International Law Arguments

> *The full legal framework supporting Sabah's right to independence*

A Multi-Layered Legal Case

The RSNB-GIE's legal case is built on multiple, mutually reinforcing pillars of international law. Each argument, standing alone, provides significant support for Sabah's right to self-determination. Together, they form a compelling and comprehensive legal framework.

Treaty Law

Under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a treaty is void if it was concluded in violation of a fundamental rule of a state's internal law, or if it conflicts with a peremptory norm of general international law (jus cogens). The right to self-determination is now widely regarded as a jus cogens norm — meaning no treaty that violates it can be valid.

Permanent Sovereignty Over Natural Resources

UN General Assembly Resolution 1803 (XVII) affirmed the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources. Malaysia's exploitation of Sabah's oil, gas, timber, and other resources without the genuine consent of the Sabahan people is a continuing violation of this principle.

Remedial Secession

International law recognises a right of remedial secession in cases where a people has been systematically denied internal self-determination — meaningful participation in governance, cultural rights, and economic development. Given the decades of broken promises, marginalisation, and exploitation that Sabahans have experienced within

Malaysia, the conditions for remedial secession are arguably met.

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