



The 19th Annual Minerva Conference on International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The Gaza War and International Law: Norms and Institutions

December 17-18, 2024

Maeirsdorf Conference Hall 405, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus Campus

Day One: Tuesday, December 17

- 09:00-09:30** **Gathering and Refreshments**
- 09:30-09:45** **Opening**
- Greetings: **Prof. Barak Medina** / Academic Director of the Minerva Center for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Introduction: **Prof. Yuval Shany** / Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Minerva IHL Conference Committee Chair
- 09:45-11:15** **Session 1: Jus ad Bellum Questions**
- Presentations: **Prof. Claus Kress** / Director of the Institute of International Peace and Security Law, University of Cologne
"The Conflict in the Middle East since October, 7, 2023 and the International Law on the Use of Force" (Online presentation)
- Prof. Nicholas Tsagourias** / Professor of International Law, University of Sheffield
"The Legality of Self-Defence Action against Non-State Actors"
- Mr. Gal Cohen** / PhD Candidate, University College London
"The Influence of the Hostilities in Gaza on jus ad bellum Applicability"
- Chair: **Prof. Yaël Ronen** / Minerva Center for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Academic Editor, Israel Law Review
- 11:30-13:00** **Session 2: Asymmetry Challenges**
- Presentations: **Dr. Yahli Shereshevsky** / Faculty of Law, Haifa University
"The Gaza Conflict and Agency"
- Adv. Anne Herzberg** / Legal Advisor and UN Representative, Institute for NGO Research
"Searching for Hamas: The Missing Combatant and Implications for IHL Compliance"
- Adv. Inbal Djalovski** / Independent International Law Expert and former ICC Prosecution Lawyer
"Accountability for Human Shielding – a Complex but Worthwhile Challenge" (Online presentation)
- Chair: **Dr. Ziv Bohrer** / Faculty of Law, Bar-Ilan University
- 14:15-15:00** **Session 3: Operational Challenges**
- Presentation: **Brig. Gen. Roni Katzir** / Head of the IDF International Law Branch
"The Distinctive Features of the Hamas-Israel War"
- Chair: **Prof. Yuval Shany** / Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 15:15-16:45** **Session 4: Protecting Humanitarian Conditions**
- Presentations: **Dr. Emanuela-Chiara Gillard** / Senior Visiting Fellow, Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict, University of Oxford
"Some Reflections on the Prohibition of Starvation as a Method of Warfare and the Rules of IHL on Relief Operations"
- Prof. Jens Iverson** / Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, Leiden University
"Gaza and Water: Law, Ethics, and Interests" (Online presentation)
- Ms. Tamar Luster** / Zvi Meitar Center for Advanced Legal Studies, Tel Aviv University
"Litigating Slow Violence: Gaza, Humanitarian Assistance, and International Law"
- Chair: **Dr. Natalie Davidson** / Buchmann Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University
- 17:00-18:30** **Session 5: Rights of Victims and Hors de Combat**
- Presentations: **Dr. Eitan Diamond** / Manager and Senior Legal Expert, Diakonia IHL Centre
Dr. Ellen Nohle / Senior Legal Advisor, Diakonia IHL Centre
"Humanitarian Displacement? The (mis)appropriation of humanitarian principles to justify mass displacement"
- Adv. Sawsan Zaher** / Human Rights Lawyer based in Haifa; Co-Supervisor at the Human Rights Clinic in Tel Aviv University
"Between Rights and Reality: The Detention of Gazans in Israeli Camps during the War"
- Prof. Reuven (Ruvy) Ziegler** / Associate Professor in International Refugee Law, University of Reading
"The prohibition on deportation, the right to leave, nonrefoulement, and the right to return: Four sides of the same coin?"
- Chair: **Dr. Tamar Megiddo** / Dept. of International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Day Two: Wednesday, December 18

- 09:00-10:30** **Session 6: Weapon Law Issues**
- Presentations: **Dr. Natalie Davidson** / Buchmann Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University
"The International Law of Arms Transfers and the Gaza Conflict"
- Mr. William Worster** / The Hague University of Applied Sciences
"Assurances on the Use of Exported Arms" (Online presentation)
- Mr. Renato Wolf** / Honorary Research Fellow, University of Queensland, Australia
"The use of artificial intelligence-decision-support systems (AI-DSS) in the Gaza conflict through the lens of distinction and precautions under International Humanitarian Law" (Online presentation)
- Chair: **Prof. Amichai Cohen** / Faculty of Law, Ono Academic College; Senior Fellow, Israel Democracy Institute
- 10:45-11:30** **Session 7: A Socio-Cultural Perspective**
- Presentation: **Dr. Ameer Fakhoury** / Fellow, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
"UN shmune": the Socio-Cultural Sources of the Rejection of International Law in Israeli Discourse"
- Chair: **Prof. Barak Medina** / Academic Director, Minerva Center for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 11:45-13:15** **Session 8: Looking at the Bigger Picture**
- Presentations: **Dr. Alan Tzvika Nissel** / Assistant Professor of Law & Practice, Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law
"Lex Lata and the Duality of International Humanitarian Law"
- Prof. Yair Listokin** / Professor of Law and Deputy Dean, Yale Law School
"Decomposing Double Standards at the United Nations"
- Prof. Rachel VanLandingham** / Lt Col, USAF (ret.); Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles
"The Law of War isn't Cold: How the War in Gaza Demonstrates the Law's Emotional Essence"
- Chair: **Dr. Limor Yehuda** / Senior Research Fellow, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
- 14:30-16:00** **Session 9: The Adjudication of the War**
- Presentations: **Prof. Monika Polzin** / Head of Institute for the Internationalization of Law, Vienna University of Business and Economics
"Did the ICJ Act Ultra Vires? The Orders on the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip"
- Ms. Ya'ara Mordecai** / JSD Candidate, Yale Law School
"Building on Experience: Leveraging International Precedents to Mitigate Potential Pitfalls in Establishing a Special Tribunal for October 7th Perpetrators"
- Dr. Robert Stendel** / Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg
"Monetary Gold in the Age of Public Interest Litigation: The Indispensable Third Party Principle at 70" (Online presentation)
- Chair: **Dr. Shani Friedman** / Postdoctoral Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 16:15-17:15** **Session 10: Keynote Address**
- Address: **Dr. Chile Eboe-Osuji** / Former President of the International Criminal Court; Distinguished International Jurist, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Metropolitan Toronto University
"The Doctrinal Foundation of International Criminal Jurisdiction" (Online presentation)
- Chair: **Prof. David Kretzmer** / Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Founding Director, Minerva Center for Human Rights

The conference is open to the public. The number of places is limited.
Registration is required

[Click here to register](#)

For additional information: mchr@savion.huji.ac.il
Please note that the conference discussions will be filmed.

