PRESENTS: POLICE BUILDING AS **Responsibility to Protect** (RtoP) IN OCEANIA

Abstract

The Responsibility to protect rest on three pillars:

1. states accepting responsibility for the good treatment of their citizens;
2. the international community assisting states to meet this responsibility; and
3. timely and decisive intervention where states threaten their own people.

In terms of the second pillar, international assistance to develop effective and disciplined police services that will maintain the rule of law is said to be essential in guarding against large scale abuses of human rights. In developing states this is especially so, particularly after a post-conflict situation. Three states in Oceania - Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea - have at various times since 1999 been subject to a variety of interventions involving transnational police building. By 2011 the results of these separate efforts are rather mixed. This paper presents an overview of the context, main issues, successes, and current problems that present as obstacles to effective police building in these states. The conclusions represent a mid-term summary of a project funded by the Asia Pacific Centre for RtoP that looks specifically at international support for policing in Oceania.

Bio

Charles is Senior Lecturer in the Politics Program in the School of History and Politics. He holds a BA (Hons 1st class) in History (UNSW) and a PhD in Politics from University of Wollongong. Charles teaches international relations, political economy and political theory. He is a member of the ITAMS research group and Editor of the International Gramsci Journal.

His research interests include:

- States, sovereignty and challenges to state power;
- Peacekeeping and interventions in world politics;
- Australia and the Pacific Islands.

Current Grants and Research projects

- The Responsibility to Protect in Oceania (with Prof. A. Goldsmith, Law) – funded by the Australian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect ($120,000)
- Hegemony and Sovereignty: Indigenous claims on State Power in Australia and New Zealand (with Dr. Richard Howson, Sociology) — funded by UOW’s URC and CSP

If you would like to attend this session please contact Ms Luanne Mott by Tuesday 23 August for catering purposes: lmott@uow.edu.au.

This schedule will be updated throughout Spring session: [http://ctcp.uow.edu.au/newsevents/seminar/index.html](http://ctcp.uow.edu.au/newsevents/seminar/index.html)