

Research Project - Lucia Leontiev

THE PLACE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DE FACTO STATES: BETWEEN LAW AND REALITY

The issue of human rights protection in unrecognized states is of great importance particularly nowadays because the existence of such territories in a world governed by sovereign states is an indisputable fact. Due to their non-recognition, *de facto* states are not holders of prerogatives and duties and that is a dangerous legal vacuum. This situation becomes more challenging when talking about the obligation of such entities to protect human rights. In general, the population of *de facto* states falls outside legal and humanitarian protection mechanisms. This is quite alarming because these entities are usually born amid civil and ethnic wars. Therefore, and since the protection of the human being is at the centre of the international law, it is important to know the place of international law of human rights in those territories. The final goal of the research is to present a viable legal framework, based on scientific theories and practical analysis, regulating the protection of human rights in the unrecognized states.

Holder of a Master degree in International Law from the State University of Moldova and another one in International Law of Human Rights at the Institute of Human Rights of Lyon, France, Lucia Leontiev is currently pursuing her PhD studies at University Paris West Nanterre la Défense, France. During her studies she completed internships within the Human Rights Council of the United Nations, Geneva and European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. She also worked as legal adviser at the Ministry of Justice of Moldova and lecturer at the State University «Alecus Russo» in Moldova.