



# HUMAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP TO ACHIEVING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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## **Abstract**

*Human rights would constitute a normative framework that defines an aspect of the content of human security. The multiple international documents that included human rights declarations and agreements have included many elements of human security. Respect for its contents leads to achieving its multiple elements. Any violation of these rights and freedoms are nothing but threats to human security. There is a strong correlation between human security and human rights. Human security is a condition for establishing human rights. Achieving some aspects of human security is also an objective of human rights.*

**Keywords:** human security, human rights

## **INTRODUCTION**

The form of security is still the focus of human thinking, whether an individual or a group, as security is considered the first priority and the supreme interest of the state. So, no system can be upright and no economy can be established without the strengthening and consolidation of the foundations of security and stability. The historical development and the complexity of human life left great imprints on the concept of security, which in turn has become complex and complicated. It has also become a mirror reflecting the conceptual and intellectual development and the accelerating change witnessed by humanity throughout its historical stages, especially the post- Cold War stage, which revealed the depth and seriousness of the sources of threat to the security of individuals and the inappropriateness of the traditional concept of security.

This has led to calls for a reformulation of a new content for the concept of security outside the frame work of the state as the sole basic reference. Hence the transition from the security of the state, borders and land to the security of those who live in the state within its borders and on its territory, with the need to emphasize the importance of the individual as a reference and as a subject for security studies. Accordingly the human individual entered the focus of these studies, which culminated in the emergence of the concept of human security.

Humans have also become the focus of legal and political studies, especially security ones, mainly after the traditional approach to security faced a strong challenge from a modern approach included in the report issued by the United Nations Development Program for the year 1994 AD, entitled Human Security<sup>1</sup>. It came to correct the traditional concept of security, as this approach presented its alternatives in defining the concept of security, its basic reference and ways of building it at the global level.

The importance of studying this topic is first demonstrated by shedding light on the most important concept in the field of international relations, which is "human security" that has been controversial in the midst of an international environment shared by contradictory principles and international

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<sup>1</sup>Human Development Report for the year 1994 AD, The New Dimensions of Human Security, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations, 1994 AD,p.21.



political interests. Secondly, by dealing with the concept of "human rights"<sup>2</sup>, which is considered one of the first concepts coined with the building of states to maintain their stability and security, especially with the establishment of the United Nations Charter.

This study aimed to reveal the dimensions of the relationship between human security and human rights as two basic concepts in the field of political and security studies that are marred by overlap, especially in light of the condemnation of the Security Council, the Independent Commission for Human Security and the United Nations Human Rights Council of the repercussions of civil strife and turmoil in the Arab arena.

This approach has also tried to focus from the security of the state to the security of the individual, or as it is termed security with a human face, as it includes the human dimension in all actions. Thus, the security endeavor shifted from caring for the rights, concerns, and needs of states to caring more about the rights, concerns, and needs of citizens (human rights).

Thus, we find that human security intersects with the prevailing concepts in the human rights system, and converges with it in many ways, which leads to a question about the nature of the relationship between human security and human rights? And what are the dimensions of the relationship between them?

In this study, we relied on the analytical and descriptive approach, as it is the most appropriate for such studies by analyzing the various texts of international and regional conventions, declarations and treaties that regulated human rights in order to understand the human security and the elements that make it up, and the extent to which it overlaps with human rights.

The study was divided into two sections. The first topic dealt with the concept of human security, then the dialectical relationship between human security and human rights in the second topic.

### **Topic One: The Concept of Human Security**

Through this topic, we will try to shed light on the concept of human security and highlight what it adds again to the concepts of current international law, starting first with the definition of this concept and its origin in the first requirement, then its characteristics and dimensions in the second requirement.

#### **Requirement One: The Definition and Emergence of Human Security**

The form of security is still the focus of human thinking, whether an individual or a group, as security is considered the first priority and the supreme interest of the state. So, no system can be up right and no economy can be established without the strengthening and consolidation of the foundations of security and stability. The historical development and the complexity of human life left many and many imprints on the cause of the concept of security, which in turn has also become compound and complex. It has also become a mirror reflecting the conceptual and intellectual development, and the rapid change witnessed by humanity throughout its historical stages.

Accordingly, through this requirement, we will discuss first the definition of human security, and secondly the circumstances of its emergence.

#### **Section One: Defining Human Security**

The concept of human security is one of the most important concepts whose meaning can be understood by thinking about its opposite, as the opposite of security is fear. Accordingly, the state of human security can only be achieved in the absence of fear and liberation from it.

The scope of the concept of human security differs from one context to another- due to the diversity of risks that threaten people, which are almost uncountable .There are very broad definitions that try to set a frame work that includes everything that might affect the security and

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<sup>2</sup>Human rights can be defined as those rights attached to every human being, regardless of his nationality, color, religion, or place of residence, or his language. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights promulgated in 1948 stipulated a set of rights, including the right to life and the right to security, liberty, and physical integrity. There is no difference between an Arab and a Westerner, nor between a black and white person, nor a difference between a Muslim and a Christian in terms of every citizen enjoying his full rights.



fear of the individual, while there are definition sthattry to limit the concept to specific threats. But, despite this diversity in definitions, the common point between them is the individual, not the state. According to **Paul Henbecker**, we find that he defines human security as: "Security that focuses on individuals and societies rather than states. It is also based on the idea that state security is necessary but not sufficient to achieve human survival. Human security focuses on military and non- military sources of threat, as it counts the security of the survival of individuals." a possible partfor achieving global security"<sup>3</sup>. Here,we note that the concept of human security is not a synonym. It does not replace the concept of national security that was prevalent in the Cold War period, which refers to the security of the state it self, but complements it.

It is the same approach taken by **Tyler Owen** when he defined human security as: "Protecting the living nucleus of all human beings from embarrassing and harmful risks, whe theren vironmental, economic, food, health, personal or political."<sup>4</sup> However, what was new with this jurist is his attempt to reconcile the traditional threats that affect the security of the state with the new threats to the state that are linked to the loss of life from hunger, disease and natural disasters, and not only from wars.

As for the actual beginning of the escalation of the discussion on human security, it was with **Mahboob Al-Haq**, the former Pakistani Minister of Finance and the economist for the United Nations Development Agency, who stressed in his report for the year 1994 AD that the axis of security must move to ensuring the security of individuals from variou srisks. On top of which are diseases, terrorism, poverty, drugs, and the existence of an unfair world order, by achieving development and reforming international institutions, especially the United Nations and global economic organizations,such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development, through a true partner ship between all countries of the world<sup>5</sup>. The Committee on Human Security has defined this concept -which was established in order to lay its foundations- as: "Protecting the vital essence of human life in ways that enhance human freedoms and human self-fulfillment. Human security means protecting basic freedoms- those freedoms that represent the essence of life - and it means protecting people from pervasive, severe and critical threats and situations..."<sup>6</sup>

As for the comprehensive definition of human's ecurity, it is the definition that was presented by the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, in his report in the year 2000 AD, which came under the title "We the Peoples, the Role of the United Nations in the Twenty-first Century." It means tha thuman security signifies what goes beyond the absence of armed violence. It includes human rights, good governance, the right to access education and health care opportunities, and to ensure that every individual has the opportunity and ability to meet his or her own needs. And every step in this direction is also a step to wards reducing poverty, achieving economic growth, preventing conflicts, and achieving freedom from the need and freedom from fear and freedom of future generations to inherit a natural and healthy environment.These are the interrelated pillars of achieving human security<sup>7</sup>.

It is noted that this definition gave two dimensions to human security, a political dimension represented in the protection of individuals in times of conflicts and wars, and an economic dimension represented in protection from poverty and economic deprivation and education.

<sup>3</sup>Khalafallah Omar, Environmental Threats and the Effectiveness of Political Responses in Africa, Master Thesis, Faculty of Political Science and Communication, University of Algiers 3, 2011-2012, p. 27.

<sup>4</sup>Khawla Mohieddin Youssef, Amal Yaziji, Human Security and its Dimensions in Public International Law, Journal of Economic and Legal Sciences, Volume 28, NumberTwo, Damascus University, 2012, p. 529.

<sup>5</sup>Human Development Report issued by the United Nations Development Program in 1994, ChapterTwo, A New Dimension for Human Security, p. 22.

<sup>6</sup>Human Security Committee,«Human Security Now», United Nations Development Authority, 2001, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup>Khalafallah Omar, previous reference, pp.27-28.

Accordingly, human security is the one that seeks to protect people from the dangers and threats facing the individual and society. It also seeks to form a global alliance to strengthen institutional policies that link individuals and the state and that link the state to the world as a whole. Hence, human security combines the elements of security, rights and development related to human beings.

### **Section Two: The Emergence of Human Security**

The roots of the concept of human security can be traced in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1945 AD, whose focus was on establishing some rules to ensure the protection of human rights and thus achieving human security, and after that some limited initiatives to introduce the concept of human security. However, it did not receive a great resonance and an influential role in introducing the concept to the international relations agenda. And in 1966 AD, a Canadian psychological theory emerged in the name of individual security. This theory is based on the fact that the concept of security is comprehensive and includes all social relations that bind groups and societies, and that a secure state does not necessarily mean safe individuals.<sup>8</sup>

With the beginning of the seventies, a group of reports began to appear for some committees, such as the Independent Commission for International Development, where the latter confirmed in its report that the problems facing humanity were considered limited to the traditional problems of peace and war. There are other types that are more dangerous than hunger and poverty. The report stressed the need to overcome the growing gaps between individuals and countries to achieve human security<sup>9</sup>. However, the real contribution to advancing the concept came through the 1994 Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Program. The report dealt, in the second chapter, with new dimensions of human security. The report predicted that the idea of human security, despite its simplicity, would lead to a revolution in the management of societies in the twenty-first century<sup>10</sup>.

### **Requirement Two: The Characteristics and Dimensions of Human Security**

Through this requirement, we will discuss the characteristics of human security first, and secondly address its dimensions.

#### **Section One: The Characteristics of Human Security**

Back to the Human Development Report of 1994, we find that it has identified the basic characteristics of human security, namely<sup>11</sup>:

- 1- Human security is comprehensive and global. It is a right for every human being, regardless of his nationality or homeland, and as a result of the universality of his threats on the other hand.
- 2- Components of human security are integrated and dependent on each other.
- 3- Human security is possible through early prevention, which is easier than later intervention.
- 4- Human security does not replace national security, it is complementary to it.
- 5- Human security, in addition to protecting individuals, is based on empowerment, and its means is education, to create generations capable of facing future challenges.
- 6- Human security is based on development to achieve it, but it differs from the concept of human development and human rights, and does not necessarily mean humanitarian intervention.

Human security expresses a characteristic closely related to the need of individuals and groups for existence, continuity, and preservation of the species. Thus, human security is related to achieving economic and social sufficiency, respect for individual rights and fundamental freedoms, and

<sup>8</sup>Muhammad al-Mahdi Shaneen, Transformations in the Concept of Human Security, an article published on the website: Bohothe.blogspot.org, accessed . 06/ 01/2023 , at 18 hours 15 minutes

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Khadija Arafa, Transformations in the Concept of Security...People First, an article published on the website: www.islamonline.com, access date: 10/ 01/2023 , at 20 hours 10 minutes.

<sup>11</sup>Kamal Al-Astal, The Concept of Human Security, an article published on the website: K-astal.com, view date : 09 / 01/2023 , at 19 hours 20 minutes.



protection from every thing that threatens life according to the available possibilities for living and for the realization of human dignity.

In addition, we find that the report identified the components of security in two parts, the first being freedom from need, and the second being freedom from fear.

### **Section Two: Dimensions of Human Security**

The 1994 Human Development Report went to further, specifically describing the perception of human security as broad because it contains 8 dimensions:

**1- Economic security:** related to ensuring a minimum level of job opportunities and achieving development, as it requires ensuring a basic income for individuals that often comes from productive and profitable work. Every person has the right to work to obtain the resources necessary to maintain his personal existence, or as a last reference, this income comes from public safety nets to protect individuals from global economic changes, and their negative consequences on income, through which many look for more help and support from their governments<sup>12</sup>.

**2- Food security:** It is related to the right to food, which must be sufficient, healthy, and on an ongoing basis, i.e. the right of every individual to take daily and at all times his basic food, meaning that all people, and at all times, have the financial and economic accessibility to basic food<sup>13</sup>. Accordingly, it can be said that there are two main axes for the concept of food security: **The first axis:** is the quantity and type of food required to achieve food security.

**The second axis:** is how to obtain food, whether from local or foreign sources, and ensure its flow from all sources.

**3- Health security:** Health security means the availability of health services at affordable prices and the ability of individuals to obtain that service, whether through health insurance systems or protecting them from diseases. It is the right to treatment, the elimination of infectious diseases and support for a minimum level of treatment.

**4- Environmental security:** It aims to prevent the effects of intensive industrialization and rapid growth, as the term environmental security preceded the term human security since 1977 AD. It was used at the World level in military and security reports and strategic political studies, to avoid the devastating effects of wars as well as natural disasters.

Environmental security can be defined as: "It is the control of the systematic destruction of the environment by putting a security cordon (legal and strategic) to protect the environment and nature, not only from pollution, but also to monitor the transformations that occur in the environment and nature, whether by human intervention or against his will."<sup>14</sup>

**5- Community security:** Means preserving common heritage, cultures, languages, and values. It aims to protect humanity in the face of many forms of sudden and unexpected violence, protect individuals from persecution due to racial discrimination, prevent ethnic conflicts, and protect indigenous people.

**6- Cultural security:** It is represented in the right to freedom of belief, safety from discrimination due to religious or cultural characteristics, as well as its goal to preserve different cultures, given that culture is a necessary condition for possessing the power of effectiveness and presence, and it represents the identity of entire societies.

<sup>12</sup>Noureddine Hormuz, "Military Wars in the Levant Region and their Role in Economic Instability," Tishreen University Journal for Studies and Scientific Research, Economic and Legal Sciences Series, Volume 29, Number 2, Syria, 2007, p. 82.

<sup>13</sup>Human Development Report for the year 1994 AD, The New Dimensions of Human Security, United Nations Development Program, United Nations New York, 1994 AD, p. 27.

<sup>14</sup>Khaled Mohamed Ghanem. Problems of Environmental Security in the Post-Arab Revolutions Stages, International Policy Journal, March 2001. The electronic version is available on the website: [www.siyassa.org.eg](http://www.siyassa.org.eg), browsing date: 08/09/2023.



**7- Personal security:** It means security against physical violence, which is undoubtedly the first manifestation of the security of the human, that reflects his right to physical integrity and personal freedom. Physical violence has many sources. It may be from outside the state as a result of the war and the civilian casualties it left behind, or from within the state itself and its arbitrary systems, or as a result of ethnic tensions or from gangs and criminals, regardless of the nature of the categories of victims (male or female, women or children), and even the source of violence may be the individual himself (drug cases, suicides, traffic accidents...) <sup>15</sup>.

In most cases, violence is not considered a spontaneous phenomenon, but rather is the product of a society characterized by inequality, lack of institutional and social control within the state., Poverty and exclusion automatically lead to violence, crime and terrorist acts <sup>16</sup>.

**8- Political security:** The Human Development Report of 1994 is no longer based on the traditional idea that the state is the sole guarantor of human security, and it is the one who monopolizes the right to protect its citizens, because reality has proven many cases in which the state fails to fulfill its security obligations. but rather it often becomes the main source of threat to its citizens, which requires shifting attention from the security of the state to the security of the citizen, that requires the state to abandon repression of its citizens and use its armies to achieve its security and internal stability. (This is what happened in the Arab Spring in the Arab popular revolutions in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen in 2011 AD).

So the so-called “political security” appeared for the human being, which means “protection from the threat of political repression and protection from exposure to conflicts, wars and migration” or is “guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms freely and for all without exception or discrimination.” <sup>17</sup>

Its goal is to preserve basic rights, such as the right to participate, the right to vote. In addition to that, this type of security related to the political aspect gains a very wide dimension because it combines state repression against citizens and equality regarding various measures against individuals and against freedom of expression, media and ideas.

Through the foregoing, it is clear that there is a direct correlation between the dimensions of human security, as they feed on each other. For example, economic security leads to deficiencies in food security and health and environmental security, and may lead to a deterioration of personal security. The latter leading to a decline in societal and political security. Accordingly, we find that these dimensions provide an integrated fabric for a life suitable for humans.

It should be noted here that within each of these dimensions there are its own threats, as economic security is threatened by poverty, food security is threatened by hunger, diseases and epidemics threaten health security, while pollution and environmental degradation threaten environmental security. While cultural security is threatened by crime and violence, repression threatens political security, while social security is threatened by social, security and sectarian tension conflict and tension.

### **Topic Two: the Dialectical Relationship Between Human Security and Human Rights**

There is a solid and strong connection between the concept of human security and human rights, because human security in its broad sense requires the protection of human rights, and also aims to identify the rights at risk. On the other hand, it can be considered that respect for human rights achieves a sense of security.

Thus, the link between human security and human rights raises the issue of the relationship between the two concepts and the convergence and difference between them.

### **Requirement One: The Similarities Between Human Security and Human Rights**

<sup>15</sup>Human Development Report for the year 1994 AD, previous reference, p. 66.

<sup>16</sup>Ahmed Abu Al-Rous, Terrorism, Extremism and International Violence, Alexandria, Modern University Office, 2001, p. 25.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid, p. 47.



Some jurists believe that human rights are part of human security, because human security guarantees what is broader than human rights, which represent a set of interests protected by law. The concept of human security is dyed with its basic reference, which is the human being. It is an established fact based on two main variables, which are globalization of security and humanization of security<sup>18</sup>.

Also, human security is mainly related to preserving the rights and freedoms of people, protecting them from severe threats, and enabling them, at the same time, to take charge of their own lives. It is closely related to human rights, and often we find that the goals aspired to by human security maybe the same to be achieved by respecting and protecting human rights<sup>19</sup>.

Human security also owes a debt to the human rights tradition. The evolution of the human security paradigm can be seen because it was formulated based on the basic ideas and concepts of the human rights tradition. Both approaches view the individual as the main reference point. Both argue that a wide range of issues are fundamental to human dignity<sup>20</sup>.

Finally, human rights and freedoms can only be exercised under conditions of stability and security. This confirms the inseparability, interdependence and overlap of human rights with human security. Both are complementary and mutually reinforcing, as human security helps to identify which rights are at stake in a given situation<sup>21</sup>.

On this basis, it can be said that there is a close link between human security and human rights, because human security in its broadest sense is the condition and purpose of human rights at the same time<sup>22</sup>.

#### **Requirement Two: The Differences Between Human Security and Human Rights**

Some may see that there is no difference between human security and human rights, as long as they care about the rights of the individual and the state's duties towards him, and that security is just a synonym for the word human rights. It is

just a description or a new name for it. But in reality, they do not mean the same thing. Human rights have a legal framework that defines them and guarantees their protection. While human security still lacks legal foundations. Therefore, it can be said that human rights give the legal basis for human security, as they are protected rights at the domestic and international levels<sup>23</sup>.

There is also an important difference between the two models in the way of dealing with dangers which threaten human dignity and survival. While the human rights framework adopts a legal path, the human security framework relies on the use of a variety of actors, adopting a flexible and issue-specific approach. It can be effective at the local, national or international levels<sup>24</sup>.

The agreement lies in the fact that the breach and violation of human rights is a threat to international peace and security, which is the assertion mentioned in international and regional charters and covenants. The same is said in the matter of breaching and violating the components of human security. Despite the great convergence between the two concepts, it does not mean that

<sup>18</sup>Saleh BaniFares, *The Relationship between Human Security and Human Rights*, Al-Manara, Volume 26, Issue 3, year 2020, p. 243.

<sup>19</sup>Salam Samira, *Human Security and its Challenges under the International Protection of Human Rights*, a thesis for obtaining a Doctoratedegree, specializing in international human rightslaw, Haj Lakhdar University, Batna, Algeria, 2016, p. 67.

<sup>20</sup>Hussein Jassim Abdel-Amir, *Human Security and its Relationship to Human Development and Human Rights*, University of Karbala, Center for Strategic Studies, Issue 24, without the year of publication, p. 545.

<sup>21</sup>Abu Joudeh Elias, *Human Security and State Sovereignty*, University Foundation for Studies, Publishing and Distribution, Beirut, Lebanon, 2008, p. 10.

<sup>22</sup>Abdul Hakim Al-Sharjabi, *Poverty, the main challenge to human security in a case study of Yemeni society*, International Conferenceon Human Security in the Arab Countries, 14-15/2005, UNESCO Publications, 2008, p. 41.

<sup>23</sup>Humum Farida, *Human Security and the Principle of Universality of Human Rights*, Journal of the Researcher for Legal and PoliticalStudies, Issue 9, Volume Two, March 2018, p. 761.

<sup>24</sup>Hussein Jassim Abdel-Amir, previousreference, p. 545.



they are completely identical. Otherwise, there would be no need to develop the concept of human security.

Likewise, human rights are an integrated and indivisible system, interdependent, intertwined, and closely related to each other and are not subject

To selectivity. The freedom to be able to enjoy them is an aspect of human security<sup>25</sup>.

Accordingly, if the concept of human rights is based on defining a wide range of political, economic and social rights that must be available to individuals, then on the other hand, there is that the concept of human security can contribute to creating an arrangement, or setting priorities for that wide range of human rights by elevating it to some Rights<sup>26</sup>.

### CONCLUSION

There is a close relationship between human security and human rights, given that there is a basic right for all human beings represented in their right as citizens to security. Therefore this is an inherent obligation for governments and states to achieve security for their people through the concept of human security. Where it can be said that human rights give the legal basis for human security, being protected rights at the domestic and international levels.

Among the most important results reached:

1- Human security is the emerging formula or paradigm for understanding the global weaknesses that challenge the traditional concept of national security by emphasizing that the appropriate reference for security must be the human rather than the state.

2- Human security is based on the centrality of the human being, and therefore any security policy must have the primary objective of achieving the security of the individual alongside the security of the state.

3- Human security, with its health, environmental, food, personal, political and economic dimensions, is the minimum level of respect for human rights, and the threats to these dimensions are serious threats to the status of human rights.

4- The concept of human security can only be understood through its opposite, as the opposite of security is fear. Thus, the state of human security can only be achieved in the absence of fear and freedom from it. That is, protection and empowerment.

5 - The concept of human security emerged as a supreme goal at the end of the twentieth century alongside the security of the state without diminishing the importance and necessity of its security.

6- Human rights is a comprehensive complex concept of an integrated system with intertwined intersecting ramifications that are not devoid of complexity at the level of analysis.

As a whole, they represent a concept agreed upon in principle in terms of a fundamental human value. As for the concept of human security, it seems old, but linking the nation to the human being gives the concept a new dimension in need of renewal and scrutiny, especially in terms of its relationship to the concept of human rights.

7- Human security differs from human rights because it is based on institutional reform as a result of the ineffectiveness of legal rules alone to ensure respect for the rights of individuals. This is due to the tendency of states for political considerations rather than humanitarian considerations in order to achieve their own interests, and as a result of the transmission of conflicts between individuals within the borders of the nation-state.

In light of the results revealed by this study, we concluded a number of suggestions:

1- Intensifying studies on human security, including the interests of the national affairs in times of peace.

<sup>25</sup>Hamoum Farida, previous reference, p. 761.

<sup>26</sup>Salam Samira, previous reference, p. 68.



- 2- Encouraging civil society organizations to achieve human security through their programs and activities due to its importance in the protection, respect and implementation of human rights, and the stability of national security.
- 3- Work to activate human security in national legislation and policies.

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