

Chapter 1 : Download [PDF] Local Remedies In International Law Free Online | New Books in Politics

- *Local Remedies in International Law - Second Edition* - by - Chittharanjan Felix Amerasinghe Frontmatter/Prelims
More information *Local Remedies in International Law. Second Edition. This work examines the local remedies rule historically and particularly in modern international law.*

The rule of exhaustion of local remedies started as an international law principle relating to diplomatic protection. The idea was that a measure of respect should be accorded to the respondent state and its legal rules. In human rights law, the rule of local remedies is based on the principle that states should be primary enforcers of Convention rights. It was felt that unlike diplomatic procedures, the application of the rule should conform to fairness and not cause the individual undue hardship in securing a reasonably quick resolution in Strasbourg. In effect, petitioners are not prevented from bringing cases straight to the Strasbourg Court without first going through the national authorities, it is simply that if they do so, it is open to the respondent state to assert inadmissibility based on non-exhaustion. Once this is established the burden passes to the petitioner to prove that local remedies have been exhausted. In theory then the Court should not have to address issues which are new compared to the procedure in the national system, nor should it have to scrutinise the case more carefully than the judicial authorities have been given an opportunity to do on a national level. So it makes it difficult to establish any hard edge around the application of the principle. We can only glean the broadest of guidelines as to how does the rule of exhaustion work, in practice. The requirement of availability A remedy is considered available if it can be pursued by the applicant without difficulties or impediments. The requirement of effectiveness A remedy to be effective must exist within the domestic legal system and offer a reasonable prospect of success. In the early landmark Irish abortion counselling case *Open Door and Dublin Well Woman v Ireland* the Commission the body then arbitrating on admissibility stated that an applicant is only required to have recourse to remedies which are capable in practice of providing redress in relation to the particular situation at hand. On the other hand where it is arguably possible for the courts to interpret domestic law in a manner compatible with the Convention without applying for a declaration, an applicant is expected to make use of the Human Rights Act *Upton v United Kingdom* No real prospect of success An applicant is dispensed from the obligation to exhaust certain local remedies if, in the circumstances of the case, those remedies are inadequate; a remedy which does not have a reasonable prospect of success is not an effective remedy and thus there is no need to exhaust it. A remedy is ineffective if, considering the given case law in the national reports, it does not offer any real chance of success. The burden of proof is effectively on the applicant to give evidence of the existence of such unpromising case-law. The fact that an identical claim has been dismissed may be sufficient to indicate that there is no real prospect of success. The case of *Costello-Roberts*, it will be remembered, was a challenge to the widespread use of corporal punishment in private schools in the UK. The same complaint The applicant is required to raise in substance in the domestic proceedings the complaints made in Strasbourg and in compliance with the formal requirements and time-limits imposed by domestic law *Cardot v*. It is not necessary for the formulation of the Convention complaint to be identical, just the substance. Account will be taken not just of the personal circumstances of the applicant, but of the general legal and political context in which the alleged remedies operate. Applicants are not expected to try more than one remedy if there are more available *McCann v United Kingdom*, nor is anyone required to try the same body again by way of a repeated application *Granger v United Kingdom* Availability of non-judicial remedies There is some uncertainty over whether remedies of a non-judicial nature, such as recourse to an Ombudsman, need to be exhausted or not. In the early days the Commission tended to allow such applications through. So for example it was not considered an effective remedy to have recourse to the Board of Visitors or any other body whose powers are limited to recommendation *Lehtinen v Finland*; *Leander v Sweden*. The availability of a request for exercise of ministerial discretion to award compensation is not considered an effective remedy for the purposes of Article Procedural limits In its case law about exhaustion of local remedies, Strasbourg has consistently held that the formal requirements and time limits laid down in domestic law should normally be complied with.

This is the case even in asylum and cases where there is alleged ill treatment in the destination state to which the individual has been deported *Bahaddar v Netherlands*. In deportation cases involving allegations of torture then the Court takes the approach that automatic and mechanical application of domestic procedural rules should not deny asylum seekers a realistic opportunity to prove their claim; procedural rules must enable full effect to be given to Article 3. Whether the applicant is required to go thus far, or further to the Supreme Court is very fact sensitive. Article 35 is of course an admissibility requirement, whereas Article 13 is a substantive obligation imposed on Contracting States. But they effectively say the same thing. In many cases Strasbourg allows applicants to fast-track their claims via this provision. The court thus disregarded the express requirement in the text of Article 13, which is the guarantee of an effective remedy only if one or other of the substantive rights set forth in the Convention have actually been violated, to a mere requirement that a person has an arguable case on violation.

6 7 Article 41 c of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 26 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 46 of the American Convention on Human Rights. Jessup, A Modern Law of Nations p. A consequence of these developments is that international organs, such as the European Commission of Human Rights which was not essentially a judicial organ, although it acted in a quasi-judicial capacity in dealing with cases alleging violation of human rights, and the European Court of Human Rights, which is, have had to deal with the application of the rule of local remedies. It is important to recognize that it is the rule as accepted in general or customary international law that these organs have been applying. However, the purported content and limits of the rule being applied are those of the customary universal rule of international law. Also, in effect much of the relevant and documented application of the rule has been taking place in regional arenas, although the UN Human Rights Committee also applies it under the relevant instruments. The regional nature of the organs that have most frequently been dealing with the rule may not be critical, in so far as the organs are genuine international organs which are enforcing international obligations. The exposure of the 8 See e. It is also true that in the area of diplomatic protection or in the relationship between an individual and a foreign state there has been a growing tendency, where possible, to exclude by implication or express agreement the application of the rule of local remedies, as is demonstrated by the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and the Nationals of other States,⁹ by many bilateral investment treaties, and by the Claims Settlement Declaration by Algeria of relating to the agreement between the US and Iran. The lesson to be learnt from this kind of practice is that the rule of local remedies is still regarded as very pertinent to the settlement of international disputes involving aliens and can only be excluded generally by a deliberate act of states involved in a dispute. That having been said, it must also be remembered that of special importance is the fact that the development of the rule in recent times has 9 10 11 See Article The fact that a state or states may agree to exclude the application of the rule in the settlement of a dispute does not detract from the quality of the rule as a customary rule of law. The incidence of this practice in recent years merely attests to the willingness of respondent states for a variety of reasons to submit disputes directly to international settlement in the interests of peace. That states consciously address the issue of the rule in connection with the settlement of disputes involving the protection of aliens is proof that the rule is otherwise viable and a serious impediment to the direct settlement of a dispute at the international level. It does not in fact reduce the importance of the rule or affect its relevance in the area of the diplomatic protection of aliens. In effect, in so far as it is the rule of customary international law that is basically being applied, this is what is of relevance, so that it is not untrue to say that what has been developed is basically the rule of customary international law relating to diplomatic protection. While the application per se, for example, of the rule of local remedies as an incident in the protection of human rights through international instruments will be examined, the evolution of the rule in its application as a rule of customary international law, originally linked with diplomatic protection, will certainly be a particular focus of attention. Recent developments show that the rule of local remedies is regarded not only as an existing rule but also as in many ways a useful one.

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In this book, Professor Amerasinghe examines the local remedies rule in terms of both historical and modern international law. He considers both the customary international law as well as the application of the rule to, among others, human rights protection and international organizations.

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Covering all the important institutional aspects of international organizations, it discusses a range of topics including membership and representation, international and national personality, the doctrine of ultra vires, liability of members to third parties, dissolution and succession.

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Professor Amerasinghe examines the local remedies rule in terms of both historical and modern international law. He considers both the customary international law as well as the application of the rule to, among others, human rights protection and international organizations. New material includes bilateral investment treaties and state contracts.

Chapter 7 : Local Remedies in International Law

IISD Best Practices Series Exhaustion of Local Remedies in International Investment Law ILC Draft Articles on Diplomatic Protection The ELR requirement as a condition for the exercise of diplomatic protection is considered by the ILC as a.