

### THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

This is an excellent book\* which will be of great service to both human rights and humanitarian lawyers, as well as to all other persons involved with the detention of persons. The book examines not only all the international law that is applicable to detained persons, including international humanitarian law, but also actions taken by the United Nations and other international bodies.

The ambit of the book is wide in that it studies a variety of relevant questions, which include, apart from the actual treatment of persons in detention, the whole problem of torture and other ill-treatment, the death penalty, disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention, and codes of ethics for different professions in order to avoid abuses. In relation to each subject, the author gives a résumé of the background to the law or action taken, an overview of the relevant case-law, and a consideration of the implementation of the law, including the legal consequences of its violation.

The only slight drawback is that specialists might find some chapters a little brief, and some subjects are excluded, such as border-line cases of ill-treatment of difficult prisoners by prison officials (the subject of much case-law under the European Convention on Human Rights), the deportation of persons to countries where they will receive the death penalty or ill-treatment, and the phenomenon of death-row. These are, however, minor gaps, and the book is otherwise very thorough.

The book is remarkable in that it is not only very rich in information and discussion on the issues, but is also written in a style which is clear, concise and enjoyable to read. The book is clearly laid out, with a summary at the end of each chapter, and includes at the end as annexes a number of useful documents which are not always easily available.

*Louise Doswald-Beck*

---

\* Nigel Rodley, *The Treatment of Prisoners under International Law*, 1987, Oxford University Press, xxii + 374 pages.