

The United Nations presents

BOGDAN'S JOURNEY

Directed by Michal Jaskulski and Lawrence Loewinger

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with:

RORY KEANE



Mr. Rory Keane heads the United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Brussels (UNLOPS), which represents the United Nations Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Political Affairs and Field Support in building partnerships with the European Union, NATO and other organizations based in Brussels. Before his appointment as Head of the UNLOPS, Mr. Keane worked for the office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Sahel Region. Previous to that, he served as security sector advisor to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Liberia, Team Leader of the OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility, European Commission desk officer for the DRC and Great Lakes and OSCE Spokesperson in the former Yugoslavia.

DANIEL SCHWAMMENTHAL



Daniel Schwammenthal is the Director of the American Jewish Committee's EU office, the Transatlantic Institute, which among other issues deals with combating anti-Semitism in Europe. Before joining the Transatlantic Institute in 2011, he worked for seven years as an editorial page writer and op-ed editor for The Wall Street Journal Europe in Brussels and Amsterdam, writing about EU politics and economics, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iran, radical Islam and terrorism. Prior to that, Daniel Schwammenthal worked for six years as a reporter for Dow Jones Newswires in Bonn, Berlin and Brussels covering German and European politics, economics and regulatory affairs.

The discussion following the film will be moderated by:

DEBORAH SEWARD



Deborah is Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) in Brussels. Prior to arriving in Brussels, she served as Director of the Department of Public Information's Strategic Communications Division at UN Headquarters New York. Before joining the United Nations in 2011, Ms. Seward was an international journalist for nearly 25 years, with postings in Berlin, Bonn, Moscow, New York, Paris, Prague and Warsaw.

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General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/7 declared that the United Nations would designate 27 January -- the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp -- as an annual **International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust**, and urged Member States to develop educational programmes to instil the memory of the tragedy in future generations to prevent genocide from occurring again. It requested the United Nations Secretary-General to establish an outreach programme on the "Holocaust and the United Nations", as well as institute measures to mobilize civil society for Holocaust remembrance and education, in order to help prevent future acts of genocide. The Resolution condemned "without reserve" all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief, whenever they occur.

The Holocaust was a turning point in history, which prompted the world to say "never again". The significance of resolution A/RES/60/7 is that it calls for a remembrance of past crimes with an eye towards preventing them in the future.

To prevent genocide and genocidal conflicts, it is critically important to understand their root causes. While conflict has many causes, genocidal conflict is identity-based. Genocide and related atrocities tend to occur in societies with diverse national, racial, ethnic or religious groups that are locked in identity-related conflicts. It is not simply differences in identity, whether real or perceived, that generate conflict, but the implication of those differences in terms of access to power and wealth, services and resources, employment, development opportunities, citizenship and the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms. These conflicts are fomented by discrimination, hate speech inciting violence and other violations of human rights. In terms of prevention, the critical step is to identify the factors (discriminatory practices) in a given situation that lead to/account for acute disparities in the administration of a diverse population, and to seek ways to diminish and eventually eradicate these possible causes of genocidal violence. Given that no country is perfectly homogeneous, genocide is a truly global challenge.

"The prevention of mass atrocities demands a system-wide UN effort. Goals related to the responsibility to protect should also inform our development and peacebuilding work, not just our efforts in the areas of human rights, humanitarian affairs, peacekeeping and political affairs."

Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

UN agencies, departments and programmes contribute to the prevention of genocide by, inter alia, supporting equitable economic development and the fair distribution of political power; promoting tolerance and respect for ethnic, religious and cultural diversity, and the protection of human rights; providing humanitarian assistance; and interceding to ensure peace, security and stability. The UN has a Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide who acts as a catalyst to raise awareness of the causes and dynamics of genocide, to alert relevant actors where there is a risk of genocide, and to advocate and mobilize for appropriate action. In parallel, a UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect leads the conceptual, political, institutional and operational development of the Responsibility to Protect.



United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS)
Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Political Affairs and Field Support



Mission of Israel to the EU & NATO