

Human Rights and Sustainable Democracy in Nigeria (1999 - 2003)

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ABSTRACT The concern for human rights is as old as humanity itself. In fact, the expression 'human rights' as term or art is of recent origin, but the idea of the inalienable rights' of man predates the very political system, which produces the law-making institutes, as we know them today. The thrust of this paper, however, is to fill the yearning gap in the extant literature on the need to appraise the institutional mechanisms for the safeguard of the inalienable rights' of man in Nigeria's contemporary democratic experiment. We juxtaposed same with what obtained in pre-colonial Africa most especially Nigeria. Following the new thinking in the literature, we also extend our searchlight to groups rights'. Nigeria, being a plural and divided society, the paper, infers that there are a lot of loopholes in the contemporary observance of human rights', most especially in the present euphoria of the nascent democracy. We however make some policy recommendations that can assist in sustaining, nurturing, and consolidating the nascent democracy in Nigeria.