



HOW THE AID INDUSTRY FAILED SYRIANS

The Third Lemkin Reunion

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Budapest, Hungary



**SHATTUCK
CENTER**

**CEU SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC POLICY**

The Lemkin Reunion honors the work of Raphael Lemkin, the Polish lawyer who first coined the term genocide and was the driving force behind the adoption of the Genocide Convention. Each year we bring together some of those involved in responding to genocide or atrocity crimes to hear the lessons they have learned and what we must do to reduce the risk of future crimes against humanity. Lemkin began his work on genocide in the 1930s, pressing for mass killings such as those of Armenians and Assyrians to become recognized crimes. His work led him to be forced from his job as a public prosecutor. His work was prescient; he narrowly escaped Poland with his life while 19 members of his family were to die in the Holocaust. From 1943 onwards he campaigned ceaselessly for genocide to be seen as a crime and punished. In 1951, the Genocide Convention came into force when the 20th member of the United Nations ratified it.



The first Reunion in October 2014 marked the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. The second Reunion in October 2015 marked the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.

Read more about the Lemkin Reunion here: <https://ccnr.ceu.edu/lemkin>

The Third Lemkin Reunion: How the Aid Industry Failed Syrians

The international aid machinery has poured billions of dollars into their response to the war in Syria but despite this, it has remained consistently out of step with developments in the conflict. The war has evolved far faster than the ability of aid organizations and donors to respond, resulting in massive failures in the humanitarian response. The Syrian government and its Russian and Iranian allies have pursued a brutal war against civilians in a manner designed to maximize harm and displacement. Millions have been driven from their homes or starved by besieging troops. Multiple UN resolutions on the protection of civilians have been ignored with impunity. Meanwhile, the international community has failed to develop effective relationships with those on the ground who might have been able to provide help more effectively. What explains the failures of Syria and is there a way to help more people more effectively?

The Reunion will gather experts in the field for a series of roundtable discussions as well as a panel discussion to evaluate responses to the atrocities and war crimes in Syria.

PANELISTS:

Assaad Al Achi is a Syrian economist, civil society activist and Executive Director of Baytna Syria, the platform for Syrian civil society inside and outside the country. He is also the founding member of the Local Coordination Committees in Syria and helped establish the Assistance Coordination Unit of the Syrian Opposition Coalition in December 2012. Additionally, Assaad is the founding member of the Syrian Nonviolence Movement and Freedom Days activist platform.

Marcell Shehwaro is the Executive Manager of Kesh Malek and a courageous activist and blogger from Aleppo. At Kesh Malek, she works on promoting children's rights through education inside Syria. Kesh Malek also launched the "Identity of a Nation" project and set up social and cultural centers inside Syria to motivate citizens to express their national identity and to counter radical and extreme narratives within Syrian society. Kesh Malek also works on gender equality projects to increase girls' access to education and women's access to work opportunities and local councils.

Peter Harling founded Synaps to distill almost 20 years of experience working in and on the Arab world. During this itinerary, which led him from Iraq to Lebanon, then Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and back to Lebanon, he combined academia with long-form journalism, consultancies and a ten-year tenure with the International Crisis Group.

Ibrahim Olabi is the founder of the Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP), which provides consultations, advocacy, research and assessments on international law issues related to the Syrian conflict. SLDP has teams in Europe, Turkey and Jordan, and has partnered with international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Bar Association and Amnesty International as well as humanitarian and human rights NGOs working in Syria. Ibrahim himself has worked in Aleppo near the front lines and in Geneva. Of relevance, Ibrahim has trained more than 400 aid workers working in Syria on international legal frameworks that relate to their protection and access to those in need.

Hosted by The Shattuck Center on Conflict, Negotiation and Recovery

The Shattuck Center on Conflict, Negotiation and Recovery brings together policy practitioners, academics, students, and others to come up with new ideas on how to end conflict or speed the recovery from war. Based at the School of Public Policy at Central European University, the center runs open research collaborations aimed at widening the range of people involved in public policy issues around violent conflict and in providing opportunities for students to engage in current problems.

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Lemkin photo: UN Archives