
PART IV
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Summary of "Human
Rights and International
Relations"**

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The year 1968 was declared by the United Nations as International Rights Year in observance of human rights all over the world. However, despite universal lip-service to the rights of men, violations are still rampant. In South Africa, *apartheid* continues to be the official policy of the government; in Uganda Idi Amin's absolutism is replete with violations of political and civil rights.

Despite constitutional authoritarianism in the Philippines, the government has endorsed the worldwide observance of human rights. Political detainees have been released; military tribunals are being phased out, and the Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction on cases tried by the military tribunals.

The struggle for human rights has a long history. Today, the charter of the United Nations contain provisions for a high standard of living, economic, cultural and educational development as well as recognition of fundamental freedom.

In 1948, 48 out of them 58, member states of the United Nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration has the character of a manifesto; the legally binding instrument would be the covenants which would be submitted later.

Accordingly in 1966, the UN General Assembly adopted three documents; (1) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Political Rights; (2) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (3) and the Optional Protocol on Civil and Political Rights.

Earlier in 1955, another declaration was adopted, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Youth which also contained

provisions on the elimination of all forms of human discriminations.

In 1969m the principle that all subject nations be granted independence was adopted. Other issues that have been considered are the status of refugees, slaves, forced labor, and discrimination against employment. The International Labor Organization has adopted a labor code, which contain provisions on employment policies and social security.

The UNESCO is also at the forefront of the human rights movements with its mandate of promoting educational opportunities for all peoples of the world.

The greatest stumbling block, However, to the universal observance of human rights is the lack of an effective international mechanism that would enforce them. Today their enforcement is still subject to the discretion of nation-states.