



**JUSTICE
RAPID
RESPONSE**

Achieving Justice, Close to Home

NATIONAL EFFORTS TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MASS ATROCITY CRIMES



THEISSUE

Achieving justice for a mass atrocity crime is a challenge no matter where it occurs. Victims have the right to justice - ideally in their own country - and this is the cornerstone of reconciliation and victims' access to justice. The international community agrees that perpetrators must be held accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity or acts of genocide. The challenge lies in the delivery of justice. States hold the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute international crimes that fall under their jurisdiction. JRR fills a gap between a country's decision to pursue justice for mass atrocity crimes and its technical capacity to do so.

OURSOLUTION

Justice Rapid Response (JRR) partners with States that seek to hold perpetrators accountable or to address past crimes through transitional justice processes. We offer the support of highly specialized expertise from the international community in order to do so.

With JRR's support, countries maintain ownership of accountability, at international standards. National actors are mentored to design and implement credible investigations and prosecutorial strategies, which will in turn build public confidence in the national justice process.

A victim who lost her children and brother at the hands of the military lights a candle outside a candle outside of the Guatemalan Supreme Court during the ceremony commemorating the victims of the internal armed conflict
[Jeff Abbott /Al Jazeera]

OUR APPROACH

JRR responds to inquiries from national prosecutors and truth, reconciliation and reparations commissions among others. We conduct in-depth consultations with local authorities as well as international organizations and civil society working in the country. Based on these consultations, we propose areas where our experts can provide sustained mentoring support. JRR provides expertise in some 50 specializations, including criminal investigations, prosecutions, transitional justice, sexual and gender-based violence investigations, child protection, witness protection and military analysis. These experts work with their national counterparts to address challenges on active cases and to strengthen capacity in the long term.

OUR IMPACT

JRR's work enables countries confronted with the aftermath of mass atrocities to meet their obligations to investigate, prosecute and address mass atrocity crimes. From gathering evidence in the field to presenting it in the courtroom, JRR experts ensure that national authorities have knowledge and tools tailored to the local context. Ultimately, rule of law is strengthened when justice for past crimes is done, and as a result, public confidence in the rule of law and institutions is strengthened and societies are more resilient to future conflict.

At a Glance



IN GUATEMALA, the Public Prosecutor's Office (Ministerio Público-MP) has been committed to holding high-ranking officials accountable for mass atrocity crimes of the 36-year conflict. JRR continues to support the MP in seeking justice for the victims in cases such as Sepur Zarco and the Dos Erres Massacre. JRR supported the MP in developing Guatemala's first victim-centered Human Rights Policy for Prosecutions.

Photo source: Simone Dalmaso, Plaza Publica (CC BY-SA 3.0 GT)



IN THE GAMBIA, JRR partnered with both the Attorney General's Chambers and, from its inception, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to strengthen the transitional justice process. These activities have already achieved results, including the identification of victims through forensic support provided by Justice Rapid Response. Much still remains to be done to meet victims' aspirations for justice.

Photo: Dr. Steve Naidoo, JRR expert and forensic pathologist



IN UGANDA, JRR is working closely with the International Crimes Division and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions on the Thomas Kwoyelo case involving crimes committed during the armed conflict in Northern Uganda. One objective is to strengthen the evidence relating to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) crimes and to use a victim-centred approach to safeguard the wellbeing of SGBV survivors.

Photo: Ms. Florence Akello, State Attorney, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Uganda

ABOUT JRR



Justice Rapid Response responds to requests from international organizations, States and civil society organizations to investigate, analyze and document reports of serious human rights violations and international crimes. JRR deploys human rights and criminal justice professionals from a stand-by roster of 700 experts comprising over 100 nationalities, 90 languages, 50% women and 40% from the Global South. Since 2009, JRR has deployed experts to over 200 missions worldwide.

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