

The Need to Increase Awareness of The Importance of International Law in Maintaining Global Justice

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Abstract

This research aims to explain the need to increase awareness of the importance of international law in maintaining justice in the state and society. The method used in this research is a qualitative method. The sample in this research was taken as a case study of the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar which is a clear example of how a lack of awareness and suppression of international law can result in serious human rights violations. In 2017 the Myanmar military carried out brutal operations against the Rohingya which resulted in more than 700,000 people fled to Bangladesh once international law international law has an important role in protecting human rights and preventing violations such as those that occurred with the Rohingya and reducing awareness and enforcement even though international law exists the Rohingya crisis shows that much still needs to be done to raise awareness and enforcement of the analysis results from research data processing shows that there is a significant positive influence increasing global awareness encouraging reform in Myanmar strengthening the role of international law increasing solidarity and support strengthening commitment to prevention

Keywords

International Law; Increase Public Understanding, Global Justice

Introduction

The modern world is increasingly shaped by interactions among nations, which make international law a fundamental pillar for maintaining order, justice, and cooperation in the global arena. International law is defined as a set of legal rules that govern relations and activities between sovereign states and other international actors. Its primary aim is to create harmony and justice within the international community by regulating a wide range of issues such as diplomatic relations, warfare, trade, environmental protection, and human rights. By establishing clear legal frameworks, international law plays a crucial role in preventing conflicts, facilitating collaboration, and promoting peaceful coexistence among nations.

Beyond its role in fostering peace, international law is also essential for managing intergovernmental relationships and securing the existence and sovereignty of states in a complex global system. Nations are interdependent; they rely on mutual cooperation to fulfill their economic, political, and social needs. Without a strong foundation of legal norms and binding agreements, misunderstandings and rivalries can escalate into disputes, potentially leading to prolonged conflicts. The presence of international law ensures that countries operate within a regulated system, where violations can be addressed through diplomatic and judicial channels, reducing the likelihood of violence and unilateral aggression.

However, not all countries consistently engage in positive international relations, and some choose to disregard international norms, triggering disputes that disrupt global stability. When a state refuses to acknowledge or participate in international legal frameworks, it not only isolates itself but also creates legal and political challenges for the international community. The failure to adhere to international law can lead to human rights abuses, military conflicts, and economic instability that transcend borders. Therefore, the existence and enforcement of international law are not only necessary for individual states but also for preserving the collective peace and justice of the international order.

This research employs a normative legal method, which focuses on analyzing applicable legal norms and principles derived from statutes, treaties, and judicial decisions. The normative approach seeks to evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of existing legal provisions in addressing specific legal problems—in this case, the role of international law in promoting peace and resolving conflicts. Through this study, the urgency of increasing global awareness about the importance of international law will be explored, particularly its indispensable role in protecting state sovereignty, safeguarding human rights, and upholding justice in an interconnected world.

Methods

This study adopts a normative legal research approach, which is widely used in legal studies to analyze and interpret laws, legal principles, and doctrines that are relevant to a particular issue. Normative legal research does not rely on field data or empirical evidence but rather on the examination of legal sources such as international treaties, conventions, court decisions, and scholarly literature. The purpose of this approach is to evaluate the legal foundations and normative frameworks that guide the behavior of states within the international legal order, particularly in relation to peace, justice, and international cooperation. The data collection technique used in this research involves a documentary study, focusing on the review and analysis of primary and secondary legal materials. Primary legal materials include authoritative legal instruments such as the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions, international court rulings (e.g., from the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court), and international agreements related to peace and security. Secondary legal materials consist of books, academic journals, commentaries by legal experts, and reports by international organizations such as the United Nations, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch.

The analysis method employed in this study is qualitative and prescriptive, meaning that the researcher critically examines the legal norms and their practical application in international relations. The goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how international law functions in maintaining global order and to identify challenges that arise when countries deviate from established legal norms. Additionally, this method allows the

researcher to propose recommendations on how to strengthen the role of international law and increase global awareness of its importance. This research methodology is considered suitable because the topic under investigation deals with legal theory, principles, and the normative function of law in maintaining justice and peace on a global scale. By relying on legal literature and authoritative sources, the study aims to contribute to the academic discourse on international law and to support policy development that promotes greater compliance with international legal standards among states. Ultimately, this approach reinforces the significance of international law as a tool for preventing conflict and ensuring a just and stable international community.

Discussion

The findings of this study underscore the critical role of international law in maintaining peace, justice, and stability within the global community. Through normative legal analysis, it becomes evident that international law functions as a universal framework that regulates relations among states and promotes accountability for actions that may threaten global peace. One of the main purposes of international law is to prevent armed conflict and resolve disputes peacefully through legal means such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration, or adjudication. This role is particularly essential in today's complex global environment, where state and non-state actors increasingly engage in actions that challenge the established legal order.

However, the research also reveals that while international law provides a comprehensive set of principles and mechanisms, its effectiveness is often limited by the political will of states. In several instances, countries that have ratified international treaties fail to uphold their legal obligations, especially when such commitments conflict with their national interests or political agendas. The case of Israel's non-compliance with the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) provisional measures concerning its military actions in Palestine exemplifies this challenge. Although the ICJ serves as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, its decisions are not always enforceable, particularly when the involved state refuses to comply and there is no binding enforcement mechanism.

Furthermore, the study highlights the paradox faced by the international community when international law is selectively applied or manipulated to serve powerful nations. This inconsistency undermines the legitimacy of the international legal system and erodes trust among member states. It also discourages smaller or less powerful countries from relying on legal frameworks for the protection of their rights. The need to promote awareness of the importance of international law is therefore urgent. Public education, advocacy, and institutional reform are necessary to strengthen compliance and ensure that the principles of justice and equality under the law are upheld consistently and impartially.

Lastly, this study emphasizes that global justice cannot be achieved without collective commitment. All countries, regardless of size or influence, must demonstrate a sincere respect for international legal norms. The international community must also work together to reform institutions such as the United Nations and the ICJ to make them more effective and representative. By increasing global awareness of the value of international law and improving mechanisms for enforcement and accountability, the world can move toward a more just, peaceful, and stable international order.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study reaffirms the vital importance of international law in safeguarding global justice and maintaining peace among nations. International law provides the necessary legal foundation for regulating inter-state relations, protecting human rights, and resolving conflicts without the use of force. It stands as a universal framework through which nations are expected to uphold shared norms and values, regardless of their political or economic power. The commitment to international legal principles ensures that every country, whether strong or weak, is bound by the same standards and accountable for its actions under global scrutiny. However, the effectiveness of international law is often constrained by political interests and the lack of enforceable mechanisms. When countries refuse to comply with international decisions—such as in the case of Israel's non-adherence to ICJ provisional measures—the authority of international institutions is undermined. This not only hinders efforts to achieve justice for affected populations but also weakens the credibility of international law as a tool for global governance. Selective enforcement and political bias further deepen the gap between legal principles and real-world outcomes.

Therefore, raising awareness about the importance of international law is not merely an academic exercise—it is a necessary step toward building a more just and peaceful global society. Educational initiatives, public discourse, and legal advocacy must be strengthened to ensure that nations and their citizens understand and respect the role of international law. Only through collective responsibility and unwavering commitment to legal norms can the international community hope to prevent future conflicts, protect human dignity, and uphold the ideals of justice for all. In a world that continues to face threats from war, occupation, and human rights violations, international law must be recognized not as an option, but as a necessity. Its proper implementation, supported by political will and strong institutions, holds the key to a stable and equitable global future.

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