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COURSE PCS 402 TEST

Using an Internally Displaced persons Camp as a scenario, discuss Human Security.

Human Security provides a compelling conceptual framework for confronting the global challenge of internal displacement with which the mandate of the U.N. Secretary-General’s Representative on Internally Displaced Persons has been concerned since its inception in 1992. It is a factor in understanding the causes and consequences of internal displacement. It also provides policy guidance in conceptualizing and formulating measures for preventing displacement, providing protection and assistance during displacement, and searching for durable solutions. Furthermore, it offers a means of creating opportunities in crises by exploring remedies to the deep-seated structural problems of political, economic, social and cultural disparities that generate tensions and violent conflicts.

The concept of human security represents a departure from orthodox security studies, which focus on the security of the state. The subjects of the human security approach are individuals, and its end goal is the protection of people from traditional (i.e., military) and nontraditional threats such as poverty and disease. Moving the security agenda beyond state security does not mean replacing it but rather involves complementing and building on it. Central to this approach is the understanding that human security deprivations can undermine peace and stability within and between states, whereas an overemphasis on state security can be detrimental to human welfare. The state remains a central provider of security, but state security is not a sufficient condition for human welfare.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to the *United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,* are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border." This, however, is a descriptive definition, which does not confer a special legal status because IDPs, being inside their country, remain entitled to all the rights and guarantees as citizens and other habitual residents of their country. As such, national authorities have the primary responsibility to prevent forced displacement and to protect IDPs.

Human security fully entered the policy and academic debates in the early 1990s. Nevertheless, despite its widespread usage within national and international policy circles, its definition remains highly contested. The holistic vision of protecting the security of people lends itself to a variety of interpretations shaped by relative understandings of what constitutes a threat to the security of individuals, how the intensity and repercussion of any given threat can be measured (i.e., historical data or forward-looking forecasts), and by what possible means the threat can be prevented or removed. The coalition of states and supranational organizations that have supported the approach can count numerous accomplishments, such as the Ottawa Convention ,the establishment of the International Criminal Court, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

While international action on behalf of the victims of internal displacement is a compelling necessity for filling the vacuum of responsibility, access is often problematic due to the negative interpretation of national sovereignty as a barricade against external involvement. But post-Cold War increased commitment to human rights and humanitarian principles is challenging this restrictive approach to the concept and is postulating sovereignty as a normative principle of responsibility. This means that Governments are being called upon to assume the primary responsibility of providing protection and assistance to all those under national jurisdiction, and, if lacking the requisite capacity, to request or at least welcome assistance from the international community. Otherwise, in the face of severe suffering and death, the international community must intervene through various methods, ranging from persuasive diplomacy to more assertive forms of international action.

Displacement is a symptom of crises with even deeper roots in society, often reflected in the mismanagement of diversity, characterized by intolerable inequities. Displacement itself forces people to move to other areas where there is supposedly more security, better social services, and greater opportunities for economic self enhancement. It therefore opens people’s eyes to the inequities of the system and challenges the authorities to correct those inequities or risk greater conflict and instability in the future. In that sense, it offers opportunities for structural remedies to foster peace, security, stability and a common sense of purpose in nationbuilding. A starting-point in responding to the global crisis of internal displacement and seizing the opportunities for reform which it offers would be for The Guiding Principles to be widely supported as a normative framework for stipulating sovereignty as responsibility, with international accountability not only for governments but for non-state actors as well.

Institutionally, in addition to strengthening inter-agency collaboration, appropriate mechanisms need to be developed for monitoring and promoting the implementation of The Guiding Principles at the local and national levels and ensuring operational delivery of protection and assistance to the masses of displaced populations. Since protection often means measures to enhance the physical safety and human rights of affected populations, operational field staff need to be trained in international humanitarian and human rights law and analogous refugee law. Steps should also be taken to implement their provisions on the ground. Ultimately, only by ensuring Human Security in the comprehensive sense of providing physical and material well-being of human beings can the