



**JUSTICE
RAPID
RESPONSE**

Achieving Justice, Worldwide

BOLSTERING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MASS ATROCITY CRIMES



THEISSUE

International justice is a critical component of building respect for human rights and the rule of law around the world. Achieving justice for international crimes and human rights violations can be the first step toward reconciliation for those affected by mass atrocities. The international community plays an important role in ending impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Justice Rapid Response works to help international and regional mechanisms to effectively deliver justice and promote the dignity of victims and survivors.

Displaced people from the Yazidi minority, fleeing violence from forces loyal to the Islamic State in Sinjar town, Iraq, on August 11, 2014. ©REUTERS/Rodi Said.

OURSOLUTION

Justice Rapid Response strengthens the ability of the international community to promptly, impartially and professionally investigate, document, prosecute or otherwise address international crimes and serious human rights violations. We partner with international organizations, regional justice mechanisms, and other actors contributing to international justice processes to offer highly specialized expertise that can fill the gap between the pursuit of justice and the technical capacity to do so. This includes specialized expertise on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and conflict-related crimes against children and youth. Investigating and prosecuting SGBV crimes, or conflict-related crimes involving children, requires proper skills to accurately capture information, document evidence, and – most importantly – minimize harm and re-traumatization of witnesses and survivors. Justice Rapid Response can provide this expertise to justice processes around the world.

OUR APPROACH

Justice Rapid Response partners with members of the international community contributing to international justice processes to bridge a gap in specialized expertise. We work to anticipate and address specialized investigation needs. Our experts – who are able to be deployed at rapid notice – include international investigators, prosecutors, psychosocial counsellors, interpreters and forensic experts. Justice Rapid Response has worked closely with investigation mechanisms, at their request, to jointly define investigation parameters and capacity building programmes, especially in the fields of SGBV, sexual exploitation and abuse, sanctions, and child and youth rights. Justice Rapid Response works closely with UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to consolidate best practices in human rights investigation.

OUR IMPACT

Justice Rapid Response's work enables international justice mechanisms to conduct investigations using the appropriate tools, particularly for gathering evidence and reporting SGBV and violations against children. Ultimately, the rule of law is strengthened when justice for past crimes is done, and as a result, international public confidence in the rule of law and institutions is strengthened and societies are more resilient to future conflict.

At a Glance



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:

Justice Rapid Response deployed three investigators to the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigations into militia commander Bosco Ntaganda, including an SGBV expert deployed in partnership with UN Women. The investigators helped capture evidence that was used to secure Bosco Ntaganda's 2019 convictions for the forced enlistment of boys and girls in armed groups, as well as the perpetration of sexual violence against them. These convictions marked a significant step in ensuring justice for children in conflict and SGBV crimes.

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MYANMAR: Justice Rapid Response deployed experts on military analysis, child rights and SGBV to assist the UN Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar (FFM). The FFM's findings have raised public awareness of the plight of the Rohingya minority from Myanmar, and have been used to bring a case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice. The evidence has also been made available to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar to facilitate future criminal proceedings.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR):

Justice Rapid Response partnered with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to strengthen the capacity of child protection and human rights officers to monitor, investigate and report crimes against children in conflict, and thereby fight impunity for crimes against children amid the conflict in CAR. Workshop participants learnt new strategies and approaches around investigation and interview planning with victims and witnesses.

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ABOUT US



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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. Justice Rapid Response deploys human rights and criminal justice professionals from a stand-by roster of more than **700 experts** comprising over **100 nationalities, 90 languages, 59% women** and **43% from the Global South**. Since 2009, Justice Rapid Response has deployed experts to over **200 missions worldwide**.

CONTACT US

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