

Name and first name: MEZMUR, Benyam Dawit

Date and place of birth: 22 / 05 / 1980, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Working languages: English, Amharic,

Current position/function:

Research Fellow, Community Law Centre, Children's Rights Project, and Lecturer on a part-time basis at the post-graduate level at the Faculty of Law, University of Western Cape;

Assistant Professor (part-time), Addis Ababa University, (lecturing child rights, among other courses)

Vice-Chairperson (2nd) of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (also responsible for the theme "violence against children"); and consult/advise on an *ad hoc* basis

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Main professional activities:

Mr Mezmur lectures and supervises post-graduate students in modules such as children's rights, human rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities; serves as a guest lecturer in a number of universities such as University of Pretoria, University of Antwerp/Ghent, Tilburg University on child rights related issues; and undertakes many academic activities such as conducting research projects, and serving in fellowships (served at Utrecht University, University of Groningen, and Abo Akademi)

As a Vice-Chairperson (2nd) of the African Committee, Mezmur undertakes work on State Party Reports, Communications/Individual complaints, general comments, investigative missions; take part in providing training, and advocacy efforts for children's rights in collaboration with CSOs; etc.

Mr Mezmur has been involved/contributed to law/policy reform efforts in some countries; done work to research, advise, and/or train on children's rights issues for governments, and organizations such as UNICEF, the SRSG VAC, Hague Conference on Private International Law, African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Plan International, Save the Children, Sexual Rights Initiative, and World Vision.

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Educational background:

Doctorate in Law (LLD), University of Western Cape, (thesis on child rights in intercountry adoption)

Masters in Law (LLM) in Human Rights and Democratization (CHR), University of Pretoria, South Africa; Postgraduate Diploma in international protection of human rights, Abo Akademi, Finland.

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; and Certificates in mental disability law (CEU, Budapest); development law; international criminal and humanitarian law; ESC rights; etc.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

While Mr Mezmur's main professional activities mentioned above are directly relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned, he has also taken part in the negotiations to draft and adopt the 3rd Optional Protocol of the CRC; participated (since 2007) in the contribution of submissions to the CRC Committee in its Days of General Discussion; and made submissions to the Human Rights Council, and participated in its Day of the Rights of the Child; served as a panelist in a side event during the UNHCR Executive Committee Session (2011), etc. Formerly Mezmur was a Legal Officer (2003-2005) at the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), and continues to be a research associate with the organization. Mr Mezmur also serves/served in Expert Groups/Meetings/ Advisory Councils/ Task Forces such as on juvenile justice (UNODC); financial aspects of intercountry adoption (HCCH); harmful practices (SRSG VAC); Way Forward Project (CCAI); on violence against children (ACPF); and on education. Mr Mezmur serves in child rights organizations' boards, (for instance, in "Beyond the Orphanage"); is a member of ANPPCAN, the Africa Wide Movement for Children, etc. Mr Mezmur has also been invited as a speaker in many international and regional conferences/workshops.

List of most recent publications in the field:

Mr Mezmur has more than 50 published academic and lay publications/reports/ etc on child rights in the last 7 years including:

- (1) "Madonna, Mercy, Malawi, and international children's rights law in adoption" (2012) 20 *International Journal of Children's Rights*;
 - (2) "Corporal punishment and the African Children's Charter" (2012) (Save the Children);
 - (3) " 'Listen to us': Arguing for child participation in NEPAD" (2009) 17 *AJICL* *;
 - (4) "The right to education in Africa: Taking stock" (Chapter in book) (2009)*;
 - (5) "Children at both ends of the gun: Child soldiers in Africa" (Chapter in book) (2008);
 - (6) "From Angelina (to Madonna) to Zoe's Ark: What are the 'A-Z' lessons for intercountry adoptions in Africa" (2009) 23 *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family* ;
 - (7) "2 + 2 = 5? Exploring the domestication of the CRC in the South African courts (2002-2006)" (2008) 16 *IJCR* ¹ *
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*With J Sloth-Nielsen