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As mentioned earlier, at least a core set of human rights norms (or even, according to some authors, all the rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) have the status of *jus cogens* norms: as such, not only are they binding on all States, they also cannot be escaped from by the conclusion of treaties through which States may be tempted to "exempt" themselves mutually from having to comply. In the following examples, the status of human rights norms as part of *jus cogens* was invoked, and specific consequences followed. Read **at least one of the examples below**, and ask yourself the following questions:

1. What list of consequences have been attached to the status of human rights norms as part of *jus cogens* ?
2. Are these consequences attached to all human rights norms, or only to a sub-category of human rights?
3. Would it be acceptable to consider that, while some of the consequences you identified attach to all human rights norms, some other consequences attach only to a sub-part of them?

Example 1. The international crime of torture before international criminal courts (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Materials__Jus_Cogens_status_ex1_Final_.pdf)

Example 2. The international crime of torture before domestic courts (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Materials__Jus_Cogens_status_ex2_Final_.pdf)

Example 3. Torture and the duty of the State to provide access to remedies (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Materials__Jus_Cogens_status_ex3_Final_.pdf)

Example 4. War crimes and crimes against humanity as part of *jus cogens* (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Materials__Jus_Cogens_status_ex4_Final_.pdf)

Example 5. Self-determination as a *jus cogens* norm and the scope of State responsibility (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Materials__Jus_Cogens_status_ex5_Final_.pdf)

Example 6. The scope of application *ratione personae* of the European Social Charter (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Materials__Jus_Cogens_status_ex6_Final_.pdf)

The documents available in your 'Reading Materials' textbooks can also be downloaded from the shared documentation folder (<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B1pqngCzyqvRODRNbUpmcWRqQTg&usp=sharing>) in GoogleDrive.

[Based on your understanding of the *jus cogens* nature of human rights norms, please contribute to the wiki page (<https://courses.edx.org/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/wiki/Louv2.01x/section-1/13-special-nature-human-rights/>) for this section, by commenting the decision(s) you read, and comparing them with the other decisions.]

☒ I am done with reading the texts and contributing to wiki.



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