



The Atrocities Prevention Board

The Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) is a high-level interagency working group that includes representation from the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, State, and Treasury as well as the Joint Staff, United States Agency for International Development, United States Mission to the United Nations, Office of the Vice President, Director of National Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The primary purpose of the APB is ***“to coordinate a whole-of-government approach to preventing mass atrocities and genocide.”***

“There is no doubt that genocide and mass atrocities exact a horrific human toll. They constitute a direct assault on universal human values, including, most fundamentally, the right to life.

Genocide and mass atrocities also threaten core U.S. national interests.

They feed on and fuel other threats in weak and corrupt states, with dangerous spillover effects that know no boundaries. If the United States does not engage early in preventing these crimes, we inevitably bear greater costs—in feeding millions of refugees and trying to manage long-lasting regional crises.”

- Genocide Prevention Task Force Report

Timeline

- **December 2008:** The bipartisan Genocide Prevention Task Force (GPTF) issued a report in December 2008, [Preventing Genocide](#), which set out concrete proposals for improving the U.S. government’s performance in preventing mass atrocities and mitigating their effects. The GPTF was co-chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Secretary of Defense William Cohen.
- **December 2010:** The Senate unanimously passed a resolution ([S.Con.Res.71](#)) with bipartisan support calling on the Administration to:
 - » Establish an interagency policy committee and a National Security Council position dedicated to the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities; and
 - » Direct all relevant departments and agencies to conduct an evaluation and review of existing capacities for anticipating, preventing, and responding to genocide and other mass atrocities.
- **August 2011:** President Obama declared that the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities is a core national security interest and a moral responsibility of the United States and directed the National Security Council to review how the U.S. government as a whole could achieve these goals (*see Presidential Study Directive 10, or PSD-10*).
- **April 2012:** At a speech at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the President announces the first convening of the Atrocities Prevention Board, an interagency working group to ensure the U.S. government has the structures and mechanisms to better prevent and respond to genocide and mass atrocities.
- **June 2015:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously passed a Department of State Authorization bill that included a provision that authorizes the Atrocities Prevention Board.