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Impact of Human Rights Organizations Reports in Shaping African States Foreign Relations

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Abstract:
It is notable that Human rights constitute fundamental needs of human beings' survival. The existence of human rights organizations is one of the steps in the right direction to ensure these rights are protected from violation, enhanced, and enshrined in each state's constitutions. The International Human Rights bodies and Local chapters of Human Rights Organizations in different states should promote advocacies of these rights in enhancing co-existence among the citizens themselves, vis-à-vis the citizens and the state. Basing on the divine nature of any state in the field of International Relations and Diplomacy, it is therefore basic that the responsibility of any state can be measurable to the level at which it exercises the practice of human rights. On the basis of the core role of a state to human rights practice, the impact of International Human Rights Organizations' reports can either portray the understanding of a state on the 'coin scale' towards its foreign relations. Using the African states, this paper will address how the reports of International Human Rights Organizations have helped shape their foreign relations.
Key Words: Human Rights, Foreign Relations, Human Rights Reports, e.t.c.

1. Paper Introduction

This paper set out to study the impacts of International Human Rights Organization's Reports, on African State's Foreign Relations with a case study of Rwanda, 1994-2011 a period stemming from the aftermath of genocide to date. In reporting on human rights exercise in Africa, international human rights organizations uncover the picture of African states in terms of their responsibility to promote and protect human rights. These reports can highlight the progress of the state in promoting and protecting human rights as well as drawing attention on the possible negative image of the state in lacking its responsibility to provide rights to citizens and eventually the implication of different public institutions on violation of human rights.

This country has been chosen because of its historical background in human rights, its geopolitical location in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, where human rights violations constitute a controversial matter. Rwanda has a bad image on human rights exercise since colonial rule, which image has been culminated by genocide in 1994. The aftermath of genocide did not guarantee the protection and promotion of human rights for several reasons.

Historical background, ethnical conflict, lack of political will and an unstable society due to 1994 genocide, all are the challenges on engaging a real policy on human rights. A number of international human rights organizations have reported and still report on the practice of human rights in Rwanda.

These reports play a big role in drawing the image of Rwanda vis-à-vis human rights exercise, which image can undermine the effort of country policy makers in terms of foreign relations. The same reports have influenced the attitude of international political actors towards Rwanda, from a sympathetic regime who has stopped genocide to an anti-media and enemy of political space, according to IHROs like Reporters without Borders, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This study aims to analyze the implications of different voices of international organizations advocating for respect, promotion and protection of human rights on African states, especially on Rwanda, and find out the consequences on state's foreign policies.

The historical background of Rwanda in terms of human rights takes its roots with the period of colonial rule by Germany protectorate from 1897 to 1916, the Belgium mandate and trusteeship from 1916 to 1959 (Emmanuel Viret, 2010).The colonial rule with its cruelty on Africans exercised numerous violations of human rights to the people of Rwanda like elsewhere in Africa. The Belgium mandate was more violent than the Germany protectorate rule. Co-habitation of colonial administration, church leaders and monarchy regime was characterized by controversial disagreements and conflicts.

On the dawn of enlightenment of the first African elites from the period of 1950s, Rwanda elites discovered how the people were suffering from bad governance, undemocratic/autocratic monarch regime and the colonial rule. The claims for change from colonialism and monarchy regime to independence and democratic regime, were characterized by divisive ideas based on ethnic perspectives mainly between Hutu and Tutsi. This ended in 1959

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by massive killings of Tutsi and resulted into a huge number of refugees in neighboring countries, in the so-called 1959 social revolution.

The after independence regime was not be able to reestablish unity among the people and to protect victims. The first republic during Kayibanda fragile regime, formed politically by inexperienced and immature leaders, met serious challenge to cement democratic and inclusive governance. In addition, the insurgency of armed group called *Inyenzi* in the 1960s came up to sabotage and disorient the existing regime. These events were characterized by massive violation of human rights, killings and persecution of a big number of people in different areas of the country, arbitrary arrest of people accused of complicity with *Inyenzi* fighters.

The Habyarimana regime also followed the line of previous regimes by ruling with intimidation and abuse of human rights. During this regime, Rwanda witnessed a high level of divisionism based on ethnic groups of Hutu versus Tutsi and, regionalism of Kiga versus Nduga. These inequality before law, nepotism and favoritism have strongly created a real situation of abuse of inalienable rights of many Rwandans. Habyarimana regime is also known as a highly monopolized power in the hands of the so-called "*Akazu*", a small group of northern elites, henchmen and closest to Habyarimana and his wife.

The rule which denied rights to a huge number of Rwandans, did not escape the continental revolution of multiparty movement which invaded African states in the period of 1990s.

With myriad conflicts and wars in the Great Lakes Region until today, the existence of armed groups operating in the region since a long time and the involvement of different governments in this crisis give a clear background of putting human rights in the region on spotlight.

2. The Problem Statement

Human rights constitute fundamental needs of human beings' survival. The International Human Rights bodies and Local chapters of Human Rights Organizations in different states should promote advocacies of these rights in enhancing co-existence among the citizens themselves, vis-à-vis the citizens and the state. However, it is not the case in many instances. It is in this light that the authors chose to focus on Rwanda's experience to evaluate this impact.

3. Objectives of the Paper

The objectives chosen by the authors as a guide to this presentation involved;

i. Evaluating International Organizations' Human Rights Reports on Rwanda's foreign relations.
ii. Assessing how the reports of International Human Rights Organizations have helped shape Rwanda's foreign relations.

4. Significance of the Study

The study will contribute to the fight against human rights violations. The human rights organizations and governments and other actors have a major role in ensuring such rights are exercised for human preservation and where they are not, then state obligations in the wider sense should be invoked which depicts effects on foreign relations.

5. Theoretical Framework (*Adopted from Nyanshwa, 2013*)

This paper underscores the importance of human rights as key elements in democratization whose reporting cannot be left to states alone given that they are partisan players in polity.

The study adopts the theory of State Sovereignty as an assumption towards embedding state obligation to the exercise of human rights within its borders. Though a question comes as to whether all states with differing levels of practice of democracy have the moral standing in international sense to present their report on human rights. This is because possibilities of violation and omission of such duties may go unnoticed. It is on the drawbacks due to the violations and omissions that the reports of other actors come in to fill. The gaps filled may in one sense impact positively or negatively to the country in question.

Human rights and national sovereignty in the field of international relations has been an issue of concern. With the growing trend towards globalization, the relation of human rights and sovereignty has become increasingly analyzed along several dimensions. Some Western liberal scholars have formed the view that national sovereignty has lost some of its all-encompassing supreme authority; international politics and domestic politics have become increasingly close, the issue of human rights beyond national borders is a real global issue for the time to come. The protection of human rights from its nature like the globalizing world have no borders, thus human rights are above state sovereignty (Anonymous 2010).

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From the Anonymous ibid; the liberal theory that human rights are above sovereignty is not strictly produced in the era of globalization, it has close tie to the building of human rights theory and the national sovereignty theory. It is contained in the liberal human rights theory and theories of sovereignty.

Apart from the liberal theory above, the authors adopt suggestions from Trudy 2008; "borrowing from the two former UN Secretary Generals Boutros Boutros- Ghali and Koffi Annan exists a concept that seems to be redeeming sovereignty with additional meaning. The two concurred that sovereignty exists beyond the state." In the book above adopted from 'Agenda for Peace', Boutros – Ghali argued: "The time of absolute sovereignty …. has passed; its theory was never matched by reality. It is the task of Leaders of States today to understand this and find a balance between the needs of good internal governance and the requirements of an ever more interdependent world".

Echoing similar sentiments in Trudy J. 2008, in Annan's words the following can be captured: "We need to adapt our international system better to a world with new actors, new responsibilities, new possibilities for peace and progress …. State sovereignty, in its most basic sense is being redefined – not least by the forces of globalization and international cooperation".

From the above assertions, there are two overriding theories at play about state sovereignty. The Liberal theory which is tied to the Westphalian state sovereignty and the latter which would best be called the Second Sovereignty Theory (the redefined theory) which extends sovereignty to the subjects of the states. On the basis of this second theory, then, there is sovereignty apart from mere existence of states that focuses on how the state relates to her subjects (sovereigns). This second scenario therefore implies that state alone cannot be relied upon as the sole provider of human rights reports to her other international partners.

Natural rights theory and the social contract theory (Anonymous 2010) as highlighted in Kant's and Rawls' theory suggests the law of peoples as the important basis for the universality of human rights above sovereignty which the two UN Secretary Generals seem to back.

6. Evaluating International Organizations' Human Rights Reports on Rwanda's foreign relations.

6.1 What is Human Right?

Generally, human right refers to the rights and freedoms to which every person is entitled simply by virtue of being a human being living in a society of other humans. But what is really the significance of these rights and freedoms? How can every person enjoy them? How can this concept embrace a universal consideration?

According to Maddex (2000) in the international encyclopedia of human rights, a right is something a person ought to have or receive from another: a well-founded claim that may be asserted under law while freedom is the basic right of all people to be left alone by their government as much as possible to pursue their own goals in life.

Louis Henkin cited by Tumwine Mukubwa (2000), defines human rights as: "Claims which every individual has or should have, upon the society in which she or he lives. To call them human suggests that they are universal, and are due to every human in every society. They do not differ with geography, political or economic system or stage of development. They do not depend on gender, race class or status. They are called rights because they are claims as of rights, not merely appeals to grace or charity or brotherhood or love. The rights are particular, defined and familiar reflecting respect for individual autonomy as well as a common sense of justice and injustice".

The most fundamental of all the above rights, is that right to life is a paramount among others, without it, man cannot enjoy all the other rights. Therefore, scholars have argued that the right to life is meaningless without the right to liberty. They argue that it is actually liberty that gives meaning to life.

Article 1 and 2 of the UDHR (1948) state that:

Article 1;

1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Articles 2 states that:

2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

In addition, regional initiatives developed different instrument through regional bodies of nations such as the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), American Convention on Human Rights (1969), and African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1981).

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In Africa, human rights concept embraces certain particularity in making attention on the enjoyment of rights collectively. The African Charter on Human and People's Rights known as Banjul Charter highlighted the African conception of human rights. In this context, self-determination is one of the rights concerning the claims of a group of people to define their own destiny, the right to freely decide on their sovereignty and international political status without external compulsion or outside interference. The case of Eritrean people's claim from the Ethiopian rule, the Biafra people claim in Nigeria and recently the people of South Sudan who through referendum of January 11, 2011 expressed their determination on claim of secession and autonomy which ended by a full independence on 9th July 2011; these are good examples of African reality and achievement in people's rights claims.

Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the international effort to promote and protect human rights under the leading lights of United Nations guidelines has developed a significant set of international instruments of human rights and treaty bodies monitoring the implementation of the UN human rights treaties by states parties (highlights the development of United Nations mechanisms to promote and protect human rights, and in strengthening the implementation of human rights treaties by September 2008, OHCHR, A Handbook of Civil Society, 2008).

Rwanda has joined the United Nations initiative of promoting, protecting and implementing human rights instruments by signing, ratifying and accession on the above human rights instruments, and regional human rights conventions. In this universal process of recognizing international human rights instruments by sovereign states, Landman (2005) acknowledges that by 2000, there were between 125 and 190 countries that were party to various treaties that make up international human rights regime: the ICCPR(1966) with 146 states parties; ICESCR (1966), 142 states parties; OPT1of the ICCPR (1976) with 95 and OPT2 on the ICCPR (1989) with 44 states parties; CERD (1966) with 156 states parties; CEDAW (1979) with 164 states partiers; CAT (1984) with 122 States parties and CRC (1989), 190 States parties.

6.2 Evaluation of National and International Human Rights Reports.

The concept of human rights is abstract, how it is applied has a direct and enormous impact on daily life worldwide. Millions have suffered crimes against humanity. Millions more toil in bonded labor. In the last decade alone, authoritarian rule has denied civil and political liberties to billions. The idea of human rights has a long history, but only in the past century has the international community sought to galvanize a regime to promote and guard them. Particularly, since the United Nations (UN) was established in 1945, world leaders have cooperated to codify human rights in a universally recognized regime of treaties, institutions, and norms.

An elaborate global system is being developed. Governments are striving to promote human rights domestically and abroad, and are partnering with multilateral institutions to do so. A particularly dynamic and decentralized network of civil society actors is also involved in the effort.

Together, these players have achieved marked success, though the institutionalization and implementation of different rights is progressing at varying rates. Response to mass atrocities has seen the greatest progress, even if enforcement remains inconsistent.

According to **ICHRP, 2000**, "National human rights institutions take many forms. Attempts, such as this, to develop common standards for measuring their work need to take account of these differences. National institutions can be categorised in terms of their mandate, their organisational composition, or the political and legal traditions within which they operate. Furthermore, NHRIs operate in a range of conditions and with different levels of resources. In judging what a given institution can realistically achieve, assessments need to take such factors into account as well." These national human rights bodies have many challenges stemming from inhibitions by regimes and governance systems and networks. Failures arising out of such practices may require extra-territorial organs to play watchdog.

Similarly, significant challenges by international human rights organizations to promoting human rights norms remain, however. To begin with, the umbrella of human rights is massive. Freedom from slavery and torture, the imperative to prevent gender and racial persecution, and the right to education and health care are only some of the issues asserted as human rights.

As a body of international relations, states are required to adhere to the Paris Principles on human rights (which determines and also address methods of operation and, by implication, the powers of national institutions). "The Paris Principles are the principal source of normative standards for national human rights institutions. Adopted by NHRIs at an international workshop held in Paris in 1991, they marked the beginning of serious international co -operation and standardisation of NHRIs. Both the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly later endorsed them. The Paris Principles are broad and general. They apply to all NHRIs, regardless of structure or type. They provide that a national institution should be established in the national Constitution or by a law that clearly sets out its role and powers and that its mandate should be as broad

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as possible. They state that national institutions should be pluralist and should co-operate with a range of social and political groups and institutions, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), judicial institutions, professional bodies and government departments." www.ohchr.org

The Principles state that NHRIs should have an infrastructure that allows them to carry out their functions. Particular importance is attached to the need for adequate funding to allow the institution "to be independent of the government and not be subject to financial control which might affect this independence".

7. International Organizations' Human Rights Reports on Rwanda's foreign relations.

The failure of national institutions in developing countries over human rights reporting is what makes it imperative to think international organizations reports. Rwanda, as a young state is not yet well endowed with the necessary infrastructure of independent institutions from government.

International organizations have not only reported on internal issues of human rights but others touching Rwanda and her neighbours. It is reported by US state department at www.state.org that, "In a June 27 addendum to its interim report , in its November 15 final report , and in a November 26 letter to the UN Security Council , the U N Group of Experts (UNGOE) accused the government of violating UN arms embargo and sanctions regimes through "direct military support" and "the provision of material and financial support to armed groups operating in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo." Specifically, the UNGOE claimed the government provided weapons and ammunition, recruits, intelligence, political and financial support, logistics, and direct Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) military interventions in support of the M23 armed group rebellion in the eastern DRC, which began in April." This was strenuously disputed by the government who questioned the credibility of the UNGOE report and consistently denied providing any support to the M23.

Reports are very helpful for situational analysis. At the initiative of the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida), a group of 39 representatives of bilateral donors, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, comprised a Steering Committee to sponsor an international evaluation, the Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda (Joint Evaluation), also known as The International Response to Conflict and Genocide (IRCG): Lessons from the Rwanda Experience. The evaluation was undertaken over a 15-month period by international teams numbering 52 consult-ants and researchers that produced four studies plus a synthesis report covering all phases of the crisis. The Joint Evaluation was published in March 1996 and launched simultaneously in four key locations: Geneva, London, Nairobi, and New York. The Synthesis Report contains 64 recommendations addressed to all elements of the international community. Team leaders also led discussions of the Joint Evaluation's findings and recommendations at a seminar in Kigali, Rwanda, in September 1996.

With the recommendations of the joint evaluations, if well followed, then a number of lessons can be drawn for application. Another evaluation was conducted by (JEFF 1997). At the initiative of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Steering Committee sanctioned a one-year follow-up of the Joint Evaluation recommendations – the Joint Evaluation Follow-up, Monitoring, and Facilitation (JEFF) Network. JEFF comprised 11 individuals representing the Management Group, Steering Committee and study teams of the Joint Evaluation. Their role was to raise awareness of the Joint Evaluation through presentations of the reports and participation in national and international conferences and monitor the steps taken in the organizations concerned in response to the 64 targeted recommendations contained in the Synthesis Report. As part of its work JEFF assessed the status of each of the 64 recommendations. JEFF's report was presented to the final meeting of the Steering Committee and a final version (taking account of some potentially significant developments during the first half of the year) was completed in June 1997.

As a result of the reports the government was tasked with,

> "Immediate management of the closure of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps that had been established in the southwest of the country. But the process concentrated the extremists in a few remaining camps and in April 1995 efforts to close the camp at Kibeho resulted in violence and the killing … . Despite being mandated to protect civilians the UNAMIR troops who were present did not intervene. This brought profound implications for neighboring Zaire as approximately 1.1 million refugees crossed over to the camps in the Provinces of North and South Kivu. Despite repeated calls by human rights and humanitarian agencies for the removal of the soldiers and militia from the camps and their relocation further back from the border, the international community allowed these groups to remain in the camps and thereby to benefit from the international assistance **Borton (2004)**."

As a result of international human rights report through Commonwealth Human Rights International Report (CHRI), it was almost unanimous that Rwanda does not meet core requirements of human rights. The report stated, "Rwanda does not satisfy the test of Commonwealth values. There are considerable doubts about the commitment of the current regime to human rights and democracy. It has not hesitated to use violence at home

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or abroad when it has suited it. Consequently, its admission would send the signal, loud and clear, that the commitment of the governments of the Commonwealth countries to its values is shallow." This means the image of the state is taken ransom because of the regimes action. It was suggested that the next CHOGM make no decision on the applicant other than to set up a procedure to examine Rwanda's eligibility for membership and the consequences for the Commonwealth of expansion in its members.

8. **Assessing how the reports of International Human Rights Organizations have helped shape Rwanda's foreign relations**.

According to official website of the US Department of state on Rwanda www.state.gov on its report: Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor 2012 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices Report of April 19, 2013, "The most important human rights problems in the country remained the government's targeting of journalists, political opponents, and human rights advocates for harassment, arrest, and abuse; disregard for the rule of law among security forces and the judiciary; restrictions on civil liberties; and support of rebel groups in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo."

The site further identifies key areas of violations which if were to be left for the government like in many African states; no one would be privy to such happenings because our governments know how to conceal secrets especially with negative effects. Acting as a Non-Governmental body the US State department reports, "Other major human rights problems included arbitrary or unlawful killings, both within the country and abroad; disappearances; torture; harsh conditions in prisons and detention centers; arbitrary arrest; prolonged pretrial detention; executive interference in the judiciary; and government infringement on citizens' privacy rights.

The government restricted freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, and to a lesser extent, religion. Security for refugees and asylum seekers was inadequate. Corruption was a problem, and the government restricted and harassed local and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Violence and discrimination against women and children occurred, including the recruitment by the M23 armed group of Rwandan and refugee minors as child soldiers. There was a small but growing incidence of trafficking in persons. Discrimination and occasional violence against persons with disabilities and the Twa minority occurred. The government restricted labor rights, and forced labor, including by children, and child labor were problems."

Some key areas of the report pertaining human right issues include;

- Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life
- Disappearance
- Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Prison and Detention Center Conditions; Prison and detention center conditions were harsh, although the government made numerous improvements during the year. Police sometimes beat newly arrested suspects to obtain confessions. There were numerous reports of detainee abuse and lengthy illegal detention by police intelligence at KwaGacinya detention center in Kigali. There were reports that J-2 military intelligence personnel employed torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment to obtain confessions in military detention centers, although less frequently than in the previous year.
- Denial of Fair Public Trial
- Arbitrary Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence

As a result of government stern position often without regard to the constitution self-gagging is a common habit. Though the constitution provides for freedom of speech and press "in conditions prescribed by the law." The government at times restricted these rights. The government intimidated and arrested journalists who expressed views that were deemed critical on sensitive topics or who were believed to have violated the law or journalistic standards. Numerous journalists practiced self-censorship.

The new penal code signed into law in May expands former provisions that prohibited the display of contempt for the head of state or other high-level public officials to include administrative authorities or other public servants, with sentences of one to two years in prison and fines of 50,000 to 500,000 Rwandan francs ($80 to $800). Slander of foreign and international officials and dignitaries remains illegal, with sentences of one to three years in prison. The new penal code rebrands the crime of "spreading rumors aimed at inciting the population to rise against the regime" as "spreading false information with intent to create a hostile international opinion against the Rwandan state," with much more severe penalties, including life in prison for acts committed during wartime and seven to 10 years in prison for acts committed during peacetime.

With these kinds of rules, if human rights reports were dictates of the states, then citizens of some developing countries in Africa which are transiting from the traditional dictatorial regimes may find life being a measured endowment from the ruling elites who determine their destiny in whichever direction they deem.

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Many organizations around the world dedicate their efforts to protecting human rights and ending human rights abuses. Major human rights organizations maintain extensive websites documenting violations and calling for remedial action, both at a governmental and grass-roots level. Public support and condemnation of abuses is important to their success, as human rights organizations are most effective when their calls for reform are backed by strong public advocacy.

As reported by http://www.humanrights.com , "Globally, the champions of human rights have most often been citizens, non-government officials. In particular, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have played a primary role in focusing the international community on human rights issues that affect countries in the developing world. NGOs monitor the actions of governments and pressure them to act according to human rights principles."

Knowing the role of different Human Rights organizations range from advocacy, monitoring, research and analysis, provision of immediate results; Organizations like Amnesty international, Human Rights Watch bodies, and other NGOs in pursuit of peoples' rights have made attempts in stepping in where government have shown excess executive power to be on the peoples' side. Given the history Rwanda as a country has gone through, regime change and the grisly and inhuman genocide, behavioral tendency towards violations of human rights is a commonality. On its own using the local human rights chapters, the government cannot check itself.

Different parts of the world have witnessed human rights violations in different magnitudes yet the effects remain similar with. Very important lessons emerge from such reports with wide range of policies. As observed by http://www.iranrights.org/english/library ;

> "Reports on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran published since 1979 by international human rights organizations are gathered in this collection and will gradually be translated into Farsi. In doing so, the library makes available to the ***Iranian public a juridical reasoning based on the universality*** of human rights and thus facilitates the understanding of these rights. By browsing this collection, Iranian visitors will realize that during the harsh years of isolation and repression, ***the injustice and violence endured by this nation was not ignored by the international community*** and people around the world have been concerned about their rights. What is more, ***these reports contain important pages of Iran's history***, and so should be available to the public. The creation of this collection ***is also a way for the Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation to pay tribute to those jurists and human rights advocates*** who have worked, researched and published these valuable documents."

The **Rwanda Human Rights Watch's (RHRW) report, 'Rwanda: Takeover of Rights Group of 14th August 2013'** a non- state body established some serious foreign relation issues arising out of human rights practice as duly reported by non-state agency. The report stated that much progress has been realized in Rwanda but behind the scenes violations of human rights are similarly worse.

> "Rwanda has made important economic and development gains, but the government has continued to impose tight restrictions on freedom of expression and association. Opposition parties are unable to operate. Victoire Ingabire, president of the FDU-Inkingi, and Bernard Ntaganda, president of the PS-Imberakuri, are both serving prison sentences; several other opposition party members are also in prison in connection with their political activities or criticism of government policies. In February, Rwanda adopted a new media law that contains some positive elements, but has not had much impact in practice. Persistent threats against as well as prosecutions of journalists have all but destroyed independent journalism. The government's intimidation and infiltration of Rwandan human rights organizations has had a devastating effect on their ability to operate independently. A revised draft law on genocide ideology, approved by the National Assembly and Senate in mid-2013, contains improvements, but retains language that could be used to criminalize free speech. In 2012, several governments suspended part of their assistance to Rwanda because of its military support to the M23, an armed group responsible for serious abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Some donors resumed part of this assistance in 2013, but the UK, Rwanda's single largest bilateral donor, chose to channel aid to specific sectors rather than resume general budget support."

With these experiences highlighted above, if Rwanda were to be left on its own without the constant check by the international human rights organizations through their reports and constant intrusion of NGOs in the 'unwanted reports', the people of Rwanda who wish to see their country move to the next level where it can benefit from the forces of globalization may not find their aspirations achieved and realized.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

International Human Rights Organization (IHRO) reports are generally good in shaping Africa's foreign relations as complimentary effort towards exposure of human rights violations. A caveat is essentially necessary

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in recognition of their empirical laxity, neglect, and mixed interests to African problems. In Juma (2012, 52), "Human rights tend to stand in the way of the satisfactory pursuit of US economic interests and they have accordingly been brushed aside". This notion thus illuminates a confirmation of danger of putting much trust in the reports of international human rights organizations in shaping African foreign policies/relations. Despite the double standards of the international community towards what is African, they have helped Africa somehow in the last 20 years in addition to tireless efforts by new crops of transformational regimes for peace to prevail. It is however recognizable that only states with military and economic power can disguise the participation of international organizations' and by extension human rights bodies in shaping their foreign relations.

Denial of human rights and failure of its proper reporting for violations is like denying man both power and responsibility. From the existence and exercise of human rights lies the power of action which normally is accompanied by responsibilities. Both international human rights organizations and local/ national human rights organizations reports are vital. This paper with uncertain terms recommend strongly the importance of international human rights organizations' reports to shaping African foreign relations because unpredictability in their systems easily render institutions/systems functionless when the outcomes do not favour the powers that be with less regard on the citizens.

The impacts of International Human Rights Reporting on African States' foreign relations have had setbacks and little improvements with time. In Rwanda's case study, generally, the authors found a gap between the IHROs and the Rwandan HRs organizations which doesn't augur well for HRs practice.

Due to the fact that most of the factors affecting Human Rights are historical /tribalism related and politically/ governance related, there is need for political will and legal framework in dealing with them.

The following recommendations to Rwandan government, IHROs and local HRs organizations may be useful in enhancing the impacts of International Human Rights Reporting on African States' foreign relations especially for Rwandan case:

Given that many factors affecting Human Rights in Rwanda are related to politics and governance, there is need for Rwandan government sensitivity towards this to ensure that maximum benefits to Rwandans can be realized in the field of development as a peoples' right.

The mitigations on violations to human rights used by the IHROs should entail methods that involve people through capacity building.

The results from investigations, reporting, and monitoring should also be made available locally as a way of demystifying their perceived intentions and a way of building confidence to both the local HRs organizations and government where necessary.

Closer working relations are necessary between the International Human Rights Organizations and Rwandan Human Rights bodies without compromising of quality to enhance more freedoms to the citizens.

For a favorable outcome from IHROs engagement and the Government duties to promote and protect human rights, there is need for a common understanding of human rights as a priority to all actors intervening instead of criticizing and conflicting each other.

Finally, the outcomes of the state's practice of human rights is thus better also measurable by other international relation players within and from without. And to make herself have an appealing image internationally, a state must fulfill her obligations towards this as signed in different treaties requiring existence of such rights, and avoiding their violations or else necessary actions should be taken against her for the sake of citizens sovereignty.

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