

Considering Genocide in Sudan

Handout #1

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Adopted by Resolution 260 (III) A of the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1948

Preamble:

The Contracting Parties,

Having considered the declaration made by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 96 (I) dated 11 December 1946 that genocide is a crime under international law, contrary to the spirit and aims of the United Nations and condemned by the civilized world,

Recognizing that at all periods of history genocide has inflicted great losses on humanity, and

Being convinced that, in order to liberate mankind from such odious scourge, international co-operation is required,

Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

Article I

The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and punish.

Article II

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, such as:

(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.

Article III

The following acts shall be punishable: (a) Genocide; (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide; (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide; (d) Attempt to commit genocide; (e) Complicity in genocide.

Article IV

Persons committing genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Article III shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals.

The complete text of the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* (Articles 1-19) is available in [Confronting Genocide: Never Again?](#) (Student Text pages 42-44).

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Teaching with the News

Handout #2: Defining Genocide

The United Nations drew up the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide so that genocide could be treated as a crime subject to punishment. Not everyone agrees on which situations should be labeled “genocide,” however. Underline key words in the convention text, and look closely at Article II and the five parts of the definition.

1. How many people of a group must be killed in order for an event to be called a genocide? Or is it not a question of numbers?

2. What is “serious mental harm”? Give examples.

3. Define “conditions of life calculated to bring about...physical destruction.”

4. What kinds of problems arise from the language and wording of Article II of the Convention?

5. According to the Convention, who can be punished for committing genocide? How does the Convention propose to determine appropriate punishment?

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Teaching with the News

Handout #3: Online News Sources

[UN news on Sudan](http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88>

[PBS on Sudan](http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/sudan/relationships.html)

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/sudan/relationships.html>

[Powell declares genocide in Sudan](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3641820.stm)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3641820.stm>

[U.N. Finds Crimes, Not Genocide in Darfur](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/01/international/africa/01sudan.html)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/01/international/africa/01sudan.html>

Students who wish to contact their elected representatives on this subject can find contact information for the White House at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> and their U.S. Senators and their Representatives at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.