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ACCESSIBILITY OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS UNDER
THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM:
AN ECONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

Material legal instruments on Africa's regional human rights promotion and protection system vest numerous substantive human and peoples' rights in African individuals and groups, respectively, against African states. These instruments also establish some justice institutions to enforce the rights. However, certain factors make the institutions inaccessible to most individuals and groups. These factors include poverty, geographical distance, and some of the instruments' provisions which aid the first two mentioned factors. Consequently, justice through these institutions eludes the individuals and groups upon failure or non-existence of local remedies. This article examines the substantive rights guaranteed individuals and groups under the system. It analyses, from economic and geographical perspectives, the extent of accessibility of the institutions meant to enforce the rights. It suggests reforms, such as amending the accessibility-impeding provisions of the instruments, decentralizing the system's justice institutions, and creating a permanent legal aid scheme for indigent individuals and groups.

Keywords: Substantive Rights, Justice Institutions, Human Rights.