

Neocannibalism: An Analytical Medico-Jurisprudential Appraisal of Contemporary Dimensions in Organ Theft and Trafficking

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Abstract: - When in 195BC Fitus Maccius Plautus wrote “Asinaria”, generally regarded as one of the Great Roman Comedies, and which was renowned for containing the phrase “Homo homini lupus est – man is a wolf to his fellow man”, the temptation must have been to relegate the statement to the realms of fiction.

Contemporary events however prove to the contrary. Galloping advancements in science and technology, particularly in the fields of Medicine and Transplantology, have made the statement extremely germane. Scientific innovations have improved the quality and standard of life in developed countries, occasioned an increase in life expectancy and induced active longevity. Sequel to this, the demand for organs and tissues for transplant is on the increase, compelling scientists and mankind generally, to question the rationale in the wasteful disposal of organs and tissues of cadavers and indeed whether or not there should continue to exist legal or moral justification in the non commodification of the human body.

Consequently law has been brought face to face with the bizarre phenomenon of neocannibalism – a situation where human beings organize and orchestrate the consumption (cannibalization) of fellow humans, sanctified by the medical mantra of saving lives. This work is a humble attempt by the author to draw the attention of medico-legal science and international law to the novel anti-human practice, analyze same and proffer solutions.

Key Words: Homicidal cannibalism, Endo and Exo cannibalism, Necrocannibalism, bio-lust, bio-terrorism.

I. INTRODUCTION

Human cannibalism is the act or practice of humans eating the flesh or internal organs of other human beings. A person who practices cannibalism is called a cannibal.

The word cannibalism is derived from Canibales, the Spanish name for the Caribs¹, a West Indies tribe that may have practiced cannibalism², from Spanish Canibal or Caribal “a savage”. It is also called anthropophagy.

¹ <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/cannibalismdefinition.dictionary.com>

² Cannibalism (human behavior). Britannica onlineEncyclopedia.res.August31.2013

In some societies, especially tribal societies, cannibalism is a cultural norm.

1.1 Endocannibalism

Consumption of a person from within the same community is called endocannibalism, and ritual cannibalism of the recently deceased can be part of the grieving process,³ or be seen as a way of guiding the soul of the dead into the bodies of living descendants.⁴

1.2 Exocannibalism

This is the consumption of a person from outside the community, usually as a celebration of victory against a rival tribe.⁵ Both types of cannibalism can also be fuelled by the belief that eating a person’s flesh or internal organs will endow the cannibal with some of the characteristics of the deceased.⁶

In most parts of the world, cannibalism is not a societal norm, but is sometimes resorted to, in situations of extreme necessity, and has involved mainly necrocannibalism, i.e the eating of the corpse of somebody who is already dead, as opposed to homicidal cannibalism – killing someone for food. Homicidal cannibalism is always considered a crime, even in the most trying circumstances. The case of R.V. Dudley and Stephen, in which two men were found guilty of murder for killing and eating a cabin boy while adrift at sea in a life boat, set the precedent that necessity is no defence in a charge of murder.

Certain authors have on a wider scale, defined cannibalism as the act that involves consuming all or part of another individual of the same species as food. It is stated that to consume the same species, or show cannibalistic behavior is a

³ Woznick, Andrew N. (1998) Endocannibalism of the Yanomami. The Summit Times.6 (18-19)

⁴ Dow James W “cannibalism” in Terenbaum Barbara A (ed) Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture Vol. 1 New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons. Pp. 535 - 537

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Goldman, Laurence, ed (1999). The Anthropology of cannibalism greenwood Publishing group. P.16.13BN 978-0-89789-596-5.

common ecological interaction in the animal kingdom, and it has been recorded in more than 1,500 species.⁷ Human cannibalism is well documented in ancient and in recent times.⁸ The rate of cannibalism increases in nutritionally poor environments as individuals turn to nonspecifics as an additional food source.⁹ Cannibalism regulates population numbers, whereby resources such as food, shelter, and territory become more readily available with the decrease in potential competition. Although it may benefit the individual, it has been shown that the presence of cannibalism decreases the expected survival rate of the whole population and increases the risk of consuming a relative.¹⁰

Other relative effects may include the increased risk of pathogen transmission as the encounter rate of hosts increases.¹¹ Even though there is a belief in some quarters that cannibalism does not, as once believed, occur only as a result of extreme food shortage or artificial/unnatural conditions, but may also occur under natural conditions in a variety of species,¹² it has been observed that in the modern man, cannibalism is almost always as a result of extremes of conditions and situations.

Famous examples include the ill-fated Donner Party (1846-47) and more recently the crash of Uruguayan Air force Flight 571 (1972) after which some survivors ate bodies of dead passengers¹³.... These were cases of necro cannibalism, as opposed to homicidal cannibalism.

Additionally, there are cases of people suffering from mental illnesses engaging in cannibalism for sexual pleasure. There is resistance to formally labeling cannibalism a mental disorder.¹⁴ Cannibalism existed and still exists in certain cultures.

The Aghoris are Indian ascetics¹⁵ who believe that eating human flesh confers spiritual and physical benefits, such as prevention of aging. They claim to eat only those who have voluntarily willed their body to the sect upon their death.¹⁶

The Korowai tribe of South-Eastern Papua could be one of the last surviving tribes in the world engaging in cannibalism. A local cannibal cult killed and ate victims as late as 2012.¹⁷

As in some Papuan societies, the Urapmin people engaged in cannibalism in war. Notably, the Urapmin also had a system of food taboos wherein dogs could not be eaten, and they had to be kept from breathing on food, unlike humans who could be eaten and with whom food could be shared.¹⁸

II. NEOCANNIBALISM

Neocannibalism is a modern, more advanced manifestation of cannibalism in contemporary times. It is an expanded and more “all-encompassing” mode of cannibalism.

Drawing on Michel Foucault’s “Critique of Sovereignty at its relation to war and bio power”, (Foucault 2003) and Giorgio Agamben’s “Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life” (1998) some authors have addressed the question of neocannibalism which they branded the neglected and controversial problem of necropolitics as the exercise of sovereignty over death, maiming and killing in wartime.¹⁹

In the words of Nancy Scheper-Hughes, “*In an effort to get the attention of medical professionals, human rights organizations, regulatory agencies and government officials, I used forceful language, describing markets in human bio-products as neocannibalism, as “bio-lust” as “body theft”, and even in some instances as bio terrorism.*”²⁰”

Continuing, she declares “*I have called surgeons involved in illicit transplants with trafficked persons outlaws, vultures, and part of an international organs mafia, naming local recruiters “kidney hunters” I described the buyers – the medical tourists and travelers – as ethnically impaired, having no qualms about helping themselves to rented wombs, buying up oocytes and/or the embryos taken from other bodies, or kidneys purloined for pennies from depressed, displaced disgraced and debt-ridden slum and shanty town dwellers, treating these “suppliers” as if they were dead bodies or simply fresher and more mobile proxy cadavers.*”²¹

According to Nancy Scheper, the enduring bioethical quandaries of the new bio-market can be subsumed under the four C^s:

1. *Consumption, as related to the conditions making it ethically permissible to consume (cannibalize) the body parts of the other, living or dead, and what the compassionate cannibalism entails.*

⁷ G.A. Polis, The evolution and dynamics of intra specific predation. Annual Review of Ecology and Systematic 12., 225-251 (1981).

⁸ Goldman, Laurence Op.cit

⁹ Elgar M.A, Crespi, B.J. 1992 cannibalism: ecology and evolution among diverse taxa, Oxford University Press. Oxford (England) New York.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Rudolf V.H.W and Antonovics J. 2007. Disease transmission by cannibalism: rare event or common occurrence? Proceedings from Royal Society B: Biological sciences vol. 274, no. 1614 Pp.1205 – 1210.

¹² CulottA, e. (OCTOBER 1,1999) “Neanderthals were cannibals, Bones Show”. Science.sciencemag.org.286 (5437): 186 – 19.

¹³ <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human...>

¹⁴ Eat or be eaten: is cannibalism a pathology as listed in the DSM-iv? The straight Dope by Cecil Adams. Retrieved March 16, 2010.

¹⁵ Dalah, Roshen (2010). Hinduism: an Alphabetical guide. Penguin. P. 8, 13BN 9780143414216.

¹⁶ Schumacher, Tim (2013) A New Religion Universe p.66. ISBN 9781475938463.

¹⁷ Cannibal Cult members arrested in PNG. New Zealand Herald, July 5. 2012. ISSN 1170-0777. Retrieved Nov. 28, 2015.

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Mbembe and Meintjes new cannibal Markets – The ends of the body: neocannibalism and the military... [https://books.openedition.org/editions....](https://books.openedition.org/editions...)

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Nancy Scheper-Hughes; Neocannibalism, organ theft and military-Biomedical necropolitics: www.endslavery.va>endslavery>acta-20 visited 14/07/2019.

2. *Consent, especially with respect to the recruitment of the vulnerable as organs-givers and convenient sources of fresh and non-reproducible medical material.*
3. *Coercion, in convention to the demand for sacrificed violence and bodily gifting to fulfill altruistic, kin-based or economic survivalist needs, and finally*
4. *Commodification or the fragmentation of the body and sale and distribution of its alienated parts.*²²

*“Organ scarcity and needs have created an unprecedented demand, and a division of the world into organ givers and organ getters. To put it bluntly, sanctified by the medical mantra of “saving lives”, a dangerous discuss than can obliterate the collateral harm done to individuals, communities, and nation-states, in the illicit procurement of human bio-materials, especially when they are still attached to their native bodies”.*²³

Cannibal markets based on the disposability and dispensability of bio-available populations and groups have certainly flourished under economic globalization. There are cannibal markets in bodies, whole and in parts, dead and alive, in portable and portable organs, in tissues, oocytes, rented wombs, and babies, and even cannibal markets in doctors, surgeons and nurses that move and remove these “things” – bio-products and medical goods from one vulnerable country to other locations and populations that have defined new rights and new sovereignties over the bodies of others. As in any market enterprise, these markets are producing winners and losers, advantaged and disadvantaged, super citizens and sub citizens”.²⁴

Contemporary intellectual endeavours, particularly in the realms of medical jurisprudence and International Humanitarian law, must be indeed profoundly indebted to Nancy Schepper Hughes, who proffered not only the nomenclature- neo-cannibalism, but a definition and description of the bizarre and obnoxious phenomenon.

Schepper had defined neo-cannibalism as: The plunder of the bodies of the enemy during or in the aftermath of wars, with the complicity and collaboration of military and police states²⁵.... Unfortunately, the concept of neo-cannibalism has since exponentially undergone a dialectical metamorphosis, exhibiting a certain degree of the slippery slope phenomenon.

It has metamorphosed from a high profile, strictly guarded, clandestine occurrence, to a dialectically much more complex monstrosity. With the escape of the strange practice from the “stranglehold” of the states and their instruments of coercion, a Pandora’s box, - nay, a Frankenstein’s beast has been unleashed on unsuspecting mankind. Any political upheaval, all forms of crisis, any weakness on the part of the state, has become fertile reason and ground for neo-cannibalism- a

situation where either human beings are farmed (just like in ordinary animal husbandry) for the purpose of their eventual slaughter and harvesting of their organs or are lured into unsuspecting circumstances where their organs are stolen and trafficked, or still the very poor and vulnerable are tricked into selling off their organs and tissues for peanuts, but most importantly, illegally, commodification of the human body and eventual consumption of same, is occasioned.

2.1 The Otokoto Saga

On the 19th of September 1996, at a time when Nigeria was under a totalitarian dictatorship, in the city of Owerri, an innocent 11 year old boy was murdered for “ritual”. The little boy was hawking boiled groundnuts, which was his daily routine. He strolled along, selling his groundnuts for peanuts to whoever wanted to buy; when he got to Amakohia area of Owerri, his eyes lit up with joy when a customer beckoned on him to approach.

The boy was called into the famous Otokoto Hotel and the little groundnut seller was visibly very excited. Since it was a hotel, it meant that the new customer would probably be buying plenty of groundnuts which will mean more money to take home to make his parents happy and assist his struggling family. While waiting, the boy was treated like a guest, he was given a bottle of Coca-Cola to cool off from the punishing heat of the tropical African sun.

Innocently, he took the Coke and gulped it with relish. In a matter of minutes, he dozed off, never to wake up. His tray full of groundnuts was still lying in the corner.

Observing the boy from a safe distance was the man who had called him to buy his groundnuts. He had “spiked” the boy’s drink and once he saw he was asleep he took the limp body of the drugged lad into one of the hotel rooms, and what followed next remains one of the most evil things any one can ever dream up. A sharp cutlass emerged from nowhere, and he was beheaded in a matter of minutes. After the boy’s head was cut off, the culprit disemboweled the torso, removed his liver and other parts he needed.

Not done yet, the boy’s genitals were not spared as well. After butchering the boy and sorting out his organs, the butcher packed the boy’s head inside a polythene bag, and buried the other remaining parts.

The head was taken to the house of a man who had requested for same.²⁶ It was dubbed a ritual killing, but now the world knows better.

Even before the horrible incident that broke the camel’s back took place, the people of Owerri were already very mad at bizarre actions of some loud, extremely powerful and obscenely wealthy individuals in the state. These people were highly connected, and oppressed everyone wherever they went. Rumours were all over the place as to their very dark

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ ibid

²⁶ History of the Otokoto Money ritual killing of 1996 in Owerri, Imo state – crime-Naira land. <https://www.nairaland.com> visited 19/07/2017.

dealings and even the possibility of ritual murders and killings but no one really had any hard evidence yet, or probably those who had it were too jittery to say anything.²⁷

These rich people, who had no really tangible or easily traceable sources of wealth kept on living large and instilling an atmosphere of terror and fear on the Owerri populace.²⁸ Ritual killing was fingered, but the eventual revelation of powerful men in exotic cars who clandestinely visited Otokoto Hotel with ice/cold boxes and refrigerators to collect human parts, clearly pointed in the direction of human organ and tissue trafficking, the early harbingers and manifestations of neocannibalism.

One of the perpetrators of the heinous crime indeed confessed that the killing ring was a well-organized machine that specialized in the harvesting of human body parts and selling them to those interested in using them.²⁹

Innocent guests and unsuspecting travelers who lodged in the hotel were drugged, or attacked in the middle of their sleep and hacked to death after which they were cut into pieces for sale.

Police officers who swooped upon the hotel discovered not only the shallow grave containing that of the little boy, but also graves containing other victims with their decomposing and dismembered corpses³⁰.

2.2 African Organ Harvesting

African migrants being sold as slaves by Libyan human traffickers have their organs harvested, bodies mutilated and roasted like kebabs.³¹

Organs procurement (previously called organ harvesting) is a surgical procedure that removes organs or tissues for reuse, typically for organ transplantation... Organ transplantation is mired in ethical debate because of the limited availability of organ for transplant.

On many occasions, desperate to reach Europe, migrants from Africa are travelling to Egypt and selling body parts to pay for their passage.³²

According to some authorities many Africans sold to Libyans as slaves, are not really used for the purpose of slave labour or sex slavery. "The truth is that they are not sold to go and work, but their human parts are harvested.... Kidneys, livers are in high demand in these areas"³³.

These Africans are put on some drugs, and their parts are harvested and sold. UN Secretary General, who condemned the "appalling Acts", ordered that the slave trade be

investigated by competent authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.³⁴

According to some authorities, African slaves are cut open for their kidneys in Libya's burgeoning organ trafficking market.³⁵ With a number of African countries suffering from widespread poverty, human organ harvesting is becoming a thriving business with customers from all around the world.³⁶

According to a recent Interpol report, in Nigeria, top ranking politicians and diplomats many have a hand in the illicit business of human trafficking and organ sales. The French police report, which revealed that a single human lung sells for as much as \$10,000 to \$20,000, described how in some cases unsuspecting victims were offered help to enter other countries where their organs are harvested.³⁷

"it is a very lucrative trade that involves not only kidneys" explained an intelligence officer in the country who was privy to the report.³⁸

Organ harvesting has been tied to human trafficking, and has become a booming business in the 21 century on a global scale, according to Dame Julie Donli, Director General NAPTIP.³⁹

Some victims are informed that their organs will be taken for a fee and they will also be taken care of, but as soon as the organs are taken, the victims are sutured- back and the money promised not given, while the victim is left to die if they decide to take every organ.⁴⁰

The Global Financial Integrity believes that around 10% of all organ donations are made via illegal avenues, with kidneys being the highest trafficking part of the body.⁴¹

Dealing in body parts is a well oiled international racket that features prominent politicians, business people, doctors, nurses and the police. The World Health Organization estimates that the illegal organ trade, christened "the red market" is worth over one billion dollars each year.⁴²

Africa continues to be a lucrative market for the international buyers due to weak laws and enforcement, porous borders and poverty.⁴³ Stories abound of agents to international buyers pitching tents in conflict zones of Africa, targeting vulnerable people with offers. It is argued that where there are poor people, there are organ brokers.⁴⁴

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk>enslaved>

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ Bob Kolgi; "A penny for a kidney illegal organ Trafficking in Africa" <https://www.fairplanet.org> visited 24/07/19.

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

²⁷ Stella Dimoko Korkus.com Otokoto-remembering a saga that shook Nigeria. <https://www.stelladimokokorkus.com>ot...> Visited 20/07/2019.

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Bill Bond and Sara Malm mail online 29 Nov 2017.

³² Sean Columba, observer dispatch, Feb 9, 2019. From the guardian.com

³³ <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk>la>

An organ buyer spends on the average \$150,000 for a vital organ like kidney, liver or heart. A willing donor will usually get \$5,000, with the middle-men equally getting their shares. Such lucrative offers drive desperate Africans to freely trade their organs.⁴⁵

In addition to the above, there are harrowing episodes of thousands of people tricked or drugged and their organs harvested without their knowledge.....⁴⁶

The recent massive migration of Africans to Europe through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea has not helped matters. If anything, it has intensified or fanned the trade. Migrants, who do not get jobs and are desperate, are sold for their organs. In some cases, when a migrant is not in a position to raise the money required to facilitate his journey across the Mediterranean Sea, he is forced to give up his organs. Egypt and Libya are some of the greatest culprits in this deal.⁴⁷

Migrant population provides a key source of organs for Cairo's burgeoning transplant industry. Barred from access to the formal labour markets, migrants have little choice but to accept precarious labour conditions.... in an uncertain, unregulated and often hostile environment.⁴⁸

In South Africa, the trade continues to blossom, as it remains one of the most preferred destinations for international patients keen on getting illegal organ transplant. Numerous traffic-related murders have been documented with even respected hospitals featuring in the syndicate.⁴⁹

In Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin, numerous graves have been excavated with bodies missing organs discovered. Experts argue that lack of political will and corruption will keep the trade going despite public outcry. Government officials at top levels are actively involved in the syndicate.⁵⁰ Law enforcement officers manning the borders are corrupt and could be bought over. Meanwhile, desperation among the patients keen on getting these organs, and poverty, ignorance and hunger which ravage the African countries unchecked, are compelling factors which force the Africans to do anything for money and survival, including giving up their organs for peanuts.

2.3 Human Farm Discovered In Libya

According to Daily News Nigeria, the troops of Mare ehal Haftar have released more than 2,500 Africans (men, women and children) in a very strange human farm.⁵¹

All these Africans were locked in small cages limiting their movements like wild animals. They were all in a bad state.

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Daily News Nigeria: Human Farm Discovered in Libya. <https://dailynewsnigeria.com.ng>hu...> Visited 24-07-2019.

Some had no eyes and all bore stigmata of gross surgery. It is the farm of horrors. The paroxysm of horror. The worst was again crossed. The most extreme barbarism worthy of hell executed by incarnate demons....⁵² With the blessing of the European Union, they created a black market of all parts of the human body. Without taking the trouble to give them the slightest anesthesia, doctors take from them, the organs that the rich western clientele needs. They are sequestering human beings.⁵³

The victims are denied their humanity and locked up in cages as a reserve for the needs of western medicine.

An abominable booming business in the Middle East, human farms are becoming more numerous.

A black kidney now costs \$262,000 the heart costs \$119,000, and the liver costs \$157,000... The black people are the target of the worst predators of humanity according to a Machiavellian agenda.⁵⁴

Faced with the silence of the Western press and African leaders in front of the dismantling of this macabre network, for these people, blacks are insects, a lower race that must be eradicated.⁵⁵

To the inquisitive legal mind, above expose elicits a new form of cannibalism whose ingredients unequivocally point in one and only one incontrovertible direction – crime against humanity, and genocide.

Starring law in the face are all the constituent elements of both crime against humanity and genocide.

These include:

Fraud, abduction, illegal cross border trafficking of the human being and/or human organs and tissues, torture, premeditated murder, dismemberment of either the living person or the corpse, and eventual/ultimate consumption (cannibalization) of organs of such bodies.

A cold, calculated willful extermination of the black race is in progress, in the name of trading for organs and tissues. Habitations are being depopulated, and people are being compelled to leave their normal places of abode. Births are being truncated.

III. CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

Crimes against humanity are certain acts that are deliberately committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack, directed against any civilian or identifiable part of a civilian population.⁵⁶ The first prosecution for crimes against humanity took place at the Nuremberg trials. Crimes against humanity have since been prosecuted by other international

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ Crimes against humanity- <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>wiki?crime...> Visited 26/07/2019.

courts, e.g. International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Courts, International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, as well as domestic prosecutions. The law of crimes against humanity has primary development through the evolution of Customary International Law....⁵⁷

Unlike war crimes, crimes against humanity can be committed during peace or war.⁵⁸ They are not isolated or sporadic events, but are part either of a government policy or of a widespread practice of atrocities tolerated or condoned by a government or a defacto authority. War crimes, murder, massacres, dehumanization, genocide, ethnic cleansing, deportations, unethical human experimentation... kidnappings, enslavement, torture, cannibalism, rape may reach the threshold of crimes against humanity, if they are part of a wide spread or systematic practice.⁵⁹

IV. GENOCIDE

Genocide on the other hand, is the intentional action to destroy a group of people (usually defined as an ethnic, national, racial or religious group) in whole or in part.⁶⁰

The term genocide was coined by Raphael Lemkin in his 1944 book "Axis Rule in occupied Europe".⁶¹

The United Nations genocide convention, which was established in 1948 defines genocide as "acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnic, racial or religious group", including the systematic harm or killing of its members, deliberately imposing living conditions that seek to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, preventing births, or forcibly transferring children out of the group to another group.⁶²

V. CONCLUSION

An unbiased and objective analysis of neocannibalism elucidates the fact that the majority, if not all, of the ingredients intrinsic in crimes against humanity and genocide are manifested in the obnoxious practice.

Pursuant to the above, it becomes self evident that neocannibalism is a new dimension in domestic and international crime, involving the illegal farming in human beings (establishment and operation of human farms"), illegal trafficking in human beings (both local and cross border trafficking), dehumanization, murder, dismemberment and "consumption" of human organs and tissues, for unwholesome medical and economic considerations.

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ Margaret M. Deguzman; "Crimes Against Humanity" research handbook on International Criminal Law, Bantram. S. Brown ed., Edgar Elgar publishing, 2011.

⁵⁹ Crimes Against Humanity Supra.

⁶⁰ Genocide. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>. visited 26/7/19.

⁶¹ Williams Schabas "Genocide in International Law: the crimes of crimes" Cambridge University Press, 2000, P. 25 "Lemkins interest in the subject dates to his days as a student at Lvov University, when he intently followed attempts to prosecute the perpetration of the massacres of the Americans".

⁶² Legal definition of genocide (PDF) United Nations. Retrieved 22 Feb. 2017

A total commodification of the human person, the peculiarities of neocannibalism include the fact that its practice is not restricted to situations of crisis and war, but that it thrives even in situations of peace, fuelled or driven by the extremely high demand for organ transplant in advanced countries.

The perpetrators of the inhuman act are the economically advanced countries of the West, their agents and/or their syndicates, while the victims are the economically backward or developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The provocative factors or propulsive force include socio-economic decadence occasioned by corrupt and inept leadership of the developing or poor countries, accentuated by the aforementioned insatiable appetite of the West for organ and tissue transplant.

Paradoxically, the economic prosperity of the West, coupled with modern advancement in science and technology, particularly in the field of Surgery and transplantology, with the resultant improved quality of life and active longevity in the West, have become the bane, and indeed a threat to the existence of poorer nations.

Modern technologies have brought in their wake, new capabilities to plunder, harvest, store and distribute human organs, tissues and genetic materials. Global licit and illicit markets to supply the demand of transplant medicine, orthopedic and orthodontic medicine, dermatology, plastic surgery and to serve the needs of basic science and research, commercial pharmacology and medical training is a late twentieth century innovation.

Neocannibalism, the socio-cultural and economic aberration, in which human beings are farmed, marketed, tortured, dehumanized, slain and consumed, has broken the barriers, and extended the frontiers of human criminality.

Granted, this villainous commodification of the human person is alien to most domestic and international legislation, but in view of its *modus operandi*, any search for the panacea to its "*rai-son d'etre*" must be concentrated in the domains of international law.

Unfortunately, the avenues for prosecuting international crimes as is known to law e.g.

1. Prosecuting International Crimes before the courts of the territory state.
2. Prosecution of International Crimes before International Criminal Tribunals.
3. Prosecuting International Crimes before the Domestic Courts of Foreign states, may prove inadequate.

The matter therefore, craves for serious deliberation on the floor of the United Nations Organization, with a view to enacting the establishment of totally distinct and different legal frame work, binding on all member nations, for the total eradication of the inhuman practice.