**UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION**

**ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT**

**OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE** (excerpt)

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948 and went into effect on January 12, 1951. Almost forty years later, on November 4, 1988, President Reagan signed legislation making the United States the 98th nation to ratify it, though the version passed by the US Senate had been significantly modified and weakened.

**Article I**

The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in **time** of **peace**

**or** in time of **war**, is a crime under international law which they undertake to **prevent**

and to **punish**.

**Article II**

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:

(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.

**Article III**

The following acts shall be **punishable**:

1. **Genocide**;
2. **Conspiracy** to commit genocide;
3. Direct and public **incitement** to commit genocide;
4. **Attempt** to commit genocide;
5. **Complicity** in genocide.