

## **Building National Architectures for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities and Genocide**

### **Early Warning Assessment Tools and the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes**

a) What are the challenges today of building national architectures?

- Many states lack capacity to deal with security actors and perpetrators. In certain situations, the police and military neither understand nor abide by human rights standards. They are too strong and not under the control of the state, do not have an orientation to serve their community but to use power over them which leads to impunity against atrocities.
- Governments transforming from previously centralized systems to decentralized ones (reference was to Asia) have not successfully translated from the central government to their regional and provincial counterparts, a new orientation that reaches down to local government so that local politicians and government officials understand and use a human rights lens. This requires a dedicated process to change mindsets at the local level so that decision-makers don't only focus on economic growth but also political, social and human rights development at local level.
- Challenge: lack of 'resources' understood widely, i.e. funds, access to information, knowledge, skills, challenge of verification (not easy to verify rumors and if you transmit false messages it creates more tension), etc.
- Politicians sometimes create an atmosphere of violence for own purposes

b) What have we learned about building national architectures?

- Early warning needs to embrace and be integrated among all key actors. Example: Indonesia 2003 established a national early warning/early response system for conflict. In the first year it was not successful because it did not work with security actors. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Ministry of Defense was approached and adopted the system and then it worked.

c) What could be the contribution of GAAMAC to address these challenges?

- Police and military need education and re-orientation
- Access to expertise and good practice
- Strengthening of regional capacities could help national strengthening. GAAMAC could play a major role to convince ASEAN to embrace a preventive lens and influence good practice in its member States (advocacy, awareness raising, skill-building)
- Work directly at community level to help explain and empower communities to protect themselves from atrocities.

d) Other specific and very relevant issue to be recorded?

- GENOCIDE IS A PROCESS NOT AN EVENT: Atrocities require resources, planning, motivation and takes long time so it is possible to identify in a long-term framework and assess whether it is a high, medium or low risks. Early warning also helps to identify gaps, what could be weak and then strategize to counteract them so that they cannot develop.
- The UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes can not only help you make an assessment of the risk, it can also help you understand what tools you do have at hand, do a national level analysis, identify good practices you already have and what you are doing right.