

Maintaining the peace and security by regional arrangements in Africa (focusing on peace-keeping operations)

Abstract

The present thesis focuses on the issue of peace-keeping operations maintained by the regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa, namely African Union and ECOWAS. The main statement of the thesis is the following: The United Nations is unable to react effectively to threats to international peace and security, especially in cases of mass violations of human rights in intrastate conflicts, that have severe impact on particular region including refugee crisis or spreading the conflict to other states of the region.

In the thesis, particular instruments of the above-mentioned international organizations, that create the framework for operations for maintaining peace and security in the region, are described. Attention is also paid to the relevant bodies of the African union and ECOWAS such as Peace and security council of the AU or African standby force.

The thesis elaborates on problematic or controversial issues from international law perspective. In the first place, the concept of humanitarian intervention and related concept of responsibility to protect is underlined. It is demonstrated that African Union and ECOWAS have significant contribution to these concepts when implementing R2P in their constitutional acts or when conducting peace-keeping operations under the vision of R2P. It is further elaborated on the relation between the UN Charter and regional arrangements, focusing on which body is primary responsible for maintaining peace and security in Africa. Attention is also paid to the question whether the regional organizations are allowed to conduct a peace-keeping operation without an approval from the Security Council. This issue is viewed from the perspective of international treaty law and international customary law.

The thesis is supplemented by particular examples of peace-keeping operations maintained by the African Union or the ECOWAS, namely missions in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Darfur. These examples demonstrate the conclusions made in the previous chapters of the thesis.