# Contents

7	. 1.	
I. In		action I
	I.	Overview of Book 1
	II.	The Inter-American Human Rights System's Impact, Major Institutions, and
		Legal Instruments 2
		A. Impact and Importance of the Inter-American System 2
		B. The Organization of American States, the American Convention, and
		Other Critical Human Rights Instruments 5
		C. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 8
		D. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights 11
		1. Introduction 11
		2. The Court in Relation to the Commission 13
		3. The Court's Ratione Materiae, Ratione Temporis, Ratione Personae,
		and Ratione Loci Jurisdiction 14
		4. Note on the Court's Assessment of Evidence and Burden of Proof
	III.	Key Developments and Critiques of the Inter-American Jurisprudence 18
		A. Introduction 18
		B. Extensive State Obligations to Respect and Ensure Rights 18
		C. Article 63: Reparations 19
		D. Article 24: Right to Equality 20
		E. Article 4: Right to Life 21
		F. Article 5: Right to Humane Treatment 22
		G. Article 7: Right to Personal Liberty 23
		II Dila Dan da la la la la
		1. Article 8: Right to a Fair Trial 24
		2. Article 25: Right to Judicial Protection 25

viii Contents
I. Article 13: Freedom of Expression 25
J. Article 21: Right to Property 26
IV. The Book's Structure and Methodology 27
2. Equality 31
Article 24: Right to Equal Protection 31
I. Introduction 32
II. Background 35
III. Scope of Protection 36
A. The Relationship of Article 24 and Article 1 36
B. The Assessment of Discrimination 40
1. Definitions and State Obligations 40
2. The Progression of the Court's Case Law: Discrimination in Law and
in Fact 43
a. Introduction 43
b. Perceived Political Opponents 44
c. Disadvantaged Groups 45
d. Synthesis 48
3. Atala Riffo and the Court's Current Approach to Discrimination 49
3. Life 55
Article 4: Right to Life 55
I. Introduction 57
II. Background 59
III. Extensive State Obligations to Respect and Ensure the Right to Life 61
A. Introduction 61
B. Duty to Respect 62
C. Duty to Ensure (or "Protect") 65
1. Overview 65
2. Duty to Prevent through Legal Regulation 66
3. Duty to Adopt "Prevention and Protection Measures" in Threatening
Circumstances 67
4. Duty to Investigate and Punish 68
IV. Scope of Protection 72
A. Meaning of "Every Person" and "In General, From the Moment of
Concention" 72

B. Meaning of "No One Shall Be Arbitrarily Deprived" of Life 75

b. "Only For The Most Serious Crimes" 77

c. The "Mandatory" Death Penalty 77

1. The Death Penalty 76 a. Introduction 76

- d. Due Process Requirements 78
  - e. Right to Apply for Pardon, Amnesty, or Commutation 81
  - 2. Use of Lethal Force in Law Enforcement Scenarios 82
    - a. Introduction 82
- b. The Principles of Legality, Necessity, and Proportionality 83
  - c. The Burden of Proof 85
  - d. State Duties after the Use of Force 85
- 3. Use of Lethal Force in Armed Conflicts 86
- 4. Arbitrary Deprivation of Life of Imprisoned Individuals 89
  - a. Introduction 89
  - b. Detention Conditions and Healthcare 90
  - c. Security Operations in Prisons 91
  - 5. Forced Disappearances of Persons 92
    - a. Introduction and Definition 92
    - b. The Right to Life and Ratione Temporis Jurisdiction 94
  - C. The Concept of Vida Digna 97

#### 4. Humane Treatment 101

Article 5: Right to Humane Treatment 101

- I. Introduction 103
- II. Background 105
- III. Scope of Protection 106
  - A. A Broad Right with Uncertain Parameters 106
  - B. Definitions of Torture and the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture 108
  - C. The Inter-American Court's Three-Part Test for Torture 110
  - D. Involvement of State Actors: A Fourth Requirement? 114
  - E. Considerations of Evidence and Proof 116
  - F. Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Punishment or Treatment 117
    - 1. Introduction 117
    - 2. Sexual Violence and Violence against Women 118
    - 3. State-Sanctioned Punishment 120
      - a. Corporal Punishment 120
      - b. The Death Penalty 120
      - c. Life Imprisonment: Children 121
    - 4. Detention Conditions and Practices 122
    - 5. Forced Disappearance 125
    - 6. Threats of "Severe Physical Injuries" 126
    - 7. Treatment of Children 127
  - G. Violations to Personal Integrity below the Threshold of Article 5(2) 127

- H. Investigation and Prevention: State Obligations to Ensure the Rights of Article 5 130
  - I. Article 5(3): No Extension of Punishment beyond the Convicted
     Individual 132
  - J. Article 5(4): Separate Location and Treatment for Unconvicted Persons in Detention 132
- K. Article 5(5): Separate Proceedings and Facilities for Children in the Criminal Justice System 134
- L. Article 5(6): "Reform and Social Readaptation" of Prisoners 135

#### 5. Personal Liberty 139

Article 7: Right to Personal Liberty 139

- I. Introduction 141
- II. Background 142
- III. Scope of Protection 143
  - A. Overview 143
    - 1. Right to Physical Liberty 143
    - 2. Right to Personal Security 146
  - B. General Requirements to Deprive Liberty: The Principles of Legality and Arbitrariness 148
    - 1. The Legality Principle 148
      - a. Restriction of Liberty Always the Exception 148
      - b. Ordered by a Competent Judicial Authority 150
        - i. Synthesis 150
        - ii. Detentions without Judicial Warrants: Exceptional Cases 151
      - c. State Obligation to Register Detentions 153
      - d. Detention Time Limits and Orders for Release 154
      - e. Pretrial Detention as Illegal Detention 154
      - f. Court's Increasing Reluctance to Find Violations of Article 7(2) 154
    - 2. The Arbitrariness Principle 156
      - a. Synthesis 156
      - b. Forced Disappearances 156
      - c. Pretrial Detention as Arbitrary Detention 157
        - i. Sufficient Evidence of Criminal Responsibility 158
        - ii. Risks to the Criminal Proceeding 158
        - iii. Detention in Immigration Proceedings 159
        - iv. Pretrial Detention of Special Sectors of the Population 159
        - v. Time Limits for Pretrial Detention 160
    - 3. Methodological Problems: Legality and Arbitrariness 160
  - C. The Specific Requirements of Paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of Article 7 162
    - 1. Article 7(4): Reasons for Detention and Notification of Charges 162
      - a. Reasons for Detention 162

- b. Notification of Charges 163
- 2. Article 7(5): Judicial Supervision 164
- a. Brought "Before a Judge or Other Officer Authorized by Law" 164
- b. Right to Trial "Within a Reasonable Time" 166
- 3. Article 7(6): The Right to Habeas Corpus 167
  - 4. Article 7(7): "No One Shall Be Detained for Debt" 169

# 6. Due Process and Judicial Protection 171 Article 8: Right to a Fair Trial 171

- I. Introduction 174
  - A. Many Similarities among the Major Human Rights Treaties 174
  - B. Variances among the Human Rights Systems 176
  - C. Background 177
- II. Article 8(1) 178
  - A. Introduction and Meaning of "Right to a Hearing" 178
- B. Meaning of "With Due Guarantees" 181
- C. Meaning of "Within a Reasonable Time" 183
  - D. Meaning of "Competent, Independent, and Impartial Tribunal, Previously Established by Law" 188
    - 1. "Tribunal" 188
    - 2. "Competent" 188
    - 3. "Independent" 190
    - 4. "Impartial" 191
    - 5. "Previously Established by Law" 193
- III. Article 8(2) and the Right to Be Presumed Innocent 194
  - A. Article 8(2)(a): The Right to be Assisted by a Translator or Interpreter 196
  - B. Article 8(2)(b): Prior Notification in Detail of Charges 197
  - C. Article 8(2)(c): Adequate Time and Means for Preparation of Defense 199
  - D. Article 8(2)(d): The Right to Defend Oneself Personally or to Be
    Assisted by Legal Counsel, and to Communicate Freely and Privately
    with Counsel 200
  - E. Article 8(2)(e): The Right to be Assisted by Counsel Provided by the State 202
- F. Article 8(2)(f): The Right of the Defense to Present and Examine
  Witnesses 204
  - G. Article 8(2)(g) and Article 8(3): The Right Not to Be Compelled to Be a Witness against Oneself; Coercion and Confessions 206
  - H. Article 8(2)(h): The Right to Appeal a Judgment to a Higher Court 208
  - I. The Right to Effective Access to Consular Assistance 210
- IV. Article 8(4): An Acquitted Person Shall Not Be Subjected to a New Trial for the Same Cause 211
- V. Article 8(5): Public Criminal Proceedings 213

Article 25: Right to Judicial Protection	2.15
TIT DECECT DI. TELETINE DE TENENCE DE L'OPECCHOTE	

- I. Introduction and Background
- II. Article 25(1): "Simple, Prompt and Effective" Remedies
  - A. "Simple" and "Prompt" Remedies 218
  - B. "Effective" Remedies
- III. Article 25(2): Enforcement of National Judgments
- IV. The Boundaries of "Judicial Protection"
  - A. The Right of Access to Justice
  - B. Combining Articles 8 and 25: A Critique 225
  - C. The Court's Current, Broader View of Article 25

#### 7. Freedom of Expression

### Article 13: Freedom of Thought and Expression

- I. Introduction 231
- II. Background 234
- III. Scope of Protection
  - A. Meaning of "Everyone"
  - B. Protected Expression
  - C. Safeguards for Journalists 239
  - D. Right of Access to State-Held Information 241
- IV. Limitations to Article 13 243
  - A. Introduction
  - B. Prior Censorship 244
    - 1. Overview 244
    - 2. Prohibitions against Offensive Content
  - C. Subsequent Imposition of Liability 247
    - 1. Overview and General Requirements
    - 2. Subsequent Criminal Liability 249
      - a. Introduction 249
      - b. The Honor and Reputation of the Armed Forces 252
      - c. The Honor and Reputation of Public Officials
    - 3. Subsequent Civil Liability 256
  - D. "Indirect" Restrictions
  - E. Cases of Persecution Leading to Generic Violations of Article 13(1)
  - F. Incitements to Violence: Article 13(5) 260

# 8. Property 263

# Article 21: Right to Property

- I. Introduction 265
- II. Background 267

III.	Scope of Protection	268

- A. Many Forms of Property Recognized 268
- B. Rights to Communal Property 271
- IV. Limitations to the Right to Property 273
  - A. Right to Property Not Absolute 273
  - B. Meaning of "Just Compensation" 275
  - C. Meaning of "Reasons of Public Utility or Social Interest" 276
  - D. Meaning of "In the Cases and According to the Forms Established by Law" 278
  - E. Specific Approaches to Limitations 278
    - 1. Restrictions during Criminal Investigations and Police Action 278
    - 2. Protective Framework for Traditional Territories 279

#### 9. Reparations 285

Article 63 285

- I. Introduction 287
- II. Background 289
- III. The "Injured Party" of Article 63(1) and Related Topics 290
- IV. Monetary Remedies 292
  - A. Pecuniary Damages 292
  - B. Moral Damages 296
    - 1. In General 296
    - 2. Community Development Programs 299
- V. Non-Monetary Remedies 300
  - A. Background 300
  - B. Restitution 301
  - C. Rehabilitation 303
  - D. Recognition of Responsibility and Apologies 304
  - E. Memorials and Commemorations 304
  - F. Reform of Legislation and Policy, Training Programs 305
- VI. Legal Fees and Expenses 307
- VII. Supervision and Compliance with the Court's Judgments 308
  - A. Binding and Final Nature of Judgments 308
  - B. Introduction to Supervision 310
  - C. Cases of Noncompliance 311
  - D. Compliance Rates 313
- VIII. Provisional Measures of Article 63(2) 314

APPENDIX: LIST OF INTER-AMERICAN COURT JUDGMENTS BY AMERICAN CONVENTION ARTICLE: ARTICLES 2-26 317

INDEX 405