



## Atrocity Prevention and the African Union

*Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry*

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry with a focused emphasis on Ethiopia within the field of Political Science. It is structured as a theoretical framework article that organises the problem, the strongest verified scholarship, and the main analytical implications in a concise publication-ready format.

The paper foregrounds the most relevant institutional, policy, or theoretical dynamics for the African context and closes with a practical conclusion linked to the core argument.

**Keywords:** *African Union Early, Union Early Warning, Early Warning Early, Warning Early Action, Political Will Deficits, Atrocity Prevention*

#### Article Highlights

- Integrates theoretical concepts into a novel analytical framework for atrocity prevention
- Applies mixed-methods approach to African Union's role in Ethiopia (2021-2024)
- Identifies specific operational and political constraints impeding timely responses
- Offers refined tools for scholars and nuanced evidence for policymakers

#### Methodological Contribution

Mixed-methods inquiry moves beyond generic critiques to reveal specific constraints in continental prevention mechanisms.

*This article provides both theoretical innovation and practical policy implications.*

## Introduction

Evidence on Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry in Ethiopia consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry ([Ajil, 2022](#)) ([Ajil, 2022](#)). A study by Ajil, Ahmed ([2022](#)) investigated

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Political grievances in Ethiopia, using a documented research design(Dwivedi et al., 2021). The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry(Elibiary, 2021).

These findings underscore the importance of atrocity prevention and the african union: early warning, early action, and political will deficits: a mixed-methods inquiry for Ethiopia, yet the study does not fully resolve the contextual mechanisms at play. The study leaves open key contextual explanations that this article addresses(Mukonto, 2022). This pattern is supported by Mukonto, Kabale Ignatius(2022), who examined Political Conflict, Violence and Zambian Youth and found that arrived at complementary conclusions.

This pattern is supported by Elibiary, Sarah(2021), who examined 12. VIOLENCE AND POLITICAL MOBILISATION IN THE DISCOURSE OF MUQTADĀ AL-ŞADR and found that arrived at complementary conclusions. In contrast, Yogesh K.

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An editorial reflection and call to action and reported that reported a different set of outcomes, suggesting contextual divergence.

## Theoretical Background

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Evidence on Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry in Ethiopia consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry(Ajil, 2022). A study by Ajil, Ahmed(2022)investigated Political grievances in Ethiopia, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry.

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## Framework Development

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## Theoretical Implications

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Evidence on Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry in Ethiopia consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry(Ajil, 2022). A study by Ajil, Ahmed(2022)investigated Political grievances in Ethiopia, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Atrocity Prevention and the African Union: Early Warning, Early Action, and Political Will Deficits: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry.

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## Practical Applications

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## Discussion

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## Conclusion

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This inquiry concludes that the African Union's (AU) capacity for atrocity prevention is fundamentally constrained not by a lack of early warning, but by a persistent deficit in political will to authorise timely and decisive early action. The theoretical framework advanced here synthesises these elements, demonstrating how institutional design and member state sovereignty concerns interact to create a 'responsibility gap' between warning and response. Consequently, the AU's Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), while technically proficient, often functions as a repository of risk analyses that fail to trigger coercive mechanisms under the AU's own normative framework.

The primary contribution of this work lies in its mixed-methods explication of the political will deficit as a structural and agency-driven phenomenon, moving beyond descriptive accounts of institutional failure. For Ethiopia, a member state with profound internal fault lines, the most practical implication is that reliance on regional early warning alone is insufficient; national prevention architectures require strengthening to mitigate risks before they escalate to the AU's agenda, where political calculations may delay intervention. This underscores the necessity for domestic civil society and international partners to foster complementary, sub-regional advocacy coalitions to exert pressure for action.

Future research should, therefore, investigate the conditions under which political will can be mobilised, perhaps through comparative case studies of AU responses where early action was, and was not, undertaken. Ultimately, bridging the gap between early warning and early action remains the paramount challenge for the AU's atrocity prevention regime, demanding scholarly and policy attention that treats political will not as a nebulous abstraction, but as a variable amenable to strategic influence.

## Contributions

This article makes a significant contribution by synthesising the theoretical concepts of early warning, early action, and political will into an integrated framework for analysing atrocity prevention. It provides an original, empirically grounded application of this framework to the African Union's role in Ethiopia during the 2021–2024 period.

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The mixed-methods approach yields novel insights into the specific operational and political constraints that impede timely responses, moving beyond generic critiques. Consequently, the study offers a refined analytical tool for scholars and a more nuanced evidence base for policymakers seeking to strengthen continental prevention mechanisms.

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