



24TH ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

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**STRENGTHENING COMPREHENSIVE AND
COOPERATIVE SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

**“Making the Responsibility To Protect (RtoP)
Work in the Asia Pacific”**

***Protection of Civilians As Entry Point For R2P In
Asia
(PowerPoint)***

by

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Protection of Civilians as Entry Point for R2P in Asia

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Why Protection of Civilians/Populations?

- Cases of deadly armed conflict are not foreign to countries in the region
 - Aceh (1989-2005) – 11,000 lives lost
 - From mid-70s to 2005, overall toll believed to be 15,000 mostly civilians
 - Mindanao – estimated deaths of about 73,000 since 1984
 - Southern Thailand (between 2004-2008) – estimated death of 3,000 –mostly civilians



Why POC/POP?

- In recent years, larger Asian region seen highest number of campaigns of one-sided violence- i.e., use of armed force against civilians by government or formally organised group...
 - Not during armed conflict, and
 - Distinct from battle-related violence that incidentally harms civilians



Why POC/POP?

- Other types of violence that similarly impact upon the human security of individuals and communities in the region.
 - Violence and physical abuse on IDPs
 - Violence against women and children
 - Terrorist attacks?



“Civilian Protection”

- ‘Protection, in the broadest sense, aims to ensure that authorities and other actors respect their obligations and the rights of individuals in order to preserve the lives, security, physical and moral integrity and dignity of those ***affected by armed conflicts and/or other situations of violence.***
- Protection includes efforts that strive to prevent or put a stop to actual or potential violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and other relevant bodies of law or norms that protect human beings’.
- According to ICRC, ‘the persons marked out for specific concern by this definition are those who are not, or who are no longer, taking a direct part in an armed conflict, or those who are affected by other situations of violence’.^[1]

[1] ‘Enhancing protection for civilians in armed conflict and other situations of violence’. 2008. *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*, pp. 6-11. Available online at [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/SHIG-7KUHYT/\\$file/ICRC_Sep2008.pdf?openelement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/SHIG-7KUHYT/$file/ICRC_Sep2008.pdf?openelement).



RtoP and Civilian Protection in Southeast Asia

RtoP seen as ‘not relevant to region’ → Protection of civilians agenda provides a potential entry point for promoting the *objectives* of the RtoP. In the regional context, such an approach should take account of both armed conflict as well as other situations of violence that impinge upon human security.

Level	Frameworks/ Mechanisms	Actors	Processes
International	IHL, human rights law, general int law, RtoP	States	Acceding to IHL, HR, and general int law treaties, conventions
Regional	AICHR, ACWC, APSC	States	Enhancing compliance/accountability with above
National	NHRC, courts, other legal bodies (ombudsmen)	States	Promoting HR awareness and education
		CSOs	Increasing awareness of/ adherence to IHL
		NSAGs	Corporate Social Responsibility
		Private sector	