Trends. Hissen Habre and Human Rights: Right or Wrong?

Editor

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp

Part of the African Studies Commons, Ethics and Political Philosophy Commons, Human Rights Law Commons, Latin American Studies Commons, and the Leadership Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp/vol8/iss9/5

This Trends is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Bulletin of Political Psychology by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact commons@erau.edu.
Hissen Habre has been indicted on torture charges by a Sengalese court and criminal adjudication is ongoing in Senegal. Of special note is that the charges refer to alleged misbehaviors in Chad, not Senegal, by a former Chadian president. As such, this case becomes the first significant fallout of the ongoing legal activities involving Spain's extradition request for former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet. This request already has been the catalyst for the precedent that former national leaders can be prosecuted outside their countries for some violations of human rights committed within their countries.

Although supporters of human rights might ascribe to the Habre prosecution proof that even the highest authorities can be held accountable for human rights violations, one must note that the highest in this case and the Pinochet case have not been formally indicted. The highest authorities in both cases are the political actors that provided instrumental political, economic, and security support for Habre and Pinochet. These authorities include political leaders (at the time of Habre's and Pinochet's human rights violations) of the United States and other Western nation-states who often have been the most formidable moral advocates and arbiters for human rights and accountability for their violation.