



Genocide Warning Signs

1948 UN Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Any of the following acts undertaken with the *intent to destroy*, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Motives for Genocide

Ideological -

Retributive -

Genocide Risk Factors

1. Exclusionary Ideology

Warning Signs: Classification and Symbolization of the Other

Prevention of Classification and Symbolization

- Get identifiers removed from official documents
- Protest marking symbols to target a group
- Use common languages to promote common identities
- Oppose racist or divisive politicians
- Protest use of racist words – especially in a cultural context

Warning Sign: Dehumanization

Prevention of Dehumanization

- Protest dehumanizing words
- Deny visas and assets to perpetrators
- Prosecute hate crimes and incitement to violence
- Jam or shut down media outlets
- Provide positive programs in media and social settings
- Enlist religious and political leaders to speak out
- Organize inter-ethnic, interfaith, and inter-racial groups

Warning Sign: Polarization vs. Interdependency

Prevention of Polarization

- Protest laws or policies that segregate or marginalize groups
- Physically protect moderate leaders

2. Extent of Political Upheaval

3. Prior Genocides

4. International Context: Economic and Political Interdependence

- Low level of interdependence
- Low economic development and societal cleavages
- Narrow ethnic base of ruling elite
- Denial of previous genocide triples the chance of reoccurrence

Signals of Intent

Potential perpetrators armed

Elites use hate propaganda to attack ethnic or political opponents

Disproportionate government repression

Authorities ignore isolated killings and abuse

Plans are made for a "Final Solution"

Prevention of Organization

- Treat genocidal groups as the organized crime groups they are
- Deny visas and assets of leaders
- Impose arms embargoes
- Declare a genocide alert
- Leadership by world leaders
- Prepare humanitarian relief
- Mobilize regional intervention force

Political will is not something you find if you look in the right cupboard. It has to be laboriously crafted, case by case, using the resources of both insiders and outsiders, bottom up from civil society and through peer group pressure from those in positions of influence nationally and internationally. – Gareth Evans, Co-Chair of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and former Foreign Minister of Australia

If we believe that all humans are human, then how are we going to prove it? It can only be proven through our actions. Through the dollars we are prepared to expend to improve conditions in the Third World, through the time and energy we devote to solving devastating problems, like AIDS, through the lives of our soldiers, which we are prepared to sacrifice for the sake of humanity. – Roméo Dallaire, Lieutenant General (Retired)