

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights



The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) is one of two continental bodies charged with protecting human rights in Africa and interpreting the [African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) (African Charter). Its counterpart, the [African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#), has a more expansive mandate.

The Court is based in Arusha, Tanzania, where it holds four ordinary sessions per year. It also holds extraordinary sessions when convened by the President of the Court.

States Parties to the African Charter:

Out of the [African Union](#)'s 55 Member States, 30 have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Court has jurisdiction to hear complaints concerning human rights violations allegedly committed by any one of those States, when those complaints are submitted by the African Commission, a State party, or an African intergovernmental organization. Those 30 States are: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Comoros, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, South Africa, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda. In addition, eight States have authorized the Court to hear complaints presented by individuals and non-governmental organizations with observer status before the African Commission. Those eight States are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Tanzania, and Tunisia. Rwanda withdrew its acceptance of this jurisdiction after having previously accepted it. As of April 2020, Tanzania, Benin, and Cote d'Ivoire have announced their intention to withdraw from the Court's jurisdiction over individual and NGO complaints.

The Court's Activities:

- Issue [advisory opinions](#) concerning the interpretation of the Charter and other human rights instruments
- Decide cases concerning alleged human rights violations by States parties to the Protocol
- Issue "provisional measures" to prevent imminent, irreparable harm to an individual or group

Basic Instruments:

The following is a list of core instruments relevant to the AfCHPR's work, not including [other](#) continental human rights agreements, guidelines, and interpretations:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights ([text](#))
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights ([text](#))
- Rules of Court of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (2010) ([text](#))

To learn more about the African Commission, visit IJRC's webpages on the [African Human Rights System](#), [Research Aids](#), and [Country Factsheets](#).