PROJECT

Topic:

Public International Law

Guided By:

Miss Amna

Submitted By:

Name: Hafiz M. Freed Khan

Roll No: F22 - 1008

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International Law and Municipal Law: Relationship Between Both

International law and municipal law are two distinct legal systems that govern different aspects of human activity. International law regulates relations between states, while municipal law governs the conduct of individuals within a state. The relationship between these two systems is complex and has been the subject of much debate among scholars and practitioners.

International Law:

International law is a body of rules and principles that govern the conduct of states and international organizations. It is derived from various sources, including:

- Treaties: agreements between states or international organizations
- Customs: practices and usages accepted as law by states
- General principles of law: fundamental principles common to many legal systems
- Judicial decisions: decisions of international courts and tribunals
- Writings of scholars: teachings of publicists and scholars

International law is enforced through various means, including:

- International courts and tribunals: e.g., International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court
- Diplomatic means: e.g., negotiations, mediation, arbitration
- Economic sanctions: e.g., trade embargoes, asset freezes

Examples of international law include:
- Geneva Conventions: regulate conduct of war and protect civilians and prisoners of war
- UN Charter: establishes principles and purposes of the United Nations
- WTO agreements: regulate international trade and commerce

Municipal Law:

Municipal law, also known as national law, regulates the conduct of individuals within a state. It is derived from:
- National constitutions: fundamental laws of a country
- Statutes: laws enacted by legislative bodies
- Judicial decisions: decisions of national courts
- Administrative regulations: rules and regulations issued by executive authorities

Municipal law is enforced through national courts and law enforcement agencies. Examples of municipal law include:
- Contract law: governs agreements between individuals and businesses
- Tort law: governs liability for harm or injury
- Criminal law: governs crimes and punishments

Relationship Between International Law and Municipal Law:

The relationship between international law and municipal law is complex and varies depending on the country. There are two main approaches:

1. Dualist Approach: International law and municipal law are separate and distinct systems. International law is not

part of municipal law unless incorporated through legislation.

2. Monist Approach: International law is part of municipal law and takes precedence over conflicting national laws.

Theories of Incorporation:

There are several theories of incorporation, including:

1. *Adoption:* International law is incorporated into municipal law through legislation or judicial decision.
2. *Transformation:* International law is transformed into municipal law through legislation or judicial decision.
3. *Incorporation:* International law is automatically incorporated into municipal law without need for legislation or judicial decision.

Examples of Incorporation:

- United States: International law is part of municipal law, but not supreme (dualist approach).
- United Kingdom: International law is not part of municipal law unless incorporated through legislation (dualist approach).
- Germany: International law takes precedence over conflicting national laws (monist approach).

Conflict Between International Law and Municipal Law: Conflicts can arise between international law and municipal law. In such cases:

1. *International Law Prevails:* In cases of conflict, international law takes precedence over municipal law (e.g., Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations).

2. *Municipal Law Prevails:* In some cases, municipal law may prevail over international law (e.g., US Supreme Court decision in Medellin v. Texas).

Consequences of Conflict:

1. *State Responsibility:* A state may be held responsible for breach of international law, even if municipal law is to blame.
2. *International Liability:* A state may be liable for damages caused by breach of international law.

Examples of Conflict:

- *Filartiga v. Pena-Irala (1980):* US court applied international law to hold a Paraguayan official liable for human rights abuses.
- *Medellin v. Texas (2008):* US Supreme Court held that international law did not supersede municipal law in a death penalty case.

Resolving Conflict:

1. *Judicial Review:* National courts can review and interpret international law to resolve conflicts.
2. *Legislative Action:* National legislatures can enact laws to implement international law.
3. *International Mechanisms:* States can use international mechanisms, such as arbitration or mediation, to resolve disputes.

Impact of International Law on Municipal Law:

1. *Harmonization:* International law can lead to harmonization of national laws.

2. *Development of National Law:* International law can influence the development of national law.
3. *Protection of Human Rights:* International law can provide a framework for protecting human rights.

Conclusion:

The relationship between international law and municipal law is complex and varies depending on the country. Understanding the different approaches and theories of incorporation is crucial for navigating conflicts between international law and municipal law. As globalization increases, the interaction between international law and municipal law will continue to grow, making it essential to understand the relationship between these two legal systems.

Summary:

- International law regulates relations between states, while municipal law governs conduct of individuals within a state.
- The relationship between international law and municipal law varies depending on the country, with dualist and monist approaches.
- Understanding the theories of incorporation and consequences of conflict is crucial for navigating conflicts between international law and municipal law.

Recommendations:

1. *National Courts:* Should interpret and apply international law to resolve conflicts.
2. *Legislatures:* Should enact laws to implement international law.
3. *International Organizations:* Should provide guidance and support for states to implement international law.

By understanding the relationship between international law and municipal law, we can better navigate the complexities of global governance and promote the rule of law.