Dear Friends,

As the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes surpasses the highest levels ever recorded, borders are closing, political rhetoric demonizes and rejects the displaced, and humanitarian crises are chronically underfunded. For these very reasons, Refugees International has doubled down on our mission to advocate for the well-being of displaced communities.

This report provides a look back at Refugees International’s efforts to shine a light on the critical challenges faced by those who have been forced from their homes and to promote solutions. Over the last year, our teams increased the pace of our activities, conducting 17 field-based fact-finding missions to expose atrocities, raise the alarm on underreported crises, confront climate displacement, oppose the worldwide assault on refugee protection and asylum, champion the rights of displaced women and girls, and promote sustainable solutions. From the U.S. southern border to Nigeria to Bangladesh and beyond, our advocates have heard the stories of the displaced and have carried their voices to the halls of political power to advocate on their behalf.

Despite the challenges, much of what our team has seen over the last year gives us hope. We have seen ordinary people in disaster-stricken Puerto Rico transformed into community leaders, refugee women becoming small-business owners, local groups rebuilding their cities in Syria, and governments—from Ethiopia and Uganda to Jordan and Turkey, among others—making efforts to provide refugees with opportunities for education and employment.

We are proud to serve as leaders of Refugees International and to fulfill a solemn obligation to steward this organization. In the year ahead, Refugees International will continue to advance these efforts, present solutions, and demand action.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Schwartz
President, Refugees International

Eileen Shields-West
Board Chair, Refugees International
Targeted killing, widespread sexual violence, and wholesale burning of villages. The brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity waged by Myanmar’s military against the country’s Rohingya minority starting in August 2017 has created one of the largest refugee crises in the world. Through it all, Refugees International experts have returned to Bangladesh and Myanmar to expose the atrocities committed against the Rohingya people—and to champion the needs of survivors.

Refugees International was among the first to publicly declare that the violence perpetrated against the Rohingya constituted ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and to press for U.S. action. The United States has since recognized the crisis as ethnic cleansing and added targeted sanctions on Myanmar military officials responsible for the violence.

In September 2018, the UN Human Rights Council established an independent mechanism to collect evidence of serious international crimes in Myanmar, and in that same month, the U.S. Department of State publicly released its report on atrocities committed against the Rohingya—following an advocacy push from Refugees International and others.

As long as some one million Rohingya remain forcibly displaced in Bangladesh, we will continue to press for international pressure on Myanmar to hold those responsible accountable and to create the conditions necessary for safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable returns for the Rohingya to their homes.
Refugees International will continue to advocate for an improved humanitarian response toward displaced Rohingya living in camps in Bangladesh. The international community heard our call for better coordination and improved preparation for the country’s brutal monsoon and cyclone seasons. A high-level review of the response was carried out, and roads were built and hillsides fortified following this advocacy push. We will continue to press for improved services and protection for Rohingya in the camps.

**ELIE WIESEL GENOCIDE AND ATROCITIES PREVENTION ACT OF 2018**

Refugees International and other partners successfully advocated for the passage of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018, which makes it U.S. law to regard the prevention of genocide and other atrocities as a core national security interest and moral responsibility.
RAISING THE ALARM ON UNDERREPORTED CRISSES

When crises are underreported, they are also under-resourced. Refugees International advocates have traveled the world to raise the alarm on neglected crises and marshal support for people whose suffering has gone unnoticed for too long.
ETHIOPIA
Governments and people around the world welcomed the election of reformer Abiy Ahmed as prime minister of Ethiopia in April 2018. But despite this important development, a major humanitarian crisis was unfolding at about the same time in the south of the country when intercommunal violence forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes. A Refugees International team traveled to areas of conflict to meet with displaced Ethiopians and to better understand the crisis. They led the way in shining a spotlight on the displacement crisis brewing in the country’s south, and others have now followed their lead to bring continued attention and pressure to bear on what is happening. When Refugees International is first on the scene of an underreported crisis, it galvanizes global attention and mobilizes action.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
A staggering 13.1 million Congolese within the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) require humanitarian assistance. International funding for that lifesaving relief is at its lowest in a decade. Without much-needed resources, humanitarian agencies in the DRC are forced to make tough trade-offs as new conflicts emerge and protracted ones simmer—sometimes diverting aid for one at-risk population to another. Amid ongoing fighting, a Refugees International team went in to investigate and implore governments of the world to increase their assistance before the DRC is pushed deeper into chaos. Refugees International continues to advocate for sustained engagement from the international donor community to empower organizations to better respond to the needs of the displaced.

“At my age, I shouldn’t have to suffer like this.”
- JONATHAN, A DISPLACED GRANDFATHER IN BENI CITY, DRC

Top Left: An internally displaced mother and child who fled intercommunal violence and were returned prematurely by the Ethiopian government to their home areas.
Top Middle: A group of internally displaced people in Beni City, DRC.
Top Right: Jonathan, a displaced grandfather in Beni City, DRC, with Refugees International Advocate Alexandra Lamarche.
AFGHANS IN TURKEY

Turkey is well known as the largest refugee-hosting country in the world for giving safe harbor to more than 3.5 million Syrians fleeing conflict at home. However, Turkey is also home to an estimated 170,000 Afghan refugees who are struggling to access basic rights and services. The Turkish government has deported many Afghans home even as their country continues its backslide into violence. And a 2018 change in asylum procedures for Afghans and other non-Syrians in Turkey has had devastating consequences for many, leaving them unable to register with the authorities and with the fear of arrest and deportation. A Refugees International team met with displaced Afghans in Turkey who had been negatively affected by the change and is continuing to bring their stories to bear and engage policymakers on this important issue.

“We don’t want to be a burden. We can manage our own lives if they give us the chance.”

- AFGHAN ASYLUM SEEKER IN TURKEY
Advocating for the Displaced in Armed Conflict

Armed conflict is one of the most significant and deadly drivers of global displacement. In 2018, Refugees International deployed teams to areas ravaged by armed conflict—from South Sudan to Nigeria to Syria—to advocate for those who have been displaced by the horrors of war and insurgency.
“We are waiting for peace. We are all praying hard that we can go home. But if we go home, we need to know that we can stay.”

- Regina Emilio, an internally displaced grandmother in South Sudan

SOUTH SUDAN

Nearly 4.5 million people in South Sudan have been displaced since the country’s brutal civil war broke out in December 2013. But a fragile new peace deal has brought cautious hope that people may soon begin to return home. A Refugees International team traveled to South Sudan to investigate, meeting with displaced people, officials, and humanitarian workers. Based on our findings, Refugees International warned against returning IDPs prematurely amid ongoing instability in some pockets of the country and active manipulation of aid by the South Sudanese government and opposition authorities. Through our reporting and advocacy, Refugees International brought these strong messages to decisionmakers at the UN and in Washington, including the U.S. ambassador to South Sudan.

Top Left: Regina Emilio, an internally displaced grandmother in South Sudan.
Top Right: Shelters in a protection site for IDPs in South Sudan.
NIGERIA
Following a period of widespread hunger and bloody conflict with insurgent group Boko Haram, hundreds of thousands of Nigerians, if not more, have begun to return home. But with the government of Nigeria intent on carrying out large-scale returns even to areas of the country still contested by Boko Haram, a Refugees International team traveled to the heart of these disputed areas to show firsthand that it was still too dangerous for displaced populations to return home. Our report, Political Pressure to Return: Putting Displaced Nigerians at Risk, underscored the dangers of premature returns and has since been used by international NGOs as a guiding document in advocacy to the Nigerian government on how to conduct returns.

SYRIA
As Syria becomes increasingly closed to humanitarian access, a Refugees International team traveled inside to assess the needs of the internally displaced. Through our own advocacy and in coalition with NGO partners, Refugees International helped ensure release of select U.S. funding to provide support for the White Helmets, an unarmed volunteer civil defense force in Syria.
Each year, tens of millions of people across the globe are driven from their homes by floods, storms, droughts, and other weather-related disasters. Tragically, it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities that are hardest hit. In the coming years, the adverse effects of global climate change will bring more extreme weather, growing food insecurity, and rising sea levels. It will also fuel pre-existing tensions as food, water, and other natural resources become scarcer, leading to further conflict. Since launching the climate displacement program in 2010, Refugees International has been leading the policy debate on how to protect communities on the front lines of climate change, avert climate-related displacement, and advocate to build the resilience of the most at-risk individuals and communities.
Confronting Climate Displacement

Climate Commitments in the Global Compact on Migration

In December 2018, the UN adopted a global agreement to meet the challenges posed by large movements of migrants—the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). Refugees International helped ensure the inclusion of language in the compact aimed at protecting those who have been forced to flee their homes due to extreme weather events and the adverse effects of climate change. During Migration Week in Marrakesh, Morocco in December 2018, Refugees International led the Civil Society Days at the Global Forum for Migration and Development—the key civil society effort around implementation of climate-related commitments in the GCM. We are continuing to lead engagement, coordination, and joint advocacy among civil society organizations working on these issues.
FOCUS ON PUERTO RICO

When Hurricane María struck the U.S. island of Puerto Rico, Refugees International experts watched the slow and inadequate response by the federal government with dismay. Given our experience in assessing response to climate-related disasters in other parts of the globe, we conducted our first-ever mission within the United States to bring our protection expertise and international best practices to bear. Since then, we have been engaged in sustained advocacy on behalf of Hurricane María survivors, including poor families and individuals whose homes were severely damaged by the storm who received little to no shelter or housing assistance from FEMA. Our reporting revealed that the United States is failing to protect those Americans who are most vulnerable to displacement.

In October 2018, Congress passed new legislation for which Refugees International had advocated. The legislation included more oversight of shelters and Department of Homeland Security Inspector General audits for FEMA contracts.

In the FRONTLINE PBS documentary “Blackout in Puerto Rico,” Alice Thomas provided her expert opinion on displacement on the island following the devastating effects of Hurricane María. Highlighting the key role played by Puerto Ricans themselves in responding to the crisis, Refugees International has continued to advocate to support the work of community leaders in Puerto Rico as the island recovers.
DEFENDING REFUGEE PROTECTION AND ASYLUM

Although the world is facing the largest displacement crisis in recorded history with 68.5 million people forced from their homes, prosperous nations are turning inwards—xenophobia is on the rise, borders are tightening, and the space for asylum and protection is closing. From the United States to Europe to Asia, we have witnessed this retreat from principles of protection. Refugees International will continue to be on the front lines where those seeking protection are being denied the help that they need.
U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

In violation of U.S. and international law, the United States is closing avenues for women, men, and children to seek asylum. A Refugees International team traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to meet with asylum seekers who fled their homes after being shot or threatened by gangs in the Northern Triangle of Central America. After hearing their stories, Refugees International offered the U.S. government an outline for a humane and responsible policy approach aimed at protecting persons fleeing persecution and violence.

ACCESS TO ASYLUM IN ISRAEL

Amid reports that the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was seeking to deport or indefinitely detain thousands of Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers in Israel, a Refugees International team undertook an emergency mission to assess the situation and highlight the serious risks these populations would face upon deportation. Following our team’s return, Prime Minister Netanyahu and other senior Israeli officials announced in April 2018 what they termed a “landmark agreement” to resolve the status of this group. But the agreement, reached in collaboration with UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), was short-lived, as the prime minister renounced it the very next day following pressure from within his governing coalition. African asylum seekers who have been denied due process remain under threat in Israel, and this issue remains of deep concern to Refugees International.

U.S. REFUGEE PROTECTION REPORT CARD

On World Refugee Day 2018, Refugees International issued a detailed “report card” assessing the U.S. administration’s performance on refugee and humanitarian protection, delivering a failing grade of “F.” The report card has been widely referenced by press and policymakers to point to the administration’s failure to live up to its commitments under U.S. and international law to protect those seeking refuge.

LIBYA

European policies designed to keep asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants from crossing the Mediterranean Sea to Europe are trapping thousands of men, women and children in appalling conditions in Libya. In Niamey, Niger, a Refugees International team met with people who had been detained in Libya’s notoriously abusive immigration detention system, where detainees are exposed to appalling violations, including arbitrary detention and physical and sexual abuse. Our on-the-ground research was widely cited by UNHCR in its updated position on returns from Libya, which reiterates that Libya is not a safe country of disembarkation for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants rescued at sea.
CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women and girls in displacement face unique challenges, but women and girls’ special needs are often inadequately addressed or wholly ignored in humanitarian response. Around the world, from Bangladesh to Puerto Rico, Refugees International has advocated for improved humanitarian programming that elevates the well-being and safety of women and girls and provides them the specialized medical, psychological, legal, and security assistance they need.
Championing the rights of women and girls

ROHINGYA WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

While Rohingya women living in refugee camps in Bangladesh are currently safe from the systematic sexual violence perpetrated against them in Myanmar, gender-based violence (GBV) continues in refuge, with hundreds of incidents reported weekly. A Refugees International team met with Rohingya women and girls to investigate how their medical and psychosocial needs are being met. Our report, Still at Risk: Restrictions Endanger Rohingya Women and Girls in Bangladesh, reveals that the humanitarian community in Bangladesh was—and remains—ill-prepared to prioritize the response to GBV as a lifesaving matter.

WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING AND AFTER HURRICANE MARÍA

Women and girls are typically disproportionately impacted in natural disasters. One year after Hurricane María hit Puerto Rico, Refugees International returned to the island and found that authorities failed to implement widely accepted international best practices to ensure that the unique protection needs of women and girls are met during and after a disaster. By shedding light on this failure, Refugees International brought to the attention of policymakers in San Juan and Washington the need to incorporate women and girls’ protection needs within disaster response and to promote the important role played by many of the island’s local women’s groups in doing so.

“Women and girls are mothering the recovery [in Puerto Rico].”

- LEGAL AID LAWYER AND ACTIVIST IN PUERTO RICO
Given the scale and scope of the global displacement crisis today, no nation alone can respond effectively to the current challenges associated with large movements of people. Together with refugees, migrants, host countries, and the international community, Refugees International has advocated for innovative, long-term solutions that will protect the human rights of the displaced and improve their quality of life.

A Syrian refugee trains to be a plumber at a vocational school in Jordan. (Thomas Imo/Photothek via Getty Images)
JORDAN

In 2016, the Kingdom of Jordan, the EU, and the World Bank signed the Jordan Compact, an international agreement aimed at helping Jordan face the challenges in hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees displaced by Syria’s civil war and providing economic opportunity for Syrians and Jordanians. However, nearly three years into the Compact, access to legal work remains very restricted and only a small number—four percent—of work permits issued to Syrians as of the end of October 2018 had been issued to women. A requirement mandating that Syrian refugees registering a home-based business have a Jordanian partner was holding many back from accessing legal work, especially women. In the report, Out of Reach: Legal Work Still Inaccessible to Refugees in Jordan, Refugees International called on the government of Jordan to repeal this requirement, and the Jordanian government did so two months later.

GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

Adopted in December 2018, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) aims to improve how the world responds to the needs of refugees as defined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The GCR offers a course of action that governments can take to ease the pressures on refugee host countries while enhancing the dignity and well-being of refugees by promoting their economic and social status. It also includes measures to expand access to resettlement and support countries of origin in ensuring that people will be safe if they do indeed return home. Refugees International engaged on the development of the GCR and will remain involved in its implementation. We are also engaged in other efforts to promote refugee “solutions” efforts, including initiatives involving the World Bank.
Refugees International is deeply grateful for our supporters who help us advocate for displaced people around the world. In 2018, we met with more than 1,000 people who were displaced by conflict, climate-related disasters, and the threat of persecution, and issued more than 200 recommendations to policymakers based on what we heard. We do not accept any government or UN funding, which means our responses to refugee crises, research of humanitarian policies in practice, and demands for better institutional support could not be possible without generous donors like you. Thank you for changing the lives of refugees and displaced people around the world.

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Willa and Ted Lutz
Susan Jang
Missy and William Janes
Patricia Duff
Patricia and Frederick Klein
Ronald Kleyn
The Koll Family Foundation
Michelle Kosinski
William Krug
Marisol Lamardir and Jacob Pearlstein
Laura and Greg Lane
Jean and John Lange
Lenzner Family Foundation
Alison and Thomas Lord
Natalia Luis, Antonio Monteiro, and M. Luis Construction
Lawrence Lunt
Willa and Ted Lutz
Phuong Luu
Lynx Investment Advisory
Blythe and James Lyons
Margot Machol
Marlene and Fred Malek and the Malek Family Charitable Trust
Stephanie March
Mastercard International Employee Giving
Kathleen and Chris Matthews
Paul Maxwell
Judith Mayotte
Caroline Netchvolodoff McCall
McKee Family Foundation
Darina and Allian Mckelvie
Rosalia and Richard Miller
Moose Charitable Fund
Catherine Mulligan and Andrew Senich
Kenneth and Diane Murphy
Michael Myers
Kyoshi Nakasaka
Narnia Fund
Roseline and Dennis Neveling
Dane Nichols
Bruce Norelius
Oak Spring Garden Foundation
Christen and Nels Olson
The Dennis A. O’Toole Family Foundation
O’Toole-Parrella Fund
PayPal Giving Fund
Rachel Pearson
Joan Platt
Preemptive Love
Purple Lady/Barbara J. Meislin Fund
Barbara and Bill Richardson
Lionel Rosenblatt
Janet Ross
Nicolas and Sandra Rossier
Sandler Family Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
Schamp-Muscarra Giving Fund
Leslie Schweitzer
Alejandra and Enrique Segura
Jeffrey Shane
Sumeet Singh
Jacqueline and Ken Sirlin
Katie and Jonah Sonnenborn
Ken Souby Foundation, Inc.
Source of Hope Foundation
Jethro Soutar
Valerie and Ed Spencer
Stephanie and Lee Spiegel
Standard Insurance Company
Elizabeth Stern
Catherine Stevens
Emily and Samuel Strulson
Ted and Becky Swift
Elizabeth and Alain Taghipour
Mark & Amy Tercek Foundation
Robin and Mark Thea
Rose and David Thorne
Annie Totah
Mariella and Michael Trager
Gail Ullman
United Talent Agency
Eleni Valanos
Veronica Valencia-Sarukhan and Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan
Emily and Antoine Van Agmeha
Deborah and Daniel Waterman
Caryn and Steve Wechsler
Laurie Jean Weil and Tommy Wool
Virginia Weil
Tracy Welch
The Women’s Association, Fifth Avenue
Caryn and Steve Wechsler
Laurie Jean Weil and Tommy Wool
United Talent Agency
Eleni Valanos
Veronica Valencia-Sarukhan and Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan
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Susan Jang
Missy and William Janes
Patricia Duff
Patricia and Frederick Klein
Ronald Kleyn
The Koll Family Foundation
Michel...
### Statement of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,921,338</td>
<td>2,831,332</td>
<td>2,066,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>1,660,924</td>
<td>1,537,252</td>
<td>4,354,852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>151,140</td>
<td>374,887</td>
<td>(252,447)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Donations</td>
<td>257,523</td>
<td>189,771</td>
<td>203,545</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$3,990,925</td>
<td>$4,933,242</td>
<td>$6,372,091*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>1,814,283</td>
<td>2,098,843</td>
<td>2,291,632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>1,003,643</td>
<td>1,071,692</td>
<td>1,160,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Services</td>
<td>2,817,926</td>
<td>3,170,535</td>
<td>3,452,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>128,793</td>
<td>193,739</td>
<td>237,958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>341,211</td>
<td>305,924</td>
<td>414,634</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Supporting Services</td>
<td>470,004</td>
<td>499,663</td>
<td>652,592</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Functional Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$3,287,930</td>
<td>$3,670,198</td>
<td>$4,105,047</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Items</td>
<td>41,303</td>
<td>44,283</td>
<td>112,838</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$661,692</td>
<td>$1,218,761</td>
<td>$2,154,206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</td>
<td>1,786,667</td>
<td>2,448,359</td>
<td>3,667,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$2,448,359</td>
<td>$3,667,120</td>
<td>$5,821,326*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes $2,892,814 foundation grant funding (net of present value discount) that is a multi-year gift through 2021.

**Editor’s Note**: Please see the 2018 annual audit report on Refugees International’s website for details.

### How You Can Help

You make the difference.

Refugees International advocates for lifesaving assistance and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises around the world.

We do not accept any government or UN funding, ensuring the independence and credibility of our work.

That is why your support is crucial. Your contribution helps shed light on unseen crises around the world and brings the untold experiences of refugees and displaced people to the halls of political power.

Please visit our website at www.refugeesinternational.org/donate to submit your donation.

Together, we can raise refugee voices.

Thank you.
“IF I’M READING IN THE NEWSPAPER ABOUT A CRISIS SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD, IT IS OF GREAT CONSOLOATION TO ME TO KNOW THAT, IF NOT AT THIS MOMENT, THEN VERY SOON I WILL BE HEARING FROM REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE CRISIS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY WHAT WE SHOULD DO ABOUT IT.”

- SAMANTHA POWER, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UN