investigation and prosecution. The government should honor its commitment to release detainees, allow independent media and ensure civil society can operate freely.

The UNSC should immediately authorize the deployment of a robust UN police protection and monitoring presence, in keeping with the Secretary-General's third option. Monitoring responsibilities should include providing early warning on the risks of mass atrocity crimes.

The AU, UNSC and individual states should impose targeted sanctions on any individuals implicated in targeted killings, deemed responsible for inciting violence or guilty of breaching the Arusha Peace Agreement.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2248](#), 12 November 2015
- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2279](#), 1 April 2016
- » [Letter of the UN Secretary-General to the UNSC, S/2016/352](#), 15 April 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Burundi](#)



The 2014 conflict in Gaza led to the death of over 1,500 civilians and the displacement of approximately 500,000 Palestinians

## ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

*Conflict between Israel and Hamas, and other Palestinian armed groups, poses an ongoing threat to civilians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). Recurring armed conflict between Israel and Hamas leaves civilians at risk of war crimes and other grave violations of human rights.*

### BACKGROUND

Impunity for past violations of international law and the failure to reach a comprehensive peace agreement has contributed to recurring armed conflict between Israel and the Hamas de-facto administration in Gaza, resulting in the commission of war crimes.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since 2008, resulting in the death of over 2,800 civilians. The most recent conflict escalated on 7 July 2014 when the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) launched Operation Protective Edge, with the objective of halting sustained indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups. The 50-day conflict led to the death of over 1,500 civilians and the displacement of approximately 500,000 Palestinians. IDF bombardment caused considerable damage to homes, schools and medical facilities. Eleven UN Relief and Works Agency staff were also killed.

Since 2014 the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza has been exacerbated by an ongoing air, sea and land blockade by Israel. Illegal Israeli settlements, prohibited under international law, continue to expand in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Over 800 Palestinians have been displaced by Israeli house demolitions in the West Bank so far this year.

Hamas security forces in Gaza have also committed grave human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests, summary executions, child recruitment and torture of Palestinian civilians. Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing of a bus in West

Jerusalem on 18 April, which wounded at least 20 Israelis, including 2 children. Renewed armed clashes were reported along the Gaza border on 5 and 26 May. Following an attack by Palestinian gunmen on 8 June, which left 4 Israeli civilians dead, Israel revoked entry permits for 83,000 Palestinians. OHCHR condemned the attack and also noted that the revoking of permits “may amount to prohibited collective punishment.”

Negotiations between Israel and Palestinian representatives regarding a lasting peace agreement have been suspended since April 2014.

Following Palestine’s accession to the Rome Statute on 7 January 2015, the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC announced the opening of a preliminary examination into the situation in Palestine. On 26 June 2015 the Palestinian Authority submitted evidence of alleged Israeli war crimes relating to the 2014 Gaza conflict, Israeli settlements and the treatment of Palestinian prisoners.

## ANALYSIS

In the absence of a meaningful peace process, conflict between Israel and Palestinian armed groups is likely to result in recurring armed hostilities that leave civilians at risk of mass atrocities.

Previous attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza and Israel violate IHL and may constitute war crimes. Neither side has held officials accountable for unlawful attacks during the 2014 war that resulted in civilian deaths.

The systematic nature of human rights violations in the OPT may amount to possible crimes against humanity. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an occupying power from transferring parts of its civilian population into occupied territory. Israel’s military blockade of Gaza, in force since 2007, is also a potentially illegal form of collective punishment of Gaza’s 1.8 million inhabitants. Illegal Israeli settlements have contributed to the volatile political situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where cycles of reprisal violence continue.

Increased anti-Semitic and anti-Arab rhetoric is aggravating tensions between communities across Israel and the OPT.

Despite ongoing political conflict over sovereignty and the OPT’s future, Israel, the Hamas de-facto administration and the Palestinian Authority are obligated to uphold their Responsibility to Protect.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

The UNSC has not adopted a resolution on the Palestinian question since 2009.

On 24 July 2014 the UN Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect expressed concern

over escalating armed conflict in Gaza, warning that both parties were in violation of IHL and IHRL, and these acts “could constitute atrocity crimes.”

On 24 June 2015 the Independent International Commission of Inquiry mandated by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the conflict in the Palestinian territories reported on violations of IHL and IHRL that may amount to war crimes. The Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on 3 July 2015 condemning all human rights abuses and violations of IHL in the OPT and emphasizing the need to ensure that perpetrators of these crimes are held accountable.

On 6 May the UNSC held an Arrria Formula meeting on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the OPT.

On 3 June the French government convened an international conference in Paris aimed at reviving the peace process.

On 28 June, during a trip to Israel and the OPT, the UN Secretary-General noted that there was a high risk of renewed violence and emphasized that the blockade of Gaza amounts to “collective punishment for which there must be accountability.”

On 1 July the report of the Middle East Quartet – comprising the UN, Russia, United States and EU – called upon Palestinian leaders to cease incitement to violence and for Israel to stop building illegal settlements.

## NECESSARY ACTION

All parties to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must adhere to IHL and IHRL and work towards a sustainable political solution. Israel should lift the blockade on Gaza and cease illegal settlement-related activity, while the Palestinian Authority must help end indiscriminate attacks on Israeli civilians and rigorously prosecute those who incite these attacks. The Hamas de-facto administration in Gaza must permanently halt indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israel.

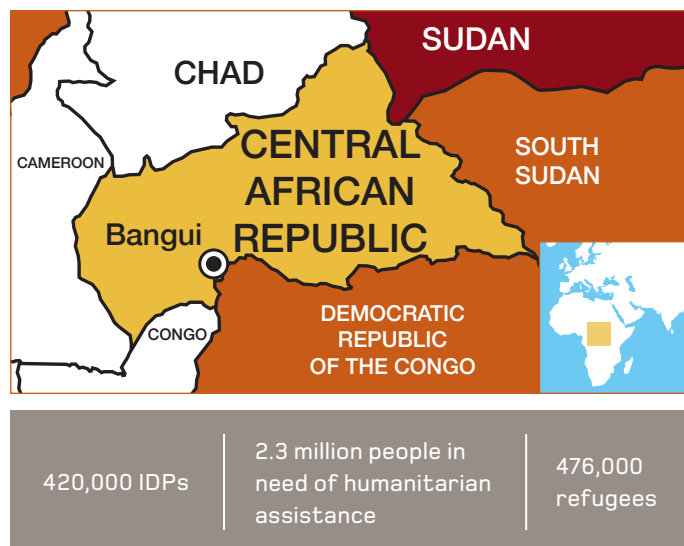
It is essential for Israel and the Palestinian Authority to end the culture of impunity and ensure that all those responsible for past violations of IHL and IHRL are held accountable. All parties should condemn anti-Semitic and anti-Arab hate speech and incitement to violence, and cooperate fully with the preliminary examination of the ICC.

States with significant political influence and major trade relations with Israel, such as the United States and EU, should push for a lasting political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, strict adherence to IHL and the protection of human rights for all civilians in Israel and the OPT regardless of ethnicity or religion. Major international donors to the Palestinian Authority, and those who support the Hamas de-facto administration in Gaza, should similarly advocate for a complete end to indiscriminate attacks on civilians and anti-Semitic hate speech.



## MORE INFORMATION

- » [UN HRC Resolution, A/HRC/29/25](#), 3 July 2015
- » [UNSC Press Statement, SC/12052-PAL/2196](#), 17 September 2015
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Israel and the OPT](#)



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

*Civilians in the Central African Republic remain at risk of mass atrocity crimes committed by "anti-balaka" militias, ex-Séléka rebels and other armed groups.*

### BACKGROUND

Civilians in the Central African Republic (CAR) remain at ongoing risk of mass atrocity crimes despite the largely peaceful election of a new President, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, on 14 February 2016. Touadéra was inaugurated on 30 March and the new government and Prime Minister were announced on 11 April.

The crisis in CAR began after the 24 March 2013 overthrow of President François Bozizé by the predominantly Muslim Séléka rebel alliance. Abuses by the Séléka led to the formation of predominantly Christian and animist "anti-balaka" militias. A UN peacekeeping operation (MINUSCA), French military forces and an EU military assistance mission are presently deployed in the country.

An International Commission of Inquiry for CAR has found the anti-balaka and ex-Séléka armed groups, as well as their supporters, responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Commission estimated that at least 80 percent of CAR's Muslim population had been driven out of the country and concluded that crimes committed by the anti-balaka constitute a "policy of ethnic cleansing" against CAR's Muslims.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warned on 4 July of a possible re-escalation of violence in the coming months as the security situation in CAR has deteriorated. At least nine people, including three civilians, were killed on 20 June following clashes

between UN peacekeepers, CAR police and an armed group in Bangui. Two people were also killed in a grenade attack on 4 July.

Hostilities between factions of the ex-Séléka have also escalated in the center of the country. Recent fighting resulted in at least 15 people killed in Bambari on 4 July and at least 16 killed on 19 and 20 June near Kaga Bandoro. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which is active in eastern and southern prefectures, has also increased its sporadic attacks since January 2016, including abductions and the killing of civilians.

There are currently more than 420,000 IDPs in CAR and over 476,000 refugees in neighboring countries. According to the UN, approximately 36,000 Muslim civilians have been enclaved in seven besieged communities since 2014. An estimated 2.3 million people – half the population – remain in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

### ANALYSIS

The largely peaceful elections and political transition represent important progress, but the underlying conflict in CAR remains unresolved. Armed groups continue to exercise control over large parts of the country. The fragmentation of the ex-Séléka and anti-balaka is proving challenging for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programs.

Hostilities between anti-balaka militias, ex-Séléka rebels, armed Muslim self-defense groups and other armed groups, as well as between international peacekeepers and these groups, continue to pose a threat to populations. Violence between nomadic pastoralists and settled agriculturalist communities in the transhumance corridor also continues. The LRA has exploited the security vacuum to expand its operations in the remote south and east.

National security forces have previously been implicated in serious violations and abuses of IHRL and IHL and remain unable to repel attacks by various armed groups without the assistance of international forces.

MINUSCA also continues to face critical capacity gaps that impede its ability to uphold its mandate to protect civilians throughout CAR. Allegations of sexual abuse of children by MINUSCA peacekeepers have undermined confidence in the UN. The scaling down of French military forces presents additional operational challenges for MINUSCA.

The new CAR government requires sustained international assistance to uphold its Responsibility to Protect.

### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Following the deadly surge in violence during late 2013, the international community intensified its response to the crisis in CAR, including passing six UNSC resolutions between October 2013 and April 2015 that emphasized the interim government's responsibility to protect the civilian population.

On 27 January 2016 the UNSC passed Resolution 2262, renewing the sanctions regime and arms embargo, and recalling the primary responsibility of CAR's authorities to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. On 7 March the UNSC added Joseph Kony and the LRA to the CAR sanctions list. On 26 April the UNSC renewed MINUSCA's mandate until 31 July 2016 and called for a strategic review of the mission.

On 13 May President Francois Hollande visited Bangui and stated that the French military Operation Sangaris would come to an end by December 2016.

On 4 July the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated there is an urgent need to disarm armed groups in CAR, which "retain the potential to reignite the conflict."

## NECESSARY ACTION

The newly-formed government should prioritize accountability for mass atrocity crimes and other violations and abuses of IHRL and IHL, including through cooperation with the ICC. Urgent financial and logistical resources are also needed to establish the hybrid Special Criminal Court for CAR.

UN and French forces must forcibly disarm groups that continue to threaten populations. MINUSCA must ensure it deploys in adequate numbers to all areas where vulnerable civilians lack sufficient protection, including in remote areas affected by the LRA.

## MORE INFORMATION

- » [MINUSCA Website](#)
- » [UNSC Resolution, S/RES/2281](#), 26 April 2016
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Central African Republic](#)
- » [GCR2P Populations at Risk: Central Africa \(Lord's Resistance Army\)](#)

## ACCOUNTABILITY WATCH

### Chad:

On 30 May the Extraordinary African Chambers in Senegal sentenced former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity, including summary executions, torture, rape, slavery and kidnapping, as well as ordering the killings of 40,000 people during his rule between 1982 and 1990. Welcoming the verdict, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, said it "sends a clear message to those responsible for serious human rights violations around the world that nobody is above the law and that, one day, they may also face justice for their crimes."

### DR Congo:

On 21 June the ICC sentenced Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo to 18 years imprisonment for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He was convicted for failing to prevent and punish troops under his control – the Movement for the Liberation of Congo – from committing atrocities against civilians between 2002 and 2003 in CAR.

### Rwanda:

On 6 July a French court sentenced two former Rwandan mayors to life in prison for crimes committed during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Tito Barahira and Octavien Ngenzi were found guilty of crimes against humanity and genocide for leading the massacre of 2,000 Tutsis who sought refuge in a church in the town of Kabarondo.



**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, USA

Phone: (+1) 212.817.2104  
[www.globalr2p.org](http://www.globalr2p.org)  
Email: [info@globalr2p.org](mailto:info@globalr2p.org)

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**R2P Monitor is a bimonthly publication of  
the Global Centre for the Responsibility  
to Protect (GCR2P).**

### Executive Director

Simon Adams

### Publications Officer

Jaclyn D. Streitfeld-Hall

### Contributors

Evan Cinq-Mars, Ryan X. D'Souza, Sarah Hunter, Casey Karr, Nadira Khudayberdieva

**To subscribe or inquire about the R2P  
Monitor please contact**

[jstreitfeld-hall@globalr2p.org](mailto:jstreitfeld-hall@globalr2p.org)  
Phone: (+1) 212.817.1944