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HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DOMAIN OF OUTER SPACE

Abstract

Raising question of importance and application of universal, inalienable human rights to space activities has come forward. Even more with entering private entities and private organizations into Space sector. Moving from traditional governance to new global governance, this article is searching for an intersection between international legal framework of outer Space and international legal framework of Human Rights, “space human rights”. There are two primary perspectives considering intersection of Human Rights and Space, and each one of them can be further subcategorized. Firstly, I would like to emphasize the probability of expanding universal Human Rights into the Space frontier. For that, I will look through the Declarations of Human Rights, basic treaties of Space law and use mixed contemporary method to present the genesis of development general principles of both branches of law. With focusing on parallel between erga omnes obligations in Outer Space Treaty and bringing into the highlight intrinsic correlation between jus cogens norms and Human Rights, I will argue that terrestrial Human Rights are extended to the domain of Space. Further on I am going to focus on the use of space technology, more precisely, in which case we can use it for facing challenges and protection of Human Rights on Earth. In my opinion, Earth observation and use of space technologies have a positive effect on protection of Human Rights. Mostly, supporting the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the cross section of Space sector, including private organizations. I will use inductive research approach and present a case study of Slovenian private actor, which is developing and sending nanosatellites into the Space. With inductive reasoning I will try to support a theory that small satellites can help in meeting SDGs, in general. At this point I will try to explain in what way is Space being regulated through the term of new global governance, specially including also private sector. Since there is little amount of detailed research in this field, especially in Slovenia and Eastern Europe, I believe with this article I can bring better understanding of how important is Space for achieving and protecting basic human rights on Earth.