

BBC News
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(...) In his speech on Wednesday Mr Evans [who has played a key role in developing the concept of state **responsibility to protect** all people from violence,] will set out the case for a new approach to conflict resolution and examine the current status of the idea of the "**responsibility to protect**".

This concept was developed to help the international community to avoid any future situations where the world stood by in the face of genocide and mass killing, as in Cambodia in the 1970s - a situation Mr Evans denounces as a state's "licence to kill" its own people.

Mr Evans advocates the innate responsibility of all states to their people - and crucially that if individual states "cannot meet that responsibility, through either ill-will or incapacity, it then falls on the wider international community to take the appropriate action," including the use of force.

He will argue that a focus on protection rather than intervention means taking the perspective of victims, with the added responsibility of always trying to prevent these crises from occurring. (...)

Mr Evans is president of the International Crisis Group.

Source:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/7359337.stm

For transcript of Evan's speech on 30 April 2008, please go to:

<http://www.ajn.com.au/news/news.asp?pgID=451>