

J 5. ETHNIC CLEANSING

This has been one of the worst forms of violence recently in human history, and one for which no adequate solutions have been found as yet. People call for action against it, but no one seems to know what action is most appropriate and likely to be effective. The problem is especially acute if government is an open or known guilty party, for then it is unsatisfactory simply to have outside military forces killing government forces instead of government forces killing interior ethnic groups. Yet this case might be easier to deal with effectively without more killing than when the government is not involved.

There is increasing agreement among nations that the proper approach is to take the position that if a government does not (or cannot) stop ethnic cleansing, the international community has a responsibility to try to protect the ethnic groups being attacked violently. No one outside government can assume this responsibility, but a broader international community could do so by joint action. It could start with denouncing the ethnic cleansing they see taking place and announce that they will immediately take action to send in a substantial force of people to position themselves in front of the ethnic group under attack to stop any further attack upon that ethnic group.

While that may prevent further ethnic cleansing in some instances, the question is how long they would have to remain in that position, and what more final resolution of the situation would be possible.

It can be suggested that one of two solutions might be possible, under threat that the international force could return if ethnic cleansing were threatened again.

One permanent solution would be to get the ruling group and leaders of the attacked ethnic group to agree upon a sharing of power that would be considered equitable by both sides & by the international community that had intervened.

Another solution might be to set up the attacked ethnic group as an independent nation with equitable boundaries between the two resulting states. Since the ethnic groups may not be in entirely separate contiguous areas, and movement of some to a new area might be difficult, there should be some recognition of minimal minority rights respected by each government in their respective constitutions.