Anticipatory action in self-defence: The law of self-defence - past, presence and future

Tibori Szabó, K.J.

Citation for published version (APA):
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It would not have been possible to write this doctoral thesis without the help and support of a great deal of people, to only some of whom it is possible to give particular mention here.

First of all, I owe my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. dr. Terry Gill, without whose long-standing and unreserved support this book would have never been written. Conducting a doctoral research on the subject of self-defence was a long held ambition of mine, encouraged by Professor Gill from the very first time I set foot in his office, as an undergraduate student, some nine years ago. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank him for believing in me and to express my appreciation for the invaluable advice I received from him in writing this book.

I was able to conduct this doctoral research thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education - Nuffic (Huygens Scholarship Programme), the University of Amsterdam (Mr. I. Henri Hijmans Scholarship) and the T.M.C. Asser Institute (Dissertation Fellowship).

The present research was conducted as part of the External PhD Programme of the Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam. I am grateful to my ACIL coordinator, Martine van Trigt, for her impeccable organizational support, her friendship and her constant thoughtfulness.

The Asser institute in The Hague has been my second home for the past three and a half years. I spent countless days and weekends in my office on the third floor or roaming around the building, barefoot, thinking about the best way to start another chapter. Apart from my nearly unnatural attachment to the institute itself, I am also indebted to a number of people employed by or associated with Asser. First, I would like to thank Olivier Ribbelink for showing interest in my research project and for facilitating my becoming a dissertation fellow. I would also like to thank him for taking time out of his busy schedule and translating the summary of my thesis. Further, I am grateful to Julien Simon for organizing the printing of the present edition of my book. I also wish to thank Asser Press for printing the cover of this book. Dick Blom has contributed to my research through his unyielding provision of library books that I continuously requested. My gratitude goes to my colleague and friend, Maria Nybondas, for taking the time to read parts of my thesis and making helpful comments, as well as for her invaluable advice regarding the myriad of issues a PhD candidate has to face. I am indebted to Hans Thijsen, for his friendly advice and meticulous work in editing my book.

I am grateful to Ovidiu Juravle for materialising, with great skill, my ideas for the cover of this book.

My appreciation goes out to all past and present members of ICTY’s Pandurovic defence team for their encouragement in finishing my research. I wish to thank Cindy Cravo, Danijela Vurdelja and Helena Kaker for the best implementation of the ‘work hard, play hard’ principle. I am grateful to Peter Haynes QC for being the most patient boss a not-so-full-time legal assistant can have.

Many friends and colleagues have made a difference to my life in the past four years. I am foolish enough to provide a list of their names here, although I will surely, though
unintentionally, leave some out. I would like to thank Amna Guellali, Anand Shah, Anca Sandescu, Benoît Quesson, Claudio Matera, Dana Cucu, Elise Delahaye, Emma Juravle, Giulia Pieralli, Karolien Pieters, Laura Trofin, Leonardo Massai, Lucia Nicolescu, Mădălina Busuioc, Ramona Biholar, Tamara Takács and Vladislav Polikarpov for being my friends and for giving me confidence in conducting this research. My paranymphs, Anca and Vlad, thank you for having been my fun squad and safety net for the past decade.

I owe my innermost gratitude to my family: János, Margit, Zoltán, Emese, Márti, Călin and David. I would like to thank my mother, Emese, for constantly reminding me that the writing of a doctoral thesis should not be an everlasting activity. I would like to thank my uncle, Zoltán, for devising the most efficient challenging-mechanism of all times, which catapulted me from a small Eastern European mono-industrial town to the international legal capital of the world. I dedicate this book to my grandparents, János and Margit, who, for the past thirty years, have acted as mentors, guardian angels, shadow warriors and true friends, for one purpose only: that I enjoy what life has to offer, to the fullest. Köszönöm, hogy vagytok nekem.

October 2010

Kinga Tibori Szabó