

Abstract

This thesis Collective Actions of the UN Security Council for the Protection of Human Rights deals with, as the title suggests, collective actions for the protection of human rights with the mandate of the UN Security Council. The thesis is divided into an introduction, conclusion, and four chapters.

In the first chapter, the system of human rights protection is described, as it was set up within the newly-formed United Nations after World War II. This chapter also deals with collective actions of the UN Security Council, with or without the use of force, on a theoretical level, e.g. their authorization and possibility of measures that can be taken within the UN system against the perpetrator.

Second chapter deals with examples of collective actions of the UN Security Council during the Cold War period. In this era, collective actions of the UN Security Council were authorized only twice, in case of South Africa as a reaction to their policy of apartheid, and in case of South Rhodesia as a reaction to the unilateral declaration of independence by the white minority government. Both cases are described in the chapter.

The following chapter describes the development of human rights theories after the end of Cold War. With the end of the bipolar system, there is a shift in the perception of human rights and state sovereignty, more focus is laid on the protection of individuals. Human security, sovereignty as responsibility, and responsibility to protect are the main concepts described in this chapter. The development of the use of collective actions of the UN Security Council (with and without the use of force) in this period is also described in the chapter.

The last chapter analyzes study cases, in which collective actions of the UN Security Council have been authorized after the end of Cold War. It encompasses the case of UNITAF in Somalia in 1992, an action authorized under the Art. 42 of the UN Charter, and the case of former Yugoslavia, in which the action has been authorized under the Art. 41 of the UN Charter. Furthermore, two cases of collective actions of the UN Security Council authorized under the influence of the responsibility to protect concept are also described.

Key words: UN Security Council, collective action, human rights, protection of human rights, use of force, responsibility to protect, UN Charter