

*For immediate release*

53<sup>rd</sup>

through him to the Security Council, by bringing to their attention potential situations that could result in genocide; (c) make recommendations on actions to prevent or halt genocide; (d) liaise with the United Nations system on activities for the prevention of genocide and work to enhance the United Nations capacity to analyse and manage information relating to genocide or related crimes.

However, I do not investigate, conduct human rights monitoring, or legally qualify situations either ongoing or from the past crimes against respectively. Instead, I make assessments as to whether there is risk of genocide occurring in a particular situation, with the objective of preventing or halting those crimes in case they are suspected to be already occurring.

The [United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech](#)

The increasing number of migrants and asylum seekers dying in transit, including at sea, constitutes risk factors for atrocity crimes – genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Racist hate speech and discrimination against refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers are common practice, prevalent in transit territories and once they arrive at their destination.

In the Mediterranean, the violations and abuses documented, especially in Libya against refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers, as affirmed by the Human Rights Council UN Fact-Finding Mission, may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Countries of transit or arrival of migrants need to end the arbitrary arrests, confinements in inhumane conditions, and indefinite detention of migrants and refugees solely based on their migration status.

They must focus on protecting human rights rather than continuing policies that result in the containment of people in situations of abuse.

Safe and legal routes need to be opened, including by offering a meaningful number of places for resettlement and alternative pathways to international protection.

Greater efforts are urgently needed, to strengthen search and rescue capacity in the Mediterranean Sea, to support the work of human rights and humanitarian NGOs, and to adopt a common and human rights-based arrangement for the timely disembarkation of all people rescued at sea, ensuring that every refugee, migrant and asylum seeker rescued in the central Mediterranean or elsewhere is disembarked in a place of safety.

Emerging and protracted conflicts with devastating impact to human life continue to be evidenced in the now more than 10 years old war in Syria, in Yemen, Ukraine, Mozambique and Burkina Faso, and many more. There have been serious violations along identity lines in Afghanistan, Mali, Central African Republic and South Sudan, including continued reports of armed mobilisations in Upper Nile.

The United Nations Security Council, in Resolutions 827/1993 and 955/1994, invoked the Genocide Convention to set up the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.



I welcomed the

in Roraima State and the Guarani Kaiowa in Mato Grosso Do Sul State. The killings, of their leaders and human rights and environmental defenders, as well as rapes of women and girls, arbitrary arrests, and detentions are well documented. The racial profiling and targeting, by the police of people of African descent must be addressed. I welcome the cooperation of the Government in facilitating my recent visit and in following up on my recommendations.

In Indonesia, the human rights situation in Papua remains deeply concerning. This includes alleged harassment, arbitrary arrests, and detention of Papuans and non-recognition of the rights of indigenous Papuans that has enabled the alleged appropriation of indigenous lands. Humanitarian assessment and assistance as well as a genuine, inclusive dialogue to address underlying grievances is encouraged.

In many of the situations, like the DRC and the Yanomami, the Guarani Kaiowa and Papua people, risk factors cannot be mitigated without addressing the role of extractive industries and exploitation of natural resources.

We know all too well the devastating impact and legacies across generations that genocides have on victims, targeted communities, and societies. The imperative to prevent genocide is hence legal and moral.

This includes acting early at community, national, regional, and international level on the warning signs and indicators of risk, including violence and discrimination based on identity, hate speech and systematic violations of fundamental rights against civilian populations.

The failure to promptly respond to those warning signs allows genocide to happen.

Prevention of genocide and related crimes is closely linked to ensuring accountability. Failing to hold perpetrators accountable and allowing impunity to take hold increases the risk of future genocides. Likewise, the denial of past genocides hampers truth seeking and reconciliation. I will continue to work closely with this Council to foster both prevention and accountability.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Human Rights Council and its mechanisms continue to make important contributions in preventing genocide. I encourage this Council to continue these efforts and with a particular focus on the situations I have highlighted today, including through the Universal Periodic Review.

I will continue to raise alarm and support national, regional, and international efforts for atrocity prevention. Genocide is a process, and becomes it takes time to prepare, Genocide is a process that can be prevented.

Thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*

**For more information and media requests, please contact:**

[osapg@un.org](mailto:osapg@un.org)

Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

- <http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/> -