



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

TEL: 020 7589 6655
FAX: 020 7581 1353
www.zhcl.org.uk
E-mail: zhcl@btconnect.com
E-mail: immzhcl@btconnect.com

ZAMBIA HOUSE,
2, PALACE GATE,
LONDON, W8 5NG.

ZHCL/64/1

14 July 2011

Mr. Jakub Macak,
Somerville College
Oxford, OX 2 6HD
Direct Line: 07726268941
Email: kubo.macak@some.ox.ac.uk

Dear Mr. Jakub Macak,

Let me firstly thank you for your perceived confidence that as a High Commission we would attempt addressing your issues on the applicability of the rules governing international armed conflicts.

I have forthwith forwarded your questionnaire to Zambia so that competent authorities can deal with your issues adequately since you requested for the State's position.

With this notwithstanding and without doubt I feel that your issues are of serious concern especially in light of what has happened recently in Libya where there has been foreign military intervention in support of the insurgents against a legally constituted government of Muammar Gaddafi.

The term military intervention in itself is very relative and has serious potential for misinterpretation depending on which side of the coin one is looking at. Broadly and generally the meaning is as simple as, "the use of military forces either domestically or internationally". However, the legal meaning according to international law is that military intervention is the,

“forcible or dictatorial interference of a state in the affairs of another state using fire arms with a calculated intention of imposing certain conduct or consequences on that other state.”

In any case, it may be of interest to note that the Libyan issue is very complex because it is a United Nations mandated intervention but whose execution has been violated to help create right circumstances to benefit the intervening forces.

In view of this therefore, it becomes debatable as to what constitutes a legitimate reason or cause for use of military forces within the international system which challenges the role of the UN in general and the Security Council in particular. Here what helps is the study of history with a vital purpose to provide background and context in which certain situations allow authority of military action. Meaning that, if that is how the Libyan intervention has been looked at, then it remains justifiable.

Finally the bottom line is that no state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever, in the internal and external affairs of any state. Consequently therefore armed intervention is a violation of international law.

I wish you all the best in your research as you still await a further response from me from Zambia.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Royson M. Mukwena
HIGH COMMISSIONER