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Different mechanisms have been established for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights, this writer will briefly discuss and state the challenges of these institutions.

1. **The African Commission on Human and People’s Rights;**

The commission was established by ***ARTICLE 30 ACHPR*** and it is embodied with the duty to ensure that human rights are protected and upheld in African countries. According to ***Article 32***, the commission shall consist of 11 members originating from African countries of which only one representative of each state. The commission has been able to help to an extent as it serves as a quasi -judicial body, reviewing complaints lodged by states, individuals or NGO’s regarding the dishonor or violation of the African Charter.

One of its major challenges is that it is considered to be over restrictive. ***ARTICLE 55 ACHPR*** provides that the commission may consider communication from other persons other than state parties, only if a simple majority accepts such communication. How does a victim cope before communication is accepted?

Also, ***ARTICLE 56*** provides that such communication in ***ARTICLE 55*** will only be considered when all local remedies have been exhausted. This is a challenge to the commission in the sense that some violations require immediate redress and the victims might suffer irreparable loss before the exhaustion of local remedies, so what then happens to this victims? ***In Constitutional Rights project in respect of Ken Saro-Wiwa case***, the commission had placed an order to revoke all the trials and eventual prosecution of Ken without due process. This order was not compiled with by the Nigerian government. The commission as at October 1995 nominated the case and others to be discussed in their proposed visit to Nigeria. This visit did not occur until 1997, long after Ken has been executed. After such dishonor and violation of the Charter, no action was taken. Also, ***Constitutional rights project in respect of Zamani Lekwot and six others V Nigeria.***

1. ***The African Court on Human and People’s Rights;***

The court was established in ***ARTICLE 1 of the PROTOCOL TO THE CHARTER***. In June 1998, the OAU endorsed the protocol to the ACHPR on the establishment of the court which came into force on January 25th, 2004. The court by virtue of ***ARTICLE 11*** shall consist of eleven judges of high moral standards, academic, competence and expertise.

The major challenge of the court is the provision of ***ARTICLE 56*** which provides for exhaustion of local remedies. As stated above, there are some violations that require immediate attention and if redress does not take place immediately, the victim might suffer irreparable loss. The exhaustion of local remedies might take a long time, thus, if the court is waiting for the exhaustion of local remedies it then means the victim has no hope. The court is supposed to be able to handle a case even without such exhaustion because if the domestic remedies were easily to access in the first place, there won’t be any need for the establishment of the court. In the case of ARIORI V ELOMO where the appellant could not access the court because he had not exhausted local remedies.

Another challenge of the court is that they are not financially stable. The court financial capacity is not enough to keep the court stable. This is wrong because the court is supposed to be “independent” and not it’s not allowed to depend on any other body.

1. **ECOWAS Court of Justice;**

The ECOWAS court of justice is the judicial organ of the Economic Community of West African States. It has the duty of resolving disputes related to the community’s treaty, convention and protocols. It was founded on May 28, 1975, under the treaty of Lagos for the purpose of promoting economic integration across the region. According to ***Article 3(1) of the protocol on the Community Court of Justice***, provides for the composition of the court. The ECCJ jurisdiction is set out in ***Article 9 of the 1991 Protocol.***

The problem of enforcement of the court’s judgments is a very critical challenge. The judgments of this court is expected to have binding effects on member states, institutions of ECOWAS, individuals and corporate bodies. For effective delivery of justice, it is very imperative for member states to demonstrate greater political will in the enforcement of the court’s judgments as required by the community law.

In conclusion, the solutions to these institutions problems are;

1. They should be less restrictive,
2. They should be able to preside over cases without the exhaustion of domestic remedies,
3. The member states should enforce the decisions of the institutions.