

April 9, 2014

Dear Senators Coons, Flake and Menendez:

As participants of the Prevention and Protection Working Group*, we welcome the introduction of S.Res.413 recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, and affirming that it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to help prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities.

We join the United States and international community in remembering the hundreds of thousands of civilians who were killed in Rwanda twenty years ago as well as all those who have been affected by mass atrocities and genocide before and since.

This year also marks two decades since the beginning of the ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that has taken roughly 5.4 million lives. We remain deeply concerned about ongoing atrocities in places like Syria, Central African Republic, Honduras, South Sudan, Sudan, Burma and North Korea, and urge policy makers to use this anniversary as an opportunity to renew and refine commitments to protecting civilians and ending violent conflict.

We welcome the recognition by the United States government that atrocity prevention is a national foreign policy priority. In order to advance this goal and uphold the promise of “never again,” we have supported expanding capacities in early warning, conflict-sensitive development assistance, multilateral cooperation, and diplomacy to better mitigate atrocity threats before they escalate into crises. We particularly support your call for the President to confer with Congress on an ongoing basis regarding the priorities and objectives of the Atrocities Prevention Board, and calling for enhanced U.S. and international efforts to end atrocities in Syria, South Sudan, Sudan and Central African Republic.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

The Enough Project
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Humanity United
Invisible Children
The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative
United to End Genocide

**The Prevention and Protection Working Group is a coalition of human rights, religious, humanitarian, anti-genocide, peace and other organizations dedicated to improving U.S. government policies and civilian capacities to prevent violent conflict, mass atrocities and protect civilians threatened by such crises.*