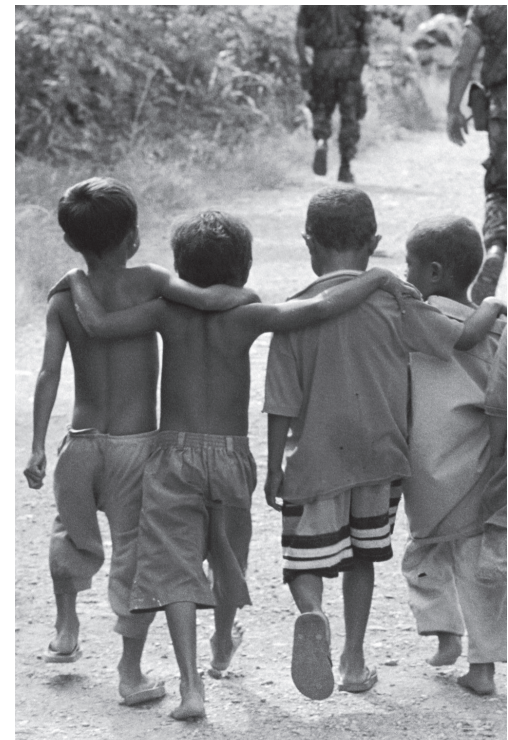
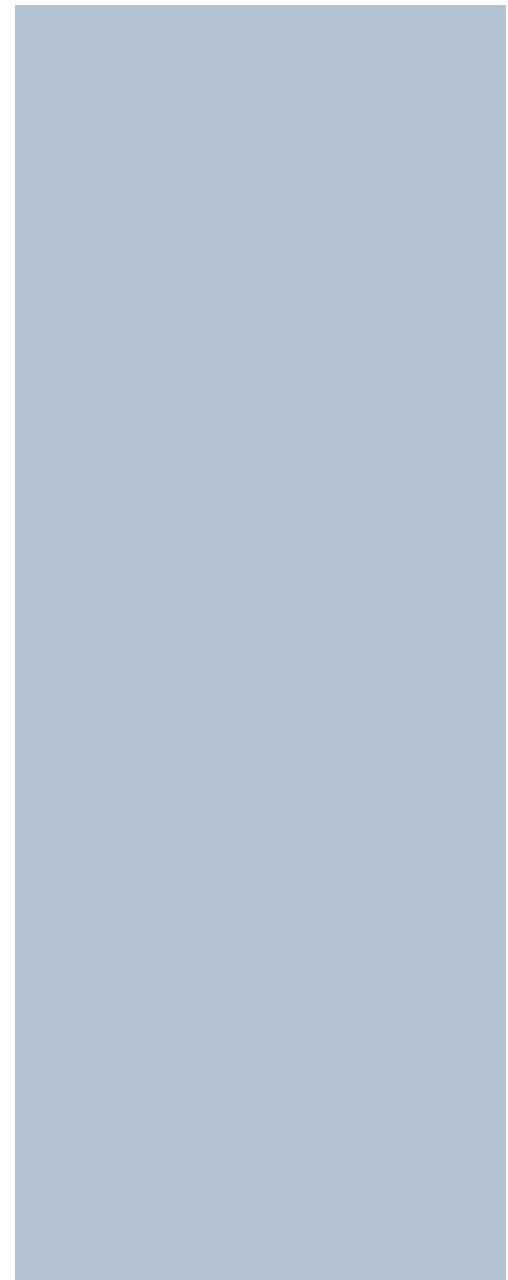




International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect:

# **VOICES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY**





## A MESSAGE FROM THE ICRtoP SECRETARIAT

For almost a decade, civil society actors have served as guiding voices and constructive players in the development of the Responsibility to Protect (“RtoP” or “R2P”), an emerging international norm that can be a powerful tool to prevent and halt the worst crimes known to humankind: genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Today, civil society continues to play a major role in the effort to advance the new norm and its principles around the world. In partnership with like-minded governments, civil society has successfully advocated for endorsements of RtoP in national, regional and international forums and worked to cement RtoP principles within policies and practices.

NGOs continue to remind governments of the 2005 commitment to protect populations from mass atrocities with calls for action. In many countries, civil society is raising awareness of RtoP among a wide range of actors—from other NGOs and academia to governments and the media—and acting as an indispensable partner in promoting RtoP’s relevance and importance.

**As a global network of NGOs, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) works to connect these groups and enhance their voices with the goal of promoting RtoP at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels.**

The new *Voices from Civil Society* publication illustrates the broad range of

civil society efforts promoting RtoP. Preventing and halting mass atrocities is a priority for a number of different sectors of NGOs, including human rights, conflict prevention, peace and security, humanitarian, women’s rights, international justice and peacebuilding. In this publication, ICRtoP members and other civil society partners highlight aspects of their RtoP-related programs and activities. Entries are organized into specific categories to reflect the diversity of RtoP work, but please note that many of the included groups work on cross-cutting issues and within multiple sectors.

These are only a few of the voices, and we would like to hear from others. ICRtoP has a range of communication resources to amplify your organization’s voice. Contact us at :

[info@responsibilitytoprotect.org](mailto:info@responsibilitytoprotect.org)

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*\*\*\*Please note the symbol  at the end of a column indicates that content continues on the following page. In the PDF version, you may click on this button to jump to continued content.*



# NGOS ENGAGED AT THE REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL

## ASIA-PACIFIC CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Facilitating effective regional and domestic implementation of international human rights obligations in Asia



The Responsibility to Protect and the Mindanao Conflict, February 2010. Credit: Philippines Center for Islam and Democracy

The Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APCR2P) aims to advance the Responsibility to Protect principle within the Asia-Pacific Region and worldwide, and support the building of capacity to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It provides opportunities for regional human rights norm building and domestic internalisation, the strengthening of national capacities for human rights pro-

motion and protection, and the potential to move towards monitoring of human rights issues of concern.

The Asia-Pacific Centre has recently released two in-depth research reports on the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and RtoP. The first, *The AICHR and R2P: Development and Potential*, examined how regional and sub-regional arrangements such as ASEAN



and the AICHR have a crucial role to play in translating RtoP from words to deeds. The second report, *The AICHR and R2P: Optimisation and Strategic Aims* builds upon the first and places significance on the Commission's broad-ranging powers to promote human rights and to facilitate the effective domestic implementation of international human rights obligations. The report also proposes a 'hub-and-spoke' model whereby the AICHR coordinates the strengthening of each ASEAN State's national capacity for human rights promotion and protection by facilitating assistance programs through a variety of stakeholders and service providers. Together, the two reports conclude with cautious optimism and argue that with sustained encouragement and commitment, the AICHR can play a more progressive role in advancing human rights and preventing RtoP crimes in Southeast Asia.

In early February 2011, the APCR2P ran a training seminar on RtoP and the prevention of mass atrocities in Zamboanga City, Philippines at the 2nd National Conference of Muslim Women Peace advocates. The conference, 'Noorus Salam: From Vision to Action, From Conflict to Peace', was organised by the Philippines Center for Islam and Democracy to gather over 150 Noorus Salam ('Light of Peace') women religious leaders to formulate plans of action to act as catalysts of peace and development in their communities. The workshop session on "RtoP and the Mindanao Conflict" provided an overview of the Responsibility to Protect and its relevance to the conflict in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. It gave an overview of the causes and early warning signs of mass atrocities and offered strategies for strengthening early warning and atrocities prevention in the region.

## **From ICRTOP: Regional Organizations—Indispensable Partners for Translating RtoP into Action**

Regional and sub-regional organizations are central in preventing and reacting to mass atrocities. With a unique understanding of internal developments in countries facing potential or current atrocities, these organizations are often the first to become aware of crimes being committed. As a result, they are able to play a direct and crucial role in implementing early warning measures. With tailored responses, regional and sub-regional organizations can respond early to crises by deploying eminent persons/ envoys, encouraging measures such as mediation between parties, and dispatching fact-finding delegations to regions affected. Regional organizations can also deliver punitive measures, by denying an offending State membership in the regional organization or, in some cases, denying rotational Chair. In certain regions, regional organizations can monitor the enforcement of sanctions and contribute to the deployment of regional and international peace missions to protect civilians. Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa only underscore the growing influence that regional organizations can have in the decision-making process of the UN Security Council.

As regional and sub-regional organizations are widely viewed as an indispensable partner in translating the global commitment into actual policy, it is in this same spirit that they can foster



regional ownership of RtoP and ensure that it is localized in a manner consistent with regional norms. Civil society in diverse global regions is committed to practical engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations through consultations, workshops and other means, thereby enhancing regional capacity to take early action to avert and react to genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and war crimes.

### July 2011: Informal interactive dialogue at the UN General Assembly

The General Assembly is expected to hold an informal interactive dialogue on the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in implementing the Responsibility to Protect on 12 July 2011. In advance of this meeting, civil society groups from many regions have written to and engaged with Heads of regional and sub-regional organizations to encourage their active participation in the dialogue and request that they share proposals and recommendations for implementing RtoP. Civil society will be represented at the dialogue and will organize side events reflecting perspectives on the issue.

## COORDINADORA REGIONAL DE INVESTIGACIONES ECONÓMICAS Y SOCIALES

Implications for RtoP in Latin America and the Caribbean: building a constituency of support to interact with States and the region



CRIES and ICRtoP organized the second regional meeting on RtoP “‘Responsibility to Protect, Multilateralism and Civil Society in Latin America and the Caribbean’; Panama, March 2010. Photo: Marion Arnaud

Historically, Latin American countries have shown strong reluctance to interference in domestic affairs from the legacy of past interventions in the region by European powers and the United States. Within this context, the Responsibility to Protect has been met with caution in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), from both governments and civil society. The Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES) program on the “Responsibility to Protect” aims to promote the norm among civil society organizations and develop strategies for its implementation in the region by combining advocacy, awareness and training on RtoP at different levels (regional, subregional, national and civil society).





On 12 March, 2010 CRIES and the ICRtoP organized the second regional meeting on RtoP entitled “Responsibility to Protect, Multilateralism and Civil Society in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The meeting allowed for the designing of a strategic plan with civil society from the region.

On 1 September 2010 CRIES and Consejo Argentino para las relaciones Internacionales (CARI) organized a conference entitled “The role of civil society in the new global agenda for peace and security.” This event was part of the cycle of debates “Building Bicentennial White Paper” that the Ministry of Defense of Argentina organized with the support of the United Nations Development Programme. The seminar held a panel devoted to the topic of Responsibility to Protect. The main objective of this panel was to discuss RtoP and its implication in the LAC re-

“CRIES aims to promote the norm among civil society organizations and develop strategies for its implementation in the region by combining advocacy, awareness and training on RtoP at different levels.”

gion with representatives of civil society organizations.

The 16th edition of “Documentos CRIES” published two articles by Andres Serbin, Gilberto Rodrigues and Ricardo Arredondo, amounting to a complete study of the Responsibility to Protect in Latin America. On 15 March, 2011 it was presented at CARI’s offices and included a panel discussion on the situation in Libya. In addition, it was an opportunity to engage on RtoP with government representatives, including diplomats and Ministry of Defense staff.

## INITIATIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

South-South and people-to-people RtoP: bridging the gap between the community, the state and the international levels

The Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID) is a regional advocacy and solidarity organization pursuing south-south and people-to-people internationalism towards peace-building, right to self-determination and democratization in the Asia-Pacific region. Through its new campaign on RtoP, IID intends to deepen the discussions on the norm among civil society, help build the knowledge and capacity of its constituency, engage the government, place RtoP within the realm of

public discourse, and debate and lobby for the recognition of the RtoP principles at the national, ASEAN and UN levels.

In the Philippines, IID participated in a seminar for civil society organizations organized by the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APCR2P). As part of the development of a national action plan for strengthening and implementing the RtoP, the seminar brought together civil society organizations that have an interest in understanding, debat-







Asia-Pacific Solidarity Coalition Regional Consultation Meeting: "Lessons and Assertions Concerning the Right to Self-Determination in Southeast Asia" held in October 2010. Credit: IID

**“The workshop helped IID explore ways to build on existing mechanisms to advance the protection of civilians and to support, complement and even pressure states to comply with their obligations.”**

ing and advocating for the RtoP principles in the Philippines. Last year, IID was invited to the Regional Workshop on the Protection of Civilians held in Singapore which was attended by individuals from different backgrounds including the fields of law, academe and civil society. The workshop helped IID explore ways to build on existing mechanisms to advance the protection of civilians and to support, complement and even pressure states to comply with their obligations. In an effort

access and distribution of much needed relief in Burma after cyclone Nargis, the prosecution of the junta’s crimes against humanity through the establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry, and mobilizations against fraudulent elections. In many ways, IID has been engaged and committed to the principles of RtoP even before it was articulated.

to further understand and later promote and mainstream RtoP, IID together with other non-state actors recently attended the Dissemination Meeting and Policy Roundtable on the Responsibility to Protect in Bangkok, Thailand.

IID has facilitated discussions and efforts of NGOs working on peace and conflict issues around Aceh, Burma, East Timor, South Thailand and southern Philippines. Under its Democratization Program, IID has been at the forefront of the campaigns in Burma, including for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners,

## INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE RIGHTS INITIATIVE

Enhancing international justice and strengthening African peacekeeping missions with tools for preventing atrocities

The International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI) is dedicated to promoting human rights in situations of conflict and displacement, enhancing the protection of vulnerable populations before, during and after conflict. IRRI grounds its advocacy in regional and international human rights principles, including the Responsibility to Protect, and strives to make these guarantees effective at the local level.

The norms and mechanisms of the African Union (AU) and the sub-regional organizations present a rich framework for the implementation of RtoP in Africa. Operationalising

“**The norms and mechanisms of the African Union and the sub-regional organizations present a rich framework for the implementation of RtoP in Africa. Operationalising them at the right time and the right way remains a challenge.**”

them at the right time and the right way remains a challenge. During the AU’s “Year of Peace and Security” in 2010, IRRI focused on the role of international justice and peacekeeping missions in achieving adherence to RtoP, particularly through its work on Sudan with the Darfur Consortium, and on the International Criminal Court (ICC). In July 2010, on

the occasion of the AU summit of Heads of State in Kampala, IRRI organized a series of events which highlighted the need to keep protection of civilians and accountability for mass atrocities as key priorities in the search for a sustainable peace in Sudan, including through equipping the UN/AU Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) with the tools and political support needed to ensure the effective implementation of its protection mandate. The previous month, IRRI used the presence of delegates from across the world in Kampala at the Review Conference of the ICC to help keep the spotlight on the need for accountability for mass atrocities

in Darfur. In collaboration with the Darfur Refugee Association in Uganda, an exhibition of Darfur perspectives of the role of the ICC in Darfur was opened by Kenyan Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai. A panel discussion on Sudan, the ICC and the AU was also well attended, despite Sudan-based speakers having been prevented from travelling to attend the event.

During 2011, IRRI will intensify its work on raising awareness of RtoP in Africa particularly looking at how lessons can be learned from the history of the evolution of the AU guiding principle from “non-interference” to “non-indifference” for the implementation of RtoP today.

## PAN AFRICAN LAWYERS UNION

Legal experts developing strategies for regional and sub-regional bodies on human rights, peace and security; upcoming Colloquium on RtoP

The Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) is the umbrella association of African lawyers and law societies in Africa and the diaspora. PALU actively engages and works with the African Union (AU) and its various organs and institutions. It has a formal Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation and Collaboration with the AU and as such, it can file advisory opinions before the African Court on Human and People's Rights (AfCHPR).

It is currently formulating a Regional Integration and Regional Organizations' Strategy that will articulate how it will support deeper, wider and people-based integration in the AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other African International Organizations. It is also formulating an African International Courts and Tribunals' Strategy, which will define how it will utilize and promote the existing African international judicial and quasi-judicial institutions to contribute to democracy, good governance, the rule of law, protection and promotion of human and peoples' rights, as well as peace, security and stability on the African continent.

In these two strategies, priority will be given to the Responsibility to Protect and how various stakeholders can effec-

tively make use of the norm. The primary beneficiaries will be African scholars, lawyers and human rights activists, in providing an ideal opportunity to interact, discuss and thoroughly analyze RtoP. Subsidiary beneficiaries will be decision-makers at the African and sub-regional levels, in helping them to better understand the regional dynamics and challenges linked to proposed Peace & Security Architecture. This will be best achieved through holding a Pan-African Colloquium of legal scholars that shall bring together prominent legal scholars in the field of International Law and Human Rights on how to utilize existing mechanisms and discussing avenues for advocacy and possible litigation at the sub-regional Courts of Justice and the AfCHPR. This will be followed by the publication of a Compendium summarizing the discussions from the Colloquium, which will include a formal call to action. Finally, these achievements will be brought forward by constant discussions through e-Newsletters & web-based dissemination of information and the creation of a database of academics, lawyers and human rights activists at the forefront of the implementation of the RtoP on the African continent.

# STRENGTHENING JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MASS ATROCITY CRIMES

## EAST AFRICA LAW SOCIETY

Ensuring accountability following electoral violence in Kenya

The East Africa Law Society (EALS) is the regional Bar Association in East Africa that brings together the institutional and individual membership of the national Law Associations of the five East Africa countries, and works to enhance the rule of law and access to justice for all in an integrated East Africa. Part of this mandate encompasses regular stock-taking of the state of the rule of law and adherence to regional and international treaty obligations by partner states, and undertaking of legislative and policy advocacy to address any shortcomings that may be identified. As part of its Regional Conflict Resolution Programme promoting peace, justice conflict resolution and the rule of law, EALS also aims at increasing awareness on RtoP and its applicability in the East Africa region.

On 21 January 2011, EALS issued a statement on the application of Summons from the International Criminal Court against six Kenyans, for their alleged responsibility and complicity in crimes against humanity during the post election violence in Kenya, a clear RtoP situation in which over 1200 people lost their lives and more than 500,000 fled their homes as a result of the violence. The government of Kenya has shown

neither the will nor the capacity to investigate and prosecute the cases. Thus, the statement condemned in the strongest term the resolution by Kenya's national Parliament to withdraw from the

**“EALS’s statement condemned in the strongest term the resolution by Kenya’s national Parliament to withdraw from the Rome Statute.”**

Rome Statute, as well as any proposal of the Kenyan Parliament to delay or frustrate the ongoing investigation and prosecutions. EALS asked Kenya to cooperate with the Court and reminded that withdrawal from the Rome Statute would not in any way retrospectively invalidate or halt the ongoing application for summons or of its legal obligation to cooperate with and support the court in investigations and prosecution process. The statement concluded that it remained crucial to ensure that any person complicit in the violence is held to account and that the victims of the violence finally see justice. It is critical that Kenya demonstrate that it is committed to zero tolerance for any international human rights violations, and have the domestic will and capacity to enforce this will.



## **WORLD FEDERALIST MOVEMENT – INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL POLICY**

Supporting global governance and preventing, halting and ending impunity for mass atrocity crimes

The World Federalist Movement–Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) includes a comprehensive set of programs that work to protect civilians from mass atrocity crimes; facilitate transparency in governance; increase access to justice; and promote the application of the rule of law. Through its International Democratic Governance Program, WFM-IGP strives to advocate for more democratic and inclusive systems of governance in transnational mechanisms and mobilize civil society actors to participate in intergovernmental and transnational institutions. WFM-IGP, as host of the Secretariat of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), brings together NGOs from all regions of the world to strengthen normative consensus for RtoP and push for strengthened capacities to prevent mass atrocity crimes. Executive Director of WFM-IGP, William Pace, is the convener of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC). Members of the CICC work in partnership to ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; makes justice visible and universal; and advances stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The CICC participated in the Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala, Uganda from 31 May – 11 June 2010 in which ICC states parties, observer states, international organizations, NGOs, and other partici-

pants discussed proposed amendments to the Rome Statute and took stock of its impact to date.

The role and impact of the ICC has been brought to the forefront in response to recent political crises in Africa and the Middle East. The ICC and the RtoP norm enjoy a complementary relationship; they work together towards the prevention of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, and the utilization of judicial remedies is one of the prevention and reaction mechanisms within the conception of RtoP. In the aftermath of the Tunisian revolution, the interim government approved the country's accession to the Rome Statute. The CICC and the Arab Institute for Human Rights – Tunisia organized a one-day seminar on 9 March 2011 discussing Tunisia's pending accession to the Rome Statute, which was attended by members of civil society, government representatives, academics and the media. The Coalition has also remained actively engaged with members on issues such as the post-conflict situation in Cote d'Ivoire and the ongoing crisis in Libya, which, with the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1970, was referred to the ICC. CICC members have been involved in advocacy on these crises and have worked to relay information to the Court, release press statements, and aid Libyan victims who fled to Egypt.

# **POLICY AND RESEARCH: ADDRESSING THE BARRIERS TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

## **CENTRE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES**

Regional consultations, research and policy dissemination to further RtoP in Asia



Study Group and regional consultation on RtoP, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies. Credit: Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies is located at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, in Singapore. It aims to conduct research and produce policy-relevant analyses to raise awareness and build capacity to address non-traditional security (NTS) issues in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Since 2009, the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies has led a project titled 'R2P in Focus: Operationalising the Responsibility to Protect in Asia'. Through this project, the Centre, headed by Associate Professor Mely Caballero-

Anthony, has advanced understanding and awareness of the Responsibility to Protect by leading a study group. The Centre also convened a regional consultation on the RtoP and two subsequent policy dissemination meetings in Bangkok and Tokyo. As a result of the study group's research, a special issue of a peer-reviewed academic journal *Pacific Review* on RtoP is forthcoming. The Centre has also convened a policy workshop on civilian protection in February 2010 and co-organized a regional workshop on civilian protection with the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC) in July 2010.

The Centre has hosted public seminars over the past two years, provoking debate and public awareness on the concept of the RtoP. In addition, the Centre, through its Internal and Cross Border Conflict Programme, has looked at the fluctuating support for RtoP in the region in relations to existing early warning systems and mechanisms for civilian protection. Through the Centre, the Internal and Cross Border Conflict Studies team have produced policy briefs and scholarly articles on the RtoP.

## GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Research and advocacy to promote acceptance and implementation of the norm

Through research and advocacy, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P) promotes the universal acceptance and effective implementation of the norm of the responsibility to protect. The Centre supports governments, NGOs and international institutions in becoming more effective advocates for RtoP and in meeting their obligations under RtoP.

“GCR2P promotes the universal acceptance and effective implementation of the norm of the responsibility to protect.”

In the two years since its creation, the Centre has established itself as the principal adviser to the New York-based governmental Group of Friends of RtoP, convened annual meetings of foreign ministers to discuss RtoP, secured commitments for the creation of national governmental focal points (senior officials with designated RtoP responsibilities), and worked closely to support the Secretary-General's advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and RtoP. The Centre has provided policy-relevant research and strategic guidance to governments, UN officials and civil society activists on what needs to be done – by whom, how and when – to prevent a repetition of such past horrors as the Holocaust, the killing fields of

Cambodia, the 1994 genocide in Rwanda or ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. A key achievement of the Centre in its first two years has been its influence on the substance and constructive outcome of two debates within the UN General Assembly on RtoP. The results of this work are already evident, with an increasing number of member states identifying themselves as supporters of the norm, and a corresponding marginalization of those that profess outright opposition.

”

The Global Centre monitors populations at risk of mass atrocities and issues policy briefs, open statements and public letters explaining how the responsibility to protect applies, and what preventive and protective action is needed. In the past year the Centre

has released briefs, statements and letters on Sudan, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, the Lord's Resistance Army, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This work has been accompanied by advocacy urging policy makers to uphold their Responsibility to Protect and includes high-level meetings with UN Ambassadors and UN officials, convening of meetings of experts and public events to discuss options and present policy recommendations. The work on populations at risk seeks to encourage action that will save lives, explain the norm and address misconceptions, and identify gaps in early warning and response mechanisms that need to be remedied.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM AT BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO LAW SCHOOL**

Exploring the creation of evidentiary guidelines to determine when to act under an RtoP framework

The Human Rights Program at Benjamin N. Cardozo law School in New York has launched a two-year research project to conceptualize and operationalize a critical subset of the RtoP doctrine by exploring the creation of evidentiary guidelines to determine when the international community must act pursuant to its RtoP obligations. Currently, many of those invoking RtoP employ criminal law categories to describe the content of states' responsibilities. As a result, the doctrine is hamstrung by legal disputes over whether certain actions constitute a 'crime' as to fall under the RtoP.

But at what point can a state definitively declare that a situation calls for the application of the RtoP framework? What is an appropriate standard of proof that prevents hasty action, while ensuring the preventative component of RtoP? On what basis do regional and national decision makers currently make determinations that a situation requires their timely and decisive action? This project will result in a proposal of specific, concrete standards and criteria to guide and inform the application of RtoP in emerging crisis situations.

## **OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ETHICS, LAW AND ARMED CONFLICT AT UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

Developing a framework for understanding Prevention: Best practices and main barriers for successful prevention

The Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC) at the University of Oxford, UK, has launched a research project 'The Responsibility to Prevent: Developing Ad hoc and Systemic Strategies', which supports research that will materially contribute to making RtoP a reliable factor in international crisis handling. Led by Professor Jennifer Welsh and Dr. Serena Sharma, this project seeks to advance the implementation of the principle of RtoP by elaborating on how one of its key elements – prevention – can be operationalized in international society. Whilst conflict pre-

vention has been an area of much discussion among policy makers, academics, and civil society, much less analysis has been carried out in relation to the specific crimes covered by RtoP. More specifically, the project has four main aims:

- To develop an overall framework for understanding the prevention of mass atrocities, organized broadly around the categories of 'ad hoc' and 'systemic' approaches;

- To analyze and synthesize the 'best practice' on prevention from other contexts, and build this evidence base





into the strategic framework;

- To demonstrate how prevention works in relation to the other components of RtoP; and
- To highlight possible barriers to the successful implementation of prevention, and how they might be overcome.

The project will produce a working paper developing an overall strategic framework for prevention, along with a series of published papers on the theme of ‘The Respon-

sibility to Prevent’. Two of these will draw on information gathered from new fieldwork, including an examination of the post-election crisis that took place in Kenya in 2008. A key outcome of the project will be an international policy engagement process with academics, NGOs, international organizations, policy-makers and officials. Project staff will disseminate the findings of this research in a series of policy dialogues in Europe, USA, Africa and Asia.

## COMING SOON

### Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities

European-based foundation seeks to bridge gap between early warning and early action

Based on a Feasibility Study prepared by the Hungarian Government in 2009, the Foundation for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities was registered in Budapest on 14 January 2011.

In the Deed of Foundation, the Founders proclaim their commitment to the international protection of human rights and the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities occurring in any area of the world. The Foundation, through a Centre that will act as its operative body, will concentrate on bridging the gap between early warning and early action, set up and apply an integrated warning-response support system and generate political consensus for early action at international and regional level. In that spirit, it will make efforts to inform “in advance enough” the international decision making mechanisms on the evolving threats and facilitate to undertake preventive actions. For that reason, the Centre will, in close cooperation with the UN, EU and other concerned regional and sub-regional organizations, NGOs and stakeholders, prepare risk assessments and elaborate tailored and viable options and recommendations for the international decision-making bodies.

The Centre, expected to start its operations by early 2012 depending on funding, will also seek to enforce and sustain international, regional and national prevention capacities and capabilities, improve existing risk assessment methodologies, scientific activities and enhance the international dialogue and network of experts in the field of genocide prevention. To that end, the Foundation will support awareness raising and research activities as well as the organization of events promoting and strengthening global, regional and national cooperation among decision-makers, donors, NGOs, representatives of the media and other international stakeholders.

## THE STANLEY FOUNDATION

US-based foundation focuses on RtoP norm promotion, institutional development and policy analysis

As a policy-focused, operating foundation that promotes multilateral solutions to global problems, the Stanley Foundation supports full implementation of the Responsibility to Protect as a cohesive policy framework to prevent and respond to genocide and other mass atrocity crimes. It seeks to identify coherent, strategic approaches to atrocity prevention, develop tools for international support and capacity building, and promote greater international coordination in mobilizing mechanisms for prevention and response.

The Stanley Foundation approaches these issues through three interconnected streams of work: norm promotion, institutional development (at the national and multilateral levels), and policy analysis. The analytical work seeks to address the conceptual barriers that continue to frustrate concrete policy development. Particular emphasis is placed on pre-crisis/upstream prevention, seeking to determine how the international community can most effectively support states to build the capacity to protect their populations from atrocity violence.

In line with these efforts, the Stanley Foundation commissioned a policy analysis brief by Professor Alex Bellamy, Mass



General Assembly Begins Debate on Responsibility to Protect. UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz

Atrocities and Armed Conflict: Links, Distinctions and Implications for the Responsibility to Prevent, around which discussions were convened among key officials and experts in New York City and Washington, D.C. in March 2011. As the year progresses, the Stanley Foundation will continue to encourage greater and more substantive dialogue on the key elements of pre-crisis atrocity prevention. It will also continue to support normative and institutional development at the UN through programming linked to the upcoming General Assembly interactive dialogue on RtoP and regional/subregional organizations, and within the United States Government as officials begin to implement elements of the Quadrennial Diplomatic and Development Review critical to effective atrocity prevention.

## THE WILL TO INTERVENE PROJECT AT THE MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

National operationalization of RtoP principles: Focus on Canada, South Africa, United Kingdom



L. Gen Roméo Dallaire and Mayor Gregor Robertson of the City of Vancouver with the municipal proclamation in support of the Will to Intervene Project. Credit: W2I

The Will to Intervene (W2I) Project at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada works to devise ways in which national governments can operationalize the Responsibility to Protect principles to prevent or halt mass atrocity crimes. Following research that included interviews with over 80 high-level politicians, government officials, NGO representatives and journalists in Canada and the United States, the W2I Project, through McGill-Queen's University Press, published *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene: Leadership to Prevent Mass Atrocities*, in September 2010.

The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) has been working to disseminate the W2I

Project's research findings and strategic policy recommendations amongst politicians, think tanks, scholars, news media and the wider public. MIGS continues to organize civic dialogues and policy briefings across North America. As a result of the first civic dialogue in Vancouver, Mayor Gregor Robertson passed a municipal proclamation in November 2010 demanding that the Canadian government heed the recommendations articulated in *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene*. MIGS is currently working to have similar proclamations passed in Montreal and Quebec City, as well as other progressive municipalities across North America.

MIGS is also planning with other university-based research institutes in South Africa and the United Kingdom to commence national studies similar to the one that was produced for Canada and the United States. MIGS continues to work closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide as an institutional partner, thereby ensuring that Canadian Members of Parliament and Senators are kept abreast of news and updates regarding emerging situations in which the Responsibility to Protect needs to be invoked and acted upon.

# INFORMATION GATHERING AND EARLY WARNING FOR EARLY ENGAGEMENT TO PREVENT MASS ATROCITIES

## CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y EDUCACIÓN POPULAR

Information database on human rights violations and political violence in Colombia

The Human Rights and Political Violence Database at Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (CINEP) / Program for Peace in Bogota, Colombia, collects analyses and disseminates information on the most serious violations of fundamental human rights and international humanitarian law. This information is fully accessible to the public of any country via Internet and publications. The programs aim at reducing the vulnerability of victims in Colombia, based on the clear link between the lack of denunciation of human rights violations and the ongoing perpetration of crimes without any legal repercussions. CINEP's programs are

based in different regions of Colombia closest to the victims, their families and social environments, thus bypassing the frequent manipulation of the mass media in reaching to local populations.

The Database is accessible in two types of publications, 1) the magazine 'Noche y Niebla', which, since 1996, has published 42 bi-annual editions archiving cases of political violence in Colombia, and 2) 'Case Specific' editions, which started in 2002 to highlight human rights conditions in a specific region of Colombia. To date there have been 10 such publications.

## MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP INTERNATIONAL

Researching and publishing early warning information on local conflicts through People Under Threat Index and East Africa Programme

Every year, Minority Rights Group International (MRG) publishes the *Peoples Under Threat Index* designed to identify peoples around the world most at risk of mass killings as well as other systematic violent repression. It is based on

a basket of ten indicators which measure the increase in the likelihood of atrocity, including continuous illegal violence among armed forces or police, prevailing impunity for human rights violations, tolerance or encouragement of hate





speech against particular groups, and in extreme cases, prior experience of mass killings. While most mass killings occur during armed conflicts, some massacres occur in peacetime or may accompany armed conflict from its inception, presenting a problem to risk models that focus exclusively on current conflicts.

As part of its Conflict Prevention program, MRG's 'Preventing inter-community conflicts in East Africa', a programme funded by the European Union, aims at enhancing the operational capacity of civil society in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda to effectively prevent and manage intercommunity tensions, and to implement field-based political analysis through researching and publishing early warning information on local conflicts. Plans for early warning briefings in each of the three countries are being discussed with all the relevant stakeholders, including majority communities and decision makers. The briefings will be disseminated to conflict prevention actors in order to encourage early action. Where tensions are too high to allow field research, the researchers collect verifiable information from witnesses, and interview a number of observers. The research emphasized monitoring of patterns of exclusion from natural resources, discrimination

against specific communities, and rising tensions between communities. The researchers carry out consultations with civil society representatives, conflict management experts and representatives of the INGO and donor community present in the country. They consult analytical data (quantitative and

“As part of its Conflict Prevention program, MRG's 'Preventing inter-community conflicts in East Africa' aims at enhancing the operational capacity of civil society in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda to effectively prevent and manage intercommunity tensions, and to implement field-based political analysis through researching and publishing early warning information on local conflicts.”

qualitative), where available. The ensuing publications will emphasize constructive, concrete, feasible recommendations for improvements in the situations of each target country.

## OXFAM AUSTRALIA

### Advancing the dialogue on early warning for protection and making use of advances in new technologies

Oxfam Australia has published the outcome document for the 'Early Warning for Protection: Technologies and Practice for the Prevention of Mass Atrocity Crimes conference', held in November 2010 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The conference was part of a larger project examining practical implementation of the preventative aspects of the Responsibility to Protect principle.

The need for better integrated early warning systems and improved policy and program response to early warnings when they are raised had previously been addressed as a key area of concern. The early warning conference aimed to explore means for bridging identified gaps in conflict early



Kassie Neou and Francis Deng, Nov. 2010, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Credit: Stephen McLoughlin

The conference served as a forum for bringing together a broad range of international actors from public, private and civil society institutions, in order to share strategies and im-

“**The early warning conference aimed to explore means for bridging identified gaps in conflict early warning capacity and enhancing understanding around how effective early warning can contribute to the prevention of mass atrocity crimes.**

prove understanding of a variety of early warning systems, and the effectiveness, limitations, risks and interaction between various approaches. This involved extensive discussion around the role of communications, new technologies such as Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, and ‘crowdsourcing’ platforms such as Ushahidi, and how these systems can interact with more traditional early warning mechanisms, to ensure that effective early warning is given. The final outcome document captures the findings and themes of the conference and will be available online.

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# REFUGEES AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS: AN INDISPENSABLE PERSPECTIVE TO THE RtoP FRAMEWORK

## WOMEN'S REFUGEE COMMISSION

Improving the lives of refugee and displaced women, children and youth



25 November 2008, Monrovia, Liberia, UN Photo/Christopher Herwig

Since 1989, the Women's Refugee Commission has advocated for policies and programs to improve the lives of refugee and displaced women, children and young people, including those seeking asylum—bringing about lasting, measurable change. As a member of the ICRtoP, the Women's Refugee Commission believes RtoP to be a crucial framework for the protection of displaced women, children and young people.

Through research and fact-finding field missions, critical problems are identified affecting displaced women, children



## From ICRtoP: Mainstreaming Gender in the RtoP framework and in the prevention of mass atrocity crimes

The United Nations (UN), as well as regional bodies and governments have begun to recognize that conflict and post-conflict reconciliation affects men and women differently. This acknowledgement of the varied roles is a first step in developing gendered responses to conflict. The international community must address the need to protect women from mass atrocity crimes as well as identify and incorporate the contribution of women in the prevention and resolution of crises. Developing a gendered response to conflict will enable the UN, regional organization and governments to guarantee the rights of women and further integrate their role in peace and security. The Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) framework complements existing commitments to protect women's human rights and can also act as a tool for incorporating women's leadership in preventing and stopping mass atrocity crimes.

*"In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 8,300 women were reportedly raped in 2009 while many more were estimated to have suffered unreported sexual violence and abuse."*

—Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2009 Report

The RtoP framework can serve to protect women from mass atrocity crimes and integrate women's perspectives into the processes for prevention and halting mass atrocity crimes. In particular, women have a central role to play in the preventive aspects of the RtoP framework. However, there



and young people, including gaps in life-saving reproductive health care, lack of dignified livelihoods for refugees and, in the U.S., the treatment of asylum-seekers. Best practices are identified and documented to propose solutions and develop innovative tools to improve the way humanitarian assistance is delivered in refugee settings. On Capitol Hill, at the United Nations and with humanitarian organizations, governments and donors, the organization pushes for improvements in refugee policy and practice until measurable long-term change is realized.

The Livelihoods Team at Women's Refugee Commission conducted a workshop in Kampala, Uganda on "Mitigating the Risks of Gender Based Violence." The workshop aims to give practitioners from organizations such as CARE and the International Rescue Committee the knowledge and skills to design and implement safe, sustainable livelihood programming for refugees.

The team also met with refugees living in Kampala as part of a new research initiative, "Urban Displacement: Developing an Understanding of Economic Needs, Protection Concerns, and Livelihood Strategies." They wanted to learn how refugees were making a living and what risks they faced while trying to provide for their families.

have been some missed opportunities on an engendered perspective on RtoP.

The 2001 ICISS report *The Responsibility to Protect* failed to underscore the importance and role of women in the realization of RtoP in its report. This essentially reinforced the perception of women as merely victims of mass atrocities rather than potent actors for preventing and responding to RtoP crimes.

The Secretary-General's report, *Implementing the Responsibility to Protect* (2009), worked to overcome the missed opportunities of ICISS by identifying the need to protect women's rights under the RtoP framework. Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon's report reiterates that sexual violence against women can specifically constitute war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity and calls on Member States to take action to implement preventive measures. The report is an important step as it enhances the discussion on the relationship of sexual violence in conflict. It however overlooks other forms of violence that are used to target women such as forced pregnancy and forced slavery and fails to acknowledge women's role as providers of protection in peace operations, as actors in peace negotiations and peace-building.

While recent reports of the Secretary General in 2009 and 2010 on the Responsibility to Protect offer more gender-sensitive approach, much remains to be developed to ensure a proper inclusion of women in RtoP's implementation. Some recommendations obtained from civil society consultations on RtoP and women's rights in 2010 can include:

- The UN and state actors need to increase their recognition of the synergy between the RtoP and women, peace, and security agendas;
- Measures must be taken in the area of capacity building specifically to increase the participation of women in political life and as mediators in peace processes, as well as to include the views of women in peace and security initiatives;
- Resources, such as training for military and police forces, the creation of safe spaces for women and girls, and the increase in medical and psychological support available to victims, need to be made available;
- Gender sensitive indicators need to be established to broaden the collective knowledge on how violence against women contributes to wider instability and insecurity;
- Early actions must be taken through diplomatic and other non-violent means when states fail to protect women;
- Action-oriented-research needs to be conducted to investigate why measures taken to combat violence against women continue to be unsuccessful, as evidenced by the current conflict in the DRC



# RtoP SITUATIONS: FACT-FINDING AND ADVOCACY

## GENOCIDE ALERT - GERMANY

Germany-focused awareness raising and advocacy on situations reaching threshold of mass atrocities: DRC, Sudan, Libya

Genocide Alert is a German-based national NGO aiming to raise awareness of the Responsibility to Protect and country-specific situations involving grave violations of human rights (Sudan, DRC, and Libya) to influence German and European decision-makers to fulfill their obligation to prevent mass atrocities and promote human rights throughout the world.

**DRC:** Genocide Alert has been monitoring human rights violations in Eastern Congo, particularly crimes involving sexual violence against women. Calls involve pushing for the German government to take a much more active role within the UN Security Council. To this end, Genocide Alert has published a Policy Brief (in German) which calls for an extension and strengthening of MONUSCO with regard to the upcoming fall 2011 elections in the DRC.

**Sudan:** Leading to the January referendum in Sudan, Genocide Alert launched a “Sudan Alarm” campaign urging action from the German government to mitigate the threat of large-scale violence surrounding the vote. The campaign provided background information on the situation and empowered the public through its website to send messages to

Chancellor Merkel, Foreign Minister Westerwelle, and other politicians. Genocide Alert issued a policy brief for German decision makers providing analysis on the potential crisis scenarios and policy options available to the German government (in English and German). The policy brief was discussed in foreign policy working groups and has provided useful inputs for government discussions on Sudan.

**Libya:** Genocide Alert engaged in advocacy with the German government and published a press release on 24 February requesting the German government to advocate for sanctions as well as a no-fly zone over Libya within the Security Council and the European Union. Genocide Alert published an analysis of Libya and the international community’s Responsibility to Protect civilians from mass atrocities committed by Muammar Gaddafi and his forces. An email campaign was also started calling on Chancellor Merkel and foreign minister Guido Westerwelle as well as other relevant politicians in Germany to take more decisive action on Libya.

## **GENOCIDE INTERVENTION NETWORK/SAVE DARFUR COALITION**

US-based NGOs merge to enhance advocacy for a more powerful voice dedicated to preventing and stopping mass atrocities

Genocide Intervention Network and the Save Darfur Coalition (GI-NET/SDC) merged on 1 November, 2010 to create a more powerful voice dedicated to preventing and stopping large-scale, deliberate atrocities against civilians. The organization remains committed to its work to end the crisis in Darfur and bring peace to all of Sudan as well as to end violence in other areas of mass atrocities.

On Sudan, the organization is working to ensure the United States Government does not reward the Khartoum regime until meaningful progress has been made to secure peace in Darfur, South Sudan and throughout the country. A large focus is also on improving civilian protection, working in support of the Darfur peace process and working to ensure a peaceful transition to independence for South Sudan.

Additionally, the organization remains committed to its ongoing mass atrocity prevention work. Realizing that there are significant shortfalls related to prevention and response capacities, much of the current effort involves strengthening the tools, structures and resources available to the United States Government. After pushing for successful passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 71 in support of genocide prevention at the end of 2010, now the organization is moving forward in support of comprehensive legislation. It is anticipated that a bill will be introduced sometime in spring 2011.



Credit: Save Darfur Coalition / GI-Net

Most recently GI-NET/SDC took action on Libya in response to the large-scale, deliberate targeting of civilians. Recommendations included calling on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to freeze assets of top Libyan officials and the Qaddafi family; referring the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court; and establishing a no-fly zone with the express aim of protecting civilians. All of these recommendations were adopted by the UNSC. GI-NET/SDC commended the Obama administration for its swift action to protect Libyan civilians and to reinforce the Responsibility to Protect doctrine. GI-NET/SDC will continue to monitor other countries facing potential mass atrocity situations and work toward a world without genocide and mass atrocities.

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTION OF ARMED CONFLICT

### Improving peacebuilding policy and practice: NGO engagement in Kyrgyzstan

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is a global civil society-led network which seeks to build an international consensus on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict. Since holding its Global Conference in 2005, GPPAC has worked to strengthen civil society networks for peace and security by linking local, national, regional, and global levels of action and to estab-

“GPPAC has worked to strengthen civil society networks for peace and security by linking local, national, regional, and global levels of action.”

lish effective engagement with governments, the UN system and regional organizations. GPPAC is engaged in awareness raising, advocacy, network building, knowledge sharing and early warning and early response.

#### GPPAC's Role during the April 2010 Crisis in Kyrgyzstan

The crisis in Kyrgyzstan began with violent demonstrations and protests against the government which led to the ousting of the president Bakiyev in April 2010. Events later esca-

lated into ethnic tensions and fierce clashes between Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities in the South of the country leaving hundreds dead and injured, and, according UNHCR estimations, nearly 75,000 displaced. GPPAC's Regional Secretariat in Central Asia, the Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI), together with a number of their civil society partners, the members of the Dolina Mira (“Valley of Peace”) network, found themselves in the midst of these developments. As the only regional network of civil society organizations working specifically to address conflict issues in Central Asia and in Ferghana valley which spans the borders of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, they immediately consolidated their efforts in order to respond to the unfolding events.

Immediately after the ethnic clashes in the South of the country, FTI and the members of Dolina Mira conducted a series of assessment missions in the conflict-affected areas of Osh and Jalalabad. Information about the triggers, key issues, perceptions on both sides, as well as suggestions from conflict-affected communities on possible ways of addressing existing problems were gathered and systematized. Based on the results of this analytical work, as well as information gathered on an ongoing basis through various projects on the ground, FTI and its partners developed a consolidated strategy of civil society engagement to address the crisis. The strategy encompassed work on humanitarian aid, infrastructure rehabilitation and social reconciliation.

## **From ICRtoP: Frequently Asked Questions:**

### Impact of Action in Libya on the Responsibility to Protect

#### **How does RtoP apply to Libya?**

The government of Libya allegedly committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in response to peaceful civilian protests, crimes which fall under the RtoP framework. Muammar Gaddafi called on his supporters to go out and attack protestors, which he labeled “cockroaches”, and to “cleanse Libya house by house.” Gaddafi expressed clear intent to continue committing massive human rights violations by announcing to Benghazi residents that his forces would show “no mercy” to rebels. He stated on 17 March 2011 that he would search every house that night, indicating an imminent intention to massacre the city’s population. It was at this point that it became clear that tough international action in response to the Libyan government’s manifest failure to uphold its responsibility to protect was needed to prevent a bloodbath.

#### **How did the international community respond and why is their response consistent with RtoP?**

Beginning in mid-February 2011, a range of peaceful and coercive measures (diplomatic incentives, asset freezes, travel bans, arms embargo, expulsion from intergovernmental bodies, ICC referral) were adopted by an array of international and regional actors, including the Human Rights Council, General Assembly, Security Council, Arab League, African Union, Gulf Cooperation Council, NATO and European Union, and with unprecedented speed and decisiveness. And while the ultimate adoption of a no-fly zone on 17 March is the first time the Security Council has authorized a military response to protect populations in a non-consenting state, this was likely due to the influence that regional organizations had in supporting stronger measures.

#### **Why is Libya not the “first RtoP case”?**

There are several other cases however, where the international community has worked to prevent atrocities from occurring and escalating through a range of peaceful measures, including the UN and AU’s role in facilitating post-election mediation efforts in Kenya in 2007, strong voices from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the UN Security Council following election violence in Guinea in 2010, and the world-wide efforts by a range of actors to prevent bloodshed during the Sudan referendum in 2011. The 2010 presidential election in Cote d’Ivoire where both sides reportedly committed gross human rights violations that could amount to crimes against humanity also constituted an RtoP situation.

#### **What is the impact of Libya on RtoP?**

The debate among Member States around the situation in Libya was not about whether to act to protect civilians for mass atrocities but how to best protect the Libyan population. That Member States prioritized the protection of civilians from mass crimes reflects a historic embrace of the RtoP principles agreed to at the 2005 World Summit. Debates over tactics and strategy are necessary and important but any legitimate implementation concerns should not obscure the value of RtoP in preventing and halting mass atrocities. We must help governments understand that RtoP seeks to protect civilians from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing with a range of measures, of which military intervention is a last resort. At the same time, we must remind Member States not to undermine RtoP by confusing civilian protection with other motives such as regime change or resource control.





### What impact will the response to Libya have on future cases?

That human carnage was contained in Libya should be seen as a positive outcome of the international community's response. If the UN and NATO had failed to take stronger actions, we would now be questioning whether the commitment to RtoP holds any value. As Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect Edward Luck has said, we are now dealing with the dilemma of RtoP being too relevant, in that the UN and regional bodies will be compelled to act in more cases. It remains critical to eliminate double-standards and political bias from Council decisions of this magnitude. But it is also important that appropriate action be taken when warranted. All states have a responsibility to protect their populations, this includes Syria, Bahrain and Yemen, countries where populations are currently at risk of gross human rights violations. The challenge ahead for RtoP advocates is to encourage consistency not only in the invocation of the language of RtoP but also in response.

Civil society can and will continue to push for appropriate action by the international community in all cases where crimes are occurring or threaten to occur. Whether this will translate into political will of the international community is up to us all.

## HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Fact-finding and global advocacy in RtoP country situations



30 March 2011, Duékoué, Côte d'Ivoire, UN Photo/Basil Zoma

Through its fact-finding in some 90 countries around the world and targeted advocacy, Human Rights Watch looks for early warning signs for genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, and seeks to deter future rights abuses by holding perpetrators to account. Over the past several months, Human Rights Watch has worked closely on a number of crisis situations, including in Kyrgyzstan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Libya.

When ethnic violence erupted in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010—resulting in more than 400 deaths and the destruction of approximately 2,600 homes, most of them owned by ethnic Uzbeks—Human Rights Watch urged the UN to help the Kyrgyz government provide protection for civilians from ethnic reprisals and to expand conflict mediation ser-



vices. In the aftermath of the violence, repeated calls were issued on Kyrgyzstan to promote justice and accountability for violations connected to the June violence.

Human Rights Watch has been closely monitoring the situation in Côte d'Ivoire since its disputed November 2010 presidential election. In-depth investigations into violations in the country's capital, Abidjan, have revealed an often-organized campaign of violence by incumbent president Laurent Gbagbo's security forces and allied militias targeting supporters of Alassane Ouattara—whom international observers have certified as credibly having won the November election—as well as ethnic groups from northern Côte d'Ivoire, Muslims, and immigrants from neighboring West African countries. In response, repeated calls were made to both sides of the conflict to respect human rights, refrain from deliberate or indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian property, and hold to account those responsible for human rights violations.

Most recently, Human Rights Watch has advocated for Libyan government authorities to respect international law and to end the unlawful use of force against civilians in the brutal and systematic crackdown against peaceful popular protests. On 26 February 2011, the UN Security Council adopted a unanimous resolution referring Libya to the International Criminal Court (ICC), imposing travel bans on

Muammar Gaddafi and other key Libyan leaders, and freezing their assets. Human Rights Watch welcomed this strong signal that the international community would not tolerate

**“On 26 February 2011, the UN Security Council adopted a unanimous resolution referring Libya to the International Criminal Court, imposing travel bans on Muammar Gaddafi and other key Libyan leaders, and freezing their assets. Human Rights Watch welcomed this strong signal that the international community would not tolerate the vicious repression of peaceful protesters.”**

the vicious repression of peaceful protesters. A few short weeks later, the Security Council again defied expectations by making clear that all options were on the table to prevent mass atrocities. Human Rights Watch continues to monitor the situation in Libya closely and hope that the Security Council will consistently live up to its duty to protect civilians there and beyond.

# CAPACITY BUILDING OF CIVIL SOCIETY

## WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE

Training and capacity-building on RtoP for NGOs and diplomats in West Africa

In 2009-2010, the Institute conceived a training and capacity building initiative which seeks to facilitate the understanding and implementation process of the Responsibility to Protect norm in West Africa. The institute is developing a training module and toolkit on RtoP for civil society and diplomats in West Africa with the intention to organize two levels of training; 1) diplomats serving at the ECOWAS secretariat in Abuja; 2) civil society actors. This approach aims at tackling the dearth of information and understanding of RtoP amongst civil society and government officials.

The training toolkit seeks to enhance and maximize the role of civil society as a driving force for creating consensus on RtoP.

The training addresses the gaps in awareness and capacity and gives civil society actors the analysis and tools necessary for them to generate information and understanding on the scope and intent of RtoP. The toolkit also helps to contextualize the normative basis for RtoP (nationally and regionally) and provides an overview of what implementation means in country-specific situations. This initiative will include practical steps on how to render the norm relevant at the national level. Before the end of 2011, the Institute will finalize the conceptualisation of the toolkit, and organize a pilot-training for key civil society groups and diplomats in West Africa to obtain constructive feedback and inputs from participants to finalize the toolkit.

## WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

Preparing UNAs around the world to engage with governments, civil society, academia and the media on RtoP

In 2011, the World Federation of United Nations Association (WFUNA) launched its program, "Responsibility to Protect: Mobilizing Public and Political Will" by beginning its work in co-operation with the United Nations Association of the Democratic Republic of Congo (UNA-DRC) and Armenia

(UNA-Armenia). Through workshops, seminars and web-based materials the program prepares UNAs to engage with governments, civil society, academia, media and the UN on RtoP. Increased civil society engagement will lead to more demands on States to respect human rights and their com-





UN Mission in Côte d'Ivoire Celebrates Peace Day. UN Photo/  
Basile Zoma

mitment to the protection of populations from mass atrocities, and work towards strengthening international capacity to prevent mass human rights violations. WFUNA hopes to increase the number of UNAs participating in the program

in order to enhance the role of civil society in advocating for the Responsibility to Protect.

WFUNA is providing forums to increase regional dialogues on RtoP by organizing symposiums in New York, USA, Beijing, China and Nairobi, Kenya. WFUNA invites key members of the UN community, government officials, civil society members and members of regional UNAs to participate and discuss the tension between state sovereignty, intervention and its implications on the RtoP norm. To engage key stakeholders at an international and regional level in the RtoP debate and to honor the contribution of Dag Hammarskjöld on these issues, participants will be introduced to his philosophy as a framework for rethinking the future of the implementation of the RtoP norm.

## **From ICRTOP: What can your government do to reinforce the adoption of RtoP at the national level?**

Several states have begun to demonstrate their continued support for RtoP by including references to the norm in strategic policy papers and by appointing focal points who will serve as national coordinators on RtoP. What can your government do to reinforce RtoP at the national level?

### **1. Propose the adoption of Resolutions endorsing the World Summit Outcome Document on RtoP. A resolution would contain the following elements:**

- Recalling that the primary responsibility to protect populations from mass atrocity crimes and violations rests with the state; and that there is a responsibility of the international community when the state manifestly fails to protect its populations;
- Identifying that the circumstances reaching the threshold for the Responsibility to Protect relates to specific crimes, namely genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing;
- Recognition that the Responsibility to Protect entails first and foremost the prevention of atrocities by measures short of military force;
- That the use of force is a last resort only to be authorized by the UN, to halt or avert mass atrocities when the state has been unwilling or unable to do so and peaceful means have failed.





**2. Strengthen national and international capacity to prevent mass atrocities. This would include:**

- Reviewing early-warning mechanisms specifically for the prevention of mass atrocities; economic capacity (assessment of resources available for structural and direct prevention, reaction and rebuilding); legal measures that must be put in place so that the government is able to prosecute or support prosecutions (including by joining ICC) and to adopt sanctions targeting individuals or corporations; and military doctrine and capacities;
- Ensuring coordination among governmental departments, in particular, ministries and agencies for foreign affairs, defense and development. For example, through the creation of focal points for RtoP;
- Calling for national security strategies to incorporate the protection of populations from atrocity crimes, wherever they occur, as a national security priority and to outline steps that the government is prepared to take diplomatically, financially, legally and militarily within own government and through regional organizations;
- Create emergency fund to respond to mass atrocities, aid victims.

**3. Mobilize to prevent or react to specific crises where populations are suffering from mass atrocities:**

- Encourage support for preventing and halting mass atrocities from other governments through the UN, through regional partnerships, and also to mitigate opposition from those governments that are principally opposed to international action directed at internal conduct of states;
- At early stages of conflict, hold hearings to assess government responses including multilateral and bilateral engagements;
- Support sending diplomatic missions to country;
- Allocate funds for the protection of victims.

# CIVILIAN PROTECTION: IMPROVING THE CAPACITY TO INTERVENE

## GLOBAL ACTION TO PREVENT WAR

Canadian Leadership on Conflict Prevention, Responsibility to Protect and UNEPS: New Tools for Civilian and Diplomatic Engagement

In February 2011 in Ottawa, Canada, Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) took part in several events, including a meeting with some of the leadership of the renowned Pearson Peacekeeping Center, a one day workshop entitled “Developing a Path for Young Peace Professionals” organized by Civilian Peace Service Canada, YOUCAN, the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution and other partners, and a luncheon event organized by the Group of 78 and the World Federalist Movement of Canada. Dr. Robert Zuber of GAPW was the keynote speaker at the G 78 luncheon on the topic, “The United Nations and the Responsibility to

Protect: The Current State of Play and Options for Expanding the R2P “Toolkit.”

These and other discussions brought together several themes that guide the work of GAPW and many collaborators – especially increasing opportunities for young people to contribute to important peace processes in civilian capacities. GAPW also remains committed to training and advocacy opportunities that can help develop robust regional responses to the RtoP, increase preventive and early warning tools, and lead us closer to formal adoption of a UNEPS-style, rapid-response, integrated peacekeeping capacity.

## UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION - SWEDEN

Increasing Sweden’s peacekeeping capacity and engagement

On 16-18 January 2011, the United Nations Association - Sweden (UNA-Sweden) attended the largest national conference on security, where it engaged government officials, members of Parliament, journalists and NGO-representatives on Sweden’s contribution to UN peacekeeping and how to improve Sweden’s capacity to respond to conflict and protect popula-

tions. The main focus was the link between security and development and UNA-Sweden highlighted the importance of UN peacekeeping capacity, in quality and quantity, for the efficiency of Swedish foreign aid.

In connection to the conference, UNA-Sweden wrote an





May 2011: Aleksander Gabelic, President, and Linda Nordin Thorslund, Secretary General, from UNA Sweden with Cissa Wa Numbe, Director, and his team from UNA-DRC. Both organizations, in cooperation with ICRtoP and with the support of MONUSCO, organized a conference, 'Sustainable Peace in the DRC and the Responsibility to Protect' in Kinshasa, DRC on 28 May 2011. Credit: Linda Åkerström

article in the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet about the concept of the European Battlegroups, demanding that the funds allocated actually be used or invested towards the many conflict zones in need of resources.

In 2011, UNA Sweden has issued press releases on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan referendum, North-Africa and the Middle East specifically with regards to Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. UNA-Sweden highlighted the responsibility of Sweden and the international community to support efforts towards democracy and the respect of human rights. The president of UNA Sweden participated in a debate on Libya in a morning TV-show on 28 February 2011, emphasizing the responsibility to react in the face of mass violence towards the protesters.

UNA Sweden has also held a one day course which included RtoP as a theme discussed in relation to the situation in Darfur. Participants were mainly UNA Sweden members, students and teachers.

For more information, please contact:

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- Citizens for Global Solutions (Washington, DC, USA)
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- United Nations Association of Sweden (Stockholm, Sweden)
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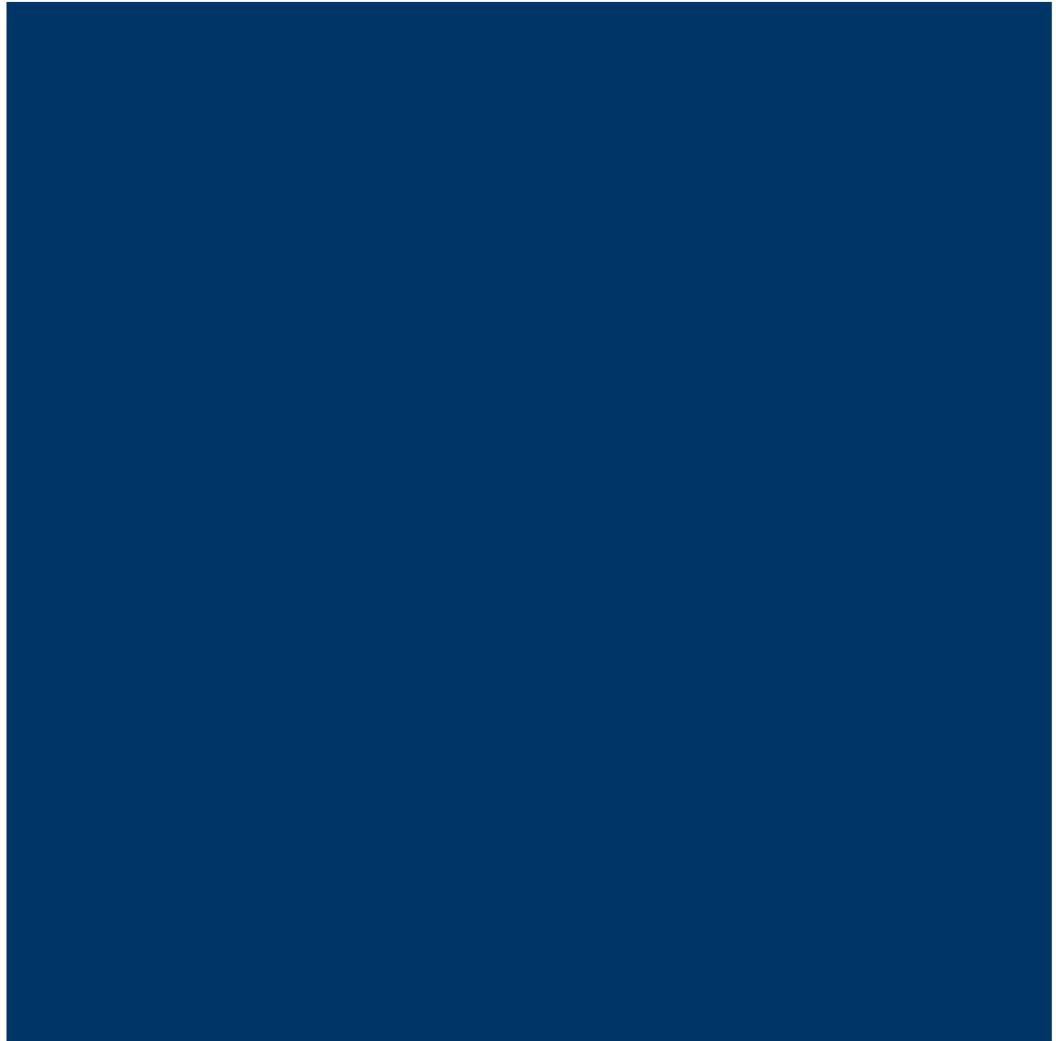
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# ICRtoP

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