



# INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Publication | Issue 1

1 October 2023

## Dear Friends of the Committee,

International criminal law continues to evolve, often in rapid and transformative bursts. Just recently, Karim Khan, the International Criminal Court Prosecutor, announced the potential for [prosecuting acts of cyber warfare as crimes under the Rome Statute](#). Meanwhile, the civil justice system in the Democratic Republic of Congo held one of its first trials for serious crimes, resulting in the [conviction of a militiaman for crimes against humanity](#) committed during the 2017 Kamuina Nsapu armed insurrection. Additionally, Swiss legal authorities have [indicted Algeria's former military chief for suspected crimes against humanity](#) related to the country's 1990s civil war – the highest-level military official ever set to be tried under universal jurisdiction laws.

We have a robust year of programming planned. We are excited to announce our submission to the 2023 Year in Review will focus on Tigray, Iran, and Myanmar. Our Committee continues to keep you informed through our webinars. We welcome your participation.

Best Regards,  
Regina Palouse and Tim Franklin  
*Co-Chairs, ICL Committee*

### International and Hybrid Criminal Proceedings

[-ICC concludes confirmation of charges hearing in The Prosecutor v. Maxime Jeoffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka.](#)

[-ICJ holds public hearings on preliminary objections raised by Russian Federation in Ukraine v. Russian Federation.](#)

[-Mr. Dritan Goxhaj arrested in Albania pursuant to a Kosovo Specialist Chambers arrest warrant for alleged intimidation during criminal proceedings.](#)

### National Decisions

[-Swiss Federal Criminal Court orders international arrest warrant for Vice President Rifaat al-Assad for alleged war crimes in Hama in February 1982.](#)

[-Court of Appeals for DC affirms decision permitting Czechoslovakian survivors of the Hungarian Holocaust to bring lawsuit under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act against the Hungarian government.](#)

[-Dutch Supreme Court upholds finding that two Israeli former military commanders are immune from civil prosecution in the Netherlands for the deaths of six Palestinians in a 2014 air strike in Gaza.](#)

[-Swiss court acquits former Belarusian security operative over enforced disappearances in the late 1990s.](#)

### SECTION AND COMMITTEE NEWS

This year's annual International Law Section (ILS) awards presented our Committee with honorable mentions for Outstanding ABA Newsletter and Best Use of Social Media!

#### ICYMI

[-Mutual Legal Assistance with Pamela Capizzi](#)

[-Tribute to Mahsa Amini](#)

[-What's Happening in Myanmar?](#)

#### Upcoming Programs

[-Oct. 12: Genocide and the Hazaras of Afghanistan](#)

[-Nov. 8: The Rule of Law and Gender Based Violence](#)

[-Dec. 6: Ecocide as the Fifth International Crime](#)

#### Reminders

[-Register here for the Fall Conference in Seoul and Joint Conference in Paris](#)

[-Save the Date: May 7-10, 2024 is the ILS Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.](#)



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## Enhanced Cooperation

-[U.S. and Yemen sign Cultural Property Agreement.](#)

## Enforcement

-[Montenegrin police probe secret tunnel between a nearby apartment and the evidence storage of its Higher Court.](#)

-[Eurojust, Europol, Romania, and the UK carryout operation against trafficking of Romanian women for sexual exploitation in the UK.](#)

-[Hungarian and Spanish authorities arrest three of Europol's European Most Wanted suspects.](#)

-[France arrests 13 suspects for international vehicle trafficking.](#)

-[Spain dismantles organized crime group suspected of fixing sporting events.](#)

-[INTERPOL and AFRIPOL joint operation against human trafficking and migrant smuggling results in 1,000 arrests.](#)

-[Operation across 25 African countries leads to arrest of 14 suspected cybercriminals.](#)

## Restoration and Repatriation

-[U.S. returns smuggled historical indigenous artifacts to Costa Rica and 10th and 12th century antiquities collection to Cambodia.](#)

-[Kyrgyz Republic Repatriates 95 people from displaced persons camps in Syria.](#)

-[U.S. Army returns remains of Native American children from Carlisle.](#)

## Policies and Initiatives

-[Mexico latest to seek criminalization of ecocide.](#)

-[International coalition launches second phase of global program to tackle forestry crime.](#)

## Grassroots Initiatives

-[Guernica 37 Chambers \(UK\) launches evidence-collection initiative of rights violations by the Awami League government in Bangladesh.](#)

-[IRCG and Quds group bring legal complaint in France against Iran's Paralympic body for torture and crimes against humanity.](#)

## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

-[2023 Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review](#)

-[An International Crime of Ecocide: New Perspectives](#)

-[Understanding Ethiopia's Tigray War](#)  
*Need a refresher? Watch our conversation [here](#).*

### Published?

Send us a link so we can share your work.

### Get Involved!

Please reach out to our Co-Chair, Tim Franklin, at [timf21@protonmail.com](mailto:timf21@protonmail.com).

### Have Ideas?

Let us know what you want to see in your newsletter.

## Connect with us

✉ [americanbar-intcriminal@ConnectedCommunity.org](mailto:americanbar-intcriminal@ConnectedCommunity.org)



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