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EDOARDO ALBERTO ROSSI*

NGOS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESPECT OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The paper analyses the social and humanitarian needs identified by the case-law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which have justified the admission of *acciones populares* proposed by NGOs to remedy cases of generalised violations. Particular attention is paid to the use of *actio popularis* in the context of the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. The conclusions stress the need to ensure the effective implementation of the American Convention using *acciones populares*, taking into account the problems arising from state sovereignty and customary international law

Keywords: *Actio popularis*; nongovernmental organizations; Inter-American Court of Human Rights; indigenous peoples.

* Assegnista di ricerca in Diritto internazionale, Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza, Università degli Studi di Urbino *Carlo Bo*