



BUDAPEST CENTRE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE
AND MASS ATROCITIES



INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Prevention of Mass Atrocities in Practice

Roundtable

Pre-event of the VIII. Budapest Human Rights Forum

**organized by the Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities and the
Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade**

„Role of Journalists in Prevention of Genocide and Countering Extremism”

Date: 11 November, 2015

Between 14.30 – 17.15

Venue: Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade
H - 1016 Budapest, Bérc utca 13-15.

The ongoing migration when people flee mass atrocity crimes highlights the specific role mass atrocities play in our daily life and impact intranational and international relations. Credible information coming from the field are vital for both assessing situations where life of civilians is at risk and catalyzing political will for timely and effective responses.

The locally-based journalists in the “hotspots” are key sources of information from the field. They are in favourable position to collect and provide fair, unbiased and accurate information on conflict settings. At the same time, news edited by local correspondents may misinform decisionmakers, lead them to wrong decisions and manipulate public opinion.

Being in possession of first hand information on the events, local environment and mentalities correspondents in the field could similarly to other civil actors greatly contribute to effective mass atrocity prevention. By adopting mass atrocity lens and giving a voice to minorities, vulnerable groups and other potential victims journalists deployed in zones at risk can share valuable and specific early warning information with the public and make the difference in political decisions and in the approach of the affected populations. Thus, they are in key positions to help address threats, prevent mass atrocities and heal traumas and wounds of victims.

The Budapest Centre organized a workshop on the role of „new” media in preventing mass atrocities in 2012 where we focused on incitements and countering hate speech.

This time, we plan to highlight the possibilities of the media through discussing the role of journalists as individuals in addressing situations at mass atrocity risk where we shall also take account of the present migration wave. The workshop will offer an interactive space for exchanging views between journalists, representatives of governments, academia, civil society and international organizations to combine the theory with practice.

During the workshop, the representatives of the Budapest Centre plan to strew the seeds for establishment of a „Network of Journalists for Prevention of Mass Atrocities”.

Program

14.30 Welcome speeches by

Mr. Márton Schöberl, Director General of the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr. András Trom, Head of Department, Association of the Hungarian Journalists (TBC)

Mr. György Tatár, Chair of the Budapest Centre

15.00 Roundtable

„Impact of journalists in the field on preventing genocide and radicalization”

Moderator: Mr. Enzo Le Fevre Cervini, Director of Research and Cooperation, Budapest Centre

Panelists:

Mr. Ernő Simon, Senior Communication Associate of UN Refugee Agency in Hungary

Mr. Riccardo Serri, Deputy Head of Division on Human Rights, European External Action Service (TBC)

Mr. Nick Thorpe, Central Europe Correspondent for BBC News

Mr. Mark Barwick, Policy Adviser for Human Rights Without Frontiers

16.30 Discussion

17.15 Conclusions

The discussion will be held in English.

The event is public but registration is required.

Please send your registration to event@ifat.hu by 9 November.