"PREVENTING GENOCIDE"

Ten years ago a genocide was carried out in the African nation of Rwanda. Could world leaders be caught flat-footed again if faced with similar crimes against humanity?

Are there indicators of genocide in the crises currently enveloping the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of Congo? Is 'having the information' about an impending genocide enough to stop it? Do 'scorched earth tactics' and 'ethnic cleansing' have to be defined as 'genocide' before preventive action can be taken under international law?

In this edition of World Chronicle, these difficult questions are explored in the company of the person in charge of sounding the genocide alarm bells for the United Nations: the recently appointed Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Juan Méndez.