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WORKING WITH REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Displaced Persons: Protection and Assistance Challenges

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Profound crises of legitimacy of the state, its institutions, political incumbents and their challengers continue to violently displace tens of millions of people.¹ These crises, which are partly the logical outcome of the severe crises of legitimacy of the international socio-economic and political systems, have more harrowing effects on two types of states: those that are despotically strong but infrastructurally weak, and those that are despotically weak and infrastructurally weak.² Most of these states are located in what is controversially referred to as the "Third World." It is also in this geopolitically and economically marginalized and unstable region, where the overwhelming majority of those who are externally and internally displaced reside, that massive violations of human rights take place. Indeed, the growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons in this region highlights both the magnitude and intensity of massive violations of human rights. Also, it illuminates the severe inadequacy of existing humanitarian and human rights response systems, and the inter-

national moral deficit in the post-Cold World era.

The growing magnitude of the crises of external and internal displacement calls for comprehensive and coordinated strategies to address the

causes of displacement: profound crises of legitimacy on both the domestic and international fronts, and violations of human rights. On the domestic front, the severe crises of legitimacy of the state, its institutions, the incum-

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