

## The History of Human Rights in New Zealand: From the International Human Rights Law Perspective (3)

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The theme of a papers serial is to examine the situation of human rights in New Zealand through a discussion on the history of the constitution of New Zealand. These issues, especially those related to constitutional matters, are covered extensively.

The contents of the third paper in this series are as follows: ① Regulations such as the Ombudsmen Act 1975, the Official Information Act 1982, and the Human Rights Act 1993 will be reviewed. These regulations constitute the main contents of the Human Rights Law in New Zealand. ② The paper will discuss the Maori, the native minority people in New Zealand, who have constantly been involved in human rights issues in New Zealand. The author will review some cases handled by Maori tribunals and courts and discuss how the government attempted to protect their rights. ③ The paper will also survey the recent situation of human rights mainly by using some documents/reports related to the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council held in 2009. They raised some issues faced by New Zealand and the role of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act in ensuring domestic legislation for human rights.

The most pressing human rights issues were recognized in 2004 by the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, which mentioned that New

Zealand continues to meet and often surpass human rights standards in many respects. From an international human rights law perspective, this paper will describe the serious human rights challenges that New Zealand continues to face.