



BRAZIL

60th UNGA Plenary

Item - Holocaust Remembrance

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg

Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

New York, 31st October 2005

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

The Jewish Holocaust is the paradigm case of genocide, a crime that until then lacked definition and did not allow for legal recourse. None of the Hague Treaties mentioned genocide, nor could the massacres that had taken place until then be properly judged, or their perpetrators punished, for the lack of legal characterization. Of particular historical resonance in our part of the world are crimes committed against the indigenous peoples of the Americas during the colonial period and the practice of slavery.

It remains profoundly shocking to the conscience of mankind that such crimes could have reached unconceivable proportions.

The profound impact of the Jewish Holocaust and of mass war crimes committed during World War II prompted the international community to attempt, through this Organization, to define genocide as an international crime and to bring its perpetrators to Justice. Thus, in 1948, the United Nations approved and proposed the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and, more recently, this crime was incorporated into the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Mr. President,

The fight against the crime of genocide will only be complete when Member States adhere and implement Human Rights instruments both in the domestic and the international sphere. This will constitute the



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most important tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and to honor the Remembrance Day.

In remembering the Holocaust, the international community not only renews its indignation and rejection, but also strengthens its commitment to fight oppression and prejudice wherever it may take place. In evoking the torment and tragedy of the Jewish people during the Holocaust we are able to confront the destructive forces that threaten the human march towards freedom, justice and democracy.

Even after the Jewish Holocaust, late twentieth century history has unfortunately been marked by a series of brutal conflicts that have again resulted in grave war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and other serious crimes in Cambodia, in the former Yugoslavia, in Rwanda, to cite a few blatant examples. They add to our sense of abhorrence and indignation and strengthen our resolve to prevent similar crimes.

Mr. President,

As a co-sponsor of this resolution, Brazil once again expresses its absolute condemnation of the Holocaust, reaffirms its reverence to the victims and manifests its solidarity to the survivors of this unspeakable crime.

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