

failed — intervention to protect populations at great risk.

A human security approach inevitably raises questions about the place of national security. Fundamentally, these two concepts are complementary. People are made safer by an open, tolerant and responsive state capable of ensuring the protection of all of its citizens. At the same time, enhancing human security reinforces the state by strengthening its legitimacy and stability. A secure and stable world order is built both from the bottom up and the top down.

It is clear, however, that states are not always guarantors of human security. When states are externally aggressive, internally repressive or too weak to govern effectively, people suffer. In the face of massive state-sponsored murder, the calculated brutalization of people and appalling violations of human rights, the humanitarian imperative to act cannot be ignored and can, in some cases, outweigh concerns about state sovereignty.

Similarly, human security and human development can be understood as mutually reinforcing concepts. Respectively, they address the twin objectives of freedom from fear and freedom from want. Human security provides an enabling environment for human development. Where violence or the threat of violence makes meaningful progress toward development impractical, enhancing safety for

people is a prerequisite. Conversely, by addressing the inequalities that are often the root causes of violent conflict, by strengthening governance structures and by providing humanitarian assistance, human development can also be an important strategy for furthering human security.

Toward a Human Security Agenda

For Canada, human security means freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, safety or lives.

A wide range of old and new threats can be considered challenges to human security; these range from epidemic diseases to natural disasters, from environmental change to economic upheavals. Through its foreign policy, Canada has chosen to focus its human security agenda on promoting safety for people by protecting them from threats of violence. We have chosen this focus because we believe this is where the concept of human security has the greatest value added — where it complements existing international agendas already focussed on promoting national security, human rights and human development.

Canada has identified five foreign policy priorities for advancing human security:

1. *Protection of civilians*, concerned with building international will

and strengthening norms and capacity to reduce the human costs of armed conflict.

2. *Peace support operations*, concerned with building UN capacities and addressing the demanding and increasingly complex requirements for deployment of skilled personnel, including Canadians, to these missions.
3. *Conflict prevention*, concerned with strengthening the capacity of the international community to prevent or resolve conflict, and building local indigenous capacity to manage conflict without violence.
4. *Governance and accountability*, concerned with fostering improved accountability of public and private sector institutions in terms of established norms of democracy and human rights.
5. *Public safety*, concerned with building international expertise, capacities and instruments to counter the growing threats posed by the rise of transnational organized crime.

This human security agenda is outlined in greater detail in the following pages.

Human Security Agenda

**Protection
of Civilians**

**Peace Support
Operations**

**Conflict
Prevention**

**Governance and
Accountability**

**Public
Safety**

*A young militia soldier
in Zaire. (1996)*

*CP Picture Archive:
Ricardo Mazalan*