

ILLEGAL ALIENS UNDER NIGERIAN LAW (1983). By R.C. Chhangani. Associated Law Publications, 948, 11th 'D' Road, Sardarpura, Jodhpur (Raj.). Pp. 91.

THE PROBLEM of illegal immigration has affected several countries. Nigeria is no exception to this. It has had to deal with immigration from Ghana, Niger, Chad and Northern Cameroon. In 1979, sixteen West African states entered into a protocol relating to free movement of persons under which immigration control has been relaxed and visa requirement abolished *vis-a-vis* citizens belonging to the Economic Community of African States. However, "undocumented" migrants or persons without legal travel documents continue to flock Nigeria.

This small monograph¹ is based on the author's paper presented at a conference of the Nigerian Society of International Law and various articles published in the Nigerian newspapers. The author has analysed the factors responsible for immigration, mainly categorized as push and pull factors, Nigerian citizenship, immigration and deportation provisions and difference between the status of illegal immigrants and refugees. According to the author, illegal immigrants enjoy better protection than stateless persons. He does not favour Sibert's theory of free entry or general right of entry.

Chapter IV dealing with rights and obligations of aliens is quite interesting and informative. The author observes that certain economic activities are reserved only for Nigerians. Some publicists have taken the view that illegal immigrants forfeit all civil rights and protection of law in the host state. But, others including the author would concede them certain minimum rights. The one-member tribunal of inquiry appointed by the Nigerian President to go into the "Black Maria" incident involving death of some immigrants in police custody, observed that even the illegal immigrants cannot be treated inhumanly, as, it would be violative of the Nigerian Constitution. The author praises the Government of Nigeria for the orderly and humane manner in which the illegal immigrants were expelled from the country and refutes allegations of their maltreatment in the Western media. He also supports the government's decision to issue identity cards to all the Nigerian citizens with a view to distinguishing them from illegal aliens. He suggests that a law be enacted to bar employment of the latter in Nigeria. At the end of the study, the author suggests that as a long term solution to the problem of illegal immigration, the countries from which migration takes place should be helped with technical and economic assistance to generate employment opportunities

1. R.C. Chhangani, *Illegal Aliens Under Nigerian Law* (1983).

there itself. This is indeed a very constructive suggestion.

Chhangani's monograph is a useful addition to the existing literature on the subject.

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