

# Diplomatic Protection of Human Rights as practised by South Africa and Nigeria

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## **DEDICATION**

To God, my family and friends

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I declare that this thesis, **Diplomatic Protection of Human Rights as practised by South Africa and Nigeria** is my original work both in conception and execution and that all the sources I have used or quoted have been acknowledged by means of complete reference. I also declare that this thesis has not been previously submitted by me for a degree at any other tertiary institution

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## SUMMARY

The main purpose of this research is to examine and assess the extent to which Nigeria and South Africa are prepared to invoke diplomatic protection in order to safeguard the human rights of their nationals living abroad and to determine whether there are constitutional provisions empowering them to do so. Diplomatic Protection is an institution in international law whereby a state may take diplomatic action to protect its national who has suffered some harm or injury in a foreign land, but, has not been compensated by the government of the responsible state. The practice of diplomatic protection is believed to have originated in 16<sup>th</sup> century Continental Europe, and that Vattel, a Swiss jurist and diplomat was the father of the concept. In a broad sense however, Diplomatic Protection also includes the functions performed by diplomatic missions and consular officials. It is an important institution in international law in terms of the redress it affords to individuals who suffer from injuries sustained in foreign countries.

Diplomatic protection is examined from the legal and human rights perspectives in this thesis. The method adopted for the research is to identify and critically analyze certain rights which foreigners enjoy outside their countries in order to determine whether these rights can be diplomatically protected in Nigeria and South Africa and the circumstances under which such rights can be denied, derogated or limited by the two states.

The choice of the human rights adopted in this research is determined by their importance to the individual generally, and their utility to any individual living in a foreign land. The categories of rights adopted for the examination include, fundamental rights, which are rights so basic to the individual that they cannot be derogated from even in times of national emergencies. Such rights include the right to life, the right to be free from discrimination and the right to be free from torture and other inhuman treatment or punishment.

The second category of rights examined is the right to own private property in a foreign land, while the third category is procedural rights. These are rights which assist the individual to obtain substantive justice in a court of law – that is to say, due process rights. They include the right to a fair hearing, the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty and the right to be tried within a reasonable time.

The conclusion is that although diplomatic protection is not constitutionally entrenched in the two states, their provisions are constitutionally contemplated. However, the human rights of both nationals and aliens in Nigeria and South Africa are constitutionally protected. Nevertheless, it is envisaged that the situation will greatly improve through the implementation of the suggestions and recommendations proffered in the thesis. These include the amendment of the Constitutions of the respective states to reflect the desired change, the reorganization of diplomatic and consular missions of the two states and above all, by making human rights the corner-stone of democracy in the respective states.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AAR	Annual Activity Report
AC	Appeal Cases
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACHR	American Convention on Human Rights
ADRDM	American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man
AHRLR	African Human Rights Report
AJIL	American Journal of International Law
AI	Amnesty International
All ER	All England Reports
Am Society of Int Law	American Society of International Law
AM U INT'L L REV	<i>American University International Law Review</i>
ANC	African National Congress
AU	African Union
B. C. INT'L & COMP.L.REV	Boston College International and Comparative Law Review
BCLR	Butterworth Constitutional Law Reports
BHRC	Butterworth Human Rights Cases
Brit. J. Pol. S	British Journal of Political Science
Brit. Y.B. Int'l L.	<i>British Yearbook of International Law</i>
BYb IL Comm'n	<i>British Yearbook of International Law Commission</i>
C & F	Clark and Finelly's House of Lords Cases
CA	Court of Appeal
CAT	UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CC	Constitutional Court
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CHR	Centre for Human Rights
CILSA	<i>Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa</i>
CILJ	Comparative International Law Journal
CILSA	<i>Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa</i>

CJTL	Columbia Journal of Transnational Law
Cranch Reports	Cranch Reports, United States Supreme Court
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DOC	Document
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights Report
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa
EJIL	European Journal of Human Rights
ER	English Reports
FLR	Federal Law Report
F Supp	Federal Supplement
F 2nd	Federal Reporter, Second Series
GA	General Assembly
GAOR	General Assembly Official Records
GG	Government Gazette
Hague Recueil	Recueil des Cours de l' Academie de Droit International
HCHR	High Commissioner for Human Rights
HIJL	Harvard Institute Journal of Law
Hum.Rts. Brief	Human Rights Brief
HUM. RTS. L. J	Human Rights Law Journal
HRC	Human Rights Committee
HRLJ	Human Rights Law Journal
IACtHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCMA	International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Act
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICJ Reports	International Court of Justice Reports
ICLR	International and Comparative Law Review
ICLQ	International and Comparative Law Quarterly
IHRR	International Human Rights Reports

ILC	International Law Commission
ILM	International Legal Materials
ILR	International Law Reports
Iran-USCTR	Iran-US Claims Tribunal Reports
IQR	International Quarterly Review
JAL	Journal of African Law
JCPC	Judicial Committee of the Privy Council
KB	Kings Bench Division
LNTS	League of Nations Treaty Series
LRG	Law Reports of the Commonwealth
MCD	Movement for Democratic Change
Mod LJ	Modern Law Journal
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NLR	Nigerian Law Reports
NO	Number
NWLR	Nigerian Weekly Law Reports
OAS	Organization of America States
P	Probate, Divorce & Admiralty Division
PAJA	Promotion of Administrative Justice Act
PAR	Paragraph
PC	Privy Council
PCIJ Reports	Permanent Court of International Justice Reports
QB	Queens Bench Division
Recueil des Cours	Recueil des cours de l'Academie de droit international
Rev.Afr.Comm'n.Hum Peo Rts.	Review of the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights
RIAA	Reports of International Arbitral Awards
SA	South African Law Reports
SACR	South African Criminal Law Reports
SAJHR	South African Journal of Human Rights
SALJ	South African Law Journal
SAYIL	South Africa Yearbook of International Law
SC	Supreme Court of Nigeria
SCOR	Security Council Official Reports

SCR	Supreme Court Reports
St Louis U L J	Saint Louis University Law Journal
THRHR	Tydskrif vir Hedendaagse Romein-Hollandse Reg
TLR	Times Law Report
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
TSAR	Tydskrif vir die Suid-Afrikaanse Reg
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Committee
UNIAA	United Nations International Arbitral Awards
UNRIA	United Nations Report of International Arbitral Awards
UNTS	United Nations Treaty Series
UNYB	United Nations Yearbook
US	Reports of the United States Supreme Court
US	United States
VCCR	Vienna Convention on Consular Relations
VCDR	Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations
VOL	Volume
WACA	Selected Judgments of the West African Court of Appeal
WNLR	Western Nigeria Law Report
WLR	Weekly Law Reports
WRN	Weekly Report of Nigeria
Yale L J	Yale Law Journal
YB	Yearbook
YBILC	Yearbook of International Law Commission
ZLR	Zimbabwe Law Reports