Burma is the Country at Highest Risk of Genocide: All States are Obligated to Act to Prevent Genocide under the Genocide Convention

Genocide strikes at the heart of our international legal order which is why the Genocide Convention requires states to take action both “to prevent” and “to punish” genocide - in that order.1

The International Court of Justice has made clear that all states must take “all possible measures” to prevent genocide once a credible risk of genocide is shown to exist anywhere in the world.2

Burma is now the number one state in the world at risk of genocide. This means that all states have existing affirmative obligations to act against genocide in Burma, including through the Security Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011 Genocide Risk Indices</th>
<th>Burma</th>
<th>Sudan</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Somalia</th>
<th>Zimbabwe</th>
<th>DRC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harff: Countries at Risk of Genocide &amp; Politicide (2011),3 Normalized Score</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Under Threat (2011),4 Normalized Score</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>1.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Failed States Index (2011),5 Normalized Score</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries at Risk of Genocide, Politicide, or Mass Atrocities (2011),6 Normalized Score</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Score</strong> (Sum of Normalized Scores)</td>
<td><strong>5.82</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.81</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.52</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.50</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.20</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"If we are serious about preventing or stopping genocide in the future, we must not be held back by legalistic arguments about whether a particular atrocity meets the definition of genocide or not. By the time we are certain, it may often be too late to act."7

Former UNSG Kofi Annan
April 7, 2004

"Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States of America."8

President Barack Obama
August 4, 2011

www.globaljusticecenter.net


4 People Under Threat 2011. The overall measure of People Under Threat is based on a basket of ten indicators. These include indicators of democracy or good governance from the World Bank, conflict indicators from the Center for Systemic Peace and other leading global conflict research institutes, indicators of group division or elite fictionalization from the Fund for Peace and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the State Failure Task Force data on prior genocides and politicides, and the country credit risk classification published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (as a proxy for trade openness). Available at http://www.minorityrights.org/10744/peoples-under-threat/peoples-under-threat-2011.html.


6 Countries at Risk of Genocide, Politicide, or Mass Atrocities 2011. The countries are ranked based on the current mass killing stage, such as current massacres, victims, and killers. Those countries at Stage 7 are currently at the highest mass killing stage. This includes active genocides, recurring genocidal massacres, or ongoing politicides which are erupting. The others are at various stages of dormancy (4 through 6,) but could erupt again at anytime. Available at: http://www.genocidewatch.org/alerts/countriesatrisk2011.html.
