

A-27: The International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages 1979

Name of the Convention: The International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages 1979

Acronym or short name: The Hostage-Taking Convention

International organisation in charge of it: United Nations

Summary description (in plain language):

The Convention defines "Hostage-taking" as seizure or detaining of hostage in order to compel third-party (including person or persons, States, international organizations etc) to do any act for the release of the hostage.

Each State Party is required to establish its jurisdiction over any offences defined above when they are committed

- a) in its territory(including vessel, aircraft of its registry),
- b) by any of its nationals,
- c) in order to compel the State to do any act, or
- d) taking hostage of its nationals.

The State party is required to take the offender into custody and make a preliminary inquiry immediately.

Date of signature: Adopted by the General Assembly of United Nations on December 17, 1979

Date of coming into force: June 3, 1983

Dates of revision: -

Reasons of revisions: -

Applicability (condition for entry into force): It shall enter into force on the thirtieth(30th) day after the date of deposit of the twenty-second(22nd) instrument of ratification.

Situation of Ratification: (as at February 2011) 168 State Parties

Stakes for ports:

Whereas the Convention will not limit its application only to piracy acts, its definition of Hostage-Taking fits for piracy acts being committed off Somalia as it defines applicable offences as commission on board a ship registered in that State.

Links with other conventions:

(SUA) <http://www.admiraltylawguide.com/conven/suppression1988.html>

Key-words: Hostage-taking

Internet hyperlink with other website:

(full text) [http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/docs/conventions/Conv5.pdf#search=""international convention against the taking of hostage""](http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/docs/conventions/Conv5.pdf#search=)