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Was the UN-mandated, NATO-led operation in Libya a step forward or a setback for the norm? What implications - positive and/or negative - does the Libya operation carry for RtoP moving forward?

It is both. While it decisively responded to a potential situation where the four crimes stipulated in the norm could have happened, the mandate did not have enough safeguards and parameters for it to be eventually misused or "abused" which was what eventually happened when the NATO action clearly became a regime-change operation. The implications to this could be also both positive and negative. It could lead the UN or the international community to be extra cautious now in similar situations, e.g. Syria, but it could also lead to a more nuanced or appropriate use of the norm to avoid what happened in Libya from being repeated.

What are the responsibilities of the international community as Libya transitions into the post-Gaddafi era? Despite the ending of the NATO mandate in Libya today, should the international community continue to play a role in civilian protection? If so, how should it discharge this responsibility?

The international community must ensure the democratic transition and transformation of Libya by seeing to it that all domestic actors - including those in the previous regime- are assured of their rights to participate in this transformation. Initially, the rule of law must be paramount; it should clearly assure the civilians - including those again who are supporters of the ousted regime - are protected from violent reprisals, kangaroo trials and the like. It should also ensure that those who perpetrated crimes- including those of the victorious militias and former rebels- are tried justly. It can discharge its responsibility by having an official UN presence in Libya to assist and accompany the transition and not surrender this role to other international formations such as NATO.

Through an RtoP lens, what lessons can be learned from Libya for future cases where international action - whether non-coercive or coercive - is necessary to protect civilians?

The biggest lesson is for the UN to be clearer in its mandate setting, define the actual parameters and criteria of such and institute mechanisms in ensuring its applicability and provide a sanctions regime if such are indeed abused or misused.

ICRtoP

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR **THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT**



Unless the UN and the international community transparently discuss, admit and correct the excesses of its Libya adventure, it will be harder for us to convince those we are targeting to support the norm, especially the "South" or those who have already been earlier cynical towards RtoP.