

Genocide Discourse and Political Harms

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Abstract

This is a collaborative writing project undertaken by a philosopher, Aleksandar Jokic, and a practitioner in the field of international criminal law, attorney Tiphaine Dickson, who had the experience of defending an accused for genocide in front of an *ad hoc* U.N. body called International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). In light of the creation by the new administration of President Barack Obama of the Genocide Prevention Task Force, which is urging the President “to make the prevention of genocide a national priority and to set up a high-level mechanism toward that end” a more careful study of the emerging “genocide discourse” and possible political harms it could inflict is a worthwhile and urgent project. By reflecting on a social phenomenon we call genocidalism, and an extensive study and analysis of many cases of genocide discourse we intend to bring out to light the real danger that serious political harms may result from the current practice of genocide discourse.