

City of San Francisco Adopts Responsibility to Protect Resolution

San Francisco, CA (March 14, 2007)

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- First Local Government on the West Coast to Endorse the Responsibility to Protect and Support the Abolishment of Atrocity Crimes

The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted a resolution endorsing the United Nations Principle of the Responsibility to Protect and urging the federal government to implement this principle. Building on similar steps taken in Chicago and Illinois, this resolution evidences the growing recognition at the local and state levels that the American People deeply care about this issue and that they want policy makers in Washington not only to take ownership of R2P but to show leadership in turning this grand principle into meaningful action.

The resolution, and the proclamation pertaining thereto, were sponsored by the California Committee North and R2P Taskforce of Human Rights Watch.

"I am delighted and proud that San Francisco has, in passing the Resolution Endorsing the United Nations Principle of the Responsibility to Protect, taken a real leadership role on the West Coast in the promotion of human rights and ending atrocity crimes internationally. The principle of the Responsibility to Protect is a truly visionary concept that requires each State and the international community to do the right thing; to not only protect civilians against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity but also prevent such crimes, including their incitement."

- Darian Swig, Co-Chair, California Committee North and R2P Taskforce, Human Rights Watch.