

Partners for Global Change

Toolkit Genocide Prevention Is it Possible?

**July ~ August
2011**

Nationwide Teleconference
Saturday, July 9, 2011
1:00 p.m. Eastern
Dial: 888-299-4099
Verbal Passcode: VJ56577



**Citizens for
Global Solutions**

Call Tips

- Participants should dial in 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- When dialing in, the host and participants should hold the line for an operator.
- Participants will verbally give their pass code to the operator.
- Operators will take the city, state, and number of people in the room and place them into the Main Conference.
- Hit “*1” during Q&A sessions to queue up if you have a question. The Operator will allow questions in the order they are received.

Call Details

Moderator:

- Don Kraus, CEO, Citizens for Global Solutions

Speakers:

- Mary Stata, Prevention and Protection Coordinator, Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict, Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers)
- Will Ferrogiaro, Senior Fellow, Fund for Peace

Call Agenda:

- Introduction & opening remarks from Don Kraus
- Mary Stata speaks on genocide prevention legislation
- Question and Answer session with Mary Stata
- Discussion of South Sudan’s Independence Day
- Question and Answer session with Will Ferrogiaro
- Citizens for Global Solutions Partners Project
- Question & Answer Session Regarding the Partners Project

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Speaker Biographies

Mary Stata



Mary Stata works with the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict program in support of the Prevention and Protection Working Group. This coalition of human rights, humanitarian, religious, and peace organizations is dedicated to improving U.S. capacities to help prevent deadly conflict and protect civilians threatened by it.

Prior to joining FCNL, Mary worked in India and Washington, DC for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) – a relief, development, and peacebuilding organization that operates in over 60 countries around the world. While in India, she taught English and worked at a women's center. Most recently, Mary's advocacy work in Washington focused on conflicts in central Africa, HIV/AIDS policy, and foreign assistance reform. She has traveled to 27 countries. Mary received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Calvin College. She lives in Washington, DC.

Will Ferroggiaro

Will Ferroggiaro is a Washington, D.C.-based writer and consultant, and a Senior Fellow of The Fund for Peace, a non-governmental research institute. During 2010, he led a project with Fund for Peace President Pauline H. Baker that provided analysis and recommendations for preventive action for the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.



Previously, he served as a consultant to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, producing a 'diplomatic lessons learned' study on U.S. policy toward Rwanda 1990-1994 and participating in conflict monitoring roundtables with U.S. and UN officials. He has produced briefings or given presentations on U.S. policy on humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect for the Center for a New American Security, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, and before university forums.

Citizens for Global Solutions Partners Project

July - August 2011:

Engage Your Community in Support of Genocide Prevention

Most of our activists remember that on December 23, 2010 the Senate unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 71. The Resolution lays out specific steps the United States can take to improve our ability to identify and prevent genocide and other mass atrocities. Our next goal is to turn that Resolution into law.

Citizens for Global Solutions, working with other nonprofit organizations and Congressional offices, has helped draft a Genocide Prevention Bill that builds on S. Con. Res. 71. We are hopeful that the Genocide Prevention Bill will be introduced in the Senate this summer with a Republican and Democratic original sponsor. Which means now is the time to show our grassroots support for preventing genocide around the world.

Why Genocide Prevention and Why Now?

Genocide prevention is not a fleeting foreign policy agenda item or an unattainable goal. It remains a focus for many American grassroots advocates and legislators because of the real and constant threat of genocide in our world. In our lifetime, millions of people have died in genocides and mass atrocities in places such as Sudan, Bosnia, Chechnya, Burma, Guatemala, and Rwanda. Over and over the international community and the leaders of the United States have cried "Never Again," but have failed to take concrete action to ensure that genocide will be prevented in the future. The Genocide Prevention Bill takes one of many steps towards that goal.

Our January 8th Partners call fell one day before South Sudan voted to secede from the North and form a new nation. This referendum was mandated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which was signed in 2005 and marked the ending of a brutal 22-year civil war between the Sudanese Government and rebel groups in South Sudan that claimed more than two million lives and displaced four million people. Secretary of State Clinton described the situation in Sudan as a "ticking time bomb" because many feared that Sudan would be the place of the world's next mass killing or genocide. However, the election happened with limited violence thanks in large part to the increased attention from the international community to the situation, and to grassroots advocates like our Partners.

This Partners call on July 9th, 2011, marks the creation of a new state, the Republic of Southern Sudan. While initially Sudanese President and war criminal Omar al-Bashir – who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity that he committed in Darfur – signaled that it would accept the vote for Southern independence, violence has escalated in the region as the North and South prepare to formally separate. In the wake of increased violence, specifically in Abyei, and in anticipation of the July 9th official separation, the UN

Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1990 on June 27th, which establishes the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The United States voted in favor of this Resolution and the Obama Administration has called on the Government of Sudan to prevent further violence.

The passage of Resolution 1990 exemplifies that the UN can and does work to help established and emerging nation states mitigate violence in periods of escalating crisis. The efficacy of the UN, however, remains dependent upon member states. For example, when China and Russia threaten to veto important UN Security Council resolutions, such as a resolution addressing violence against civilians in Syria, the UN Security Council's ability to act quickly and help save lives is hindered. The U.S. alongside other members of the UN Security Council have a responsibility to protect, and a part of that responsibility is working to prevent genocide and mass atrocities in cases where nation states are failing to take action in their own domestic conflicts. For more information about the work Citizens for Global Solutions is doing on the Responsibility Not to Veto please visit: http://globalsolutions.org/files/public/documents/RN2V_White_Paper_CGS.pdf

In recent years, advocacy efforts for genocide prevention have become more visible in the United States and have led to the passage of legislation that specifically targets the prevention of genocide. In 2008, the Genocide Prevention Task Force (GPTF) at the United States Institute of Peace published a report that included thirty-four recommendations that would make the United States government better able to prevent genocide. S. Con. Res. 71 incorporates some of these resolutions. The current draft Genocide Prevention Bill builds on S. Con. Res. 71, with the goal of turning the 2008 GPTF recommendations into enforceable law.

The Obama Administration has expressed clear support for genocide prevention. As we move towards the introduction of the Genocide Prevention Bill in Senate at a time where there is escalating violence in Sudan and threats of impending genocide, now is the time to tell your friends, family and Senators that you care about genocide prevention and support the Genocide Prevention Bill.

Spread the Word on Genocide Prevention – What to Say? Talking to Friends and Family about Genocide Prevention

Talking to your friends about global issues can be one of the most difficult ways to make a difference. It can also be one of the most effective. Talking about domestic and foreign policy and taking location actions, such as signing petitions, hosting events, and calling your Senators and House Representatives about specific policy items make a real difference and can bring about positive, lasting policy change.

For example, the New York state marriage-equality bill garnered widespread grassroots support that was pivotal in increasing its chances of passing through Senate. Local activist organizing mobilized thousands of people to take action in New York State and beyond. Over 4,000 postcards and letters in support of marriage equality were presented to New York Republican State Senator James Alesi's office in early June. Alesi made a formal statement after receiving these postcards that he would vote in favor of the bill, becoming the first Republican Senator to publicly declare his support. New

York Democrat Senator Joseph Addabbo, who voted against the marriage equality bill in 2009, clearly indicated the power of the constituent voice, saying, “As of Friday [June 10th], 6,015 people have weighed in on this issue and...4,839 people wanted me to vote yes...so in the end, that is my vote.” The New York marriage-equality law passed through the New York Senate and was signed into law on June 24th, 2011, no doubt in great part because of the grassroots action taken by New York constituents.

Local action influences federal government, as it does state governments. For example, Citizens for Global Solutions gathered 29,000 signatures, calling on President Obama to continue to work with the United Nations and protect Libyan civilians. The passage of the New START Treaty through the Senate in December 2010 would not have occurred without the advocacy efforts of organizations and community groups, which mobilized thousands of Americans to contact their Senators in support of the New START Treaty. In the end over 70 Senators voted in favor of the Treaty and it was a true bipartisan effort. That would not have been possible without the work of our Partners.

Sometimes our friends and family don't want to hear about political realities or the salient foreign policy issues that are affecting the United States and the world. But, hearing about these things from a trusted source can really resonate in ways other sources can't and can lead to more individuals taking action and making an impact.

After deciding to talk to friends and family, being comfortable with what to say is a critical part of broaching painful, and a lot of the time very abstract, subjects, such as genocide. Our hope is that you feel comfortable starting conversations about genocide prevention with the intent of having friends and family take action, such as sending an email to their Senator in support of genocide prevention on the Citizens for Global Solutions website, or calling their Senators' offices asking them to support and co-sponsor a Genocide Prevention Bill.

Here are some talking points to make starting the conversation easier:

1) The Opener:

Start with a recent event the person you are speaking to is aware of, such as the formation of the Republic of South Sudan or the release of the Burmese democratic leader, Auung San Suu Kyi, from house arrest in Burma in November 2010. In both these cases there are histories of genocide and current reasons to be hopeful. For example, you can say:

- Isn't it exciting that the people of Southern Sudan are able to claim their independence from the north and form their own nation? This wouldn't have happened without UN peacekeeping intervention and peace talks. But, even now violence has escalated and there are fears of renewed genocide. Luckily, the UN has taken action to try to stem the violence but the continued threat of genocide is real, even when we know that we have the resources to stop it.
- I was so happy to learn that Auung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest last fall. But the ruling military junta in Burma is still in power and many Burmese people continue to live in fear for their safety, health, and basic livelihood. I know that if the junta were to escalate

violence and recklessly kill Burmese civilians the UN would take action and countries like the U.S. would also respond. But would their response be enough?

2) The Key Message:

After you have the person engaged, make sure you focus on your key message:

- Genocide prevention is in the national interest of the U.S., and one of the most effective ways the U.S. can work to prevent genocide is by taking action domestically, by passing legislation, and by ensuring that such legislation recognizes the need for international engagement and cooperation.
- The 112th Congress should prioritize genocide prevention by introducing the Genocide Prevention Bill, bipartisan legislation that would strengthen
 - U.S. tools to detect potential atrocities,
 - rebuild the diplomatic corps,
 - improve the methods of delivering development assistance,
 - use security assistance to protect civilians, and
 - improve international cooperation.

3) Connect to the broader theme of cooperation:

In an interconnected world, fragile nations that are overwhelmed by poverty or wracked by violence or genocide can destabilize entire regions and become havens for international criminals and terrorists. Global cooperation to prevent such humanitarian and security crises is in everyone's interest, it works, and it's the right thing to do. **Genocide prevention is a joint effort and an example of global cooperation and responsibility.**

4) The Call to Action:

You've made your pitch and now you want to let the person know that there are ways to take actions that have an impact. Be sure to say:

- If you want to learn more about genocide prevention you should visit Citizens for Global Solutions' website, <http://globalsolutions.org/gp>. There, you can take specific action in support of the Genocide Prevention Bill.
- You can also encourage your Senators to either remain/or become a champion on human rights and genocide prevention issues by becoming a co-sponsor of a bill. Give them the Capitol Hill Switchboard number:

Capitol Hill Switchboard: 212-224-3121

Let your friends and family know that they can:

1. Call this number
2. Ask for their Senator

3. Leave a quick message stating they: a) are a constituent, b) care about genocide prevention and think it is important, and c) want their Senator to become a co-sponsor of the Genocide Prevention Bill.

Who to talk to and Where to talk to them

Your conversations might take anywhere from less than five minutes to over fifteen minutes. If someone you are speaking with makes a comment you were not anticipating, such as “why are we bothering with genocide prevention, if people want to kill each other, they will,” the best way to respond is to ask them what compels them to make such a statement, and to work from that person’s context of understanding instead of your own.

A conversation about genocide prevention is best suited to where you feel comfortable, and where you think your friends and family members would be most comfortable. These locations could be at the dining table, at a summer barbeque, or in the common space of a local community or religious center.

Follow up!

Your job isn't done once you start the conversation—follow-up is the best way to make a lasting impact. After you speak to your family and friends, send them an email or give them a call, let them know that you appreciated being able to talk to them about something you care about, and hope they will take further action.

In an email you can include links to Citizens for Global Solutions’ web page on genocide prevention and encourage them to take action online (www.globalsolutions.org/gp). For those who are particularly interested, ask them to call their Senators and state their support for the Genocide Prevention Bill.

Send your family and friends a Postcard

For those Partners especially interested in genocide prevention and dedicated to this month’s Partners Project, we have **special Citizens for Global Solutions genocide prevention postcards** you can send to friends and family asking them to take action.

- 1) After the Partner’s Call, make a list of 10 friends and family members you may not see regularly, but know care about, or are relatively interested in, U.S. foreign policy and humanitarian intervention.
- 2) Email us at outreach@globalsolutions.org, and let us know your mailing address as well as the number of postcards you would like to send to friends and family.
- 3) We will be sure to promptly mail you the postcards that include information on how to take action as well as a space for you to write a personal greeting.

4) Upon receiving the postcards, be sure to fill in the personal greeting and mail the postcards to friends and family. Try to remember to give them a call a week or so after sending the postcards to follow-up and ask about whether they received a postcard and what they thought. This will give you another opportunity to talk about genocide prevention and urge your friends and family to take action!

Call your Senators and ask them to Co-Sponsor Genocide Prevention Legislation

The first action you can take after the Partner's Call is to call your Senators, asking them to co-sponsor a Genocide Prevention Bill. Find your Senators' contact information here:

Capitol Hill Switchboard: 212.224.3121

Please call your Senators with one clear message:

"The United States must commit resources and energy to preventing genocide and mass atrocities in our world. I am asking you to support bipartisan genocide prevention legislation and become a co-sponsor of a bill."

* If you are from Maine, be sure to call Senator Collins, and thank her for her past interest in human rights issues, sponsorship of S. Con. Res. 71, and continued commitment to genocide prevention legislation.

Please email me if you have any questions getting started on the project or have any feedback to report! ~ Anu Joshi, ajoshi@globalsolutions.org

Genocide Prevention

genocide – the planned, organized and intentional killing of certain civilian groups

genocide prevention – the movement to prevent such target killing from ever happening again

Background Information

The Holocaust, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Darfur, to unfortunately only name a few – the past century has been marked by mass atrocities committed against civilian groups.

The death toll over the last century from genocide has been excruciatingly high. During the Holocaust, approximately 6 million Jews and others were exterminated; in Cambodia, between 1.7 and 2 million were people killed over four years in the 1970s. In Bosnia in the 1990's up to 200,000 people were murdered.

In 1994 the U.S. government, and the international community, failed to act to protect the people of Rwanda resulting in 800,000+ Rwandans murdered in 100 days. After the grave scale of the atrocities committed in Rwanda was finally understood, along with the knowledge that it could have been prevented with swift and decisive action from the international community and the United States, the U.S. Government pledged "Never Again."

Between 2003 and 2005 300,000 Darfurians were murdered in what President George W. Bush declared to be a "genocide" in 2004. To this day, the United Nations estimates that 4.7 billion people are displaced due to the crisis in Darfur. Once again the international community failed to fulfill the pledge of "Never Again."

In 2008 former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen issued a report entitled "**Preventing Genocide: A Blueprint for U.S. Policymakers,**" that lays out a framework with step-by-step recommendations on how Congress, the Administration and *the average citizen* can contribute to the prevention of future genocides. The report brings together a comprehensive analysis of the failures of the U.S. Government in the past in order to aid prevention of future genocides around the world.

Citizens for Global Solutions, in cooperation with other organizations, has been working to draft *genocide prevention legislation* based on the recommendations of the Albright-Cohen report.

This bill will help the U.S. create a plan to prevent genocides, and includes:

- coordinating government action on genocide prevention,
- improving early warning and conflict prevention capabilities and
- expanding our peacekeeping capacity.

Key Message Points – Genocide Prevention

We need to make the promise of “Never Again” a reality.

Too often in the past, genocides have happened because governments failed to heed warning signs and act in time to prevent genocides before they start. This has to change.

History doesn't have to repeat itself; we *know how* to end genocide and mass atrocities:

We need Tools

- Improved Early Warning Systems

We need Structures

- More information, communication and cooperation between government agencies

We need Resources

- Flexible funding for a timely civilian response

“Preventing genocide is an achievable goal. When a state engages in atrocity it forfeits its sovereignty.”

These words were spoken by Vice President Joseph Biden in a recent speech. He added that “We’ve made the Responsibility to Protect—the simple but novel concept that states must shield their populations from atrocity—a core element of our national security strategy.”

Congress needs to act on genocide prevention, which has drawn broad bipartisan support.

In late 2010, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed S. Con. Res. 71, a non-binding anti-genocide resolution. This is a great first step, but now we need both the House and Senate to pass a comprehensive genocide prevention bill. It's time for the House and Senate to act on their unanimous resolution (in S. Con Res 71) to establish a “whole of government approach” to genocide prevention.

Write you Senators today and ask them to co-sponsor the Senate Legislation to prevent genocide.

For more information visit the
Citizens for Global Solutions website
www.globalsolutions.org/gp

South Sudan Independence

Comprehensive Peace Agreement – Vote for Independence

On January 8th, 2011 South Sudan voted to secede from the North and form a new nation in a referendum that was mandated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005. The CPA marked the end of a brutal 22-year civil war between the Sudanese Government and rebel groups in South Sudan that claimed more than two million lives and displaced four million people. This last January the predominantly Christian south Sudan voted to formally secede from Muslim north Sudan, with independence day scheduled for 6 months from the vote, July 9th, 2011. Although the referendum happened with limited violence or backlash thanks in large part to the increased attention from the international community to the election the coming secession marks new dangers to civilians with renewed violence and hostility against the South.

Abyei – Epicenter of Renewed Violence

Abyei, a city on the border of north and south Sudan claimed by both sides, has become the epicenter of this violence. When northern Sudanese troops moved into Abyei this past May, conflict erupted, displacing the majority of the 110,000 civilians who had called Abyei home, and leaving their city, businesses, and homes looted and burned. As a result of their displacement, former Abyei residents are left homeless, food insecure, and without access to safe, clean water. In addition to civilians' losses, UN workers and humanitarian organizations have been forced out of the area due to insecurity.

United Nations Security Council Response – Resolution 1990

In response to the conflict in Abyei, on June 27, 2011, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1990 with the support of the United States. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated that the Resolution “approves the mandate requested by Sudanese leaders to facilitate the deployment of up to 4200 Ethiopian peacekeepers to the Abyei region of Sudan.” The approval of this force is a critical step in implementing the June 20th agreement signed by the parties, whereby an Ethiopian brigade will deploy as the United Nations Interim Security Force to enforce a withdrawal of forces and maintenance of security throughout the Abyei region.

What does a new nation mean for the United Nations?

The UN does not have the power to recognize a State or government, but can admit peaceful nations into their organization. The United Nations states that membership, “is open to all peace-loving States that accept the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able to carry out these obligations.” It goes on to say, “States are admitted to membership in the United Nations by decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.”