

## HUMR4140 - Introduction to Human Rights Law - Autumn 2010

### Assignment – Mid-Term Essay

**Aim of Assignment:** Students demonstrate that they can critically analyse human rights law or institutions from doctrinal, external or comparative perspectives. Students should show that they can develop an appropriate method for their research question, present relevant material and arguments and adopt their own conclusions.

**Questions:** Choose one of the following questions below and upload your essay on Fronter by 10:00am Monday 1 November 2010.

1. Select three international or regional decisions from international or regional judicial or quasi-judicial human rights bodies on a particular right or issue. Critically analyse these decisions from the perspective of one of the schools of thought mentioned in Lecture 1 and assess to what extent these decisions are relevant to a national jurisdiction (which can be your own).
2. Choose a particular human right or issue and compare the relevant jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and Inter-American Human Rights System. Which jurisprudence is most legitimate and effective?
3. The Human Rights Council is currently undergoing a review of its performance. Do you think the Council has fulfilled its goals, particularly the Universal Periodic Review? In what ways could the Council be realistically improved?
4. Is protection from rape sufficiently protected by the international legal system, including by criminal courts and human rights bodies? How does this protection compare to protection of other rights of women? Should rape be addressed by a new international convention or should other issues be prioritised?
5. The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and the International Criminal Court have both been seized of cases concerning the situation in Darfur (see *COHRE v Sudan* and *Prosecutor v Bashir*). Critically analyse both cases and proceedings and examine which international body is best suited, if any, to addressing cases concerning violations of human rights in Darfur.

For the **referencing**, see the instructions in the guidelines for the Master's thesis. The basic approach is a social science citation system with a bibliography at the end. But the short style citations in the text can be placed in footnotes or in the text itself:

[http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/jus/jus/PIL/THESIS/dokumenter/Pamphlet\\_thesis\\_2010\\_1.pdf](http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/jus/jus/PIL/THESIS/dokumenter/Pamphlet_thesis_2010_1.pdf)

For **further instructions** on the structure of the assignment, see

<http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/jus/humanrights/HUMR4140/h10/undervisningsmateriale/Humr4140assignm.pdf>