

Tom Lantos Commission
Mass Atrocities Prevention Hearing
Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.
Rayburn 2255
Statement for the Record from Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO)

Thank you to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for holding this important hearing on mass atrocities prevention. It is imperative that the U.S. government prioritize the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities, which threaten national and international security and the basic dignities of each and every person. In recent years, we have been dismayed by the conflict and violence in Burma, Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and many other nations and communities across the globe. This is why I introduced H.R. 3030, the *Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act*, which aims to enhance the U.S. government's capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such crises.

I have lent my full support to the Atrocities Prevention Board as a body to coordinate U.S. tools and resources to prevent genocide and other atrocity crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing. But we still must greatly improve how our nation identifies, prevents, addresses, and responds to the drivers of atrocity crimes and violent conflict as part of our humanitarian, development, and strategic interests. The Elie Wiesel bill, named after the courageous Auschwitz survivor, would improve interagency coordination on atrocity prevention and response efforts; require the Administration to report on prevention strategy; authorize training for U.S. Foreign Service Officers on early signs of atrocities and transitional justice measures; and authorize the Complex Crises Fund to support programs to prevent emerging or unforeseen crises overseas.

I hope that the entire Congress will come together to pass this legislation in 2018, and that we are able to better respond to the millions of people across the globe who have suffered tremendous abuse and violence. I thank the Commission and our witnesses today for persistently shining a light on mass atrocities prevention, and I look forward to working toward the day when it will be universally unthinkable to subject another human being to not just genocide and mass atrocity crimes, but any violence.