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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS APPLAUDS PRESIDENT ON ATROCITY PREVENTION

(WASHINGTON, D.C., April 23, 2012) – Today, saying “national sovereignty is never a license to slaughter your people,” President Obama announced a comprehensive strategy to preventing and addressing mass atrocities at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The President’s plan includes the creation of an Interagency Atrocities Prevention Board, which is tasked with building upon the United States’ foreign policy mechanisms and agencies to prevent atrocities before they begin.

Citizens for Global Solutions has long championed the United States developing a strategy for genocide prevention. Don Kraus, CEO of Citizens for Global Solutions said, “President Obama’s address today was the most substantive speech I have ever heard a President give on genocide prevention. Citizens for Global Solutions applauds the administration’s creation of an Interagency Atrocities Prevention Board and the other very significant measures taken today. Together, this represents a historic milestone in developing a comprehensive policy framework to prevent future atrocities.”

However, more action is needed to be taken in order to ensure the Board’s effectiveness. Kraus noted, “It is crucial that the Atrocities Prevention Board engages with Congress in its development, that flexible funding is explored to match complicated crises with the need for timely response, and that civilian society is consulted in conflict assessment and policy planning.”

The concept of this structure was first introduced in the Albright-Cohen Genocide Prevention Task Force and Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, passed in December 2011. Last August, President Obama issued Presidential Study Directive 10, which developed an interagency review for the creation of the Atrocity Prevention Board. In the directive, President Obama stated that preventing genocide was a national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.

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Citizens for Global Solutions is a groundbreaking national movement for Americans who want the United States to take a responsible and cooperative role in the world at GlobalSolutions.org.

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