



PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE

Dialogue with Member States, UN partners and civil society on

“Dangerous speech on the road to genocide”

With **Special Adviser Francis Deng** and **Dr Susan Benesch**

When: Thursday, 28 October, from 1:15 to 2:30pm (EDT)

Where: Conference Room 7, 2nd Floor, North Lawn Building, New York
The event will be webcast live at www.un.org/webcast

*A light lunch will be served at 12:45 pm on the 2nd floor of
the North Lawn Building, near Conference Room 7
Please RSVP to osapg@un.org*

Inflammatory speech often precedes mass atrocities, especially genocide. As such, it is part of the social process that makes genocide possible, as demonstrated by Radio RTLM in the Rwanda genocide. The Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Dr. Susan Benesch have undertaken an 18 month project (started in Feb 2010), focussing on two case studies, which will provide the United Nations and Members States with tools to limit the catastrophic effects of dangerous speech, without impeding the right to freedom of expression. The project will (1) design a blueprint for monitoring dangerous speech in countries at risk of genocide and mass atrocities, (2) develop and test a methodology for gauging the dangerousness of specific speech acts, and (3) produce policy response options to limit the effects of dangerous speech.

The UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide acts as a catalyst to raise awareness of the causes and dynamics of genocide, to alert relevant actors where there is a risk of genocide and to advocate and mobilize for appropriate action.

Dr. Susan Benesch teaches advanced international human rights at American University's School of International Service. She has taught human rights and refugee law at Georgetown and Princeton, among other universities. A human rights lawyer trained at Yale, she has also worked for the Center for Justice and Accountability, Amnesty International, and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now Human Rights First). Benesch's interest in speech dates back to her first career as a journalist, when she was chief staff writer for the Miami Herald in Haiti.