

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: 15TH SPECIAL SESSION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN LIBYA
EXCERPTED RtoP STATEMENTS**

**25 February 2011
Human Rights Council, Geneva**

**Chair of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of people to self-determination;
Mr. José-Luis Gomez Del Prado**

(...) We endorse the call made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for an international inquiry into the violence. The international community should act without delay to make its **responsibility to protect** civilians from serious human rights violations a reality for the people in Libya. We are willing to contribute to such an inquiry. (...)

**UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
Navanethen Pillay**

(...)Let me remind this Council that, at their 2005 Summit, World leaders unanimously agreed that each individual State has the **responsibility to protect** its populations from crimes against humanity and other international crimes. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. When a State is manifestly failing to protect its population from serious international crimes, the international community has the responsibility to step in by taking protective action in a collective, timely and decisive manner. (...)

(...)In its emergency session this week, the Security Council highlighted the need to

uphold the **responsibility to protect**, to provide humanitarian assistance, to allow human rights monitoring and to ensure accountability. My Office is prepared to respond to these needs as a matter of highest urgency. (...)

**Thailand
Minister Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Thailand
Eksiri Pintaruchi**

(...) [it] underscores the unity of the council and the international community to act, to act now, and to act in a constructive manner. Mr. President, Thailand shares the concerns of the international community regarding the paramount principle of **responsibility to protect**. It is incumbent upon the Libyan authorities to immediately refrain from the use of force against civilians. We also stress the importance of the responsibility to maintain rule of law and addressing all acts of impunity (...)

**France
Permanent Representative
Mr. Jean-Baptiste Mattei**

Unofficial translation

(...) The extreme crimes and gravity of the situation requires our mobilization to recall to Libyan authorities that they have the **responsibility to protect** all citizens on their territory. Victims must be saved without restriction. Access for humanitarian assistance must be guaranteed. (...)

European Union
Permanent Representative of Hungary;
Andras Dékány

(...)The High Commissioner of Human Rights made it clear that the state has the **responsibility to protect** the life, liberty, and security of the person. The EU endorses and fully supports this position and underlines that each individual state has the **responsibility to protect** its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity(...)

United Kingdom
Permanent Representative
Peter Gooderham

(...)Mr. President, it is clear that the regime is shamefully failing in its **Responsibility to protect** its people and its citizens from third states from the very forces that should be upholding their human rights. We have to ask ourselves a serious question: should a state that has such blatant disregard to the right to life be allowed to sit on the Human Rights Council? (...)

Poland
Deputy Permanent Representative
Mr. Andrzej Sadoś

(...)Mr. President, the Libyan state must reassume its **responsibility to protect** its citizens and people of third countries and uphold the highest standards of international law that were earlier accepted by it voluntarily. (...)

Maldives
Permanent Representative
Adam Iruthisham

(...)If the authorities continue to renege on their **responsibility to protect** their lives, rights, and dignity of the people of Libya, then the international community, led by the Security Council, must take immediate

measures to protect civilians against such indiscriminate violence. We know that the duty to protect is the primary duty of the Libyan government. However if they fail in this duty, then responsibility falls on the international community. We welcome this week's statement by the SC but believe that the UN needs to do more to protect the lives and rights of the Libyan people (...)

Belgium
Deputy Permanent
Mr. Hugo Brauwers

Unofficial Translation

(...) Like members of the Security Council and other members of the Human Rights Council, Belgium asks the Libyan government to honor its **responsibility to protect** its citizens; a responsibility of each State. (...)

United States
Ambassador;
Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe

(...)The government of Libya has a **responsibility to protect** its population. It is failing to do so. In fact, it is attacking its pop. We at the HRC have a responsibility to take action in response to ongoing emergency situations like the one in Libya where the government is continuing to commit gross and systematic human rights violations. (...)

Chile
Ambassador
Mr. Pedro Oyarce

Unofficial Translation

(...) All State has the **responsibility to protect** its citizens and assure the protection of human rights. The international community must alert, help and demand that those countries exercise their responsibility, using political, diplomatic and humanitarian means. We hope that this session will contribute to this.

We insist that the Libyan government must enact its **responsibility to protect** its citizens and call on the international community to intensify its efforts to guarantee this protection. (...)

Australia
Permanent Representative
Peter Woolcott

(...)We call on the council to pursue its mandate and send a strong message to the Libyan authorities that their action will not be tolerated. Each member state of the UN has a **responsibility to protect** its civilian populations from mass atrocities including crimes against humanity. We urge the special session to adopt a strong and action-oriented resolution on Libya (...)

Italy
Permanent Representative
Laura Mirachian

Unofficial Transcript

(...) We urge the Libyan authorities to uphold the **responsibility to protect** its population and to facilitate the departure of those foreign citizens wishing to leave the country (...)

Netherlands
Permanent Representative
Boudewijn J. Van Eenanaam

(...) Today we have the duty to call on the Libyan authorities to meet its **responsibility to protect** its population. To immediately end all human rights violations. To fully respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to life, freedom of expression, of assembly. Today we have the duty to engage our **responsibility to protect** the Libyan people. This is the only way to show our sympathy and compassion for the suffering of the Libyan people (...)

Czech Republic
Permanent Representative
Tomáš Husák

(...)The Czech Republic wishes to express its support to the UN security Council statement which urged Libya to punish those responsible for the attacks on civilians. In this respect, we would like to reiterate that each individual State has the **responsibility to protect** its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The United Nations General Assembly should consider suspension of the rights of membership in the Council of a member that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights.(...)

Additional excerpts from statement of NGOs:

Joint Statement: World Alliance of Citizen Civicus, Arab NGO Network, Global Citizens Against Poverty

(...)The international community must now turn expression of grave concern into action and the UN member states must endorse their **“Responsibility to protect”** commitment without any further delay (...)

UN Watch

(...) The international community has a **responsibility to protect** the civilian population that is now under attack. We urge member states to take concrete, collective and decisive action to serve those in danger. A no-fly zone is one way to start (...)