

abandon more violent tactics in their attempt to topple the Nepalese regime.⁶⁶

Urban protest does present a human security challenge, however, as some states respond violently to this urban threat. In the Bolivian example above, about 80 people were killed in clashes with police, while dozens were killed in the Nepalese protests. As noted earlier, one of the most extreme examples of a state's attempt to throttle urban dissent was in Zimbabwe, where 700,000 citizens of Harare were left homeless after a government razing program.

Building on international action

A number of groups are working to improve local governance and infuse democratic principles at the municipal level. International IDEA, the National Democratic Institute, and the World Bank have developed programs aimed at exploring the benefits of local democratization, and have produced resources such as the Local Democracy Assessment Guides.⁶⁷

Urban governance and democratization remain critical issues which impact developed countries as well. Peace support operations (PSOs) will increasingly need to operate in urban environments, and consider the role of strong and well-governed cities in state stabilization. The port of Berbera, Somaliland, which was once a source of conflict, provided 60% of government revenues in the immediate post-conflict phase. PSOs which do not attempt city-building and strengthening municipal partners will neglect a key element in strengthening human security overall.

⁶⁶ As a former Indian official remarked, the viability of the urban protest movement meant that "instead of the old three-phase struggle [moving from rural to urban areas, and then to the capital], they are now waging a two-pronged struggle—an armed struggle in accordance with classic Maoist tactics all by themselves in the rural areas and a revisionist democratic struggle in association with the mainstream parties in the urban areas and Kathmandu." Raman (2006), <http://www.saag.org/papers18/paper1772.html>.

⁶⁷ For International IDEA's work, see, for example, http://www.idea.int/news/local_level_africa.cfm. For NDI's local governance programs, see <http://www.ndi.org/globalp/localgov/localgov.asp>. For the World Bank, see http://info.worldbank.org/etools/mdfdb/Conf_Workshops_11.htm.