BOOK REVIEW

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW OF YOUTH RIGHTS. Source Documents and Commentary, Edited By William D Angel [Martinus Nijhoff Publishers Dordrecht/Boston/London 1995
pp1143.$30, paper;$290,hard cover.]

When speaking of human rights, it is difficult to ignore youth, an important set of actors who have been involved in the struggle for the realization of these rights. In reality however, these actors in the struggle for human rights not merely ignored but, often themselves become the victims of human rights violations and even held guilty of human rights violations by their respective governments[1] The fact that youth have often embarrassed governments which have poor human rights track records has contributed to the marginalization of their rights by the world community. Very few governments are willing to focus on the rights of a group of people who might in the vindication of those rights harm establishment interests.

International Law of Youth Rights is an exploration of the rights of youth that the world community prefers to suppress. This publication turns our attention to issues the world community wants us to ignore and thus forces us to rethink youth issues. It is also instrumental to youth organizations as a re source in their struggle for the protection and promotion of youth rights. The book is a comprehensive compilation of United Nations Resolutions, Conventions, and Recommendations adopted by the major governing bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the special conferences concerned with youth matters. The work contains an exhaustive exploration of all source documents on the International Law of Youth and the action taken by UN Regional Commissions and national governments in the area. This publication is the first consolidation of all the international guidelines in the area. This publication is the first consolidation of all the international guidelines in this field.

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1 Youth, especially students have formed the core of the movement for human rights and social change in several countries including Palestine, Burma, China and East Timor. The Tiananmen Square massacre in June of 1989 stands out as one of the worst assaults the world has known on youth and student demonstrations for democratic reforms.