For immediate release

47
th
 Session of the Human Rights Council,
Interactive dialogue with the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
(as per HRC/RES/43/29, June 2020)

 Geneva, 28 June 2021

Remarks by Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to engage through this interactive dialogue with the
Human Rights Council and exchange on issues and situations that are of major concern to my
mandate. Previous such engagements have enabled action on highlighted situations, and it is my
hope that today’s discussion will do the same.

Part of my mandate as Special Adviser is to provide early warning and to collect existing
information on massive and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian
law, including against ethnic, religious and national minorities, which if not prevented or halted,
might lead to genocide. Atrocity crimes – war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide - affect
entire societies through generations. Prevention is so much less costly – in all areas, and
particularly in saving human lives.

The inaction

accountability for the gross violations and crimes committed against the people in Syria, and
prompt collective actions by international community to protect the population.
Ladies and gentlemen,
Since the military takeover in Myanmar, I have issued multiple warnings of a heightened risk of
atrocity crimes in this country. The widespread and increasingly systematic attacks against
peaceful protesters, resulting in killings of hundreds of people, thousands arbitrarily arrested -
many subjected to enforced disappearance – the targeted killings of civilians as a result of clashes
between the Myanmar Armed Forces and ethnic armed organizations, may constitute crimes
against humanity. The human rights, humanitarian and security situation are deteriorating
quickly, with indiscriminate attacks against civilian population, threatening the lives of thousands
of people in Myanmar.
I am deeply concerned about the impact that the current situation may have on the minority
groups, including the Rohingya population. The office of the Special Adviser has warned, since
the violence against the Rohingyas in 2017, that despite the numerous warnings of the risk of
atrocity crimes, no early actions were taken to stop the killings, torture, rape, forcible
displacement and horrible suffering of Rohingya people. Today, in 2021, the escalation of
violence in Myanmar continues against civilians, putting the Rohingya and other minority groups
at imminent risks. Root causes need to be addressed, including guaranteeing definite citizenship
and other rights to the Rohingya community in Myanmar, ensuring accountability for past crimes
in order to deter more atrocity crimes from being committed. Stronger support is also needed to
the international mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court and the Human Rights
Council- Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar in fighting impunity in the country.
In Yemen, I’m growing ŞਐiĖ瀀͑�Şਐœ匞͐̚ tᗐꅝ.酓匀tᔵ㇠㄀ᦡ卐}Şਃ夅�tᗐ倀絒ਓ卽͑�ā帊逗怀gȁ逃͙ꅓ厡崀琀特⸀

I welcome the 30
th special session of the Human Rights Council on the grave human rights
situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem on 27 May 2021. While
I am glad that the parties to the conflict managed to agree on a ceasefire at the end of May, the

peace champions that are building mutual trust, respect and understanding at the grassroots
level. They constitute a positive example to be replicated by political leaders in building a future
of peace and prosperity.
In the region of the Americas, I am particular concerned on the situation of indigenous peoples.
In Brazil, Ecuador and other countries, I call on governments to protect communities at risk and