

ALERT



SOUTH SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN—THE WORLD'S YOUNGEST COUNTRY—plunged into a civil war just two years after it gained independence from Sudan in 2011. The conflict has displaced more than four million people and led to the deaths of nearly 400,000 civilians. **Government forces have committed horrific crimes against humanity against civilians—including killings, acts of sexual violence, torture, and abductions.** They often target victims on the basis of their ethnicity or perceived political affiliation. Meanwhile, dozens of local militias have also committed atrocity crimes against civilians.

Even though the war formally ended in early 2020, the government continues to attack anyone who opposes its policies as well as other civilians, including activists and journalists. The government is encouraging local conflict and deliberately starving and displacing civilians from specific ethnic groups. It is also preventing international humanitarian aid from reaching those who desperately need it. Seven million people in South Sudan do not have access to enough food on a daily basis. International attention to the situation is fading, even though South Sudan remains at high risk for new mass atrocities in the future.

The United Nations has repeatedly concluded that parties on all sides, and particularly government forces, have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. Yet only a few low-level perpetrators have faced any form of justice. **Without meaningful accountability, perpetrators will not be deterred from committing ethnically-motivated violence and mass atrocities in the future.**

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FOR THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE

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The Museum's **Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide** is deeply concerned about the potential for future mass atrocities, the continued targeting of minority ethnic groups, and the lack of justice and accountability for past crimes. Governments around the world should:

- Press the South Sudanese government and African Union to fulfill their promises to establish a hybrid court to investigate crimes and hold perpetrators accountable;
- Remove and prevent perpetrators from holding positions of power;
- Maintain arms embargoes to prevent weapons from flowing to all sides in the conflict.



A South Sudanese refugee woman stands for a portrait while waiting to be taken to a refugee camp near Aba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, after fleeing fighting in South Sudan, December 2017. *Jason Patinkin/US Holocaust Memorial Museum*

Previous page: A SPLA-In Opposition soldier walks with her weapon through the elephant grass in rebel-held Magwi County of South Sudan's Eastern Equatoria State, August 2017. *Jason Patinkin/US Holocaust Memorial Museum*

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS. We can all play a role in helping prevent genocide. Action takes many forms, and every action counts. You can:

Stay informed. Follow the news; visit our website to learn more about places at risk of genocide and other violence, ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries

Join the Museum community. Sign up to receive email updates and follow us on Twitter @CPG_USHMM and Facebook @CenterForThePreventionOfGenocide

Engage with your community. Spread the word about what you've learned with friends, family, and colleagues

Support education and relief efforts. Find out more about humanitarian organizations, what they are doing in response to mass atrocities, and how you can help

Contact the media. Tell television, radio, newspaper, and online journalists that you want better coverage of places at risk of genocide and other violence; visit their websites, tag them on social media, call them, and send emails that provide feedback on their coverage

Contact your elected representatives. Alert them to the need to provide humanitarian assistance, protect civilians, stop the violence, and promote solutions to crises

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