

## **Security for Whom?**

Some proposed that the beneficiaries of security are those who can afford it, such as the U.S., or those who have friends who can afford it. Yet, September 11<sup>th</sup> clearly demonstrated the vulnerability of the U.S. and others to low-level technology attacks. Further, states appear unable to prevent drugs, illegal migrants, and small arms from crossing borders, which is but a further challenge to the security of the state. In the new world order, and where justified, states must retain the capacity for violent response. While Canada provides only token forces to international security initiatives, the Canadian Armed Forces are considered one of the best in the world.

Alternatively, others noted that discussions have tended to focus exclusively on security for the state, with the implicit assumption being that the state will take care of its citizens. The failure of many states to do so necessitates a broader definition of security focussing on the notion of human security. This broader view includes: security for women, human rights, aid, governance issues, environmental security and sustainable development. A human security lens also highlights domestic concerns, in that we the need to consider what happens after a war is over and soldiers return home (perhaps to bring the mentality of war into the home). Most importantly, while there are deep implications of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction, this is not the main security concern of the vast majority of people around the world, many of whom are more concerned with more pressing issues, such as access to clean water, food and shelter.

Canada has a role to play in promoting human security, for example by remaining in Afghanistan to ensure the protection of women's right, and the promotion and provision of education for all. Another way of advancing human security is to address the greatest problems (for both women and men) of a weak state.

## **Canadian Interests and Values: Security Policy Implications**

The need to define security more broadly parallels the path that has now led us to think of the environment more broadly and to consider and address concerns regarding the global commons (such as the problem of climate change, management of the oceans and deep sea mining, and the militarization or pollution of space). Recently, Canada's performance on key environmental issues has contributed to diminishing our former position as a bridge-builder. Yet, this international standing could easily be reversed. At the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg Canada acted upon the interests and values of Canadians by taking a key leadership position on the issue of human rights, and almost single-handedly advanced the inclusion of the term in key documents.

Other perspectives on Canadian interests and values focussed on the issue of Iraq. A core value of Canadian foreign policy is the rule of law. While Canada may be reluctant to endorse U.S. action on Iraq because it would undermine international law, we were willing to act in the case of Kosovo even without Security Council approval. Furthermore, a military attack on Iraq is not contradictory to Canadian values, as the Iraqi state has been circumventing international law.