THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN THE JURISPRUDENCE OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Implications of the decision *Hassan v United Kingdom*

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Abstract

With the increased development of ever more specialised and detailed sub-branches of general international law emerging, the debate on the interplay between IHL and IHRL is by no means the only one, but given the similar underlying humanitarian concerns of both branches, certainly one which has raised particular interest by scholars. Despite a vast array of theoretical views and academic debates and the IJC’s important but apparently changing statements on the matter, the debate as regards how to make IHL and IHRL co-exist without norm conflicts is still ongoing and far from being settled. On the European level, the ECtHR, often had to consider the realities of armed conflict when interpreting and applying the provisions of the ECHR but it did not engage with the interplay between human rights and international humanitarian law in detail. Its recent change in position in the decision of the matter Hassan v United Kingdom and its explicit acknowledgment of the importance of the norms of IHL for the interpretation of the Convention are positive but its approach of adding an additional ground for detention, borrowed from IHL, into an otherwise narrowly framed provision of the ECHR is certainly not without problems. In providing a broader look at the picture by taking historical and theoretical sources into account, the present thesis analyses the first decision of the ECtHR in which the interplay between IHL and IHRL was tackled.
Table of Contents

Foreword

Table of cases

Table of acronyms

1. Introduction
   1.1. Context
   1.2. Aims and objectives
   1.3. Literature review
   1.4. Research questions
   1.5. Research design
   1.6. Methodology
   1.7. Thesis structure

2. Contextualisation and definitions
   2.1. Characteristics of IHRL and IHL
      2.1.1. Human rights law
      2.1.2. International humanitarian law
   2.2. Developments in international law
      2.2.1. Humanity in international law
         2.2.1.1. The humanisation of international law
         2.2.1.2. The individualisation of international law
         2.2.1.3. The constitutionalisation of international law
         2.2.1.4. Humanity in IHL
      2.2.2. The fragmentation of international law
   2.3. Concluding remarks

3. The historical development of the relationship between IHRL and IHL
   3.1. Pre-Teheran Conference period
   3.2. The Teheran Conference of 1968 and onwards
   3.3. Concluding remarks

4. Theories on the relationship between IHRL and IHL
   4.1. Exclusivity
      4.1.1. Separatist theories
         4.1.1.1. Self-contained v. special regimes
      4.1.2. IHL as lex specialis
         4.1.2.1. The interplay in the jurisprudence of the ICJ
            4.1.2.1.1. The Nuclear Weapons Advisory Opinion
            4.1.2.1.2. The Wall Advisory Opinion
            4.1.2.1.3. DRC v Uganda
         4.1.2.2. Criticising lex specialis
   4.2. Complementarity
4.3. Integration and incorporation theories
4.4. Concluding remarks

5. The European Court of Human Rights’ engagement with IHL
   5.1. Reasons for and competence of the Court to consider IHL
   5.2. Derogations and core rights
   5.3. Jurisdiction
      5.3.1. Territorial approach: Effective control over an area
      5.3.2. Personal approach: State agent authority and control
   5.4. Overview of the case law on armed conflicts
      5.4.1. Internal conflicts
         5.4.1.1. South-east Turkey
         5.4.1.2. Chechnya
      5.4.2. International armed conflict and occupation
      5.4.3. The ECtHR referring to IHL
   5.5. The case Hassan v. The United Kingdom
      5.5.1. Summary of the facts and parties’ submissions
         5.5.1.1. The applicant
         5.5.1.2. The government
      5.5.2. Analysis and implications
         5.5.2.1. Jurisdiction
         5.5.2.2. The right to personal liberty
            5.5.2.2.1. Art 31 (3) (b) VCLT
            5.5.2.2.2. Art 31 (3) (c) VCLT
            5.5.2.2.3. Safeguards

6. Conclusion

References

Abstract
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