



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CILRAP: Centre for International
Law Research and Policy

Launching ‘Historical Origins of International Criminal Law’ and ‘On the Proposed Crimes Against Humanity Convention’; Complementarity in Practice: Mexico and Georgia; ICC Legal Tools Project Update

*A three-part side event to the 13th Session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties,
co-hosted by Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Norway, the European Commission, and
the Centre for International Law Research and Policy,*

UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 6, Friday 12 December, 15:00-17:00.

This is a side event to launch three new books, ‘Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: Volumes 1 and 2’ and ‘On the Proposed Crimes Against Humanity Convention’ (see reverse page); to give a substantive seminar on complementarity in practice in Mexico and Georgia; and to give a concise update on the ICC Legal Tools Project. There will be complimentary copies of the new books for persons in attendance.

Chair: Mr. **Martin Sørby** (Director, Section for International Humanitarian and Criminal Law, Department of Legal Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

15:00 *Launch panel for ‘Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: Volumes 1 and 2’:*

Ambassador **Anniken R. Krutnes** (Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Assistant Professor **CHEAH Wui Ling** (National University of Singapore)
Chief Prosecutor **Serge Brammertz** (ICTY)
Dr. **Joseph Rikhof** (Department of Justice, Canada)
Professor **Nina Jorgensen** (Chinese University of Hong Kong)
Dr. **Constanze Stelzenmüller** (Robert Bosch Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution)

15:30 *Launch panel for ‘On the Proposed Crimes Against Humanity Convention’:*

Professor **Claus Kreß** (University of Cologne), segment chair
Professor **Leila N. Sadat** (Washington University School of Law)
Ms. **Rhea Brathwaite** (Inter-American Development Bank)
Professor **Darryl Robinson** (Queens University)

16:00 *Complementarity in Practice: Mexico and Georgia (part of the CMN International Criminal Justice Toolkits Project, funded by the EU and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway):*

Professor **Olympia Bekou** (Deputy Director, CMN; University of Nottingham)
Dr. **José Guevara** (Director, CMDPDH, Mexico; UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention)
Mr. **Givi Baghdavadze** (Office of the Chief Prosecutor, Ministry of Justice of Georgia)
Dr. **Emilie Hunter** (Deputy Director, CMN)
Ms. **Elizabeth Evenson** (Senior Counsel, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch)
Mr. **Emeric Rogier** (Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court)
Ms. **Cristina Mezdrea** (Second Secretary, Legal Section, EU Delegation to the UN)

16:50 *Update on the ICC Legal Tools Project:*

Professor **Morten Bergsmo** (Peking University Law School)



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Information about the books to be launched at the side event:

Morten Bergsmo, CHEAH Wui Ling and YI Ping (editors):
Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: Volumes 1 and 2
Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher
Brussels, 2014, 1,525 pp. (the two volumes combined)

The historical origins of international criminal law go beyond the key trials of Nuremberg and Tokyo but remain a topic that has not received comprehensive and systematic treatment. These two anthologies aim to address this lacuna by examining trials, proceedings, legal instruments and publications that may be said to be the building blocks of contemporary international criminal law. They aspire to generate new knowledge, broaden the common hinterland to international criminal law, and further consolidate this relatively young discipline of international law. The anthologies and research project also seek to question our fundamental assumptions of international criminal law by going beyond the geographical, cultural, and temporal limits set by the traditional narratives of its history, and by questioning the roots of its substance, process, and institutions. Ultimately, the editors hope to raise awareness and generate further discussion about the historical and intellectual origins of international criminal law and its social function.

Morten Bergsmo and SONG Tianying (editors):
On the Proposed Crimes Against Humanity Convention
Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher
Brussels, 2014, 503 pp.

This anthology is about the need for and nature of a convention on crimes against humanity. It uses the Proposed Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity as an important reference point. 16 authors discuss how such a convention may consolidate the definition of crimes against humanity, and develop measures for their prevention and punishment, decades after the conclusion of the Genocide Convention and Geneva Conventions. The book is inspired by the rationale of crimes against humanity to protect against the most serious violations of fundamental individual rights, and its realization especially through domestic mechanisms. Such consciousness calls upon appropriate definition and use of contextual elements of the crime, effective jurisdiction for prevention and prosecution, and robust inter-State co-operation. The book considers individual State experiences in combating crimes against humanity. It underlines the importance of avoiding that the process to develop a new convention waters down the law of crimes against humanity or causes further polarisation between States in the area of international criminal law. It suggests that the scope of the obligation to prevent crimes against humanity will become a decisive question.



Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher

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