



The Road to Reconciliation?

Optimizing the Legitimacy and Efficacy of The International Criminal Court within The African Union and Africa

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The main aim of this thesis is to determine whether the ICC is indeed suffering from such a legitimacy crisis, particularly within the African Union, and then by extension in Africa, and to subsequently explore and reduce this legitimacy crisis under common identified legitimacy-deficient fault lines. As such, this research aims to address identified rifts, propose solutions and enhance the legitimacy and efficacy of the ICC and its Prosecutor within the African Union, and most importantly, within Africa. The end goal of this thesis is thus to facilitate what might be considered a type of political reconciliation between both institutions, a rebuilding of the fractured relationship that now supposedly exists between the ICC and AU. The latter goal of reconciliation is considered crucial, not only for the development and protection of human rights in Africa, particularly in terms of combatting impunity, but also for an in-depth understanding of human rights and its trajectory on the African continent, which necessitates a deeper acknowledgement by the ICC and affiliated proponents on the dynamics that shape the African response to pivotal ICC criticisms.

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