

# Mission

A new paradigm for ending atrocity crimes:

- Moving from ad hoc, unilateral, and politically-driven military interventions to,
- Sustainable and legitimate judicial deterrence and enforcement.

The mission of the R2P Coalition is:

- To convince the American people and its leaders to embrace the norm of the responsibility to protect as a domestic and foreign policy priority.
- To convince our political leadership that the US must join the ICC.
- To convince our political leadership to empower the UN and the ICC with a legitimate and effective deterrent and enforcement mechanism - an International Marshals Service - a standing international police force to arrest atrocity crimes indictees.

Despite its endorsement at the highest political level and the general feeling of the American public that "something needs to be done" to prevent and stop mass atrocities, the Responsibility to Protect is very much absent from public and political thinking in the United States.

Embracing the Responsibility to Protect in a meaningful way will end atrocity crimes. It also provides the US with the opportunity to reassert its moral authority at a time where its commitment to the international rule of law and to the promotion of friendly relations among nations raises deep controversies. The Responsibility to Protect is an empowering prophecy that puts America's strengths to great purpose.

The upcoming 2008 presidential election and the general debate that will precede provide an opportunity to bring this new norm in the public and leaders' discourse over America's domestic and foreign policy, and to get our nation to take the necessary bold steps that are called for to implement this bold principle.

R2P deals with atrocity crimes, and atrocity crimes should be tackled for what they are: crimes. The perpetrators of these horrific crimes, whoever they are - a head of state or the head of a guerilla movement - need to be held accountable for hell they have brought on earth. Criminal investigations must take place, indictees must be arrested - by force if needed - and justice must be served so that peace can have a chance.

Acting on R2P calls for institutions that have the legitimacy and capacity to deter the commission of atrocity crimes and to

enforce international justice. Today, neither the UN nor the International Criminal Court has such standing capacity.