

THE SEMANTICS OF MASS MURDER

Suffering cannot and should not be compared. However, labels are important for understanding how and why something terrible is happening, for other governments to determine what kinds of action will be taken to stop mass murder, and to establish how the event will be remembered in history.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Example</u>
GENOCIDE	<p>In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Killing members of the group;(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(U.N. Convention)</i></p> <p><i>This term requires other countries to act to stop murder.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Holocaust of the Jews & Roma○ Rwanda○ Sudan○ Armenia
GENOCIDAL ACTS	<p>Massacres of people who are singled out and killed because of their ethnic group membership are genocidal.</p> <p><i>This term does not require other countries to act to stop murder.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ethiopia○ Iraq
ETHNIC CLEANSING	<p>The policy of forcibly removing people of one ethnic group. It can range from forced emigration to genocidal acts within the borders of a country. This term was first developed as a euphemism for genocide in order to allow other nations to not be forced to act to prevent murder.</p> <p><i>This term does not require other countries to act to stop murder.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bosnia○ Kashmir○ Germans in Poland (after WWII)
POLITICIDE	<p>The murder of any person or people by a government because of their politics or for political purposes.</p> <p><i>This term does not require other countries to act to stop murder.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Stalinist Russia○ Cambodia○ North Korea○ Iraq
CIVIL WAR	<p>Fighting between government soldiers and rebels within a country. Can often include murderous acts when the combatants make civilians targets of extreme violence.</p> <p><i>This term does not require other countries to act to stop murder.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Democratic Republic of the Congo
DEMOCIDE	<p>The murder of any person or people by a government, including genocide, politicide, and mass murder.</p> <p><i>This term does not require other countries to act to stop murder.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All of the above.