

## Video Message

by H. E. Javier Solana (European Union High Representative for CFSP)

I want to thank the Hungarian Government for organizing this – the second – Human Rights Forum today. It is an important event.

Four years ago, with President Carter, we launched a project to create a Centre for the Prevention of Genocide. The importance of such a Centre speaks for itself.

Research shows us that there is a pattern to genocides that repeats itself. Even though they occur in different regions, in different cultures, in countries with different levels of development, genocides follow the same basic pattern:

There are early warning signals, well before the final tragedy is unleashed;

There are flash points that well-trained experts can spot.

In short, genocide can be prevented.

But, in order to prevent genocide, the international community must have the political will to intervene.

I firmly believe that we can help to create the will to intervene if we can present a solid case.

To do that, we need two things:

First, we need a dedicated group of experts, pooling their knowledge and skills, to closely monitor situations around the world where there is a risk of genocide.

Secondly, that group of experts must be close to the decision-makers in the international organization.

It must be close enough to feed, in real time, the decision-making process.

It must be close enough for the member states of that organization to feel that they have ownership of it.

These were our ideas when we decided to go ahead with the establishment of the Centre.

We entrusted that enterprise to the best possible person - Professor David Hamburg.

I want to say how grateful I am to David for the excellent work he has done. And how much I admire him, his knowledge and his determination to fight for something he deeply believes in.

The Government of Hungary undertook a similar project in 2008. It will share with the participants at this conference its plans to establish in Budapest an International Centre for the Prevention of Genocide.

I want to give my full support to this proposal.

I look forward to working closely with the Hungarian authorities in the future.

I wish you every success.