



War Crimes in Africa Revisited: Comparative Perspectives on International Criminal Law and Accountability in Lesotho

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Abstract

War crimes have been a persistent issue in African countries, including Lesotho, where international criminal law (ICL) and accountability mechanisms are crucial for justice and reconciliation. The research employs a comparative analysis approach, drawing from secondary data sources including international treaties, national laws, court decisions, and academic literature. A key finding is the significant variation in prosecution outcomes across Lesotho's courts, with only one conviction for war crimes since the country's independence, highlighting the challenges faced by local legal systems. The study underscores the need for enhanced ICL implementation and judicial training to improve accountability for war crimes in Lesotho and other African nations. Recommendations include strengthening national legislation, fostering international cooperation, and increasing public awareness of ICL principles.

Keywords: *African geography, International criminal law, Accountability mechanisms, War crimes, Lesotho, Comparative analysis, Justice systems*

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