



Faculty
of Law

Palacký University
Olomouc

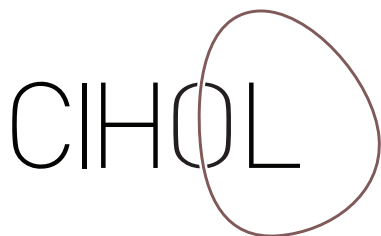


CIHOL

Centre for International Humanitarian
and Operational Law

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





Centre for International Humanitarian
and Operational Law



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CIHOL ANNUAL REPORT 2025	4
EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE CENTRE	5
INVITED LECTURES	6
CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS	7
MEDIA APPEARANCES	8
PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	9
PARTICIPATION IN COURSES AND EXERCISES ABROAD	11
OUTLOOK FOR 2026	11


CIHOL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

In 2025, members of the Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law were especially active regarding their publication outputs. Alongside scholarly articles and book chapters, three monographs and one edited book were published with renowned international publishing houses. Members were also frequently invited to deliver guest lectures within their fields of expertise and to provide expert commentary to the media on current international developments. Last but not least, members of the Centre took active steps toward strengthening pan-European cooperation among experts in the law of armed conflict. Through these activities, the Centre fulfils its core mission to strengthen the active dissemination and popularization of the law of armed conflict and to bridge the academic and military spheres—all within the context of a deteriorating security situation in Europe.

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE CENTRE


Expert Workshop on Strengthening Pan-European Cooperation of Academics and Application Practice in the Field of the Law of Armed Conflict

November 2025 | Olomouc

- Participants in the [workshop](#)  included, among others, Prof. Marko Sassòli (former Director of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights), Prof. Giulio Bartolini (Roma Tre University), Prof. Kubo Mačák (University of Exeter), Prof. Julia Grignon (Panthéon-Assas), and Dr. Robert Heinsch (Leiden University). The International Committee of the Red Cross also dispatched two representatives.




Ljubljana Sanctions Conference

September 2025 | Ljubljana

- [Organized](#)  jointly by the Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law and Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana (Dr Svičević on behalf of the Centre).

International summer school “The Use of Force in International Law”

July 2025 | Olomouc

- Lecturers for the [inaugural year of the Olomouc Summer School](#)  that focused on international law included Prof. Niels Blokker (Leiden University), Prof. José Alberto Azeredo Lopes (Catholic University of Portugal, former Minister of National Defence of Portugal), Dr. Maria Isabel Tavares (Catholic University of Portugal), Assoc. Prof. Tamás Hoffmann (Corvinus University), and Dr. Agata Kleczkowska (Polish Academy of Sciences).
- The summer school featured [an interactive group exercise on information warfare](#)  scenario conducted at a military base. The collaboration on preparing this summer school marked the first successful outcome of the cooperation initiated with the [91st Information Warfare Group in 2025](#) .

INVITED LECTURES


University of Lodz

December 2025

- Invited lecture by Dr Svičević on the topic of *NATO and Collective Security*.

Assembly of the legal service of the 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment

October 2025

- Invited [lecture](#)  by Dr Svičević on the topic of *Invoking Article 5: Cross-Border Incidents as Armed Attacks against NATO?*

Assembly of the Legal Service of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic

May 2025

- Lecture by Dr Stejskal on the topic of critical civilian infrastructure as a military objective through the optics of the law of armed conflict, including sabotage and deep reconnaissance operations.
- On this occasion, the Head of the Centre, Dr Martin Faix, was awarded the Badge of Honour of the Legal Service of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic in recognition of his long-term contribution to education in the field of the law of armed conflict and his cooperation with the Legal Service of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic.

Catholic University of Porto

March 2025

- An intensive course titled *„IHL in Action: Eye in the Sky meets Moot Court“*, designed and conducted by Dr Faix.

Johannesburg University

- Dr Faix, Dr Stejskal, and Dr Svičević annually conduct lectures for the University of Johannesburg. In 2025, their presentations covered topics such as the development of the law of armed conflict, the protection of human rights in Europe, and armed aggression in international law (as part of courses led by Prof. Martha M. Bradley).

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Prague, International and European Law Based Regulatory Strategies for Resilience against Dis/Misinformation Cybernetic Threats

November 2025 | Prague

- Contribution by Dr Faix on the topic of *Cyber Misattribution Caused by Deception – A Critical Gap in International Law?*

JCBRN Defence COE Annual Conference 2025

October 2025 | Brno

- Invited presentation by Dr Faix on the topic of *Regulation of Nuclear Weapons under International Law – 2025*.


XVII. Slovak-Czech International Law Symposium, 80th Anniversary of the UN Charter

October 2025 | Slovakia

- Contribution by Dr Faix on the topic *To Be or Not to Be (Bound by the Rules of Ius ad Bellum): On the Question of the Application of Ius ad Bellum Rules to International Organizations*.

VIII Silent Leges inter arma? Conference organised by the Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

September 2025 | Belgium

- Presentation by Dr Faix at the conference by invitation of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War, Belgian Group, on the topic *CIHOL and Camp Peira – Use of Innovative Methods for Teaching and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law*.
- The Centre was an official partner of this [conference](#) .








SYMROLIC 2025, 13th Symbiosis Annual International Research Conference-Rule of Law in Context: Just World Order, Digital Life, AI, and Emerging Technologies, Symbiosis Law School, Puné, India



April 2025 | India

- Contribution by Dr Faix on the topic *Rule of Law in International Law – The Essential Premise for a Just Digital Order*.



MEDIA APPEARANCES

Individual members of the Centre provided expert commentary across several nationwide media outlets on topics including:






- [Legal assessment of the peace agreement proposed by the US for Ukraine and Russia](#) 
ČT24, Události, komentáře | 21 November 2025 | Dr Stejskal
- [“The purpose of humanitarian law is to create a zone of state conduct that allows them to end the war while causing the least amount of damage”](#) 
podCARITAsT | 6 November 2025 | Dr Stejskal
- [Undersea sabotage and its punishment](#) 
Seznam Zprávy | 22 October 2025 | Dr Faix
- Problematika uznání Palestiny za stát
ČT24, Studio 6 | 23. září 2025, 6:35 AM broadcast time | Dr Faix
- [The Helsinki Effect](#) 
ČT2, Historie.cs | September 2025 | Dr Bureš
- Legality of Israeli and US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities
Český rozhlas Plus | 23 June 2025, 12:25 PM broadcast time | Dr Stejskal
- [How to judge evil](#) 
ČT2, Historie.cs | June 2025 | associate prof. Svaček
- Legal aspects of the Gaza blockade, obligations of an occupying power
Český rozhlas Plus | 19 May 2025, 7:21 AM broadcast time | Dr Stejskal
- The issue of the US recognizing the annexation of Crimea
Český rozhlas Plus | 28 April 2025, 8:11 AM broadcast time | Dr Faix
- [Constitutional crisis in the USA](#) 
ČT24, Horizont 24 | 19 March 2025 | Dr Stejskal
- Public debate on [the ceasefire in Ukraine, peace agreements in international law, and the current security situation in Europe](#) 
Respekt Weekly | 12 February 2025 | Dr Faix and Dr Stejskal
- On President Trump’s idea to relocate Palestinians from Gaza and the potential classification of such actions as ethnic cleansing
Český rozhlas Radiožurnál | 6 February 2025, 12:17 PM broadcast time | Dr Faix

- Trump's remarks on attempting to acquire the Panama Canal, Canada, and Greenland
Český rozhlas Plus | 8 January 2025, 16:16 PM broadcast time | Dr Faix
- Col. Otakar Foltýn also appeared frequently in the media (including the Czech Television) on a wide range of topics related to [Russian drone attacks](#) , [Israeli operations in Gaza](#) , and many others.


PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Authored monograph [The Application of Foreign Investment Protection in Times of Armed Conflict](#) 
(Petr Stejskal, Palgrave Macmillan)
- Authored monograph [The United Nations Security Council and the Authorisation of Force: Form, Character and Nature](#) 
(Marko Svičević, Hart Publishing)
- Authored monograph [The Consequences of Non-cooperation with the International Criminal Court](#) 
(Melville Ludwig Jacobs, Springer)
- Collective monograph [Prosecution of War Crimes before the ICC: Achievements and Challenges](#) 
(Martin Faix, Ondřej Svaček, Palgrave Macmillan)
- Journal article [International Law and the Regulation of Resort to Force](#) 
(Martin Faix, Marko Svičević, Review of Central and East European Law)
- Journal article [Zákaz užití síly v mezinárodním právu jako součást iuris ad bellum a některé jeho současné výzvy](#) 
(Martin Faix, Marko Svičević, Právník)
- Journal article [Rada bezpečnosti OSN a užití síly v mezinárodním právu: 80 let formování iuris ad bellum](#) 
(Marko Svičević, Martin Faix, Právník)
- Book chapter [The EU Anti-coercion Mechanism A Tool for Development or Fragmentation of International Law](#) 
(Petr Stejskal, *The European Union and Regionalism. Concept and Contextual*)



Perspectives, Brill)

- Book chapter [The Role of International Law in Water Security: A Focus on Transboundary Groundwater](#) 
(Petr Stejskal, Gabriel Eckstein, *World Scientific Handbook of Transboundary Water Management. Volume 1: Cooperating Over Shared Freshwater Resources Using International Law*, World Scientific)
- Expert commentary [Threats of Force and Attribution: The Case of Incoming Heads of State](#) 
(Martin Faix, Martin Svičević, *OpinioJuris*)
- Expert commentary [Conflict Classification in Eastern DRC: IAC, NIAC, or Both?](#) 
(Martha M. Bradley, Marko Svičević, *Articles of War, Lieber Institute West Point*)
- Expert commentary [South Africa, Rwanda and Conflict Classification in the DRC](#) 
(Martha M. Bradley, Marko Svičević, *African Law Matters*)
- Expert commentary [The SAMIDRC Deployment: Peacekeeping or Peace Enforcement](#) 
(Martha M. Bradley, Marko Svičević, *DefenceWeb*)
- **Successful grant application** – a two-year international research project on the topic *Polish-Czech Border Crisis in Light of International Law* (Lead Agency call launched by the Czech Science Foundation and the National Science Centre of Poland).
- **Successful Completion of a three-year university research grant** on the topic *The Ukraine crisis - Challenging military aggression without direct military force: Mapping the road for European Union security and collective responses under international law*.

PARTICIPATION IN COURSES AND EXERCISES ABROAD

- Captain M. L. (Special Forces) participated in the multinational military exercise [Flintlock 2025](#)  in Côte d'Ivoire. The exercise, organized by the U.S. Africa Command focused on strengthening partner nations capabilities and collective security, predominantly involving special operations.
- Dr Petr Stejskal completed the specialized *Advanced Course on IHL* organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo.

OUTLOOK FOR 2026

Beyond traditional research and teaching activities, members of the Centre will be fully engaged in organizing specialized courses for the armed forces and the professional audience in 2026. Specifically, preparation is underway for a three-day **advanced course on the law of armed conflict**, a week-long **international course on the topic of weapons law review** , a **summer school on cyber and information warfare** , and the **Camp Peira military exercise**. Within the framework of these specialized courses and the summer school, guest lecturers visiting Olomouc will include Prof. Martha M. Bradley (University of Johannesburg), Dr William Boothby (Air Commodore, RAF, Ret.), Prof. Nicholas Tsagourias (University of Sheffield), and Prof. Tomáš Minárik (National Cyber and Information Security Agency).

Furthermore, members of the Centre will submit project proposals to the Horizon Europe schemes, the Czech Science Foundation, and the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange.



Summer School 2026

Digital Battlefields: Cyber and Information Warfare under International Law



Olomouc
Weapons Law Course
2026





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