

Question 24 (6 marks)

With reference to ONE contemporary human rights issue, explain the role of state sovereignty in enforcing human rights.

6

State sovereignty is the ~~ego~~ power of the state to make domestic laws without external interference. This has somewhat hindered progress of eradicating the contemporary issue of child soldiers, as according to ~~the~~ Human Rights Watch, 200 000 - 300 000 ~~with~~ children participate in armed conflict ^(indirectly or directly) today.

The Geneva Conventions (Additional Protocol) has ~~to~~ categorized the issue ~~as~~ as a warcrime, giving the international criminal court (ICC) jurisdiction to prosecute offenders. This has been difficult to enforce, for example the "Thomas Lubanga" case has progressed for 10 years and is still at the witness hearing stage. The ICC can also prosecute in countries that have signed the Rome Statute limiting its enforceability. However the right to protect (R2P) document ~~has~~ could potentially all international measures of protection to out weigh state sovereignty.