

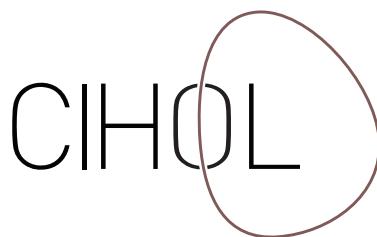


Faculty
of Law

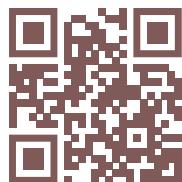


Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Centre for International Humanitarian
and Operational Law



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CIHOL ANNUAL REPORT 2024

In 2024, academic and military members of the Centre of International Humanitarian and Operational Law engaged in a wide range of activities, diverse in thematic focus (the war in Ukraine, the crisis in the Middle East, specific legal-operational issues) as well as in form (workshops, exercises, conferences, media appearances, and scholarly work). In its activities, the Centre strives to cooperate closely with foreign partners and to ensure that the scientific and educational efforts of its members have a tangible impact on operational practice.

EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE

Screening of a documentary movie *The Investigator* followed by discussion with its main character, Mr. Vladimír Dzuro

April 2024 | Olomouc

- Mr. Dzuro worked as the ICTY investigator and as the Chief of New York Headquarters Office at the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services.

Two international workshops in cooperation with the University of Ferrara

February/April 2024 | Olomouc/Ferrara

- Workshops intended for members of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic and the Italian Republic, as well as for academic staff.
- Individual topics were covered both by experts from the Czech, Italian and South African universities and by practitioners (the Italian Army, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The workshops were held in a hybrid format, with in-person sessions in Olomouc and Ferrara, the two lecture rooms being connected via videoconference.
- February workshop 
 - Selected aspects of international criminal justice (cooperation of states with the International Criminal Court, the establishment of a special tribunal for Ukraine, legal aspects of the arrest warrant for the Russian president)

- Lecturers: Alessandra Annoni, Mirko Sossai, Ondřej Svaček, Milan Lipovský, Emanuele Cimiotta, Petra Benešová
- May workshop 
 - Current challenges in the law of armed conflict (the classification of so-called low-scale conflicts, the administration of occupied territories, private military companies, and autonomous weapons)
 - Lecturers: Martha Bradley, Petr Stejskal, Marko Svičevič, Alessandra Annoni, Marco Giulio Tasso, Diego Mauri

International workshop on the topic of Legal and Practical Challenges to National Implementation of EU Sanctions concerning the Situation in Ukraine

March 2024 | Ljubljana

- The workshop was co-organised with the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana. It was conducted in person in Ljubljana with the active participation of academics and representatives of relevant ministries from several European countries (including a representative of the Czech Financial Analytical Office).

Military exercise Camp Peira

October 2024 | Vyškov

- This was yet another edition  of a military-legal simulation exercise , unique in Europe, involving both military personnel and civilian participants (academics and students). The exercise was also attended by a delegate sent by the International Committee of the Red Cross and a representative of the UNHCR in Prague.
- The organisation and implementation carried out in cooperation with several units of the Army of the Czech Republic and the Centre for Migration and Refugee Law at the Faculty of Law, Charles University.



Roundtable for European Academics on IHL

December 2024 | online

- Co-organised by the ICRC, CIHOL, and the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana, attended by approximately 40 experts in international humanitarian law from foreign universities, focusing on strengthening academic cooperation in the field of the law of armed conflict.

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War | October 2024

- Invited lecture (invited Dr Faix / delivered by Assoc. Prof. Svaček) for the Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, on the topic The Jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court and its Contribution to the Development of International Humanitarian Law.

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München | August 2024

- Invited lecture (Dr Faix) at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München on self-defence against non-state actors, as part of the Summer School of International Law.

University of Liverpool | June 2024

- Invited lecture (Dr Faix) at the University of Liverpool on the interactions between international organizational law and human rights.

Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Porto | April 2024

- Intensive multi-day course focused on the law of armed conflict at the Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Porto, designed and led by Dr Faix.

Legal Service assembly of the 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment | April 2024

- Invited lecture (Dr Stejskal) at the Legal Service assembly of the 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment on the topic of protection of critical civilian infrastructure in armed conflict.

Legal Service assembly of the 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment | April 2024

- Invited lecture (Dr Svičevič) at the Legal Service assembly of the 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment on the topic of legal regime of mercenaries and private military contractors in armed conflict.

the 102nd Reconnaissance Battalion | April 2024

- Invited lecture (Dr Stejskal) for the 102nd Reconnaissance Battalion in Prostějov on the international legal framework for reconnaissance and intelligence operations in armed conflict.

the 102nd Reconnaissance Battalion | April 2024

- Invited lecture (Dr Svičevič) for the 102nd Reconnaissance Battalion in Prostějov on the international legal status of private military and security companies.

Constitutional Court of Taiwan | January 2024

- Invited lecture at the Constitutional Court of Taiwan on the topic Transition to Democracy in the Czech Republic – From Totalitarianism to EU Membership, delivered by Dr Faix together with the Dean of the Faculty of Law in Olomouc, Assoc. Prof. Václav Stehlík.

Annual lectures for the University of Johannesburg

- Dr. Faix, Dr. Stejskal, and Dr. Svičevič also give annual lectures for the University of Johannesburg, covering the development of the law of armed conflict, the protection of human rights in Europe, and aggression in international law (as part of courses led by Prof. Martha Bradley).

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES

V4 Legal International Conference: New Challenges of International Law in a Changed Security Environment, General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic

April 2024

- Assoc. Prof. Sváček: Litigation of the war in Ukraine before international courts.
- Dr Faix and Dr Svičevič: Protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict.
- Dr Stejskal: Protection of critical civilian infrastructure in armed conflict and deep reconnaissance and sabotage operations in armed conflict



ESIL Research Forum: Revisiting Interactions between Legal Orders

Nicosia, Cyprus

- Contribution of Dr Stejskal on the topic: Foreign Investment as a Military Objective – Caveat in Protection or Costly Decision?

Annual conference Advancing CBRN Defence in a Dynamic World

Brno

- Organised by the NATO Allied Centre of Excellence, Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centre of Excellence.
- Contribution by Dr Svičevič Radioactive Dispersion as a Trigger of NATO's Article 5 Right of Collective Self-Defence



International Conference titled Balancing Contradicting Human Rights Obligations in Armed Conflicts and Counter Terrorism

December 2024, Prague

- Organised by the University of Haifa and the Masaryk University Institute of Law and Technology.
- Contribution of Dr Faix on the topic: Upcoming Challenges in Balancing Human Rights and IHL Obligations in Counter-Terrorism Operations

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Covered topics included, for example:

- The armed conflict in Gaza | ČT24, 20 February | Dr Faix
- Israeli strikes on Lebanese territory | Český rozhlas Plus, 13 October at 12:16 broadcast time | Dr Stejskal
- U.S. and UK strikes against Yemeni insurgents | ČT24 , Události, komentáře, 12 January | Dr Stejskal
- Investigation of chemical attacks in Syria | Český rozhlas Plus, 11 December at 16:08 broadcast time | Dr Faix
- Prohibited weapons and international litigation against Israel |
 - Podcast Zbytečná válka  | Dr Stejskal; partial interview transcript also on Novinky.cz 
 - Another appearance was on Radiožurnál | 25 May at 12:10 broadcast time | Dr Faix
- Use of frozen Russian assets to finance aid to Ukraine | Český rozhlas Plus, 14 June at 14:14 broadcast time | Dr Stejskal

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

- Edited book:  [ICC Jurisprudence and the Development of International Humanitarian Law](#) (edited by Dr Faix, Assoc. Prof. Ondřej Svaček, published by **Palgrave Macmillan**).
- Edited book:  [Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Conflict - International Humanitarian Law and Regional Security](#) (edited by Dr Svičevič, prof. Martie Bradley, published by **Routledge**).
- Book chapter:  [Sanctions from the Perspective of the Right to Property. Confiscation of Assets](#). In: Šurma, Pavel (ed.), [International Sanctions and Human Rights](#) (Dr Stejskal, Dr Faix, published by **Springer**).
- Article:  [European Union Military Missions and the War in Ukraine: Moving beyond the Jus ad Bellum Framework](#) (Dr Svičevič, Polish Review of International and **European Law**).
- Article:  [Development of Frontex vis-à-vis Instrumentalization of Migration as a Tool of Hybrid Warfare – is more Institutionalisation the Answer?](#) (Dr Faix, Polish Review of International and **European Law**).
- Article:  [Human Dignity as an Intrinsic Value of the Ius Gentium. Some Considerations on Individual Opinions to ICJ Decisions by Judge Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade](#) (Dr Bureš, International and Comparative Law Review).
- Article:  [Russian aggression against Ukraine and the law of countermeasures – a momentum for caution or an opportunity for evolution?](#) (Dr Stejskal, International and Comparative Law Review).
- Online blog:  [Regulating Military Force Series – Introduction, Articles of War](#) (Dr Faix, Dr Svičevič, prof. Sean Watts, published by Lieber Institute, West Point).
- Online blog:  [Strikes against the Houthis: The Relationship between Resolution 2722 \(2024\) and the Right of Self-Defense, Articles of War](#) (Dr Svičevič, published by Lieber Institute, West Point).
- Online blog:  [Collective Self-Defense and the Internationalization of Armed Conflicts in Eastern DRC, Articles of War](#) (prof. Martie Bradley, Dr Svičevič, published by Lieber Institute, West Point).

- Research stay (visiting researcher) of Dr Faix at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law v Cambridge (3 months, Bohdan Winiarski Fellowship 2024 awardee).

PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY COURSES ABROAD

In 2024, the military members of the Centre participated in professional specialization courses or international exercises:

- Major T.H. (Special Forces) completed the Program on Terrorism and Security Studies  at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies.
- Captain D.K. (Special Forces) attended a professional course on the law of armed conflict in Ankara, Turkey (Turkish Partnership for Peace Training Center). He also participated in the multinational special forces exercise Flintlock 2024  in Ghana.
- First Lieutenant M.L. (Special Forces) completed a professional course on rules of engagement organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo.

PROJECTS

- Palacký University, Young Researchers Grant titled “The Ukraine crisis - Challenging military aggression without direct military force: Mapping the road for European Union security and collective responses under international law” (2023-2025, Principal Investigator: Dr Svičevič).
- Faculty of Law of the Palacký University Olomouc, Internal Grant focused on cooperation with the Liverpool University (2024, Principal Investigator: Dr Svičevič).



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