

Criminal Responsibility for Torture: A Human Rights Analysis

Kola O. Odeku

*School of Law, Faculty of Management and Law, University of Limpopo, South Africa
Telephone: +27152682718, Fax: +27152672904, E-mail: kooacademics@gmail.com*

KEYWORDS Torture. Heinous crimes. Accountability. Prohibition. Immunity. Impunity

ABSTRACT Torture is a heinous crime that renders its victim destitute. It is prohibited under national and international human rights laws. These laws obligate the State and those who are entrusted with the responsibility to govern to ensure that no one is subjected to torture in whatever form. Ancillary to this is the responsibility not to justify the use of torture in whatever form irrespective of the circumstances. The objective of this article is to examine and critically analyse the responsibility for the crime of torture under international human rights laws particularly, the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by establishing the criminal and civil responsibilities of the perpetrators in order to hold them accountable and bring them to justice.