



BUREAU OF CONFLICT AND STABILIZATION OPERATIONS

Anticipating, Preventing, and Responding to Conflict

Atrocity Prevention

What is the role of diplomacy in atrocities prevention?

Preventing large-scale, deliberate attacks against civilians requires a global effort and a wide range of options. Timely and effective use of diplomacy and foreign assistance is central to atrocities prevention efforts.

U.S. commitment to atrocities prevention is embodied in the whole-of-government Atrocities Prevention Board (APB), which is led by the White House. The APB is tasked with identifying and addressing threats of mass atrocities against civilians. The Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) serves as the Department Secretariat for the APB, and in this role conducts atrocity risk analysis, develops diplomatic and program responses, and measures the impact of atrocity prevention initiatives. The State Department addresses atrocity prevention using five key tools: countering dangerous speech, early warning and response, local dispute resolution, support to peace processes, and transitional justice.



Photo by Savushkin



Photo by AMISOM Public Information

Where is the State Department working on atrocity prevention?

The State Department is actively working on atrocity prevention in a number of countries around the world. Here are some recent examples of our work.

Burundi

CSO funded programs to teach youth from diverse ethnicities and political affiliations how to resolve conflicts through mediation. In 67 percent of mediated cases, **local dispute resolution** resulted in peaceful outcomes. News sources were also monitored on the ground to identify and **counter dangerous speech** meant to incite ethnic violence.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Within the State Department, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) provided a grant for an early warning and response system in North Kivu that allowed community observers to communicate with the Congolese Army to track violent rebel groups. This **early warning and response** system resulted in 47 reports and 33 responses by authorities within its first three months.



Photo by Photo by Catalina Sanchez

Guatemala

DRL funded a program to exhume and identify 97 victims from mass graves. This **transitional justice** program resulted in the unprecedented arrest of 14 military officers for murder and torture.

Nigeria

Leading up to Nigeria's 2015 elections, 100 local leaders and "key influencers" in conflict-prone Niger Delta communities were trained through a CSO-funded program to identify and **mediate disputes** that could lead to violence.



Photo by John S. Quaterman