Bibliography (selection in English)

A. Textbooks

I. Textbooks on global human rights law

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Goodman, Ryan
Bantekas, Ilias
Oette, Lutz
Benedek, Wolfgang (editor)
Buergerenthal, Thomas
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Shelton, Dinah
Schutter, Olivier de
Smith, Rhona K. M.

See also the chapters on international human rights law in the general textbooks on international public law.

II. Textbooks on geo-regional human rights law

Antkowiak, Thomas
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Buckley, Carla
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White, Robin C.A.
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B. Commentaries (article-by-article presentation)

Alen, A.
Vande Lanotte, J.
and others (editors)


Alfredsson, Gudmundur
Eide, Asbjorn (editors)


Bantekas, Ilias
Stein, Michael Ashley
Anastasiou, Dimitris (editors)

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Murray, Rachel


Nowak, Manfred
Birk, Moritz
Monina, Giuliana (editors)

[coming soon]

Saul, Ben
Kinley, David
Mowbray, Jaqueline


Schabas, William


Simma, Bruno
Khan, Daniel-Erasmus
Nolte, Georg
Paulus, Andreas (editors)


Tobin, John (editor)

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. A Commentary, 2019

C. Works of reference, encyclopaedias and handbooks (for legal practitioners and scientific research)

Kälin, Walter
Schnegg, Brigitte

Women’s Human Rights’ App (W’sHR App), last updated 2018 [Android app, free download in the Google Play Store]

Sheeran, Scott
Rodley, Nigel (editors)

Routledge Handbook of International Human Rights Law, 2013

Shelton, Dinah (editor)

The Oxford Handbook of International Human Rights Law, 2013

Vandenhole, Wouter
Desmet, Ellen
Reynaert, Didier
Lembrecht, Sara (editors)

Routledge International Handbook of Children’s Rights, 2017
Vega, Connie de la
Dictionary of International Human Rights Law, 2013

D. Publications on selected special topics
Bellace, Janice R., Haar, Beryl ter (editors)
Research Handbook on Labour, Business and Human Rights Law, 2019
Boyle, Katie
Economic and Social Rights Law: Incorporation, Justiciability and Principles of Adjudication, 2019 [coming soon]
Duxbury, Alison
Can ASEAN Take Human Rights Seriously?, 2019
Tan, Hsien-Li
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Saeed, Abdullah
Research Methods in Human Rights, 2018
Shelton, Dinah
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McConnell, Lee (editors)

E. Law reports and casebooks
Website of the ECHR
www.echr.coe.int (decisions in English and French)
Website of the IACHR
www.corteidh.or.cr (decisions in Spanish and English)
Website of the ACHPR
www.african-court.org (decisions in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic)
Website of the ICC
www.icc-cpi.int (decisions in English and French)
Attwo, Nonso (editor)
Reported Cases of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights [2009-2012], 2017
Conte, Alex
European Court of Human Rights (editor)
Defining Civil and Political Rights. The Jurisprudence of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, 2nd edition 2009 (note, however, that the Human Rights Committee is not a court and therefore its views do not represent jurisprudence)
Maringele, Sarah
European Human Rights Law. The work of the European Court of Human Rights illustrated by an assortment of selected cases, 2014

F. Compendiums of laws
(easy access to treaties and legislation)
Bisset, Alison (editor)
Blackstone’s International Human Rights Documents, 11th edition 2018
Khaliq, Urfan (editor)
International Human Rights Law Documents, 2018
Office of the UNHCHR (editor)
Core International Instruments, www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx (human rights treaties); see also Universal Human Rights Instruments, /Pages/UniversalHumanRightsInstruments.aspx (treaties and soft law)
University of Minnesota (editor)
Human Rights Library. Human Rights Treaties and Other Instruments, www1.umn.edu/humanrts/treaties.htm
G. Journals in the field of human rights law (in English)

AHRLJ  African Human Rights Law Journal, since 2000
APJHRL  Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law, since 2000
BHRJ  Business and Human Rights Journal, since 2016
EHRLR  European Human Rights Law Review, since 1979
HHRJ  Harvard Human Rights Journal, since 1988
HRLJ  Human Rights Law Journal, since 1980
HRLR  Human Rights Law Review, since 2001
HRQ  Human Rights Quarterly, since 1979
HRR  Human Rights Review, since 1999
IHRLR  International Human Rights Law Review, since 2012
JHR  The International Journal of Human Rights, since 1997

Contributions on international human rights law can also be found in the journals on public international law.

H. Internet sources in the field of human rights law

There are many internet sources which allow an easy orientation and a quick access to international human rights law. See the links on the special website for this course. See in particular the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.ohchr.org). There you find introductory information and the text of the most important human rights treaties (www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx) and of other human rights treaties and soft law (Pages/UniversalHumanRightsInstruments.aspx). The same applies for the website Human Rights Library of the University of Minnesota (www1.umn.edu/humanrts/index.html). The text of the European human rights treaties is available on the website of the Council of Europe (www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/search-on-treaties/-/conventions/treaty/results/subject/44), the text of the American human rights treaties at the website of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (www.oas.org/en/iachr/mandate/basic_documents.asp). African human rights treaties are published by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (www.achpr.org/instruments).

Make sure that you use only websites with reliable, thorough legal information for your legal research!

H. Note on the reliability of legal literature in the field of international human rights law

Keep your critical distance when dealing with legal literature on international human rights law. Some authors tend to confound law and legal politics. Some may even present their own wishful thinking as prevailing law. This applies in particular to publications in German language. Furthermore, not all authors distinguish adequately between the international human rights treaties (which represent an important part of public international law) and the so-called "soft law" (political resolutions of international organisations or summits, which are not a source of law and therefore not binding the states directly). Fore example, caution should be exercised if the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 (a resolution of the UN General Assembly) is presented as directly binding law or if typical Western concepts of human rights are presented in details as legally binding. In human rights law as in other fields of law, successful, sustainable work depends decisively on a methodologically sound approach.

More information on this course contribution at www.thomas-schmitz-yogyakarta.id. For any questions, suggestions and criticism please contact me in my office (Building A, room A.IV.11) or via e-mail at tschmit1@gwdg.de.