

Genocide and Freedom Speech

Gregory Stanton, 17 May 2007

Sixty years ago, after the Holocaust, the United Nations adopted the Genocide Convention and said, "Never again." Since then, 88 million people have been murdered by their own governments, more than from all wars combined.

There are two reasons why we still have genocides:

1. First, we haven't built the international institutions to prevent and stop it. The U.N. Security Council remains paralyzed by communist China, Russia and other countries that believe national sovereignty trumps human rights.
2. Second, World Leaders still lack the political will to use economic and military force to prevent and stop genocide.

Millions gave their lives in World War Two, Korea, China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and Cambodia to resist genocidal tyranny. And today tens of thousands are dying in Afghanistan and Iraq to defeat genocidal terrorism. Tonight, this award for freedom should go to them.

Genocide is the result of placing nationality, ethnicity, race, or religion above God. Genocide denies that we are all members of one family and one race – the human race.

The time has come for a movement for our century like the anti-slavery movement of the nineteenth century – a mass movement – an Interfaith Alliance to Abolish Genocide. United, Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Bahais, and people of all faiths can cleanse the earth of genocide. Because evil is not the most powerful force. Love is. Tyranny will not triumph. Freedom will, Genocide will not rule the earth. Justice will. Despair is not permanent. Hope is. Death is not our final end. Life is.