

The Responsibility to Protect Engaging Civil Society Project (**R2PCS**) project would like to express its deepest condolences and profound sorrow over the death of Dr. Alison Des Forges on 12 February in a plane crash. Dr. Des Forges was a committed and tireless advocate of human rights and a leading expert on the Rwandan genocide and Great Lakes Region in Africa. For five decades, Dr. Des Forges studied ethnic relations and political structures in Rwanda, and was the author of a prolific firsthand account of the Rwandan genocide called *Leave None to Tell the Story*, which profiled the Rwandan genocide as being not the result of centuries old ethnic divisions, but a carefully planned and executed campaign to rid Rwanda of its Tutsi population by its Hutu government. Dr. Des Forges committed herself to promoting international justice and rule of law, and also tirelessly campaigned for the Rwandan Patriotic Front to be held responsible for its own mass atrocity crimes in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. She will be remembered for her dedication to preventing and halting the most heinous of human rights abuses, and will be sorely missed.

Human Rights Watch tribute to Alison Des Forges: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/02/13/human-rights-watch-mourns-loss-alison-des-forges>