Today the Internet, Tomorrow Cable TV?: Situating the Internet as a Human Right

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In 2011, the United Nations released a Report on human rights, which particularly delves into the protection and freedom of opinion and expression. The Report noted the emergence of the Internet as a vital communications tool, which gradually pervades the lives of individuals. It suggests that such technological innovation must have a corresponding development in the protection and freedom of expression of individuals. As a result thereof, the Report led people to deduce that Internet has become a human right — a conclusion, which elicited various reactions: some positive, others negative.

In this Article, the Author attempts to shed some light on the Report and its relation to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the United Nations’ Charter. Notably, in this Article, the Author looks into the possibility — or risk — of imposing collective sanctions on States, which violate or suppress the “human right” of individuals to a communicative tool, which may someday become obsolete, the Internet. Aside from this, the Article dwells on legal, practical, and theoretical repercussions of the Report.