

R2PCS Listserv

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Responsibility to Protect Engaging Civil Society

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In this issue: [Featured Reports; Eminent Persons on R2P; Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan Receives MacArthur Award; Commentary on Darfur; and Other Reports of Interest]

I. Featured Reports

1. FIDH -- BURMAS AFFRON REVOLUTION IS NOT OVER
2. FRIDE -- THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: FROM AN ETHICAL PRINCIPLE TO AN EFFECTIVE POLICY

II. Eminent Persons on R2P

1. GARETH EVANS SPEECH AT SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL USE OF FORCE
2. INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP VICE PRESIDENT DON STEINBERGS SPEECH AT SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF CONFLICT PREVENTION
3. ALBRIGHT AND COHEN TO CO-CHAIR GENOCIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

III. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan Receives MacArthur Award

1. KOFI ANNAN FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AWARD
2. STATEMENT BY KOFI ANNAN REGARDING THE MACARTHUR AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

IV. Commentary on Darfur

1. WHY THE UNITED NATIONS STANDS ACCUSED ON DARFUR
2. DARFUR ACTIVISTS APPLAUD SENATE PASSAGE OF DIVESTMENT LEGISLATION

V. Other Reports of Interest

1. DRC: WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AS INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT ESCALATES IN THE EAST

I. Featured Reports

1. BURMAS AFFRON REVOLUTION IS NOT OVER

Time for the International Community to Act
FIDH
December 2007

This report by FIDH documents the aftermath of the September 2007 crackdown by the Burmese military on peacefully protesting monks and civilians. The international community has the power to influence the regime, as witnessed by the visits of UN Special Envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, and Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, Sergio Pinheiro. This report urges the international community to continue to pressure the regime to ring about political transition. It also suggests the use of targeted sanctions to cut off the regime economically and also using the responsibility to protect as an effective tool for change, as Burma can be considered a threat to international peace and security. Finally, FIDH notes that the climate inside Burma has drastically changed, and although the threat of harm to dissenters is now even greater, the determination of the people has been strengthened.

Full report available at: <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/mm485a.pdf>

2. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: FROM AN ETHICAL PRINCIPLE TO AN EFFECTIVE POLICY

FRIDE (Fundacin para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Dilogo Exterior)
23 November 2007

This report by FRIDE is included in a volume entitled he Reality of Aid and, while seemingly unusual, makes the point that the emergence of the responsibility to protect ill substantially define the scale and nature of the future work of humanitarian aid.r

The report defines R2P and examines its progression in the international system, with its adoption at the 2005 UN World Summit. It concludes that the R2P is a significant development for the protection of civilians against genocide and mass atrocities, and is critical for ensuring that the protection of civilians is not ompletely subjected to political interests or to fall into oblivion due to divisions or lack of political commitments within the international community through the elaboration of a series of guidelines.

Full report available at:

<http://fride.org/publication-newsletter/298/the-responsibility-to-protect-from-an-ethical-principle-to-an-effective-policy>

II. Eminent Persons on R2P

1. GARETH EVANS SPEECH AT SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL USE OF FORCE

he Responsibility to Protect and the Use of Military Forcer World Legal Forum
11 December 2007

This speech was given by International Crisis Group President Gareth Evans on 11 December 2007 at the Seminar on the International Use of Force, which was organized by the World Legal Forum. Evans speech focused on the military aspect of the responsibility to protect and included explanations of R2P and military force, the question of legality, the question of legitimacy, and

the issue of legality vs. legitimacy.

Full text available at:

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5209&l=1>

2. ICG VICE PRESIDENT DON STEINBERGS SPEECH AT SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF CONFLICT PREVENTION

Council on Foreign Relations

10 December 2007

() If there is one silver lining to Rwanda - and I would add Somalia and Srebrenica on top of that, it's that we challenge that assumption that sovereignty is, in effect, a license to kill one's own population. And over the course of the 1990s there were substantial movements in this regard. And we tend to forget this, but the international community did respond effectively in Macedonia to stop the possible deterioration there; NATO went into Kosovo; the British supported forces in Sierra Leone; the French in Cote d'Ivoire; the Australians in East Timor; the South Africans into Burundi.

() So not a pretty picture. But just as Rwanda stimulated a whole set of actions, I believe Darfur is going to do the same thing vis-- vis "**responsibility to protect.**" And if you look around the United States in particular right now, you see the Holocaust Museum putting together a genocide prevention task force; you see the Carr Center putting forward their programs; the Stimson Center, the Human Rights Center at Berkley. This is a cottage industry now - "**responsibility to protect**"
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And, indeed, for me, one of the most important aspects of this is the establishment in February of 2008 of the Global Center on the **Responsibility to Protect** at CUNY, Ralph Bunche Institute. I've been very much involved in putting this together and I'm very excited about this program. It is a center that will be linked with associated centers all around the world - Sri Lanka, South Africa, Ghana, Norway.

It will serve as the catalyst and a resources for those within the U.N. system, within governments, NGOs who what to press these issues - civil society, regional organizations. It's going to take **R2P** to the next level and it's going to do it in five ways - and I'll be very quick in terms of these five ways:

First of all, it's going to help define the norm. Right now we still have President Bush saying Iraq is "**responsibility to protect.**" At the same time, we have people saying the Inuits have the right to sue the U.S. government, because they're losing their homelands because of climate change, and the U.S. government is causing it.

What we need to do is step back and define the norm as Paragraph 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome Document. And I have the language right here, it's very simple, we shouldn't be getting involved with this now.

Second, we need to prevent and eliminate backsliding. There are too many governments who signed this Agreement in 2005, who are now saying, "Oh, it's - we didn't really sign it. We don't really believe in it." We even heard, at the ACABQ last week, governments saying, "138 didn't even talk about **responsibility to protect**. In fact, it was a repudiation of **responsibility to protect**." Well, I've got the language right here that says, "We respect the responsibility to protect people from - " I mean, this is just rewriting history.

Third, we have to operationalize the concept. We have to provide meat on the bones; we have to define what the toolbox is; we have to put in place the early warning systems; we have to develop the resources that are capable of doing these.

Fourth, we need to put a very fine edge on the military side of this because too many people around the world believe **responsibility to protect** is just non-consensual military engagement when a genocide is taking place. And if that's - if that's true, we really need to define who has the right to say that this is an **R2P** situation; who has the right to approve people going in under that situation; who's to say whether it's appropriate; what are the balance of consequences; how do you ensure that this the last resort.

And then finally, we have to apply it to real world cases. Right now we're looking at Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, and we don't have the framework to put those issues into. I suggest that **responsibility to protect**