

International Protection of Human Rights

Exam I

5 November 2021

Question 1: Arcadia is a member of the UN since 1993. It is party to all the main UN conventions, without reservations, but it has not accepted any of the optional complaints procedures connected to these. The country is very divided. Arcadia is formally a democracy. However as the president's loyal supporters have an overwhelming majority in the Parliament as well as the President fully controlling the executive body, there is little hope of success for domestic initiatives which would improve of the human rights situation in the country. Of particular concern is the official disapproval of any opposition voices. As a result, many opposition politicians and other persons raising critical voices concerning the President, are silenced by subjecting them to incommunicado detention and forced disappearances.

Your task is to advice human rights activists in Arcadia by identifying which UN human rights procedures are available to improve the human rights situation in Arcadia, more specifically the treatment of the opposition.

In addition to identifying the procedures, you are asked to describe shortly the different procedures, place the different procedures in the proper framework within the UN human rights protection system and shortly motivate why each of the procedures identified is available and helpful in the situation described.

Question 2: Many non-Western States invoke cultural relativistic arguments in response to allegations by various UN human rights bodies of their poor human rights record. Give your well-reasoned opinion as to how to respond to these cultural relativistic arguments.

Question 3: Describe the ways in which international human rights are relevant in the protection of human rights on the national level.

Question 4: Describe the different human rights frameworks in the protection of human rights in Europe. In your answer, you should include main characteristic and differences as well as an evaluation of how each of these frameworks is relevant from the point of view of protection of human rights in this geographical context.

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Upload all answers in one single document.

Good luck!