Accountability of Armed Opposition Groups in International Law

Who is accountable under international law for the acts committed by armed opposition groups? In today's world the great majority of political conflicts involve non-state actors attempting to exert a political influence (such as overthrowing a government or bringing about secession). Notwithstanding their impact on the course of events, however, we tend to know little about these groups, and even less about how to treat their actions legally.

In this award-winning scholarship, Liesbeth Zegveld examines the need to identify legally the parties involved when internal conflicts arise, and the reality of their demands for rights. Her study draws upon international humanitarian law, human rights law and international criminal law to consider a fundamental question: who is accountable for the acts committed by non-state actors, or for the failure to prevent or repress these acts?

This study will be of interest to academics, postgraduate students and professionals involved with armed conflict and international relations.

Liesbeth Zegveld practises as an international and criminal lawyer. In 1998, she received a Fulbright Scholarship to do research at New York University and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, DC. For her dissertation on armed opposition groups she received the degree 'cum laude' and the Netherlands' Human Rights Award, 2000. She is the co-author, with Frits Kalshoven, of the third edition of Constraints on the Waging of War: an Introduction to International Humanitarian Law (ICRC 2001).
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Professor Sir Robert Jennings edited the series from 1981. Following his retirement as General Editor, an editorial board has been created and Cambridge University Press has recommitted itself to the series, affirming its broad scope.

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Liesbeth Zegveld
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Abbreviations

AI
AJIL
Am. UJ Int’l L. & Pol’y
Ann. SDI
Appl.
Brownlie BDHR
Brownlie BDIL
BYIL
Comm.
Denv. J. Int’l L. & Pol’y
Doc.
DR
ECR
EHRR
EJIL
EPIL
Eur. Ct. HR
Ga. J. Int’l & Comp. L.
GYIL
HV

Amnesty International
American Journal of International Law
American University Journal of International Law and Policy
Annuaire Suisse de Droit International
Application
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Communication
Denver Journal of International Law and Policy
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European Journal of International Law
Encyclopedia of Public International Law
European Court of Human Rights
Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law
German Yearbook of International Law
Humantäres Völkerrecht
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ICJ  International Court of Justice
ICJ Rep.  International Court of Justice, Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders
ICLQ  International and Comparative Law Quarterly
ICRC  International Committee of the Red Cross
ILC  International Law Commission
ILCYb  Yearbook of the International Law Commission
ILM  International Legal Materials
Inter-Am. Ct. HR  Inter-American Court of Human Rights
IRRC  International Review of the Red Cross
Israel YBHR  Israel Yearbook on Human Rights
Mil. L. Rev.  Military Law Review
MLJ  Manitoba Law Journal
n.  note
NILR  Netherlands International Law Review
NJB  Nederlands Juristenblad
NQHR  Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights
NWR  Naval War Review
NYIL  Netherlands Yearbook of International Law
NYUJ Int’l L & Pol.  New York University Journal of International Law and Politics
ONUSAL  United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador
para.  paragraph
pr.  preamble
RBDI  Revue Belge de Droit International
Rep.  Report
Res.  Resolution
RIAA  Reports of International Arbitral Awards
Ser.  Series
UN  United Nations
US  United States
vol.  volume
Yale LJ.  Yale Law Journal
YB ECHR  Yearbook of the European Convention of Human Rights
YIHL  Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law
YB ILC  Yearbook of the International Law Commission