What Does It Mean to Prevent Genocide?

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Four Points for Genocide Prevention:

1. Genocide is a process, not an event.
2. Genocide can be prevented.
3. Intervention is not prevention.
4. Genocide derives primarily from within a society and therefore must be prevented primarily from within a society.

Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, 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.
The Eight Stages of Genocide

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1) Classification
2) Symbolization
3) Dehumanization
4) Organization
5) Polarization
6) Preparation
7) Extermination
8) Denial
Toolbox for Prevention

• Early warning (by NGOs, the media, the UN, civil society)
• Institution- or capacity-building
• Reducing economic inequalities
• Security sector reform
• Strengthening legal protection of disadvantaged groups
• Fostering inclusive government
• Transitional justice
• Weapons control
What does it mean to prevent genocide?

It means (1) government decision makers (2) with identified points of accountability (3) committed to long-term solutions (4) using existing tools (5) viewing every situation through a “genocide prevention lens” (6) focusing their efforts on their own societies.