

### GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT



### GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE WHO WE ARE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

The **Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect** is the leading international authority on R2P, and since its inception in 2008 it has expanded and deepened global support for the norm. The Global Centre plays a unique "insider/outsider" role at the United Nations as the only organization carrying out monitoring, research and advocacy on all current and potential mass atrocity situations around the globe, as well as working with governments to translate this research into actionable policy responses.

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### DEAR COLLEAGUES,

During December 2018 the United Nations will celebrate the seventieth anniversary of two of its most significant political achievements – the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But celebrations in New York, Geneva and elsewhere recognizing this historic landmark will occur at a time when the entire post-1945 structure of human rights, humanitarianism and multilateral diplomacy appears to be unravelling.

Success stories exist, but the scale of failure in Syria, South Sudan, Myanmar (Burma) and Yemen has contributed to a perception that the ideas and institutions that are supposed to protect human rights and safeguard humanity are under threat. In 2005 the principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) was developed as a means of mobilizing "timely and decisive action" by the UN Security Council and amongst the broader international community to prevent or halt mass atrocities. We have made remarkable normative progress over the last thirteen years in building support for R2P. Nevertheless, the gap between words and deeds persists.

During 2017 the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect worked with our friends and allies from the UN, international civil society and within governments on practical measures to better protect vulnerable populations. Our role in that work - and in the shared struggle to promote human rights and prevent mass atrocity crimes - is represented in this annual report. Throughout the year we provided unique confidential briefings for members of the UN Security Council and worked with them on twelve resolutions that mentioned R2P and helped protect civilians. We helped ensure that 73 UN member states spoke at the annual interactive dialogue on R2P in the General Assembly, providing talking points and securing a record turn-out. We worked with Australia and Ghana to get R2P onto the formal agenda of the 72<sup>nd</sup> UN General Assembly. We co-convened the tenth annual Ministerial Meeting on R2P and expanded the work of our small office in Geneva with the Human Rights Council. We co-hosted the first major inter-governmental meeting on R2P in the Middle East and expanded the Global Network of R2P Focal Points to high-level representatives from more than fifty states. We also expanded our global audience, with more than a quarter of a million people now following our social media accounts and an unprecedented number of television interviews. Finally, we continued to publish serious and substantive analysis of mass atrocity situations via our weekly *Atrocity Alert* and bimonthly *R2P Monitor*.

While we acknowledge the failures and setbacks of 2017, we remain focussed on how R2P can still mobilize action and provide practical solutions wherever and whenever people face the threat of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

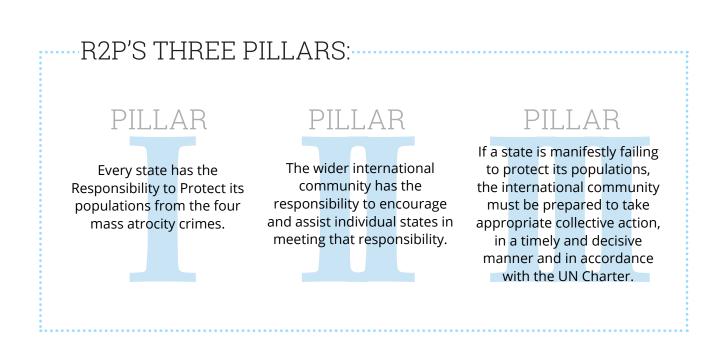
Yours truly,

Dr. Simon Adams

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# RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT?

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







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



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



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



JANUARY

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO MASS ATROCITIES Doha, Qatar | 22-24 January

First meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council to officially discuss R2P and regiona responses to atrocities.

### MARCH

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"THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY FOR ATROCITIES: BRINGING DA'ESH TO JUSTICE"

UN Headquarters, New York | 9 March Together with Yazidi Genocide survivors, the Global Centre called for UN Security Council action to hold ISIL accountable for atrocities committed in Iraq.

### MAY

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL CENTRE'S "PEACEKEEPING, CIVILIAN PROTECTION AND R2P" PROJECT WITH UN PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRES AROUND THE WORLD

### SEPTEMBER

GLOBAL CENTRE CO-HOSTS SIX HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS DURING THE 72<sup>№D</sup> OPENING OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY



#### INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PEACEKEEPING, CIVILIAN PROTECTION AND R2P New York | 5-6 December

Attended by senior military advisors from major troop contributing countries.

### APRIL

7TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF R2P FOCAL POINTS

Doha, Qatar | 24-25 April

First meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points to take place in the Middle East.

### AUGUST

INTENSIVE ADVOCACY IN ADVANCE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON R2P

### OCTOBER

"ATROCITIES AGAINST ROHINGYA: FROM CONDEMNATION TO ACTION"

UN Headquarters, New York 24 October Worked with the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to mobilize international response to atrocities against the Rohingya in Myanmar.

# R2P AND THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

During 2017 the Global Centre continued to work with the UN Security Council regarding R2P and the need to address atrocity situations.

UN Photo/Kim Haughton



C A R | D R · C O N G O L A K E · C H A D · B A S I N M A L I | S O M A L I A SUDAN/SOUTH·SUDAN Serving as a credible advisor to UN Security Council (UNSC) members, the Global Centre urges the Council to uphold its commitment to R2P and the protection of civilians through bilateral meetings with Mission experts and Ambassadors, confidential briefings and workshops, letters and statements on necessary action, and other advocacy efforts.

Mobilizing the eight members of the UNSC that are also members of the broader **Group of Friends of R2P** was a key goal of the Global Centre's UNSC engagement throughout 2017. Between January and December 2017 the UNSC passed 12 resolutions referencing R2P, including on the situations in the Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan/South Sudan, Somalia, and Mali.



### MEMBERS OF THE UNSC ARE PART OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF R2P

The Global Centre acts as the Secretariat for the Group of Friends, and coordinated two Permanent Representative-level meetings with the UNSC Group of Friends members during 2017. The two meetings, held over lunch or dinner and hosted by the Permanent Missions of the United Kingdom and Italy, provided Ambassadors with an important opportunity to frankly discuss mass atrocity situations, hear alternative perspectives from civil society and senior UN representatives, and explore possible UNSC action.

Additionally, ahead of all key thematic open debates hosted by the UNSC during 2017, the Global Centre sent targeted policy recommendations to Council members and all members of the Group of Friends. These recommendations highlighted the relationship between peace and security issues discussed in the Council and the prevention of atrocity crimes. During the 31 October UNSC open debate on Children and Armed Conflict, over 20 states echoed the Global Centre's recommendations, including that all governments sign and implement the Safe Schools Declaration and support the reintegration of child soldiers through demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programs.

Since 2015 the Global Centre has acted as the lead organization working on UNSC veto restraint and the Code of Conduct in atrocity situations. During 2017 the Global Centre assisted in the formation of

a task force of non-governmental organizations to work in close cooperation with the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group's parallel task force in order to advance and promote the implementation of the ACT Code of Conduct regarding UNSC action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. Joint-initiatives of task force members included events and workshops on the implementation of the Code of Conduct, social media campaigns aimed at educating member states and the wider public on the Code and its implementation, and letters to UNSC members encouraging them to uphold the Code ahead of UNSC votes on atrocity situations. The ACT Code of Conduct now has 114 signatories, including two Permanent Members of the UNSC.

#### **R2P** REFERENCES IN UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS

	Resolutions		
	Date and Document #	Situation or Issue	Text
67.	8 December 2017 S/RES/2389	Great Lakes region	"Recalling that the Governments of the region bear the primary responsibility to protect civilians within their territories and subject to their jurisitiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,"
66.	15 November 2017 S/RES/2387	Central African Republic	"Recalling that the CAR Authorities have the primary responsibility to protect all populations in the CAR in particular from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity
65.	14 November 2017 S/RES/2385	Somalia	"Recalling that the Federal Government of Somalia has the primary responsibility to protect its population, and recognizing the FGS" responsibility, working with the Federal Member States to build the capacity of its own national security forces, as a matter of priority"
64.	5 September 2017 S/RES/2374	Mali	"Recalling the mandate of MINUSMA as outlined in resolution 254, (2017), reiterating its strong appropria for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali, and for MINUSMA to assist the Malian authorities and the Malian people in their efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to their country, bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Malian authorities to protect the population"
63.	30 August 2017 S/RES/2372	Somalia	"Recognizing that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has the primary responsibility to protect its citizens and build its own national security forces, noting that these forces should act in full compliance with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law"
62.	29 June 2017 S/RES/2364	Mali	"Reiterating its strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali, and or MINUSMA to assist the Malian authorities and the Malian people in their efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to their country, bearing in mind the primary reponsibility of the Malian authorities to protect the population" "" "Reiterates that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility to
61.	29 June 2017 S/RES/2363	Sudan and South Sudan	protect civilians in Mali" "Emphasizing that the Government of Sudan bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,"
60.	21 June 2017 S/RES/2360	Democratic Republic of the Congo	"Stressing the primary responsibility of the Government of the DRC for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its populations with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,"
59.	31 March 2017 S/RES/2349	Peace and Security in Africa (Lake Chad Basin)	"Reiterates the primary responsibility of Member States to protect civilian populations on their territories, in accordance with their obligations under international law,"
58.	31 March 2017 S/RES/2348	Democratic Republic of the Congo	"Recalling that the Government of the DRC bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes"
57-	8 February 2017 S/RES/2340	Sudan and South Sudan	"Recalling that the Government of Sudan bears the primary responsibility for protecting all populations within its territory, with respect for the rule of law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law"
56.	27 January 2017 S/RES/2339	Central African Republic	"Recalling that the CAR bears the primary responsibility to protect all populations within its territory from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,"

List of UNSC Resolutions referencing R2P passed in 2017.

### MOBILIZING ACTION AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL





655,000+ ROHINGYA FLED TO BANGLADESH BETWEEN 25 AUG. AND 31 DEC.



6,700 ROHINGYA KILLED FROM 25 AUG. TO 24 SEPT.

On 25 August 2017 Myanmar's security forces initiated so-called "clearance operations" in Rakhine State after an armed group calling itself the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army carried out coordinated attacks on multiple police posts and an army base. Since then security forces have committed widespread killings of civilians, mass displacement, rape, burning of villages, as well as placing land mines along the border with Bangladesh to prevent Rohingya civilians from returning.

The Global Centre has been at the forefront of international advocacy efforts demanding UNSC action in response to what has been called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing." On 8 September the Global Centre organized an informal briefing for UNSC members during which human rights experts who had recently returned from the field provided the latest information and analysis on the situation in Rakhine State. Multiple Council members emphasized to the Global Centre that the briefing helped focus the UNSC's attention on the crisis, and provided information not available through other sources. The briefing was followed by a high-level UN event on 23 October, hosted by the Global Centre in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, on how the international community can shift from condemnation to action regarding the Rohingya crisis.

Despite ten weeks of atrocities, it was only after targeted bilateral advocacy that the UNSC finally adopted a 6 November Presidential Statement on the situation which emphasized **"the primary responsibility of the Government of Myanmar to protect its population including through respect for the rule of law and the respect, promotion and protection of human rights."** The Global Centre is continuing to conduct advocacy with the UNSC and relevant governments regarding the atrocities committed against the Rohingya.





/,UUU+ YAZIDI MEN & BOYS EXECUTED BY ISIL 11

L,DJD YAZIDI WOMEN & GIRLS REMAIN ENSLAVED OR UNACCOUNTED FOR

Since July 2016 the Global Centre has advocated for an international and independent investigation into atrocities committed by the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq. Throughout 2017 Global Centre staff engaged in concerted advocacy efforts highlighting action the international community should take to hold ISIL accountable. In March the Global Centre co-hosted a high-level event, "The Fight Against Impunity for Atrocities: Bringing Da'esh to Justice," at UN Headquarters, in partnership with the Permanent Missions of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, Germany and Iraq. We also coordinated our actions with Yazda, a Yazidi survivors' organization, and barrister Amal Clooney, who represents a number of Yazidi Genocide survivors.

In response to the efforts of the Global Centre and others, the UNSC passed Resolution 2397 on 21 September, establishing an Investigative Team to support domestic efforts to hold ISIL accountable by collecting evidence regarding potential war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Iraq. This action by the UNSC, with the support of the Iraqi government, marked a crucial first step towards ensuring accountability for atrocities in Iraq. The Global Centre looks forward to continuing to work on achieving justice for all victims of atrocities in Iraq.



Global Centre staff with Yazidi Genocide survivor and UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for Human Trafficking, Nadia Murad Basee Taha, and her legal counsel, Barrister Amal Clooney, after the event entitled "The Fight Against Impunity for Atrocities: Bringing Da'esh to Justice," 9 March 2017.

### YEMEN



#### 22 MILLION+ IN NEED OF AID



Reuters/Khaled Abdullah

Throughout 2017 the Global Centre continued to advocate for UNSC action on Yemen, one of the most neglected crises on the Council's agenda. In anticipation of the possible bombardment of the port of Hodeida, through which much of the humanitarian aid for 22 million people is imported, the Global Centre joined a network of NGOs in pressuring the Saudi Arabia/United Arab Emiratesled military coalition in Yemen not to attack the port. During May the Global Centre and 22 other NGOs conducted intense advocacy with Council members demanding the UNSC act to end the man-made humanitarian crisis in Yemen. A number of our recommendations were incorporated into the 15 June Presidential Statement adopted by the UNSC. Although few steps have been taken by the parties to the conflict or the UNSC to ensure that the Statement is complied with, the Global Centre has continued to urge UNSC members to take action to uphold their responsibility to protect the Yemeni people.



### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In advance of the 2017 mandate renewal of the UN peacekeeping mission in CAR (MINUSCA) the Global Centre encouraged the UNSC to increase the mission's troop ceiling and prioritize the protection of civilians. Along with 23 other NGOs, the Global Centre sent a letter to the Secretary-General encouraging him to convey this message to the Council. In response, the Secretary-General invited Executive Director Simon Adams and four other civil society representatives to discuss the mandate renewal and his upcoming visit to CAR. As a result of this advocacy campaign, the UNSC later increased the mission's troop ceiling despite budget cuts and emphasized the importance of the protection of civilians.



Reuters/Siegfried Modola

### R2P AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Throughout 2017 the Global Centre engaged with the UN membership to further operationalize R2P.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres delivers opening remarks at the UN General Assembly's Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2017. UN Photo/Kim Haughton

Engagement with the entire UN membership is crucial for achieving broad support for the implementation of R2P. The Global Centre utilizes the Group of Friends of R2P as a key partner in this effort, and has mobilized its members to mainstream R2P at the UN. During 2017 the Global Centre convened three meetings of the 51 members if the Group of Friends in New York.

One of the best opportunities for the Global Centre to promote R2P with the entire UN membership is the General Assembly's informal interactive dialogue (IID) on the Secretary-General's annual report on R2P. The 2017 report focused on "Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Accountability for Prevention." Ahead of the IID the Global Centre coordinated an advocacy campaign aimed at bolstering participation during the dialogue, circulated a summary of the report, and communicated suggested talking points to be highlighted in national statements.



The 2017 IID featured a record level of participation, with 73 member states, 2 UN observer missions and the European Union delivering statements on behalf of 98 states. For the fourth year in a row the Group of Friends delivered a joint statement, which highlighted that accountability for mass atrocity crimes is among the most effective ways of preventing their recurrence.

This was also the first opportunity for the Group of Friends to express their commitment to R2P in the presence of the new UN Secretary-General.

In addition to the IID, the opening of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly in September also provided the Global Centre with an important opportunity to highlight developments regarding R2P and discuss strategies for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. This year the Global Centre co-hosted six high-level events, focusing on issues ranging from supporting the work of the Syrian Civil Defense (often referred to as the White Helmets), to protecting cultural heritage and supporting tools for more effective UNSC action against atrocities.

All of these events featured high level speakers from governments, the UN system and civil society, and elicited thought-provoking discussion on the challenges and opportunities regarding the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. Key speakers at events co-hosted by the Global Centre included the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, Uruguay's Secretary of State, Enrique Loedel, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Marcel Amon Tanoh, Former Prime Minister of Ireland and member of The Elders. Mary Robinson, and Secretary-General of Amnesty International, Salil Shetty.



Alongside the Prosecutor of the ICC, Fatou Bensouda, the Global Centre's Executive Director, Simon Adams, delivers opening remarks at "Protecting Cultural Heritage from Terrorism and Mass Atrocities: Links and Common Responsibilities" on the sidelines of the Opening of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, 21 September 2017.



'Last Men in Aleppo: A discussion with the leaders of the White Helmets," event on the sidelines of the Opening of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of France and Germany to the UN, the Global Centre and Physicians for Human Rights, 19 September 2017. Photo: © German Mission to UN



High-Level event on "Preventing and Ending Mass Atrocities: Tools for More Effective UN Security Council Action" on the sidelines of the Opening of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, 22 September 2017.

# MOBILIZING ACTION

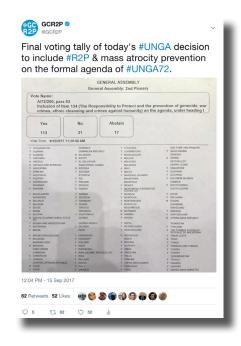
### R2P on the Formal Agenda of the UN General Assembly's 72<sup>nd</sup> session

On 15 September the UN General Assembly voted by 113 to 21 to include a supplementary item entitled "The Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity" on the Formal Agenda for its 72<sup>nd</sup> session. This marks the first time since 2009 that R2P and mass atrocity prevention will be included as a formal item of discussion for the General Assembly, and is an important step towards further institutionalizing R2P within the UN system. The Global Centre has consistently advocated for the inclusion of R2P within the General Assembly's Formal Agenda since 2010 and worked closely with the Permanent Missions of Australia and Ghana to secure this result.

#### 10th Annual Ministerial Roundtable on the Responsibility to Protect

Since its inception the Global Centre has co-hosted an annual Ministerial Meeting on R2P during the opening of the General Assembly session. The R2P Ministerial Meeting brings together a crossregional group of states to discuss the way forward for R2P, and provides an opportunity for member states to discuss and debate issues pertaining to the prevention of mass atrocity crimes and the protection of populations at risk.

On 21 September the Global Centre and the governments of the Netherlands and Italy cohosted the 10th Annual Ministerial Roundtable on R2P. The purpose of this year's meeting was to facilitate discussion amongst previous, current and incoming elected UNSC members on their efforts to prevent and respond to mass atrocity crimes during their tenure on the Council.





The 10th annual Ministerial Roundtable on R2P on the sidelines of the Opening of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, 21 September 2017.

### R2P AND THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Throughout 2017 the Global Centre continued to expand its work in Geneva, aiming to strengthen the link between R2P and the work of the Human Rights Council, with particular focus on early warning and prevention of mass atrocities.

Fabrice Coffrini/AFP/Getty Images



SYRIA|DR·CONGO SOUTH·SUDAN DEMOCRATIC·PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC·OF·KOREA The Global Centre believes that the Human Rights Council (HRC) can and should play a more prominent role in implementing R2P through its procedures and mechanisms. This year the Global Centre worked with the members of the Group of Friends of R2P in Geneva – the membership of which mirrors that of the New York-based group - to implement a program of work for 2017, which included increased engagement with human rights mechanisms. Through Ambassador-level briefings by high-level officials - including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, and President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer - and numerous joint-statements delivered in the HRC, the Global Centre and Group of Friends continued to bridge the gap between the UN in New York and Geneva regarding R2P and atrocity prevention.



The Group of Friends and the Global Centre advocated for the inclusion of strong R2P language in country-specific and thematic resolutions adopted during the three HRC sessions of 2017. Partly as a result of these efforts, the HRC passed 7 resolutions referencing R2P, including on the situations in the DRC, Syria, and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Ahead of each session the Global Centre also circulated letters to member states highlighting the most important issues to be discussed during the session and recommending specific action the HRC can and should take.

The Global Centre also mobilized member states regarding the Universal Periodic Review process (UPR), which conducts reviews of the human rights records of all UN member states. Prior to each session, the Global Centre encouraged governments to include specific policy recommendations to states under review.

#### **R2P REFERENCES IN UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS**

	Resolutions		
	Date and Document	Situation or Issue	Text
30.	29 September 2017 A/HRC/RES/36/30	Democratic Republic of the Congo	"Recalls that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo bears the primary responsibility to protect all civilians within its territory, and urges it to exercise maximum restraint and proportionate lawful use of force in its efforts to restore order, in accordance with international law"
29.	29 September 2017 A/HRC/RES/36/20	Syria	"Demanding that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population," "Demands that all parties take all appropriate stops to protect civilians, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that, in this regard, the primary reponsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities;"
28.	23 June 2017 A/HRC/RES/35/33	Democratic Republic of the Congo	"Recalls that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo bears the primary responsibility to protect all civilians within its territory, and urges it to exercise maximum restraint and proportionate lawful use of force in its efforts to restore order, in accordance with international law"
27.	23 June 2017 A/HRC/RES/35/26	Syria	"Demanding that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population," ""Demands that all parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that, in this regard, the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities,"
26.	20 March 2017 A/HRC/RES/34/26	Syria	"Demanding that the Syrian authorities meet their "Demanding that the Syrian population," "Demands that all parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that, in this regard, the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities,"
25.	20 March 2017 A/HRC/RES/34/25	South Sudan	"Recalling that the Government of South Sudan has the primary responsibility to protect all populations in the country from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,"
24.	20 March 2017 A/HRC/RES/34/24	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	" <i>Recalling</i> the responsibility of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to protect its population from crimes against humanity"

List of UN HRC Resolutions referencing R2P passed in 2017.

### MOBILIZING ACTION AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### PHILIPPINES





Raffy Lerma / Philippines Daily Inquirer

Ahead of the review of the Philippines during the 27th session of the UPR in May, the Global Centre urged governments to include recommendations regarding ongoing extrajudicial killings, which may amount to crimes against humanity under international law. Specifically, the Global Centre encouraged states to recommend the establishment of an independent inquiry into all enforced disappearances and unlawful killings that have resulted from the so-called "war on drugs." Over 45 member states utilized the provided talking points and policy recommendations in their formal interactions with the Philippines during the review session.

### 👬 🖞 80+ MASS GRAVES

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Ahead of the 35th HRC session in June, the Global Centre conducted targeted advocacy regarding the deteriorating human rights situation in the DRC. This initiative included a contribution by the Global Centre to a joint letter signed by 271 organizations, calling for the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the situation in the Kasaï region of the DRC. During the session the HRC passed a resolution reaffirming the responsibility of all states to protect their populations, and establishing a "team of experts" to investigate mass graves in the DRC and combat impunity for atrocities.



UNHCR/Pumla Rulashe

### YEMEN

AP Photo



In advance of the 36th session of the HRC the Global Centre undertook a targeted campaign calling for the establishment of an independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate mass atrocities and other violations of international law in Yemen. The Global Centre's messaging emphasized that the Yemeni government's National Commission – previously established to investigate human rights violations in the country – was demonstrably unable to deliver credible and impartial reporting on potential war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Global Centre supported the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, which led the initiative within the HRC, in drafting and circulating a letter to all members of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, urging them to encourage their governments to support the creation of an investigative mechanism. Additionally, the Global Centre conducted bilateral meetings with HRC members encouraging them to support the initiative and also joined 67 civil society organizations in signing a letter to the



22 MILLION+ IN NEED OF AID

members of the HRC emphasizing the need for an independent international inquiry in Yemen. The Global Centre carried out a social media campaign highlighting the perpetration of atrocities in Yemen and demanding the international community take action. On 29 September the HRC established

a team of eminent experts to monitor and report on the human rights situation and to support national, regional and international efforts to promote accountability for human rights violations and abuses in Yemen.



### RESEARCH AND MONITORING

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



The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a global norm, unanimously adopted by heads of state and government at the 2005 UN World Summit, almed at preventing and halting Genocide, War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes Against Humanity. R2P stipulates that: Responsibility to Protect lens to the following situations of concern: Every State has the Responsibility to Protect its populations from the four mass atrocity crimes (Pillar I).

The situation is reaching a critical threshold and the risk of mass atrocity crimes occurring in the immediate future. » The wider international community sibility to en 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 a accordance with the UN Charter (Piller III).

yanmar (B /ria {p. 4}

Iraq {p. 6} Yemen {p. 7} DR Congo {p. 9}

South Sudar CAR {p. 12}

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 atracity crimes within the foreseeable future if effective action is not taken.

B2P Monitor applies the

ARENT CRISIS Mass atrocity crimes are occurring and urgent action is needed.

> 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). Sudan {p. 14} Burundi {p. 15} Philippines {p. 17} Afghanistan {p. 18} Somalia {p. 19} Suggests necessary action to prevent or halt the commission of mass atracity crimes.

B2P Monitor:

against humanity.

Provides background on populations at risk of mass atracity crimes, with particular emphasis on key events and actors and their connection to the threat, or commission, of genocide, war crimes, athnic cleansing and crimes results.

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 stuation to positive influences that would assist in preventing further crimes.

» Tracks the international response

globalr2p.org

**ISSUE 36** 

See GCR2P Populations at Risk webpage for monthly updates. Access constraints have prohibited updated monitoring of DPRK and Eritre

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

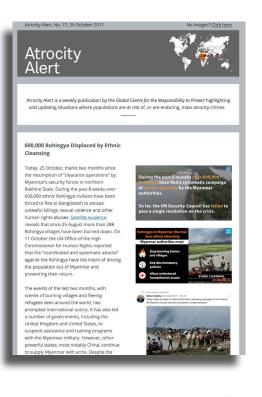
During 2017 the Global Centre released Issues 31-36 of the R2P Monitor, providing policy recommendations and analyzing the situations in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, DRC, Myanmar (Burma), South Sudan, Sudan, CAR, Somalia, Kenya, Afghanistan, Burundi, and the Philippines.

Not everyone is a fan. During November the R2P Monitor was criticized by U Thaung Tun, National Secretary Advisor of Myanmar, on national television while discussing how the international community was highlighting atrocities in Rakhine State.

The Global Centre's weekly publication, **Atrocity Alert**, was introduced in 2016 and has quickly become a respected and timely source of information regarding recent developments in situations where populations are at risk of, or are enduring, mass atrocity crimes. Each weekly e-mail provides a concise and accessible bulletin on evolving crises. Several governments have indicated that Atrocity Alert is regularly re-circulated to relevant Country Desks and Embassies responsible for featured countries.

Although most issues of Atrocity Alert focus on between two and four topics, the Global Centre occasionally utilizes the publication as an opportunity to feature more in depth updates. During January, for example, Atrocity Alert Issue 39 focused on the rapidly deteriorating situation in The Gambia, following former President Yahya Jammeh's refusal to step down despite his loss in presidential elections. Following its publication, the Global Centre's Publications Director, Jaclyn Streitfeld-Hall, was requested by the Stanley Foundation to publish a longer article explaining the risk of atrocities in The Gambia and the subsequent international response. The article has since been reprinted and circulated internationally by the UN Association of Belgium and others.

**R2P in Focus**, a monthly publication designed to feature recent events and political developments concerning R2P, is the Global Centre's third regular publication. Highlighting recent and upcoming events, advocacy work, publications, and other R2P-relevant news from the Global Centre and its partners, R2P in Focus offers informative updates on thematic issues relating to R2P.



### Conflict Averted Without Anyone Firing a Shot

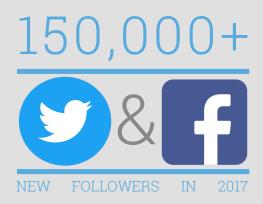
Subregional, Multilateral Action Helps Prevent Atrocities in the Gambia By Jaclyn Streitfeld-Hall



### ENGAGING AND EXPANDING THE AUDIENCE

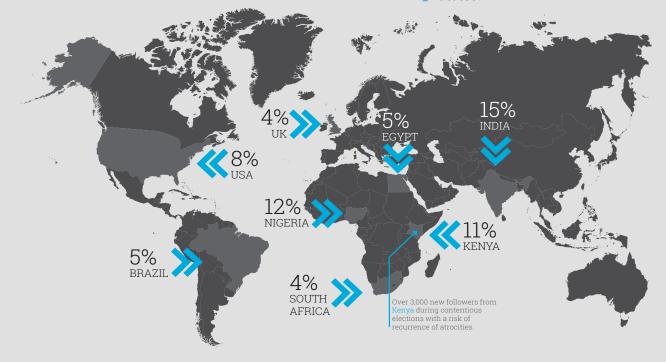
During 2017 the Global Centre undertook a series of targeted social media campaigns aimed at enhancing the visibility of our "Populations at Risk" analysis and recommendations. The campaigns focused on increasing the Global Centre's social media audience and ensuring that our message was seen around the world by practitioners, academics and other individuals interested in mass atrocity prevention, human rights and the UN.

The campaigns were a resounding success, boosting our following on Facebook from 74,000 to over 200,000 and on Twitter from 20,000 to over 50,000, a 116 percent overall increase as compared to 2016.



### WHERE ARE OUR TWITTER FOLLOWERS?

During 2017 our Twitter audience more than doubled to over 50,000 people. Here's where the new followers are located.



Between 25 August and the end of the year over 655,000 Rohingya fled crimes against humanity perpetrated by Myanmar's security forces. In response the Global Centre launched two social media campaigns to galvanize action and encourage governments to impose an arms embargo and targeted sanctions on Myanmar's generals. **The Global Centre's messaging and visuals were viewed and retweeted over 260,000 times.** After the campaigns were launched, the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom cut ties with Myanmar's military, with the US also imposing sanctions on some generals. The Global Centre has continued to advocate for the UNSC to adopt a resolution sanctioning the Myanmar authorities.



#### DEMOCRACY IN MYANMAR CANNOT BE BUILT ON THE BONES OF THE ROHINGYA. - DR. SIMON ADAMS THE GUARDIAN

28 OCTOBER 2017

To mark 1,000 days since the escalation of the conflict, during December the Global Centre took part in the #YemenCantWait social media campaign. The conflict in Yemen has created the world's largest humanitarian catastrophe with 22 million of Yemen's 26 million people in need of emergency assistance. Despite this gruesome reality, the UNSC has not passed a substantive resolution on Yemen since April 2015. The campaign called on the international community, including governments supplying weapons to the Saudi Arabia and UAE-led coalition, to halt arms flows and to urgently assist Yemen's suffering population. **Over a period of one week, the Global Centre's advocacy tools were viewed and retweeted over 180,000 times.** Despite the Global Centre's efforts and those of our partner organizations, the UNSC has yet to adequately address Yemen's crisis.

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#### GCR2P



#### GCR2P @GCR2P

The crisis in **#Yemen** is the world's largest humanitarian catastrophe. Over 10,000 people have been killed and 21 million are in need of assistance. The **#UNSC** must act to halt the atrocities. **#YemenCantWait** any longer.

### #R2P | yemencantwait.org



### GLOBAL CENTRE ONLINE AND IN THE MEDIA





During the last year the Global Centre consistently engaged with the media through regularly issued statements on emerging crises and interviews with journalists from outlets such as Al Jazeera (English and Arabic), BBC, Channel 4 News, China Global Television Network (CGTN), Foreign Policy, The Guardian, German Public Broadcaster ARD, IRIN, The Korea Times, The New York Times and SBS News

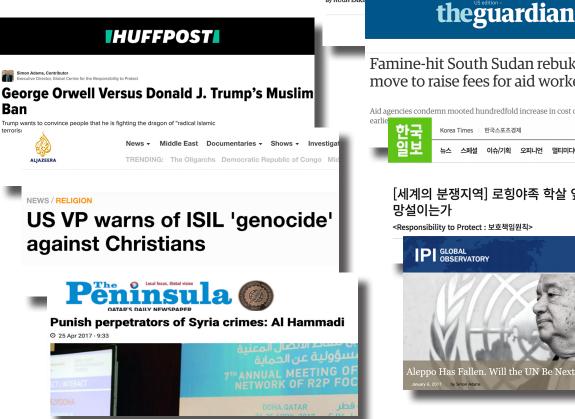
Global Centre staff wrote numerous op-eds on R2P-related issues in various international newspapers, as well as other outlets, including the International Peace Institute's Global Observatory and The Huffington Post.

The New Hork Times

By HUGH EAK

Opinion | OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

#### Why Unesco Needs the United States



Famine-hit South Sudan rebuked over move to raise fees for aid workers

Aid agencies condemn mooted hundredfold increase in cost of permits despite Korea Times 한국스포츠경제 뉴스 스페셜 이슈/기획 오피니언 멀티미디어 지역 📢

### [세계의 분쟁지역] 로힝야족 학살 앞에 'R2P'를 왜

<Responsibility to Protect : 보호책임원칙>





DOHA 24-25 A

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATE OF QATAR

### Building a community of commitment to prevent mass atrocity crimes.

Panel discussion on the situation in Syria at the 7th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, Doha, Qatar, 25 April 2017

#### **Global Network of R2P Focal Points**

Throughout 2017 the Global Centre continued its work as the secretariat of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, which is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year of existence. The network is comprised of 59 governments, in addition to the European Union, that have demonstrated a commitment to upholding R2P by appointing a senior level official responsible for the promotion of atrocity prevention within their national system. Every year R2P Focal Points gather at an annual meeting hosted by a member of the Network.

In an effort to highlight mass atrocity situations within the Middle East, during April the Global Centre, in partnership with the government of Qatar, organized the 7th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points in Doha. Informed by expert presentations, R2P Focal Points discussed the crisis in Syria, the challenges and opportunities for accountability for mass atrocity crimes within the Middle East and elsewhere, the global rise in hate speech and xenophobia in relation to the refugee crisis, as well as the collective impact of the Global Network upon efforts to prevent and halt genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

TO PHU

الاجتماع السابئ لنقاط الاتصال المعنية بمبدأ المسؤولية عن الحماية ANNILAL MEETURA

7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF R2P FOCAL POINTS

الدوحة – قطر ۲۰۱۷ – ۲۵ أبريل ۲۰۱۷

Ahead of the annual meeting, the Global Centre and the government of Qatar also co-hosted a regional workshop regarding the Gulf Cooperation Council's response to mass atrocities. This workshop examined current challenges and opportunities to uphold R2P within the Middle East and the Gulf region, and constructively engaged many regional actors on the subject of mass atrocity crimes for the first time.

R2P Focal Points are also encouraged to advance mass atrocity prevention within their regions and incorporate a "mass atrocity prevention lens" in their day-to-day work with the support of the Global Centre. On 10 May the government of Slovenia hosted the Third European R2P Focal Points Meeting. The Global Centre's Executive Director, Simon Adams, and Deputy Executive Director, Savita Pawnday, led a session on European action to implement R2P.

On 22 September the Global Centre hosted an annual working luncheon with members of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points who were in New York for the opening session of the UN General Assembly. Attendees were briefed by the Team Leader of the UN Peace & Security Review, Tamrat Samuel, on planned UN reforms and by the UN Special Adviser for R2P, Ivan Šimonović.

Throughout 2017 the Global Centre developed the first draft of the Manual for R2P Focal Points. The Manual, which will be released in 2018, provides guidelines on how to fulfil the role of an R2P Focal Point. In addition to general recommendations, the Manual describes how R2P relates to multiple subject-areas (human rights, development, justice and accountability, etc.) and what actions R2P Focal Points can take to support their government's efforts regarding mass atrocity prevention and response.

#### **Other Networks**

The Global Centre recognizes the importance of participating in a variety of networks and communities working to prevent and respond to mass atrocities. Doing so helps magnify the impact of our efforts and share best practices.

The Global Centre is a member of the steering group of Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC), which acts an informal platform for states and civil society organizations to collaborate on atrocity prevention. The Global Centre has



Global Centre Deputy Executive Director, Savita Pawnday, leads a discussion at the annual R2P Focal Points Luncheon, 22 September 2017.

contributed to the development of GAAMAC's core documents and its virtual collaboration platform. The Global Centre also continues to engage with the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

Additionally, on 13-14 April 2017, the Global Centre co-hosted an event at The Hague Institute for Global Justice on "Global Parliamentarians: The role of the legislative branch in building national mechanisms for atrocity prevention," along with The Stanley Foundation, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, The Hague Institute for Global Justice, and the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies. During the event the Global Centre presented research on the role that parliamentarians around the world have played in upholding R2P, and subsequently published a Policy Brief entitled "Advocate, Educate, Legislate: The Role of Parliamentarians in the Prevention of Mass Atrocities."



### IMPLEMENTING AND INNOVATING

Through its major programs the Global Centre highlights the linkages between R2P and various other human rights and humanitarian issues.

### Peacekeeping

During 2017 the Global Centre launched a project regarding mass atrocity prevention and predeployment training for peacekeepers (military, police and civilian). Peacekeepers are increasingly asked to deploy to operating environments where the risk factors for mass atrocity crimes are present and/or crimes are already occurring. Recent peacekeeping efforts to halt mass atrocity crimes in South Sudan, DRC, CAR and elsewhere highlight the need for peacekeeping personnel to be trained not just in the protection of civilians, but also in identifying risk factors and warning signs for atrocities.

The Global Centre is preparing to hold eight regional "Trainings of Trainers" in different parts of the world over the course of 2018. The trainings will be targeted towards experienced personnel currently teaching UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran

courses on Protection of Civilians, Women Peace and Security, and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

The mass atrocity prevention lens adds distinct operational and tactical value to peacekeeping and civilian protection without adding to the immense responsibilities already undertaken by missions. Improving the way that peacekeepers assess threats to populations in their operating environment can help prevent potential mass atrocities.

Through this initiative, which is funded by the government of Canada, the Global Centre will help build the capacity of peacekeeping training centres and military colleges, enabling them to address the protection challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century peacekeeping. In preparation for these trainings, between June and December the Global Centre consulted with peacekeeping and civilian protection experts at

the UN and around the world, and participated in international conferences with leaders in the field of peace operations.

In July the Global Centre organized a workshop entitled "Peacekeeping, Civilian Protection and the Responsibility to Protect" in order to identify means for improving training for peacekeepers. The workshop brought together a group of 30 experts from the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, NGOs and academia, as well as former UN Force Commanders. The workshop resulted in an outcome document on the value-add of R2P to peacekeeping and the Protection of Civilians.

In December the Global Centre held a curriculum consultation with senior officials from various international training centres in preparation for delivering training courses during 2018.

### **Protection of Cultural Heritage**

From Mali and Libya, to Iraq and Syria, the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage sites has produced an outcry within the international community and has led to efforts to strengthen the protection of cultural property. During 2016 the ICC conducted its first trial focused solely on the destruction of cultural sites as a war crime, sentencing Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi to nine years in prison for destroying the UNESCO world heritage sites in Timbuktu. Subsequently, on 24 March 2017 the UNSC adopted the first resolution to address the issue of the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict.

However, what has previously been lacking in discussions among policymakers on the protection of cultural heritage is an explicit recognition of the link between the destruction of cultural heritage and a wider and systematic effort by state or non-state actors to destroy a group and its history.

During 2017 the Global Centre, working with the J. Paul Getty Trust and others, sought to raise greater awareness of these issues. Global Centre Research Analyst, Juliette Paauwe, guiding peacekeeping workshop participants through model courses.



On 21 September at the UN General Assembly the government of Italy, the European Union, UNESCO, UNODC and the Global Centre co-hosted an event on the protection of cultural heritage from mass atrocities and terrorism during armed conflict. The event featured statements by senior government officials, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Angelino Alfano and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, as well as the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, and the Prosecutor of the ICC, Fatou Bensouda. The event was moderated by the Executive Director of the Global Centre, Simon Adams, and garnered widespread attention on social media and within the press, including in a 31 October New York Times article.

The Global Centre is continuing to work with partners to ensure that governments implement effective policies to protect cultural heritage while upholding their responsibility to prevent genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

### 2018: THE YEAR AHEAD

The remarkable author and Holocaust survivor, Primo Levi, wrote movingly about his experience of Auschwitz during the final year of World War Two. Less well known is the fact that before his transportation, Levi had briefly been an anti-fascist partisan in the mountains of Italy. In 1982 Levi drew on these encounters in a novel with a title lifted from a rabbinical saying in the Talmud. His book, a story of resistance, was entitled, "If Not Now, When?"

In these dark times - with 65 million people displaced by war, persecution and atrocities – Levi's title is a reminder to all of us that the work of those who created the Genocide Convention and crafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights continues. It is also a fitting refutation of the politics of inaction and what Pope Francis has described as "the globalization of indifference."

During 2018 the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect will continue working on a major multiyear project with peacekeeping training centres around the world, ensuring that the links between the protection of civilians and mass atrocity prevention are incorporated into pre-deployment training. We will continue to work with the UN's Investigative Mechanism and with Yazidi genocide survivors in Iraq to ensure that they achieve justice. We will work with UNESCO and the ICC to ensure that groups like ISIL are not able to wipe away humanity's shared cultural heritage as they attempt to exterminate people that pose a threat to their extremist world view. We will co-host with Finland the eighth annual meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points. Our small Geneva office will continue to do advocacy at the Human Rights Council and support the Universal Periodic Review process. Our New York office will engage with the first formal discussion on the issue of R2P in the UN General Assembly since 2009. Together we will consistently advocate with the UN Security Council on behalf of vulnerable populations, and work tirelessly with all UN member states to move mass atrocity prevention from rhetoric to reality.

We will do all of these things because we know that "never again" was not intended as a silent prayer. It was a demand from survivors of the Holocaust that we, the subsequent generations, actively oppose the politics of hate and help halt mass atrocities wherever or whenever they are threatened. Now is the time to uphold our responsibility to protect. **Because if not now, when?** 

### MEET THE TEAM



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