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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

The present volume of the Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law (hereinafter Annual Survey) - Volume XX - consists of interesting articles that discuss and critique current international and comparative law issues. There have been events inundating international law in recent years with many of them generating heated controversies.

The Russia-Ukraine incident stands out as one of the heated issues on the international plane. It raises questions on territorial integrity and the right to self-determination. The decision of the people of Crimea to become a part of Russia, thereby giving Russia sovereign authority over Crimea, has engendered both controversy and crisis. While the right to self-determination (of the Crimeans), which right they actually did exercise through the referendum is not disputed, the fact that the decision to conduct the referendum was influenced or encouraged by Russia for seeming national reasons may be a ground to critically take a second look at the referendum and the Russian-Ukraine crisis.

The right to self-determination under international law has been exercised elsewhere recently. The Kosovo incident in which Kosovo's right to declare its independence from Serbia was recognized by the International Court of Justice shares some characteristics with Crimea's decision to join Russia. More than 50 states, including the United States, recognized Kosovo's independence. The United States' stance on the Russia-Crimea issue is inconsistent with the position it had taken regarding Kosovo's declaration of independence less than a decade ago.

While the Russia - Ukraine crisis rages on, other troubled spots around the world continue to emerge. In Nigeria, the government is struggling hard to contain terrorism acts unleashed by the Boko Haram insurgents who are responsible for several deaths in the recent past. The abduction of more than 100 school girls in Chibok, Borno State, by the Boko Haram sect has attracted condemnation from the international community; it underlies the need to form a common front to combat international terrorism which is one of the greatest problems threatening international peace and stability today. Fortunately, the United Nations Security Council has officially blacklisted Boko Haram as a terrorist organization. That is a step in the right direction.

In Thailand, a political crisis is rocking the land with anti-government protesters disrupting government activities. The Constitutional Court has invalidated the elections conducted on February 2, 2014 and has ordered for fresh elections - a decision the anti-government protesters do not accept. The removal of Yingluck Shinawatra as Prime Minister of Thailand

and other ministers by the Constitutional Court on May 7, 2014, as well as the coup against the interim government are some of the highlights of the Thai crisis.

In Pakistan, an honor killing took place in front of a court of law. The victim, Farzana Parveen, was battered to death by members of her family, because she got married to a man without their consent. This honor killing clearly had adverse implications on international human rights.

The Central African Republic is enmeshed in a religious crisis, laced with a struggle over natural resources and the control of the states that is feared may lead to genocide. An attack on a Catholic Church in Bangui by Muslim rebels representing the Seleka Coalition, which had ousted President Francois Bozize, left no less than 30 people dead. Rancor has continued to grow between the Seleka rebels and the Anti-Balaka militia.

In Brazil, protesters have taken to the streets, demonstrating against the huge expenditures by the Brazilian government for the hosting of the World Cup (Brazil 2014). The protesters, who comprise mainly citizens of the lower echelon, question the contributions of the World Cup to the welfare of the masses, especially considering the corruption rate inflicting the country. About 20 persons have died in the protest, with more than 300 people sustaining injuries. The protest is against the backdrop of the economic situation in Brazil where peoples' wages and work conditions are hardly adequate, let alone enhanced.

In the United States, an armed standoff on federal land between a group of Southern Nevada ranchers and the United States government in April 2014 has triggered an FBI investigation into whether the standoff involved the use of illegal weapons. Other trouble spots around the world include Mali, South Sudan, and Libya.

While the majority of these crises may appear to be internal, they impact and thrust challenges on international and comparative law. Articles like the ones contained in the present volume of the Annual Survey help by addressing these challenges. The Annual Survey, apart from its other objectives, strives to bring to the fore the latest developments in international and comparative law. Being an avenue for sharing and dissemination of ideas among comparativists, publicists, international law practitioners, privatists, and people from other related fields, the Annual Survey continues to play a major role in bringing forth solutions to both natural and man-made world problems.

The present anthology contains the following articles: The Missing Peace (being a Keynote Address delivered at the 21st Annual Fulbright Symposium of International Law at Golden Gate University School of Law); “Fat Taxes” Fighting Globesity Ignore Food Demand Inelasticities; Law and Energy Infrastructure Development in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Nigeria and Ghana; Climate Change and Nigeria’s Sustainable Development of Vision 20-2020; Projected Impact of Global Warming on West Africa: A For Regional and Trans-Adaptive Measures; Arbitration of Islamic Financial Disputes; Child Soldiers and Peace Agreements, Reconciling Three Countries: Current Laws with Human Rights in the Face of International Law; One Step Forward, Two Steps Backward: A Brief History of Legal Discrimination against Women in Iran and the Violations of International Human Rights.

As has been observed in preceding editorials, and like the past volumes of the Annual Survey, the present volume cannot cover all the aspects of international and comparative law issues. However, this volume is a modest attempt to touch upon some pertinent topics with the hope that subsequent volumes will carry on the work of keeping the Annual Survey’s audiences abreast of developments in international and comparative law.

The Annual Survey accepts and publishes articles from all jurisdictions spread across the globe, and it is not unexpected that it may retain and reflect the writing style of each individual writer. This gives the Annual Survey a rich content. However, in presenting the articles, the Annual Survey may adhere to the traditional United States practice of uniform citation for United States sources. This would not distort the wide readership of the Annual Survey.

The Annual Survey is open to comments and suggestions regarding the improvement of the journal in various aspects. The journal accepts manuscripts on topics relevant to the field of international and comparative law.

It is important to note that the views expressed in the articles, papers, notes, etc. published in the Annual Survey are exclusively those of the individual authors and contributors and are not to be taken as representing the views of the Board of Editors, the Board of Editorial Advisors, the Editor-in-Chief, or the Press.

CHRIS NWACHUKWU OKEKE
Editor-in-Chief

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