

medical service to all. Again, the argument could be made that, often, only through a ceasefire will it be possible to create those conditions.

#### Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide is another useful instrument for those who would quote international law in the defence of civilians in war-zones.<sup>8</sup> It confirms that genocide is a crime under international law which the signatories undertake to prevent and punish. This convention includes, under the definition of genocide, deliberate infliction on a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part. According to this definition, the denial of food or medicine to certain sectors of a population in a war-zone, especially when such assistance has been offered, would qualify as genocide.

#### Declaration on the Rights of the Child

When considering childhood immunization ceasefires, it should be remembered that children are entitled to the same human rights as their parents. Indeed, the various conventions and declarations that have been discussed, invariably single out children for special care. The unique case of children has been recognized as well in declarations and conventions developed specifically to serve them. Notable is the Declaration on the Rights of the Child.<sup>9</sup> Proclaimed in 1959, the preamble to this Declaration concludes that the child, by reason of physical and mental immaturity, requires special safeguards. Principle 4 accords adequate pre-natal and post-natal care to the child and his/her mother and states that the child "shall be entitled to grow and develop in health." Principle 8 states that the child "shall in all circumstances be among the first to receive protection and relief."

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<sup>8</sup> *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, General Assembly Resolution 260A (III), 9 December 1948, in *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, New York: United Nations Publications, sales no. E.83.XIV.1, pp.56-57.

<sup>9</sup> *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1386 (XIV), 20 November 1959, in *Ibid.*, pp. 129-130.