

American University Washington College of Law
Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: THE CASE OF SUDAN



Noura Silamanan and her niece Intesar Iesa Eltaher
in the Jebel Mara Mountains of Darfur, Sudan

Friday, September 29, 2006
9:30am – 4:30pm
Room 603

One year ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the Responsibility to Protect, uniformly asserting that the international community has a responsibility to act when governments fail to protect their most vulnerable population. Today, one year later, large scale humanitarian crises and genocides continue and worsen around the world. It is time to assess how the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect is being implemented. No case is better to discuss than the ongoing crisis in Sudan. With the mandate of the African Union peacekeeping force coming to an end in Darfur, the Sudanese government rejecting a new UN Peacekeeping force for the area and the implementation of several peace agreements in the region hanging in the balance, we will examine what the Responsibility to Protect really means. Among the issues to be discussed are the conceptual framework of the Responsibility to Protect, the complexities surrounding the Darfur conflict as well as the challenges to meaningfully implement the Responsibility to Protect. In this context, panelists will also discuss prospects for a comprehensive and sustainable peace in Sudan and the need to expand the peacekeeping mandate in the region to fulfill the Responsibility to Protect.