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Doctoral dissertation summary entitled "Protection of Refugee Rights in the Republic of Poland"

The aim of dissertation is to analyze procedures ensuring the protection of refugees in the Republic of Poland. The analysis have been carried out primarily through the judgments of the Polish administrative courts. The impact of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and of the Court of Justice of the European Union on Polish administrative procedures, designed to ensure the protection of applicants for refugee status, is also presented.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters and final conclusions. The first chapter of the dissertation presents the genesis of refugee issues in the world and the interpretation of concepts related to the problem. Chapter outline the origins of international interventions undertaken during the interwar period to provide refugee assistance. Furthermore the activities of the High Commissioner for Refugees and Armenian Refugees, Fridtjof Nansen International Refugee Offices and the High Commissioner for Refugees originating in Germany, the High Commissioner for Refugees under the protection of the League of Nations and the International Refugee Committee have also been presented. In addition, this chapter discusses the origins of the refugee protection action undertaken in the early years of the United Nations, including the actions of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the International Refugee Organization.

The next chapter is devoted to present the universal legal bases setting the framework for the international refugee protection system. The most important legal acts and documents of universal character are discussed, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, and the Convention's 1967 Protocol. These acts have appointed basic, general standards, which inspired the authors of all other legal acts directly and indirectly touching the issues of refugee protection. This chapter also deals with the grounds for exclusion from the refugee protection. This chapter presents detailed analysis of the principle of *non refoulement*. In addition, the scope of work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as the United Nations agencies tasked with solving the refugee problem, has been clarified. The chapter concludes an attempt at assessing the work of the United Nations for the protection of the rights of refugees.

Chapter Three presents the legal basis for regional cooperation on refugee protection. It illustrates both the genesis and the legal bases of refugee protection activities within the European Union, the Council of Europe, the African Union, the Organization of American States and the League of Arab States. The analysis of individual protection systems is also a starting point for assessing their effectiveness and compliance with universal legal solutions.

This chapter also covers international case law on the protection of refugees. In this chapter judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and of the Court of Justice of the European Union, as well as the *Pacheco Tineo Family v. Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia* judgment, issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have been also presented.

The procedures for dealing with refugee status in the Polish legal system are described in the fourth part of the hearing. This chapter includes a brief history of Polish regulations concerning foreigners - specially refugees. The direct impact that international law, and in particular the EU, exerts on the Polish legal order on refugee protection is also briefly described. The various stages of proceedings in refugee status cases, including probative proceedings, are presented. This chapter also presents the fundamental issue for this dissertation, that is, the rich case law of Polish administrative courts concerning the protection of refugees. An attempt was also made to analyze the impact of international jurisprudence on the national judgments as well as the importance of the national case law in actions taken for refugee protection.