

THE AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN CONTEXT

The treaty creating the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights, if and when it comes into force, contains innovative elements that have potentially significant implications for current substantive and procedural approaches to regional and international dispute settlement. Bringing together leading authorities in international criminal law, human rights and transitional justice, this volume provides the first comprehensive analysis of the 'Malabo Protocol' while situating it within the wider fields of international law and international relations. The book, edited by Professors Jalloh, Clarke and Nmehielle, offers scholarly, empirical, critically engaged and practical analyses of some of its most challenging provisions. Breaking new ground on the African Court, but also treating old concepts in a novel and relevant way, *The African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights in Context* is for anyone interested in international law, including international criminal law and international human rights law. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core at doi.org/10.1017/9781108525343.

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The African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights in Context

DEVELOPMENT AND CHALLENGES

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Preface

On 27 June 2014, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights ('Malabo Protocol'). The Malabo Protocol, which seeks to establish the first-ever African court with a tripartite jurisdiction over human rights, criminal and general matters is aimed at complementing national, sub-regional and continental bodies and institutions in preventing serious and massive violations of human rights in Africa through, among other things, the prosecutions of the perpetrators of such crimes as specified in the statute annexed to the treaty. To date, the Malabo Protocol has only been signed by 11 out of 55 African Union (AU) member states. No states have ratified it. Although, in accordance with its Article 11 and AU treatymaking practice, fifteen such ratifications will be required for the treaty to enter into force. There is no guarantee that the Malabo Protocol will achieve the requisite number of ratifications anytime soon. Especially given that some AU treaties have failed to secure the support they need to enter into force two decades, and in one extreme case, three decades after its adoption. It is indeed noteworthy that, as of this writing, of the six other treaties adopted by the AU Assembly in the same meeting as the Malabo Protocol in June 2014, only one of the agreements has managed to garner seventeen signatures and five ratifications, the highest amongst the seven instruments (though this means that, about four years after its adoption, forty-four of the fifty-five AU member states have elected not to sign it). If the Malabo Protocol achieves the fifteen required ratifications to enter into force in the next ten to fifteen years, it might take years for the AU states to allocate the resources required for the new court to be established so that it can function in accordance with its high ambitions set out in the Statute and Annexure. That said, thirty-three African States are parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and given the currently tense relationship between the Hague-based court and the AU, it is possible that



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African States may have reason to fast track their signatures and ratifications of the Malabo Protocol in the future thereby bringing it into force sooner than we might otherwise anticipate.

The premise of this book is that the Malabo Protocol, which is one of the most interesting and complex treaties to ever be produced by a regional body for the purpose of creating a regional judicial mechanism, merits serious scholarly inquiry. Part of the reason for this is that while international criminal law has for the last half century only been conceptualized as applicable at the national and international levels, with a variation of 'hybrid courts' mixing the national and international to different degrees to proffer a third enforcement model, if and when it comes to force, the Malabo Protocol would become the first regional criminal jurisdiction capable of prosecuting serious crimes condemned by international law such as genocide, the crime of aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity. It would also be the first such tribunal to prosecute crimes of particular concern to the Africa region such as unconstitutional changes of government or illicit exploitation of natural resources as well as environmental and other related crimes, including when committed by natural persons as well as corporations. This 'regionalization' and 'Africanization' of international criminal law enforcement possesses serious potential to add to the menu of accountability options available to States in order to more effectively counter serious international and transnational crimes. It is a model that is already apparently generating interest in other regions, such as Latin America, where a project is underway to propose a regional court with jurisdiction over drug trafficking offences under the banner of COPLA - an initiative supported by Argentina and a number of other states.

Though, historically, there have been some tensions between regionalization and universalization in the context of other subfields of international law, such as human rights and trade law, the existence of human rights courts have proven to be effective devices to the process of development and application of a global body of human rights standards at a level that was previously unimaginable. That complex web of human rights commissions and courts in Europe, the Americas and Africa, which now exhibits a multilayered system of norm enforcement coupled with the experimentation with ad hoc criminal tribunals, suggests that it could be worth exploring the potential of an equivalent multilevel system in the field of international criminal law. And that is just what the African Court Research Initiative (ACRI) sought to address when embarking on a four-year, three-phase project to launch a transnational research process that would provide rigorous research about the emergence of new regional mechanisms, while also providing technical assistance to the AU's Office of Legal Counsel and the future court.



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This book, which is a key outcome of ACRI's efforts, aims to offer the first comprehensive analysis of the Malabo Protocol with an examination of its human rights, general and criminal jurisdictions. In addition to conducting a widespread critical analysis about the components of the future court, we have also been working on the Elements of Crimes in order to enhance further clarity in what will shape future interpretation and application of the Malabo Protocol for the African Court of Justice and Human and People's Rights. These, along with a range of research studies aimed at uncovering the factors that may delay the ratification of the Malabo Protocol, have allowed us to work on the mobilization of key information related to how the Court should be understood in Africa and internationally.

This volume, which we are pleased to present after about four years of intensive research which took place in Africa and across several other continents, will hopefully advance global scholarly engagement with the substance of the first treaty anywhere in the world to merge general, civil and human rights issues under one roof in what we describe in the introduction to this book as the 'One Court' concept.

As the project took a few years to finish, and benefited from the input and support of many people, we wish to take a few moments to thank some of them. We apologize that space constraints do not permit us to mention everyone here and ask for the understanding of those who might have been omitted. First, since it would not have been possible to convene ACRI's research without the enduring confidence of the African Union Commission, particularly the Office of the Legal Counsel for the robust access to information it granted which helped in making the research and ultimately the book a reality, we are grateful for their support. Connected to the African Union is the strong moral and political commitment from our project partners and fiscal sponsors, the Africa Regional Office of the Open Society Foundation, especially Pascal Kambale and Eleanor Thompson based in Dakar, Senegal. They supported the proposal for our independent academic research project from the first time we raised the idea. As experts on issues of accountability in Africa, they immediately grasped the need for ACRI and its desire to promote strong scholarly engagement with the substance of the Malabo Protocol. To our delight, they never wavered throughout the multi-year phases of the project, even as the project grew to encompass a wider team of authors and many more conferences than the one or two that we initially envisaged. We therefore wish to express our gratitude to them, even as we look forward to our continuing collaboration on the more practical side of ACRI aimed at developing ancillary legal instruments in an attempt to help 'fix' some of the major drafting problems and gaps in the Malabo Protocol.



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Second, we are grateful to all our contributing authors. Not only did they accept to write thoughtful and original chapters, but they proved willing to engage with us, whether at the conferences we organized on the subject of the book in Miami, Arusha or The Hague. They also deserve a special medal for their deep generosity in understanding the delays in the sending of the book to publication that arose as a function of the expansion of our initial one-year project to a three- to four-year effort.

Third, we wish to thank our various research assistants and interns at Florida International University (FIU), Yale University, The University of Pennsylvania and Carleton University for their support of this project over the years. The lead project researchers contributed in important ways at crucial stages and we are grateful for their support. This included Tina Palivos, Godfrey Musila, Ermias Kassaye, Tewodros Dawit and Sixsy Alfonso, as well as Alysson Ford Ouoba and Irene Thomas towards the later stages of this work. We also thank Sarah-Jane Koulen for her research support throughout every phase of the process. And as we worked to submit the manuscript, Heather Owens, Amirah Mohammad and Priscilla de Varona, all JD candidates at FIU Law, worked to bring greater coherence and consistency to the manuscript through language edits and footnote checks. We are indebted to them all and thank them for their crucial contributions.

Fourth, we wish to acknowledge and thank the team in our partner organizations, especially the Pan African Lawyers Union. A special thank you to the always thoughtful Donald Deya, whose knowledge of the Malabo Protocol's history as its key drafter for PALU provided helpful context in often late-night conversations or lengthy Skype meetings or overlaps at key conferences in Dakar or at the AU in Addis Ababa; as well as his wonderfully capable associate, Irini Anastassiou, who was the focal point for the project in its first two years. We also thank Brian Mossi and Francis Goudabout, also at PALU, for their financial administration of the project. In the third phase of ACRI, we were grateful for the help of the team at the West African Civil Society Institute (WACS), based in Accra, Ghana.

Last but not least, we are indebted to Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji of the International Criminal Court (who has since assumed the mantle of President) for taking time out of his busy schedule to give the keynote speech in July 2016 to ACRI's Arusha international symposium. Due to the focus of the speech, on immunity, we have included it in the relevant part of this book.

In all, we could not ask for a better network of interlocutors, researchers and administrators with whom to go on this journey and we are immensely appreciative for the support that they have offered us over the years.



More Information

Abbreviations

ACC African Criminal Court

ACDEG African Charter on Democracy, Elections

and Governance

ACHPR African Court on Human and Peoples'

Rights

ACJ African Court of Justice

ACtJHPR African Court of Justice and Human and

Peoples' Rights

ACP African, Caribbean

AfDBAT African Development Bank Administrative

Tribunal

AFISMA African-led International Support Mission

to Mali

Afr. J. Leg. Stud. African Journal of Legal Studies
AGA African Governance Architecture
AHRLR African Human Rights Law

Reports

AJIL American Journal of International Law

AMIB African Mission in Burundi AMIS African Union Mission in Sudan

AMISEC AU Mission for Support to the Elections

in the Comoros

AMISOM African Union Mission in Somalia
Am. J. Int'l. L. American Journal of International Law

ANF Al-Nusra Front

APC Armée Populaire Congolais

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xxiv List of Abbreviations

APSA African Union's Peace and Security

Architecture

ASP Assembly of States Parties

ATJF African Transitional Justice Framework
AQIM Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

AU African Union

AUC African Union Commission

AUAT African Union Administrative Tribunal
AUPD African Union High-Level Panel on

Darfur

AUPSP African Union Protocol Relating to the

Establishment of the Peace and Security

Council of the AU

AUTJ African Union Transitional Justice
AUTJF African Union Transitional Justice

Framework

BiH Bosnia-Herzegovina

Brook. J. Int'l. L. Brooklyn Journal of International Law

CAL Coalition of African Lesbians
CAR Central African Republic
CAT Convention Against Torture

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women

Chi. J. Int'l L Chicago Journal of International Law

CICC Coalition for an International

Criminal Court

CITES Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species

CNCA Canadian Network on Corporate

Accountability

COE Council of Europe
CoH Cessation of Hostilities

Colum. J. Transnat'l L.

CPA

CPA

CRC

Columbia Journal of Transnational Law

Comprehensive Peace Agreement

Convention on the Rights of the

Child 1989

Crim. L. For. Criminal Law Forum

CSAT Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral

Tribunal

CSO Civil Society Organizations



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DCAF Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DDPD Doha Document for Peace in Darfur
DRC Democratic Republic of the Congo
Duke JCIL Duke Journal of Comparative and Inter-

national Law

EAC Extraordinary African Chambers

ECCC Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of

Cambodia

ECJ European Coalition for Corporate Justice

ECJ European Court of Justice

ECOSOCC Economic, Social and Cultural Council ECOWAS Economic Community of West African

States

ECtHR European Court of Human Rights
EFCC Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission

EHRR European Human Rights Report
EITI Extractive Industries Transparency

Initiative

EJIL European Journal of International Law

EO Executive Outcomes
ETS European Treaty Series
EU European Union

EWCA England and Wales Court of Appeals
EWHC Senior Courts of England and Wales
FAPC Forces Armées du Peuple Congolais

FATF Financial Action Task Force

FDS Ivorian Defence and Security Forces
FNI Front des Nationalistes Intégrationnistes
FNLA National Liberation Front of Angola
FPLC Force Patriotique pour la Libération

du Congo

FRPI Force de Résistance Patriotique en Ituri GABAC Groupe d'Action contre le blanchiment

d'Argent en Afrique Centrale

GEMAP Governance and Economic Management

Assistance Programme

Harv. Int'l L. J. Harvard International Law Journal
HKCLR Hong Kong Criminal Law Reports

HRC Human Rights Committee



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xxvi List of Abbreviations

Hum Rts. Q. Human Rights Quarterly
IAC International Armed Conflict

IACHR Inter-American Commission on Human

Rights

IACtHR Inter-American Court of Human Rights

IBA International Bar Association

ICAR International Corporate Accountability

Roundtable

ICC International Criminal Court

ICCPR International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights

ICESCR International Covenant on Economic,

Social and Cultural Rights

ICGLR International Conference on the Great

Lakes Region

ICJ International Court of Justice ICJ International Commission of Jurists

ICL International Criminal Law ICRC International Committee of the

Red Cross

ICT International Criminal Tribunal ICT International Centre for Transitional

Justice

ICTR International Criminal Tribunal for

Rwanda

ICTY International Criminal Tribunal for the

Former Yugoslavia

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural

Development

IHL International Humanitarian Law IHRL International Human Rights Law

IL International Law

ILCInternational Law CommissionILOInternational Labour OrganizationILOATInternational Labour OrganizationIMTFEInternational Military Tribunal for the

Far East

Int'l Crim. Just. International Criminal Justice
Int'l Crim. L. Rev. International Criminal Law Review



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Int'l Rev. Red Cross
International Review of the Red Cross
Inter-Am. Ct. H.R.
Inter-American Court of Human Rights
IOM
International Organization for Migration
IRRC
International Review of the Red Cross
ISIL
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

J. Crim. L. Journal of Criminal Law

J. Int'l Crim. Just. Journal of International Criminal Justice

J. Int'l. L. Journal of International Law JCE Joint Criminal Enterprise

JICJ Journal of International Criminal Justice KPCS Kimberly Process Scheme for the Certifi-

cation of Rough Diamonds

LEITI Liberian Extractive Industries Transpar-

ency Initiative

LIIL Leiden Journal of International Law
LNTS League of Nations Treaty Series

LRA Lord's Resistance Army

MAES Assistance Mission to the Comoros
MICT Mechanism for International Criminal

Tribunals

MINUSCA UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabil-

ization Mission to the Central African

Republic

MIOC Military Observer Mission in the

Comoros

MISCA Africa-led International Support Mission

to the Central African Republic

MNC Multinational Corporations

MONUC United Nations Organization Mission in

the Democratic Republic of the Congo

MPLA Popular Movement for the Liberation of

Angola

MUJAO Movement for Unity and Jihad in West

Africa

NDEA National Drugs Enforcement Agency
Neth. Int'l L. Rev. Netherlands International Law Review
NIAC Non-International Armed Conflict

NIF National Islamic Front

NGO Non-Governmental Organization



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OASAT Administrative Tribunal of the Organiza-

tion of American States

OAU Organization of African Unity
ODM Orange Democratic Movement

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation

and Development

OIC Organization of the Islamic Conference

OTP Office of the Prosecutor
PALU Pan African Lawyers Union
PAP Pan African Parliament
PCII Permanent Court of Justice

PCRD Post-Conflict Reconstruction and

Development Policy Framework

Penn St. L. Rev. Penn State Law Review

PMSC Private military and security companies

PNG Papua New Guinea

PSC Peace and Security Council

PSNR Permanent sovereignty over natural

resources

PTC Pre-Trial Chamber

PUSIC Parti pour l'Unité et la Sauvegarde de

l'Intégrité du Congo

 R2P
 Responsibility to Protect doctrine

 RCM
 Regional Certification Mechanism

 RCD-ML
 Rassemblement Congolais pour la

Démocratie –Kisangani/Mouvement de

Libération

REC Regional Economic Communities
RPE Rules of Procedure and Evidence
RTI Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne

RUF Revolutionary United Front SADC Southern African Development

Community

Santa Clara J. Int'l L. Santa Clara Journal of International Law

SC Security Council

SCC Supreme Court of Canada

SCO Shanghai Cooperation Organization SCSL Special Court for Sierra Leone SDNY Southern District of New York



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SERAC Social and Economic Action Rights

Centre

SSRN Social Science Research Network
StAR Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative
STL Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Sydney L. Rev. Sydney Law Review

TCL Transnational Criminal Law

TDG Thiodyglicol

TFV Trust Fund for Victims
TNC Transnational Corporations
TWAIL Third World Approaches to

International Law

UCG Unconstitutional Change of Government
UKSC United Kingdom Supreme Court

UN United Nations

UNAMID United Nations African Union Mission in

Darfur

UNAT United Nations Appeals Tribunal UNCAC United Nations Convention Against

Corruption

UNCLOS United Nations Convention on the Law

of the Sea

UNDT United Nations Dispute Tribunal UNEP United Nations Environmental

Programme

UNGA United Nations General Assembly
UNITA National Union for the Total Independ-

ence of Angola

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees

UNODC United Nations Office for Drugs

and Crime

UNSC United Nations Security Council
UNTOC UN Convention against Transnational

Organized Crime

UNTS United Nations Treaty Series
UNWCC United Nations War Crimes

Commission

UPC Union des Patriotes Congolais



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xxx List of Abbreviations

UPDA Ugandan People's Democratic Army
Vand. J. Transnat'l L. Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law
Wash. U. Global Studies L. Rev. Washington University Global Studies

Law Review

WGAD Working Group on Arbitrary Detention WILDAF Women in Law and Development in

Africa

Y.B. Int'l L. Comm'n Yearbook of the International Law

Commission