

UNITED NATIONS

1. International Court of Justice: <http://www.icj-cij.org/>

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its dual role is to settle in accordance with international law the legal disputes submitted to it by States, and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized international organs and agencies.

CASES.

In Print

- *Reports of judgments, advisory opinions, and orders* (1947-2000) JX1971.6 .A244
- Permanent Court of International Justice
 - *Series A./B., Judgments, orders and advisory opinions.* (1931-1940) JX1971.5 A6Ser.A/B
 - *Series B, Collection of advisory opinions.* (1922-1930) JX1971.5 A6 Ser.B
 - *Series A, Collection of judgments.* (1923-1930) JX1971.5 A6 Ser.A
 - *Series C, Pleadings, oral statements and documents.* (1931-1939) JX1971.5 A6 Ser.C

Online

- Internet access at <http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idecisions.htm>
- Westlaw: INT-ICJ (1947-)
- Lexis: Area of Law > International Law > Find Cases > ICJ Decisions (1948-)

DIGESTS.

- *Digest of the decisions of the International Court of Justice.* (-1962) JX68 .S92 1962; (1976-1985) JX68 .D54
- World Court Digest
 - Internet <http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/research/details/publications/institute/wcd.cfm>
 - Print (1986-1990) JX68 .W57 1993
- *Summaries of judgments, advisory opinions, and orders of the International Court of Justice, 1948-1991.* New York : United Nations, 1992. JX1991 .A26 1992.
- *International Court of Justice Opinion briefs.* Edited by Severaid, etal, Chicago: Section of International Law, American Bar Association, 1978. JX1971.6 .H31
- *Repertory of decisions of the International Court of Justice (1947-1992).* Edited by Giuliana Ziccardi Capaldo. Dordrecht: M. Nijhoff Publishers. JX1971.6 .R37 11995. v.1-v.2.
- *The case law of the International Court: a repertoire of the judgments, advisory opinions and orders of the Permanent Court of International Justice and of the International Court of Justice.* Vol. 1-7 in English and French; v.8- in English only. Includes indexes. JX1971.5 .A615. v.1-2, v.4A-C
- *Yearbook of the International Court of Justice* KZ6273 .I58
Contains summaries of judgments, advisory opinions, and other orders of the court.

2. United Nations Treaty-Monitoring Bodies <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/convmech.htm>

Some of the major international human rights treaties established committees of independent experts to monitor the implementation of the provisions contained in those treaties. To date, there are six treaty bodies. To obtain the full-text basic documents by and for the treaty bodies consult the *Treaty Bodies Database* (<http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf>).

Four of these treaty bodies have established procedures under which individuals may submit complaints. Only complaints from persons within the jurisdiction of States that have formally accepted these procedures can be examined by the treaty bodies.

- **Committee Against Torture (CAT)** <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cat/>

CAT determinations on admissibility and on the merits are considered jointly and published as *Views*. Determinations of inadmissibility are called *Decisions*. Both *Decisions* and *Views* are published as separate documents and together in the Committee's annual *Report of the Committee Against Torture*.

For locating the separate documents:

- access the list of full-text *Decisions* and *Views* on the Web at <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cat/decisions/cat-decisions.html> or <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/FramePage/TypeJurisprudence?OpenDocument>
- access ODS Database (<http://documents.un.org>); search the terms "decision torture" or "views torture" in the title field; and select "Find All the Words." (good for searching very recent decisions)

For locating the Committee's annual *Report of the Committee Against Torture*:

- access the *Treaty Bodies Database* (Web address above)
- access ODS Database; in the Advanced Search screen, type in REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE in the Title field. (good for searching most recent reports)

- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cescr.htm>

- **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cedw.htm>

Determinations on admissibility and on the merits under the Optional Protocol are considered jointly and published as *Views*. Determinations of inadmissibility are published as *Decisions*. *Views* and *Decisions* are published as separate documents and also together in the Committee's annual *Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*.

For locating separate documents:

- access individual decisions on the Web at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/dec-views.htm>. Decisions under the Protocol began in 2003.

For locating the Committee's annual *Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* :

- access the Treaty Bodies Database <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf>
- access the ODS Database; in the Advanced Search screen, type in REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN in the Title field.

- **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)** <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cerd.htm>

Determinations of admissibility are called *Decisions* while determination on the merits are called *Opinions*.

For locating individual documents:

- access Treaty Body Database at <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf> for individual *Decisions* and for *Opinions* (labeled Jurisprudence).
- access the ODS Database; in the Advanced Search screen, type in "decision racial discrimination" or "opinion racial discrimination" (without quotes) in the Title field.

For locating the Committee's annual *Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*

- access the Treaty Bodies Database <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf>
- access the ODS Database; in the Advanced Search screen, type in REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

- Committee on the Rights of the Child <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/>
- **Human Rights Committee** <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/hrc.htm>

Determinations of admissibility are called *Decisions*. Determination on the merits are called *Views*.

For locating individual documents:

- access Treaty Body Database at <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf> for individual *Decisions* and for *Views* (labeled Jurisprudence).
- access the ODS Database; in the Advanced Search screen, type in UN symbol.

Decisions and *Views* of the Committee can be found <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/FramePage/TypeJurisprudence?OpenDocument>.

Official Records of the Human Rights Committee (1987 –1993) K3237.U55 U179; *Yearbook of the Human Rights Committee* (1979/80, 1983-1987) K3237.U55U179

EUROPE

1. Court of Justice of the European Communities (ECJ) <http://europa.eu.int/cj/en/index.htm>

As the judicial organ of the European Common Market, the role of the Court is to ensure that the European Treaties are interpreted and applied in accordance with the law. The Court of Justice worked alone until September 1989 when the Council attached to it a **Court of First Instance (CFI)** which has jurisdiction to deal with all actions brought by individuals and companies against decisions of the Community institutions and agencies.

CASES.

[In Print](#)

- Official source of judgments:
Reports of cases before the Court (1954-1989), KJE 924.5 .C68
Reports of cases before the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance (1989-), KJE 924.5 .C68
- Unofficial, commercial sources of judgments:
CCH Common Market Reporter (1962-1999), KJE 925.5 .C64
Common Market Law Reports (print) KJE 925.5 .C65 (1962-)

[Online](#)

- Internet access to current cases may be found at <http://europa.eu.int/cj/en/content/juris/index.htm>.
- WestLaw EU-CS (1954-) and *Common Market Law Reports* CML-RPTS (1963-)
- Lexis: Area of Law > International Law > Find Cases > EUR-Lex European Union Cases

2. European Court of Human Rights <http://www.echr.coe.int/>

This Court is the judicial organ of the European Convention of Human Rights. Only states parties to the Convention and the European Commission on Human Rights may refer cases to the Court. Individual litigants may, however, submit complaints to the Commission that may eventually go to the Court.

CASES:

[In print](#)

- *Series A, Judgments and decisions* (1990-1996?) KJC 5132 .A52 E88
- *Series B, Pleadings, oral arguments* KJC 5132 .A52 E882
- *European Human Rights Reports* (unofficial) KJC5132 .A52 E885, selected decision.
The reports are also available on Lexis under EURCOM;CASES or INTLAW;ECCASE and on Westlaw under EHR-RPTS (1979).
- *Strasbourg case law: leading cases from the European Human Rights Reports* KJC5132.A54 2001

Online:

- *Lists of judgments* can be found at <http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Case-Law/Case-law+information/Lists+of+judgments/>
- *European Human Rights Reports* on Westlaw under EHR-RPTS (1979).
- **HUDOC** <http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Case-Law/HUDOC/HUDOC+database/>
 - Excellent search mechanisms allow for searching by title, Convention article, full text, thesaurus keywords, and respondent state.

DIGESTS:

- *The Human Rights Case Digest: The European Convention System*
Accessible only through the online catalog, it is available electronically at http://www.lib.fsu.edu_ejournals.html.
Enter "Human Rights Case Digest" in the textbox following "Title begins with..."
- *Yearbook of the European Convention on Human Rights* KJC 5132 .A13 Y42

INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

The American Convention on Human Rights establishes the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

1. Inter-American Court of Human Rights http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index_ing.html

The Court, having contentious and advisory jurisdiction, consists of the seven member states that are party to the Convention. Only the Commission and the states may bring cases to the Court.

CASES:

In Print

- Initially a two-series approach was used to report cases.
Series A, Judgments and opinions (1982-1989), Strozier Library KDZ 574 .A52 I58
Series B, Pleadings, oral arguments and documents (1982-1984),
Strozier Library KDZ 574 .A52 I583
- Then, in 1987, a third series was added.
Series C, Decisions and Judgments (1987-), Strozier Library KDZ 574 .A52 I59
- Published three times a year, *International Human Rights Reports* covers judgments and opinions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. K3239.23 I57
- Major decisions are published in full in *Human Rights Law Journal*, JRNL H845.

Online

- Inter-American Court Decisions and Judgments at <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/casos.cfm>
- *Series A through E* are also available online at <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/iachr/iachr.html>
- Decisions of both the Court and the Commission are officially published in *Annual Reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* (<http://www.cidh.oas.org/annual.eng.htm>). These annual reports can also be accessed through WestLaw IACHR-OAS.

DIGESTS:

- *Annual Reports of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights* (1996-2003) are available online at <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/iachr/iachr.html>.
- *American Journal of International Law*, (JRNL A464)
- *International Legal Material*, (JX68 I5)

2. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights <http://www.cidh.org/>

The Commission has the jurisdiction to deal with individual petitions directed against a member state. Member states may file complaints against another only if both states have accepted jurisdiction to receive inter-state applications.

Individual cases before the Commission are published in the Commission's Annual Report (usually chapter III). The web site above contains annual reports from 1970.

The **Inter-American Human Rights Database** (<http://www.wcl.american.edu/pub/humright/digest/Inter-American/index.html>) contains documents in English and Spanish adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights since its first session in 1960. Reports on individual cases are available from this site.

A searchable index is available from World Legal Information Institute at <http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/53007.html>.

1. African International Courts and Tribunals <http://www.aict-ctia.org/index.html>

This web site is a central resource for cases and information on the transnational courts and tribunals in the region. For each international court or tribunal, researchers can find overviews of the courts, recent news, basic documents, selected bibliography, biographies of its judges, and related jurisprudence from Member States.

2. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights http://www.achpr.org/english/info/charter_en.html

The African Charter established the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**, a quasi-judicial body, to ensure the protection of human rights in Africa. The decisions of the Commission are available online from the University of Minnesota's Human Rights Library at <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/comcases/comcases.html>.

The Protocol to the African Charter established the **African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights** http://www.aict-ctia.org/courts_conti/achpr/achpr_home.html entered into force on January 25, 2004. On January 22, 2006, the first eleven Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights were elected. When cases are decided, they will be available from the site listed above.

INTERNATIONAL LAW IN U.S. COURTS

Using traditional legal research techniques, searchers will be able to find U.S. cases related to international law in federal reporters using print digests or electronic databases such as Lexis and WestLaw. To locate cases in American courts that have construed international agreements, consult a West digest under the topic "Treaties" or "International law."

American International Law Cases (1971-) JX238.A2 A53

This publication, now in its third series, covers decisions of federal and state courts in the United States dealing with questions of public international law.

American Law Reports, Federal

ALR offers access to annotations dealing with U.S. cases on international law issues. Check the *ALR Index* volumes (KF132.6 Index) under "United Nations," or "Foreign Countries/Jurisdiction."

Restatement of the Law: The Foreign Relations Law of the United States Reserve KF395.A2 F6 1987

This secondary source offers authoritative commentary by leading international law scholars in the United States on a wide range of issues.

United States Code Service, International Agreements KF62 1972 L38 Intl. Agree.

This volume contains the texts of major treaties as well as research references and case annotations.

United States Code Service, Notes to Uncodified Laws and Treaties KF62 1972 L38 Uncode Mat.

This volume contains case notes and decisions involving Federal laws, multilateral and bilateral agreements, and proclamations which were not originally classified to the U.S. Code or were classified but were subsequently eliminated.

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS AND SPECIAL COURTS

1. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) <http://www.ictcr.org/>

As the official UN website for the ICTR, this site offers access to case information, legal texts, ICTR forms, and a public judicial records database.

2. International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) <http://www.un.org/icty/index.html>

Located in the Hague, the ICTY was established 1993 by the Security Council of the United Nations. As the official UN website for the ICTY, this site includes news and information on the court, jurisprudence, basic legal documents, and rules of procedure.

3. International Criminal Court (ICC) <http://www.icc-cpi.int/home.html>

This site provides information, decisions, documents, and transcripts on current investigations and referred situations.

4. Special Court for Sierra Leone <http://www.sc-sl.org/index.html>

GENERAL SOURCES FOR JUDICIAL AND ARBITRAL DECISIONS

International Law Reports KZ 199.I58 (1st floor, Law Library)

This annual multi-volume set contains decisions of the International Court of Justice, the Court of Justice of the European Communities, the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization, and the municipal courts. It is one of the most important sources for full-text judicial opinions in English.

International Law in Domestic Courts

This database contains English translations of case law from over 65 jurisdictions with scholarly commentary on important points of international law. Cases dating back to 2000 can be searched by country, keyword or full text search. It is available electronically from FSU Law Library List of Databases at <http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/digitalresources.html>

International Legal Materials (ILM) JX68 I5

This bi-monthly publication contains selected full texts of important international law decisions, treaties, national legislation, international organizations resolutions and other documents. Recent ILM table of contents are available at <http://www.asil.org>. Electronic access to ILM is available through Hein Online (under Treaties and Agreements), LEXIS (INTLAW;ILM, 1980-) and WestLaw (ILM, 1980-).

Reports of International Arbitral Awards JX1991.A25

Comprehensive collection of international arbitral decisions produced by the United Nations.

SPECIALIZED SOURCES FOR JUDICIAL DECISIONS

International Tribunal for Law of the Sea (ITLOS) Decisions www.itlos.org

World Trade Organization (WTO) Decisions <http://www.wto.org>

- *Dispute Settlement Reports* (1996-) K4600.A53 W67. Includes Panel, appellate body, and arbitrator decisions
- *Worldtradelaw.net*
Legal research tool for World Trade Organization dispute settlement providing summary and analysis of all reports. Accessible from Law Library's List of Database's page at <http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/digitalresources.html>
- Lexis INTLAW;GTTWTO file
- Westlaw WTO-DEC

NAFTA Dispute Settlement Decisions

- Panel Decisions at http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/DefaultSite/index_e.aspx
- Lexis **INTLAW;NAFDEC**
- Westlaw **NAFTA-BIP**

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CASES ON INTERNET DATABASES

Commonwealth and International Human Rights Case Law Database (Interights)

<http://www.interights.org/searchdatabases.php?dir=databases>

The Commonwealth Human Rights Case Law Database provides summaries of recent human rights decisions from national courts in Commonwealth jurisdictions free of charge through a browse facility and a search engine. Many of the cases summarized are unpublished decisions that are not readily available in other jurisdictions.

World Legal Information Institute - Human Rights Courts and Tribunals Page

<http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/310.html>

The World Legal Information Institute hosts a new site with a comprehensive repository of over [270 databases](#) from 48 jurisdictions in 20 countries. Databases of case law, legislation, treaties, law reform reports, law journals, and other materials are included. Links to human rights courts and tribunals are found on this page. This is an excellent source!

SIM Case Law Database

<http://sim.law.uu.nl/SIM/dochome.nsf/?open>

This site offers access to various summaries of human rights case law from the Human Rights Committee, the Committee Against Torture, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It also offers summaries of judgments from the European Court of human Rights, the ICTY, and the ICTR.

Project DIANA Human Rights Archive (Yale University)

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diana/index.html>

This site is designed to be a reference tool for research in human rights law, with online litigation documents and links to reference sites throughout the Internet.

Project on International Courts and Tribunals

<http://www.pict-pcti.org/>

Refer to this database for access to news, information, and case law of international courts and tribunals. This covers the case law of *inter alia* the European and Inter-American Courts of Human Rights, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and Rwanda (ICTR), and the European Court of Justice.

RAVE

<http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/HHU/fakultaeten/jura/rave/en>

This database covers recent publications (articles and decisions) in public international law and European law. This database only contains citations to articles and decisions, not their entire text.

Refugee Case Law Site

<http://www.refugeecaselaw.org/>

The site currently collects, indexes, and publishes selected recent court decisions that interpret the legal definition of a "refugee."

WorldLII's Human Rights Case Law from International Courts and Tribunals

<http://www.worldlii.org/catalog/2561.html>

World Law is an Internet catalog of sites concerning public international law. Its search engine allows you to search the content of those sites simultaneously.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Thomas Buergenthal & Sean D. Murphy, *Public International Law in a Nutshell*, (4th ed., West 2007)

Morris L. Cohen & Kent C. Olsen, *Legal Research in a Nutshell*, 322-325 (7th ed., West 2000)

George Washington University Journal of International Law and Economics, *Guide to International Legal Research* (2005)

Marci Hoffman, *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law* <<http://www.asil.org/resource/humrts1.htm>> (last updated Mar. 9, 2007).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Treaty Bodies* (leaflet) <<http://www.unhchr.ch/pdf/leafletontreatybodies.pdf>>

United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide* <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/spechr.htm> (last updated Aug. 30, 2004).

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