“Human security” as a new concept of international security of the 20th century

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Abstract
Actually, the second part of the 20th century characterized by the beginning of the conceptual understanding of “human security” in a system of the international security and international law, in general. It had linked with the historical past, such as world wars, many local military conflicts which claimed the lives millions of people, repressions, scientific and technological progress (the invention of nuclear weapons, various weapons of mass destruction), etc. Besides, it has linked with the present, such as terrorism, human trafficking, acts of aggression, etc., that entails the inevitable destruction of mankind, where the safety/security plays a crucial role. That’s why, in the early 1990s, the concept of “human security” was introduced into the international discussion. A number of international instruments of the universal and regional character were adopted about the issue of the protection of human rights in the context of “human security”, was termed the new concept of the 20th and the 21st centuries. In this context, the essential objective of this manuscript is the analysis of doctrinal, legal understanding of the concept of the “Humans Security”, taking into account the present conditions and the example of Ukraine (the situation of the East part of the country).

Keywords: human security; human safety; human rights; security system.

JEL Classification: K33, K38

1. Introduction

It should be pointed out that the complete need to study the issue of “human security” plays an important theoretical and practical role in the field of international law, especially regarding peacekeeping, development of countries and nations, support and ensuring the security of states.

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The researched topic has acquired special significance in recent decades, as it is inextricably linked with the past historical events, such as world wars and many local military conflicts that claimed the lives of millions of people, as well as with scientific and technological progress, such as the invention of nuclear weapons, various weapons of mass destruction, etc., which may lead to inevitable devastating results for both individual countries and for humanity as a whole.

As far as contemporary military conflicts are concerned, the example is the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine (2014 – until now) – in which about 13,000 people are killed, a quarter among whom are civilians.

Also, the observations of international institutions (UNHCR, OHCHR, UN, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE), which notice the systemic violation of human rights in this area, including Donetsk and Lugansk regions, controlled by Ukraine, should be pointed out.

First, the rights of citizens to life, liberty, security, and personal integrity are threatened.

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Statistics example of civilian casualties in the conflict zone of Ukraine in a particular period.

Precisely the human victims of not only past wars, but also of modern conflicts that exist in the world, like shown above, point to the need to rethink the doctrines of understanding international security and national security in favor of enhanced mechanisms for protecting human rights through the new concept of the end of the 20th century – “Human Security”.

2. The concept of “human security” in the security system and human rights

Since the UN Charter had been signed in 1945, the meaning and scale of security has become much wider. The security theory itself has long been considered and understood too narrowly, usually it was related to the security of the state against an external threat, or to the protection of national interests within the framework of foreign policy, or even global security against a nuclear holocaust, as mentioned by Kofi Annan.

There is neither a single recognized, universal definition of “human security” nor a well-established translation into other languages. In order to understand the essence of this term correctly, it is necessary to analyze the “human security” precisely in its English (universal) version.

Many scientists and practitioners focus on the existing state-oriented approach and offer to redirect it to people in accordance with the context of human security; the security of state borders should give way to the security of people living in this state. The simplest definition of security is “no danger and no threats”. It should be noted that the expanded use of the word “security” covers two purposes: (1) the concept of “security” goes beyond the concept of simple physical security in the traditional sense, (2) the people’s livelihood should be guaranteed by means of “social security”. Thus, the definition of “human security” includes the security of people: their physical protection, economic and social well-being, respect for their dignity, as well as the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In general, the term “human security” was introduced into the international debate in the 1990s in response to new (or more general) “downside risks” that

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could affect everyone. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) defined “human security” as “security against chronic threats such as hunger, diseases and repressions” and “protection against sudden and harmful disruptions in everyday life”. Although the actual term “human security” was first used by the UNDP in 1994, its origin can be traced back to earlier periods. The Clinton administration used the term in many foreign policy speeches in 1993 and 1994. Even earlier, the Helsinki Accords of 1975 linked state security with individual human rights\(^9\).

The attention also should be paid to the point of view of the Japanese diplomat Yukio Takasu, which defines three values of human security, namely: (1) human rights – civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural freedom and personal protection; legal basis; duties and obligations; responsibility; (2) human development – the development of human potential, resources, the development of the economic and social aspect; and (3) “human security” – protecting and expanding the capabilities of both individuals (the human) and the community as a whole; focus on risk prevention and mitigation; comprehensive and multifaceted policies; moral and ethical aspect\(^10\).

The phrase “human security” is becoming one of the constructs for new thinking and security debate. The emphasis on “human” security is a counterweight to the view that the only form of security that matters is state security, defined narrowly as “military defense of state interests and territory”. People, not the state, should be on the focus of human security. The main goal of human security is to expand the concept of security beyond national security, as one of the ways to force states to pay more attention to the needs of their citizens.

Thus, the choice of the term “security” is intended to convince governments that the safety of citizens is exactly the state security. In addition, the term implies that states may be adversely affected by the insecurity of citizens beyond their own borders\(^11\). Along with the definition, two main components of human security were identified in the Human Development Report, HDP: “freedom from fear” and “freedom from need”\(^12\), which were mentioned and listed as components of human protection: economic security, food security, health protection, environmental security, personal (physical) security, public security and political security.

The strength and novelty of the human security concept are perhaps best manifested when it is compared and contrasted to generally accepted concepts.

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There is a close correlation between human security and human rights. The ultimate goal and bearer of human rights and human security is a human. Both concepts place the individual into the center. Human rights have always been linked to personal security. “Security” is essentially a human right itself. UDHR 1948, according to Art. 3, proclaims that “everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”, where the English version of the “security of person” is viewed, while “personal security” is not a literal translation from the Russian official texts of this document, which are different definitions in terms of content and semantic meaning\(^\text{13}\), i.e. a direct reference to security within the framework of human rights is shown. Thus, for example, according to the text of Art. 3 of the UDHR, which is published on the web resource of the Legislature of Ukraine (Supreme Council of Ukraine), “security of person” is defined as “personal integrity”\(^\text{14}\). That is why the author is inclined to introduce the transliteration of this term through the English version of “human security” so that there would be no substitution of the semantic load of such a definition. Thus, in general, the right to security, according to Art. 3 of the UDHR, through “personal security”, is seen to a large extent as an obligation of the state not to interfere with the integrity of the individual, which, on the other hand, should also be considered as defense of this security by the same state.

It is this definition of “human security”, namely the “security of person” that has been included in numerous universal and regional documents. For example, Art. 9 ICCPR 1966 “everyone has the right to liberty and security of person)...”\(^\text{15}\), which, again, are broadcasted through personal security, which is presented as personal integrity; Art. 5 ECHR 1950: “everyone has the right to liberty and security of person”\(^\text{16}\). Such content is present in other similar documents of a regional nature. Obviously, human security through personal security is included in the above-mentioned (and similar) documents along with the right to life and the right to freedom. The line of thought in these provisions is more focused on protection from government interference in the event of arrest and detention and does not seem to indicate a broader approach that the UDHR preparatory materials promote. In this aspect, “personal” security cannot be equated with “human security”, since these concepts are still different. It should also be emphasized that, despite the fact that these are two different concepts, they are very closely related and it was “personal security” that gave rise to the formation of a general concept of “human security”.


In the context of understanding the concept of “security”, we must also point out the second component, which is “social security” or security in the social sphere, as reflected in international documents (through the concept of “social security”), which is also directly related to human rights and safety, in particular in Art. 22, 25 UDHR\textsuperscript{17}, Art. 9 ICESCR\textsuperscript{18} etc. Thus, we can conclude that the approach to understanding and need to formulate a concept/doctrine/strategy of human security is impossible without two above mentioned categories of security, the violation of which leads to the formation of a holistic concept of both – states and the system of international law.

Thus, the human “safety” or research concept human “security” is a “safe state or feeling”\textsuperscript{19}. Consequently, human security is a broader concept that includes basic rights, as well as basic opportunities and absolute needs\textsuperscript{20}. Indeed, many threats to human security, presented in various definitions of human security, can be regarded as violations of human rights.

3. Human security in the UN International Security System

Human security is a fairly new doctrine that arose at the end of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century. Its appearance is associated with the need to perceive the threats that arise in the world and is aimed at understanding global problems. This concept goes against the traditional understanding of security, where state interests are at the center, arguing that the right participant in security should be a person, not the state. Based on historical experience, it is advisable to note that states that have long ignored and violated human rights have turned into totalitarian countries. Such a policy led to the destruction of part of their own population, gradual degradation, and destruction. This fact confirms that perfection can be achieved only in a democratic society in the aggregate protection of human rights, society and the state.

Recently, the world has achieved an understanding that a human and his defense should be at the center of any philosophy and any action. The same is applied to the legal sphere, since legislative acts, for the most part, are aimed precisely at protecting a person and citizen. So, in 1999, UNSG Kofi Annan said: “First of all, a person should be at the center of everything. Even the concept of sovereignty itself has been developed in order to protect the individual, who is the sense of the existence of the state, and not vice versa. It becomes unacceptable to

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observe how the states themselves violate the rights of their citizens under the pretext of sovereignty.\footnote{Ibid.}

Comparing state and human security, one can note the fundamental difference between them. First, the different subjects are the main participants: the state or the person. In addition, the scale and nature of threats in the concept of human security include not only a threat to the physical existence of the state but also threats to other, relatively “new” types of security: economic, environmental, sociocultural, etc.

Human security is necessary as a response to the complex phenomenon of the interconnection of old and new security threats, such as ethnic intolerance, human trafficking, terrorism, sudden crises, as well as the threats of hostilities that constantly hang over humanity and those wars that go on for years. All this also leaves its mark on the traditional concept of security, which now cannot be focused only on external military acts of aggression.

For the first time, human security was mentioned within the UN framework in 1992 in Agenda for Peace Report VI UNSG (Boutros Boutros-Ghali), in which the Secretary called for a comprehensive approach to human security to address the root causes of conflicts covering economic, social and political issues.\footnote{Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping, 1992. https://www.un.org/ar/sc/repertoire/89-92/Chapter%208/GENERAL%20ISSUES/Item%2029_Agenda%20for%20peace_.pdf, consulted on 1.10.2019.}

The importance of the concept of human security for the international community was recognized in 1994 in the Human Development Report of the UNDP, operating in more than 150 countries. The document notes that the concept of security has long been considered as the need to avoid conflict between states, as well as the need to protect borders, however, for each individual person it means a sense of security, and, therefore, includes not only the need to prevent and counter certain cataclysms, but also providing daily needs such as: employment, health care, a clean environment etc.\footnote{Human Development Report 1994, United Nations Development Programme. Oxford University Press, 1994. 226 c.}


The report of the Commission on Human Security “Human Security Now” from 2003 defines “human security” as protecting the vital core of all human lives in ways that help strengthen human freedoms and improve people. Thus, human security is...
the security of its fundamental freedoms necessary for life\textsuperscript{25}. In addition, an important aspect of the report is the thesis that human security complements state security, contributes to the development of people and human rights. The promotion of democratic principles is a step towards the achievement of human security and its development, which allows people to participate and be heard\textsuperscript{26}.

In general, such a new definition of human security, proposed by the Commission, is fundamentally changing the traditional understanding of human security. Firstly, it contains a departure from traditional state-oriented concepts, the focus of which, first of all, is the country's security from military aggression. In this concept, attention is focused on individuals, protecting their rights and expanding interests. Secondly, such a definition focuses attention on many threats which are dangerous to human and thereby emphasize the interrelation between human security, development and human rights. Thirdly, such an understanding of human security can initiate the foundation for the development of an integrated, coordinated and people-oriented approach to achieving peace, security and development both within countries and on the international level.

In conclusion, the Commission emphasized the need to take measures to maintain human security in the following situations: protection of people during violent armed conflicts; protecting people from the proliferation of weapons; maintaining safety of movement; the establishment of funds for security in post-conflict situations; promotion of trade in the interests of the poor; ensuring a minimum standard of living throughout the world; everyone's access to basic health care; expansion of the global patent rights system; everyone's access to education and their empowerment; the freedom of individuals to have their own personality. For the implementation of each of these political conclusions, joint efforts are needed – the cooperation of subjects of state, private and civil society, which can help to clarify and develop standards, begin integrated activities and monitor progress and effectiveness. Such efforts can create a horizontal, cross-border source of legitimacy that complements traditional vertical structures. Thus, human security can be a concept that links many existing initiatives\textsuperscript{27}.

In 2003, the Commission on Human Security ceased to exist, but following its recommendations, the Advisory Council on Human Security was created. The main objective of his activity was to provide advice to the UNSG, as well as the implementation of policies in the field of supporting the development of the concept of human security\textsuperscript{28}. This council played an important role in the creation in 2004 of the Human Security Unit at the UN Secretariat. Since its inception, it


\textsuperscript{26} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{27} Ibid.

has funded over 175 projects in approximately 70 countries around the world aimed at achieving the goals set in 2003 in the Report of the Commission on Human Security. Examples of such projects include the “Protection and return to public life of victims of trafficking and domestic violence” (Moldova); “The safety of human (individuals and society) in areas affected by the Chernobyl accident through the provision of information through local channels” (Ukraine); “Enhancing the social and economic opportunities of mine-affected societies: eliminating the threat of cluster bombs and non-disarmed facilities” (Lebanon); “The return to normal life in society of former participants in hostilities through the formation of labor opportunities and self-employment” (Sierra Leone).

Holding of the 2005 World Summit, the final document of which was enshrined in UNGA Resolution 60/1 of September 16, 2005, has become the development of the idea of human security. The purpose of the summit was to bring together the heads of state and government to discuss and define the concept of “human security”. They recognized in paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document that “all people, including vulnerable people, have the right to be free from fear and need, having equal opportunities to exercise all their rights and to fully reveal their human potential”. To this end, UN member states have agreed to continue discussions on the term “human security”. In accordance with this document, human security is based on the understanding that chapters retain a leading role in ensuring the survival, livelihoods, and dignity of their citizens. The provision is an invaluable tool to assist governments in identifying critical and pervasive threats to the security of their people and the stability of their sovereignty. It promotes the implementation of programs and policies that counteract and eliminate emerging threats. This helps governments and the international community to make better use of their resources and develop strategies that strengthen the framework for protecting and empowering, which are needed to guarantee human security and promote peace and stability at every level – local, national, regional and international.

The consequence of the confirmation of such a policy was the 2010 UNSG Human Security Report, which once again confirmed the need to develop the concept of human security and establish follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit.

Since 2012, the concept of human security has existed as a UN prerogative in close connection with sustainable development, especially in the Sustainable Development Programme for 2030, emphasizing the multi-faceted nature of the problem, where one of the goals is to ensure openness, security, vitality and sustainability of cities and populated localities.

Adoption of the UN GA Resolution 66/290 in 2012 on the “Follow-up to paragraph 143 on Human Security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome” was a

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logical continuation of the study of this issue, in which the concept of human security was defined as an approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people. The document states that the human security concept does not entail the threat or the use of force or coercive measures. Human security must be implemented with full respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, including full respect for the sovereignty of States, territorial integrity and non-interference in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of States. Human security does not replace State security but complements it.

Based on this Resolution, taking into account the provisions of Paragraph 143 of the World Summit Outcome Document 2005, in July 2014, the UN Human Security Group prepared a Strategic Plan for 2014–2017 aimed at further elaboration on the concept of human security. The document specifies the main tasks for ensuring human security as follows: mainstreaming human security in the activities of the United Nations, which means increasing use of the human security approach by United Nations bodies and recognition of the universality of the human security framework and its relevance to addressing the range of highly interdependent challenges faced by people across and within countries and regions of the world; extending of global awareness of human security and the usage of the human security approach outside the UN system.

In the framework of the Resolution (66/290) states reaffirmed that human security does not entail a threat or use of force or coercive measures, and in no way does human security replace state security, but at the same time, human security is based on national responsibility. Since the political, economic, social and cultural conditions for human security vary significantly between and within countries, and at different points in time, human security is determined at the national level, which is compatible with local realities; Governments retain the primary role and responsibility of ensuring the survival, livelihood, and dignity of their citizens.

Human security requires greater collaboration and partnership among Governments, international and regional organizations and civil society, which must be implemented with full respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, including full respect for the sovereignty of States, territorial integrity and non-interference in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of States.

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Further development of the theory of human security is presented in the framework of the new strategic plan developed by the UN, which covers the period from 2014 to 2017, which is important for the development of human security as a fundamental concept. The Development Plan defines the importance of progressive environmental protection for the future of mankind, along with steps to ensure peace and strengthen justice, which altogether makes the background of human security definition. Although the adoption of GA Resolution 66/290 in September 2012 was clearly a transformational moment for improving human security, the international community requires a medium-term vision of human security, which would determine that security is central to the global community. The strategic plan identified two main objectives:

- informative presentation of human security in the framework of UN activities (to develop tools and demonstrations of lessons, to support the implementation of the UNGA Resolution on human security, to review and change the principles regulating human security in order to guarantee the promotion of human security in the organization);
- stimulate and support cooperation between UN agencies, Member States, regional bodies, scientific organizations, and civil society groups to further understand and use the human security approach\(^{34}\).

Already, the world community recognizes that the future of mankind requires the articulation of a new set of global goals that provide a longer-term horizon with greater flexibility and relevance. The survey identifies the priorities of the world community in accordance with four key areas: (1) social development; (2) economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; (4) security.

4. Understanding Human Security in the Regional Security System of Europe

The concept of Human Security is also reflected in the regional collective security system, which directly represents a common universal ideology with a particular understanding of this issue based on the specifics of regional systems and certain countries.

For example, the OSCE also supports the development of the general concept of human security, therefore the principles of this system themselves are neither new nor alien to it\(^{35}\). In its concept, the OSCE perceives human security as a comprehensive concept. In the system of organization, this is reflected in three dimensions, which are based on such documents as Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-Operation in Europe, 1975\(^{36}\), Document of the Stockholm

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Conference, 1986\(^{37}\), Charter of Paris for a New Europe, 1990\(^{38}\), the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, 1990\(^{39}\), The Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (5-29 June 1990)\(^{40}\), Lisbon Document 1996\(^{41}\), CSCE Helsinki Document 1992 “The Challenges of Change”\(^{42}\), Istanbul Summit 1999\(^{43}\) etc. The above-mentioned dimensions are the following: the military-political (a set of matters as confidence-building between member states, arms control, conflict prevention and resolution, countering transnational threats), economic and environmental (expanding access to Western markets, developing advanced technologies, private entrepreneurship and regulating environmental processes), human dimension (OSCE activity on human rights and democracy, building a free society, respect for the rights of each member of society, etc.). Thus, in fact, the human security issue is considered within all dimensions of the OSCE.

With reference to recent events on the territory of Ukraine (conducted the Antiterrorist Operation, today is Joint Forces Operation), the issue of the concept of human security is a matter of priority. Thus, according to the meeting held by the OSCE in September 2016 (Warsaw), the standpoints of the Human Security Concept and the reform of the civil sector in Ukraine were set forth\(^{44}\). The provisions states, that the law-enforcement and rule of law agencies are the most important components of the civilian security sector in Ukraine, which is undergoing large-scale reform now. In general, the success of the reforming process depends on the basic approaches specific to the transitional phase of the state’s development and the role being played by Ukrainian civil society. It was noted that the progress of civilian Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Ukraine is characterized by own special features related to obtaining practical experience, both positive and negative one, in addressing current threats and challenges to the national security as well as maintaining the appropriate relationship between security and development policy.


Based on the generally recognized approach for successful accomplishing SSR an emphasis should be made on recognizing the relationship between security and development policy and orienting security strategies towards human security for all people in the country. The primary focus must be on the mentioned idea. Moreover, democratic governance and civil oversight are equally important, as well as professionalizing the security sector and establishing a monopoly of force over other armed groups in the society. Hence, the proper balance and interdependence between all the above-mentioned goals of SSR should be maintained in order to achieve the desired results. Therefore, orienting security strategy towards human security should be among current priorities in the national SSR.

Thus, it can be seen that the structural arrangement, according to this concept, approximates maximally the security of the country broadly to human security assuming full civilian control in this area. Such a policy should be a national security priority. At this meeting, it was mainly focused on identifying and addressing threats and challenges to national security. It is also admitted that there are certain overlaps between declared national and human security interests related to protection of human values, human rights and freedoms, maintaining the rule of law and prosperity. Citizen or human security as such is not properly defined in the conceptual provisions, primarily emphasizing public security, which has a more specific meaning as part of a broader human security approach.

In general, it was determined that human security is a conceptual framework for comprehensive civil society engagement with security actors. Human security is also known as multidimensional security and citizen security having a population-centric and not enemy-centric perspective. The level and effectiveness of comprehensive civil society engagement in SSR could be considered as an indicator of the transformation process to a citizen-oriented state. In a citizen-oriented state, the security sector serves the population. Peace and stability are relative to the degree that the main components of the security sector serve locally defined human security goals and are accountable to local communities.

At the same time, there is a fairly broad field of maneuvering to continue building up the OSCE capacity for involving in SSR on Ukraine’s example to facilitate its transformation to a social-oriented model based on the human security concept. Along with activities on the ground, priority attention should be paid to strategic approaches defining ultimate success, including in the area of rule of law. For example, let us consider the following recommendations:

- Providing assistance in further improving the conceptual foundations of the rule of law functioning in Ukraine as an important part of the civilian security sector, with an emphasis on the formation of its socially-oriented model based on the human security concept;

45 Ibid.
- Supporting implementation of integrated approach to civilian security sector reform and development process;
- Preparing and disseminating the best practices and recommendations on reforming the judicial system and law-enforcement agencies in the East European countries as well as civil society engagement.
- Increasing potential of project activities in the field of human security study;
- Providing expert assistance to all agencies involved concerning the implementation of main conceptual provisions in the field of civilian security sector reform with an emphasis on promoting the concept of human security;
- Supporting regional initiatives and networks to exchange experiences and best practices of civil society integration in SSR being applicable to Ukraine;
- Assisting in organizing informational campaigns to explain the essence and main features of the modern concept of human security and its role in the formation of a socially-oriented state based on the rule of law model;
- Expanding the scope of engaging civil society, non-governmental experts and academia representatives to the process of SSR as well as providing further support to strengthening interaction between the state and public as a vital element of building local ownership based on the new civil-society strategy.46

5. Conclusion

Thus, we can conclude that nowadays the world is on the verge of a new “connection between human and military” referring to security importance in order to protect the rights of every person. The study of the security phenomenon in its historical development indicates that the reason for the emergence and existence of public safety is the objective need of the social organism for self-preservation from the dangers and threats of the world. In the process of human society development, the content of the “security” concept expands significantly – from its understanding as a subject’s ability to defend himself from an attack and outside violence – to the neutralizing of a set of threats against the country, including individuals, society, and the state in various spheres of life. Exactly in this meaning of the 20th century, a new perception and understanding of security have emerged, which is understood as “human security”. The notion included both physical security and “personal security” – economic, social well-being, respect for dignity, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

That is why, the concept or, in the author’s opinion, it is better to use the term “campaign”, for the development of human security has not only a strategic landmark, but also practical implementation aspects aimed at comprehensive understanding of the essence of the idea and the provision of measures on human security protection, including the spectrum of human values, without which the appropriate functioning of human security cannot be possible.

46 Ibid.
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