



AP R2P

Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

P: +61 7 3346 6449 • E: r2pinfo@uq.edu.a

JULY 2014 • ISSUE 11



Mr. Rafendi Djamin, HRWG Executive Director and Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Inter Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) delivering his welcome remarks in the opening session of the Bogor seminar

Djamin, Executive Director of HRWG and current Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) expressed appreciation to the Centre for holding the seminar in Indonesia in partnership with HRWG. He underscored the importance of mass atrocities prevention and protection against gross violations of human rights in the advocacy of HRWG and expressed hope that Indonesia would take seriously the implementation of R2P. He also highlighted the significant role played by parliamentary staff and civil society organizations in mainstreaming the principle in Indonesia.

Noel Morada, APR2P's Director of Regional Diplomacy and Capacity Building, delivered a lecture on the background to R2P, showing how it has evolved since the concept was introduced in 2001 based on the report by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS). Some of the questions raised by seminar participants related to R2P include: 1) the relevance of the concept in the context of Southeast Asia given the traditional ASEAN norms on sovereignty; 2) the norm's relationship to peacekeeping and civilian protection; and 3) the principle's application to responsible business practices.

The seminar also included a session on "Envisioning Human Rights and Mass Atrocities Prevention in Indonesia" where panelists from the military, national human rights commission, and civil society expressed their views about the

SPOTLIGHT ON R2P Preventing Mass Atrocities: The Role of Parliamentarians and Civil Society Groups in Indonesia

Noel M. Morada

THE ASIA PACIFIC CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT (APR2P) HELD A TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON MASS ATROCITIES PREVENTION AT NOVOTEL BOGOR HOTEL ON 5-6 JUNE 2014.

The meeting focused on the role of parliamentarians and civil society groups in promoting the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle by identifying current issues, opportunities, and challenges in preventing mass atrocity crimes

in Indonesia. There were some 15 participants in the seminar from government, human rights organizations, legislative staff, national human rights commission, think tanks, and NGOs working in peace and conflict. They were provided with copies of the R2P Toolkit and the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) resolution on R2P, which were translated into Bahasa Indonesia, as background materials during the seminar.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Rafendi



relevance of R2P and mass atrocities prevention in Indonesia. Among the key points presented in this panel were: 1) that Indonesian basic values do not have any conflict with R2P; 2) professional security institutions are key to implementing R2P; 3) the need to identify the sources of risks of mass atrocities in Indonesia; and 4) the importance of mainstreaming R2P in various organizations in the country. Some of the relevant issues raised by participants in the session's open forum include: 1) reconciling R2P and mass atrocities prevention with the defense role of the military; 2) differentiating between legitimate freedom of expression and hate speech; 3) addressing past atrocities in Indonesia and undertaking the process of reconciliation; and 4) enhancing the protection of religious minority groups in the country in light of continuing violent attacks by extremist groups. Specifically with regard to dealing with past atrocities,

While the process may take some time, a significant question to be asked is whether Indonesia is on the right track in dealing with past atrocities.



Dr. Noel M. Morada giving an introduction to R2P lecture to seminar participants

it was pointed out that Indonesians should explore local norms and wisdom on how to admit mistakes in the past even as it is also important to learn from other countries' experiences (e.g., Rwanda). While the process may take some time, a significant question to be asked is whether Indonesia is on the right track in dealing with past atrocities. Although certain reconciliation initiatives have taken place at the grassroots-level, they need to be supported at the national level through national laws and the judicial process. Participants also recognized the importance of *memorialisasi* (or memorialization) as part of dealing with past atrocities which will not only show the state's concern for the victims of human rights violations

but also an admission of mistakes that should be avoided in the future. The second day of the meeting was devoted to examining the relevance of R2P in the Indonesian context and identifying a number of concrete action plans for promoting mass atrocities prevention. Following the breakout sessions where participants brainstormed on these points, a number of recommendations were put forward with regard to mainstreaming R2P, such as:

- Conduct seminars and training workshops for legislative staff and civil society groups, in partnership with local and international institutions, to increase the level of awareness about R2P and mass atrocities prevention in Indonesia;



With participants from parliament and civil society groups on Day 1 of the seminar

- For government agencies and civil society groups to undertake policy-relevant research on issues related to human rights, protection of women and children, protection of minority groups, etc.;
- Promote dialogue between non-government organizations and parliamentary commissions on human rights and mass atrocities prevention, as well as with other relevant government agencies such as foreign ministry, defense/military, police on issues related to R2P, mass atrocities prevention, and security sector reform;
- Build a local constituency of champions of R2P in Indonesia through the use of campaigns, lobbying, and social media by civil society organizations;
- Review of existing laws that are relevant to R2P and mass atrocities prevention;
- Strengthen national human rights institutions by drawing a R2P roadmap or agenda that will be incorporated in human rights protection plans;
- Government and civil society groups should also engage in dialogue with religious groups and involve them in implementing R2P and mass atrocities prevention in Indonesia;
- The government and the Indonesian society as a whole should take steps in addressing the issue of past atrocities in the country through dialogue, reconciliation, and memorialization, which should be supported by appropriate national laws; and
- Enhance mechanisms of engagement between relevant parliamentary commissions and civil society groups in order to improve the process of legislation on laws related to human rights protection and mass atrocities prevention.

‘ Apart from mainstreaming R2P, these seminars will also serve as opportunities for various sectors to engage in serious conversation on current issues related to human rights ’



Day 2 of Seminar breakout session with Civil Society Groups discussing plans of action on mainstreaming R2P and mass atrocities prevention in Indonesia



Dr. Noel M. Morada, APR2P Director for Regional Diplomacy and Capacity Building, responding to questions during the open forum.



Parliament staff participants in day 1 of the seminar

Overall, the Bogor seminar opened new opportunities for further promoting awareness about R2P in Indonesia through engaging critical stakeholders from parliament and civil society sectors who value the importance of mass atrocities prevention. A series of follow-up seminars in Jakarta is scheduled before the end of the year in partnership with HRWG-Indonesia, which will involve various government ministries and agencies,

the media, and other civil society groups. Apart from mainstreaming R2P, these seminars will also serve as opportunities for various sectors to engage in serious conversation on current issues related to human rights protection and mass atrocities prevention in Indonesia, as well as building on the concrete proposals that were generated from the Bogor seminar.



Day 2 of Seminar session with Parliament Group discussing ideas and proposals for mainstreaming R2P

ASIA PACIFIC CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Building 91, 54 Walcott Street

School of Political Science
& International Studies

The University of Queensland,
St Lucia Brisbane QLD 4072

P +61 7 3346 6435

E: r2pinfo@uq.edu.au

W: www.r2pasiapacific.org

This report was produced as part of the activities of the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect [DFAT Agreement 63684]. The Centre acknowledges the funding support provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia.