

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORLD PEACE

Poonam Kataria

Research Scholar , Dept. of Law , Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

Abstract:

Every child is born with the right to peace. The birth of a child is a cry for peace.

James Loney

"Human rights are the birth right of all human beings". Since 1948, the principle has been generally accepted in international instruments and has contributed to the substantive development of international human rights law for protection and promotion of both individual and universal human rights. But still, individuals and groups around the world continuously become victim of human rights violations.

KEYWORDS:

Human Rights , World Peace , protection and promotion .

INTRODUCTION

Humans being the central subject of peace and development have the responsibility for establishing peace and achieving development individually and collectively. Various "basic" rights that cannot be violated under any circumstances are set forth in international human rights documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The rights established by these documents include economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights. While human rights are not always interpreted similarly across societies, these norms nonetheless form a common human rights vocabulary in which the claims of various cultures can be articulated. Military intervention is a rare occurrence. Sanctions have a spotty track record of effectiveness. Although not to be dismissed as insignificant, often the only consequence for failing to protect human rights is "naming and shaming."

NEED FOR PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

All human beings are entitled to the basic human rights such as the right to life, liberty, freedom of expression and thought, equal protection of law and so many others which entitles every individual or groups vis-à-vis the government and also requires responsibilities of the individual and the government authorities.

Generally, it is believed, "the concept of international protection of human rights is firmly established in international human rights law." Enjoying the status of International Law, human rights, as contained in the Charter of the United Nations and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are the international and national standard of all aspects of the human behaviour as the Charter of Rights for mankind and any of their violation anywhere is the concern of everybody everywhere. According to Vienna Declaration 1993 that the human rights are universal, invisible, interdependent and interrelated and when enacted into the national law of any country those become fundamental rights of the citizen of the country.

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Human Rights Violations Conflicts

Human rights issues are at the centre of conflicts. Conflicts are often rooted in social, political, economic, and cultural inequalities, for instance, disproportionate wealth between and within different areas and groups of the countries, poor education and health services, ethnic and political disputes, underemployment, lack of opportunities for the youth, environmental changes. All of these inequalities are the results of unheard demands and discriminatory denials of fundamental human rights.

Groups discriminated by oppressive governments can decide to get organized and take up weapons. In some cases freedom fighters' movements can be spontaneous. In others, intra-state armed conflicts can be the result of external support, including military support, coming from states or lobbies with their own agendas. In all of these cases, the inequalities suffered by the people will be cited to legitimize the fight.

The Security Council stresses the importance of a coordinated international response to economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems, which are often the root causes of armed conflicts. Recognizing the need for the development of effective long-term strategies, it emphasizes the need for all United Nations organs and agencies to pursue preventive strategies and to take action within their respective areas of competence to assist Member States in eradicating poverty, strengthening development cooperation and assistance, and promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Human rights violations are precursor events to violent conflicts and military hostilities. On the other hand, gross human rights violations and large-scale humanitarian emergencies are consequences of armed conflict.

RESTORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PEACE BUILDING

In the aftermath of conflict, violence and suspicion often persist. Government institutions and the judiciary, which bear the main responsibility for the observation of human rights, are often severely weakened by the conflict or complicit in it. A general improvement in the human rights situation is essential for rehabilitation of war-torn societies. Healing the psychological scars caused by atrocities and reconciliation at the community level cannot take place if the truth about past crimes is not revealed and if human rights are not protected. To preserve political stability, human rights implementation must be managed effectively. Issues of mistrust and betrayal must be addressed, and the rule of law must be restored. In such an environment, the international community often play an important role in providing implicit guarantees that former opponents will not abandon the peace. Because all international norms are subject to cultural interpretation, external agents that assist in the restoration of human rights in post-conflict societies must be careful to find local terms with which to express human rights norms. While human rights are in theory universal, ideas about which basic needs should be guaranteed vary according to cultural, political, economic and religious circumstances. Consequently, policies to promote and protect human rights must be culturally adapted to avoid distrust and perceptions of intrusion into internal affairs. To promote human rights standards in post-conflict societies, many psychological issues must be addressed. Societies must either introduce new social norms or re-establish old moral standards. They must design programs that will both address past injustice and prevent future human rights violations. Human rights must not become just another compartmentalized aspect of recovery, but must be infused throughout all peace building and reconstruction activities. Democratization implies the restoration of political and social rights. Government officials and members of security and police forces have to be trained to observe basic rights in the execution of their duties.

Education about human rights must become part of general public education. Technical and financial assistance should be provided to increase knowledge about human rights. Members of the police and security forces have to be trained to ensure the observation of human rights standards for law enforcement. Research institutes and universities should be strengthened to train lawyers and judges. To uphold human rights standards in the long-term, their values must permeate all levels of society. Those who perpetrate human rights violations find it much easier to do so in cases where their activities can remain secret. International witnesses, observers and reporters can exert modest pressure to bring violations of human rights to public notice and discourage further violence. Monitors should not only expose violations, but also make the public aware of any progress made in the realization of human rights.

International war crimes tribunals are established to hold individuals criminally responsible for violations of international human rights law in special courts. The international community rarely has the will to create them. As the experiences with the war tribunals for

For sustainability and long-term viability of human rights standards, strong local enforcement mechanisms have to be established. An independent judiciary that provides impartial means and protects

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individuals against politically influenced persecution must be restored. Election monitors who help to guarantee fair voting procedures can help to ensure stable and peaceful elections. And various social structural changes, including reallocations of resources, increased political participation, and the strengthening of civil society can help to ensure that people's basic needs are met. Humanitarian aid and development assistance seeks to ease the impact that violent conflict has on civilians. During conflict, the primary aim is to prevent human casualties and ensure access to basic survival needs. Aid can also assist those who have been displaced and support rehabilitation work. Once conflict has ended, development assistance helps to advance reconstruction programs that rebuild infrastructure, institutions and the economy. This assistance helps countries to undergo peaceful development rather than sliding back into conflict.

CONCLUSION

Peace is a necessary precondition for development; and equitable development eradicates many of socio-political conditions which threaten peace. It comes as no surprise to find that those countries whose economies are declining, whose political institutions are failing and where human rights are abused should also be ones experiencing the greatest amounts of violence and turmoil.

When egregious violations of human rights take place, conflict becomes inevitable. Any effort to build a lasting peace must incorporate actions to repair the effects of violations, protect from new abuses, and enable the population to exercise their rights and freedoms.

The protection and promotion of human rights are key aspects of peace operations. Human rights cut across the security, the humanitarian, and the development dimensions. Consequently, all UN entities – the military, police, and civilian components of peace operations, along with the UN agencies working with the United Nations country team in the host country – are expected to integrate human rights approaches in their strategies and activities. The human rights component of the peace operation is the office that coordinates all UN human rights activities in the host country.

The expansion of international human rights law has not been matched by practice. Yet, there is growing consensus that the protection of human rights is important for the resolution of conflict and to the rebuilding process afterward. To achieve these goals, the international community has identified a number of mechanisms both to bring an end to human rights abuses and to establish an environment in which they will be respected in the future. They are not alternatives, but each provides important benefits in dealing with the past and envisioning a brighter future.

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