



GLOBAL CENTRE  
FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY  
TO PROTECT



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Mr. John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State of the United States of America  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20520

15 September 2014

Dear Mr. Secretary,

This past year has witnessed numerous conflicts across the globe that have resulted in widespread human suffering and the perpetration of mass atrocities. In some of these situations the UN Security Council has acted effectively, but in other cases it has been blocked from upholding its responsibilities. At times the failure to prevent and protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity can stem from the paralyzing effect of the veto.

As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, the United States has professed commitment to preventing the commission of mass atrocity crimes. The creation of the Atrocities Prevention Board is testament to this commitment. We urge you to strengthen this by publicly declaring that the United States supports voluntary restraint on the use of the veto in mass atrocity situations. We believe the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN next year is an important moment for the Permanent Members to work towards reaching an agreement on this crucial matter.

We also encourage you to personally attend the 25 September Ministerial-level meeting on the veto, which is being co-hosted by the French and Mexican Foreign Ministers during the opening of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly. We believe that signaling your support for this initiative will strengthen the resolve of all Permanent Members of the Council

to prevent and respond to mass atrocity situations. It will also send an important message to the broader UN membership about the United States' commitment to preventing and halting mass atrocity crimes.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Adams  
Executive Director  
Global Centre for R2P



Salil Shetty  
Secretary-General  
Amnesty International



Kenneth Roth  
Executive Director  
Human Rights Watch



Karim Lahidji  
President  
The International Federation  
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Sapna Chhatpar Considine  
Program Director  
International Coalition for R2P



Susan M. Farnsworth  
Executive Director  
Global Rights



Marvin A. Perry  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Citizens for Global Solutions

c.c. H.E. Ms. Samantha Power, Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN  
c.c. Ms. Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights  
c.c. Mr. Stephen Pomper, Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights