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Srebrenica and Its Consequences

Norrie MacQueen pp. 99–105
Srebrenica and the Birth Pains of a ›New Peacekeeping‹

Following the failure of high profile operations in the mid-1990s, the Srebrenica massacre of July 1995 marked a low point in the peacekeeping project. Underlying these failures was the inability of the traditional, minimalist model of peacekeeping developed in the 1950s to respond to the more complex demands of the post-Cold War world. This situation was exacerbated in Bosnia by a difficult inter-agency relationship with NATO, upon which the UN was dependant for air support. From this perspective the failure of the UN to protect its own declared ›safe area‹ was wholly comprehensible, even inevitable. The shock of Srebrenica did, however, in the longer term contribute to the conceptualization of a ›new peacekeeping‹ involving a more robust approach to civilian protection.

Ekkehard Griep p. 106
Comment: ›Standby‹: Time to Revive a Good Idea

In this comment it is argued that the United Nations Standby Arrangements System is a good means to solve the persistent shortage of peacekeeping resources and rapid reaction forces. The system should therefore be strengthened and better supported by UN member states, including Germany.

Annette Weerth pp. 107–113
20 Years Srebrenica – Time for a UN Safe Areas Concept

Since Srebrenica, ›safe areas‹ have a difficult standing. The dilemma between neutral protection of civilians and active engagement in conflict seems to be insurmountable, although examples like the ›safe havens‹ for the Kurds in Northern Iraq in the 1990s show that a balance can be struck. In-country protection can be a useful measure to shelter persecuted people but it requires a clear concept, the distribution of responsibilities, and commitment of the international community. This primarily includes, apart from a clear Chapter VII mandate, the readiness to ensure the necessary (military) means to guarantee protection and a minimum humanitarian standard.

Hannah Birkenkötter pp. 114–120
The Fall of Srebrenica in Court: Proceedings Are Far from Being Completed

Twenty years after the fall of Srebrenica, the various court proceedings dealing with different aspects of legal responsi-

bility are far from being completed. Srebrenica, a symbol of unparalleled horror since World War II, has become the subject of quite a number of different cases in different courts. However, it is still unclear to what extent the Netherlands can be held liable for the loss of life suffered after the fall of Srebrenica, and whether the United Nations bears a responsibility as well. The multiple judicial fora show that legal accountability is not unequivocal—while the cases are interconnected, they are all but pieces in a bigger picture that needs to be complemented by extra-judicial mechanisms as well.

Katarina Lundahl p. 121
Comment: The Cholera Claims against the UN: Domestic Courts Will Not Fix the Remedy Gap

Despite several investigations suggesting that UN peacekeepers brought cholera to Haiti, there is no forum to adjudicate the victims' compensation claims. Due to domestic courts' continued refusal to limit UN immunity, political action is required to pressure the UN to comply with incurred obligations.

“The Problem of Cholera in Haiti Is Not Solved” pp. 122–124

In this interview, **Pedro Medrano Rojas**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Senior Coordinator for the Cholera Response in Haiti, discusses among other issues the growing threat of pandemics, the UN's strategy to fight cholera, and new guidelines for UN peacekeeping troops.

Christiane Hullmann · Gudrun Masloch · Ingo Niemann · Elisa Özbek pp. 125–128
The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age: Germany and Brazil Campaign for Better Protection in the UN

After Edward Snowden's revelations concerning excessive digital surveillance on a mass-scale and data collection by secret services, a discussion emerged within the UN human rights fora, initiated primarily by Germany and Brazil, on how to better safeguard the human right to privacy. As a result, the General Assembly reaffirmed in 2013 that human rights apply offline and online. In 2015, the post of a Special Rapporteur was established by the Human Rights Council to further clarify and protect the right to privacy in the digital age. The article provides an overview of the legal background on the right to privacy and lays out the evolution of the German-Brazilian initiative. It illustrates the dynamics of the negotiations and underlines the critical role played by civil society on this important issue.