

**TLHRC Hearing – Reducing the Risk of Mass Atrocities
November 14, 2018**

**Rep. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
Remarks for the Record**

Mass atrocities are ravaging our global communities. These large scale and deliberate attacks don't just cause massive loss of life—they have a profound impact on the populations they affect. They render communities increasingly vulnerable to racism, violence, property seizure, and broken government. These brutalities, often carried out at the hands of government, ensue long-lasting humanitarian, political, and national security consequences.

In response to these atrocities, it is imperative that the international community fuse their efforts to reduce the burden on at-risk populations. Here in Congress, H.R. 3030, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2017, seeks to do just that by establishing a task force for interagency coordination.

With this legislation, the State Department, USAID, and the Department of Defense are just a handful of the agencies slated to collaborate in strengthening mass atrocity prevention and response efforts. These agencies must prioritize engagement with civil society and create new approaches to stabilize vulnerable communities. I look forward to hearing from this panel of experts on how our institutions can effectively cooperate to do so.

I am hopeful that our government, with the assistance of the international community, will continue to explore process-oriented approaches and implement effective measures to detect, prevent, and respond to mass atrocities. The security of our world is at stake.

I am so pleased that this Commission continues to illuminate the tragedies affecting our world, and I look forward to working together to bring lasting change to human rights protections.