

MFSS(IRP)
006
LI
C.3



University of Macau
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Government and Public Administration



Recognition of Non-state Actors in International
Relations

澳門大學

Student Name: Li Fang
Student Number: M-B2-4147-3
Supervisor: Dr. Aleksandra Thurman

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in International Relations and Public Policy
at the University of Macau

2014/09/25

Contents

Abstract	2
Chapter 1. Introduction	3
Chapter 2. Literature Review	8
Chapter 3. Research Design	20
Chapter 4. Case Study	33
Case 1: The International Committee of the Red Cross	33
1.1 Functions of the ICRC	33
1.2 The ICRC Recognized by States	36
1.3 The ICRC Recognized by International Governmental Organizations (the United Nations)	43
1.4 The ICRC Recognized by NGOs	47
1.5 The ICRC Recognized by Individuals	48
Case 2: Human Rights Watch	51
2.1 Functions of Human Rights Watch	51
2.2 Human Rights Watch Recognized by States	53
2.3 Human Rights Watch Recognized by International governmental organizations (the United Nations)	59
2.4 Human Rights Watch Recognized by NGOs	64
2.5 Human Rights Watch Recognized by Individuals	66
Case 3: Amnesty International	69
3.1 Functions of Amnesty International	69
3.2 Amnesty International Recognized by States	71
3.3 Amnesty International Recognized by International governmental organizations (the United Nations)	76
3.4 Amnesty International Recognized by NGOs	79
3.5 Amnesty International Recognized by Individuals	83
Chapter 5. Conclusion	87
Bibliography	96

Abstract

While non-state actors are now well developed and widely accepted as important actors in the international relations, the current IR theories paid little attention to the recognition of non-state actors while being enthusiastic about the recognizing among states. This thesis will give attention to the links between the emergency and development of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with the recognition of NGOs. Questions here are: what international actors can recognize NGOs? Can non-state actors recognize NGOs just like states? I put away the theories on the recognizing states and go back to the basic conception of recognition and select the International Committee of the Red Cross, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International as my cases. Through separate researches on the interactions between these three NGOs with other international actors: states, international governmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and individuals to explore whether these international actors can recognize NGOs or not. Both states and non-state actors will interact with NGOs and make an influence on the emergency and development of NGOs, they do recognize NGOs and the recognition of NGOs by these actors have no fixed form, it can be “limited” and the recognition by different actors will impact each other.