



RCIL INTERNATIONAL LAW NEWS COVERAGE

Issue 4/2023

16 January – 22 January

2023

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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

*LATEST UPDATES TOPICS IN THE CURRENT PROGRAMME OF
WORK OF THE ILC*

No Updates Available



UNITED NATIONS – SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL)

No Updates Available



UNITED NATIONS – DEPOSITORY NOTIFICATIONS

20th January 2023

1. Ireland ratifies Amendment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, The Amendment shall enter into force for Ireland on 20 April 2023 in accordance with Article 14(4) of the Convention [Chapter XXVII-4-a].
2. Solomon Islands ratifies Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, The Treaty shall enter into force 30th day following the date of deposit of the instrument of ratification [Chapter XXVI-4].
3. Mexico accepts Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Blinding Laser Weapons), The Amendment shall enter into force for Mexico on 20 January 2024 in accordance with Article 121, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute [Chapter XVIII-10-f].
4. Mexico accepts Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Weapons the primary effect of which is to injure by fragments undetectable by x-rays in the human body), The Amendment shall enter into force for Mexico on 20 January 2024 in accordance with Article 121, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute [Chapter XVIII-10-e].
5. Mexico accepts Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Weapons that use microbial or other biological agents, or toxins), The Amendment shall enter into force for Mexico on 20 January 2024 in accordance with Article 121, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute [Chapter XVIII-10-d].
6. Mexico accepts Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, The Amendment shall enter into force for Mexico on 20 January 2024 in accordance with Article 121, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute [Chapter XVIII-10-a].

19th January 2023

7. Belize accedes to the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, The Convention shall enter into force for Belize on 1 August 2023 in accordance with Article 23(2) [Chapter X-18].
8. Paraguay accedes to the Convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, The Convention entered into force for Paraguay on 19 January 2023 in accordance with its Article VIII (4) [Chapter XXIV-1].
9. Republic of Korea ratifies Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, The Amendment, except for the changes to Article 4 of the Protocol set out in Article I of the Amendment, shall enter into force for the Republic of Korea on 19 April 2023 [Chapter XXVII-2-f].
10. Canada accepts Amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization [Chapter XII-1-i].

18th January 2023

11. Palau accedes to the Constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, The Constitution entered into force for Palau on 17 January 2023 in accordance with its Article 25(2)(c) [Chapter X-9].

17th January 2023

12. Timor-Leste accedes to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, The Convention shall enter into force for Timor-Leste on 16 February 2023 in accordance with its Article 45(2) [Chapter IV-15].
13. Timor-Leste accedes to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, The Convention shall enter into force for Timor-Leste on 17 April 2023 in accordance with its Article XII (2) [Chapter XXII-1].

UNITED NATIONS – STATEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

20th January 2023

1. *At Least 32 Peacekeeping, Associated Personnel Killed in Malicious Attacks during 2022, United Nations Staff Union President Says*

“...Each malicious attack against UN personnel is a blow to peacekeeping, one of the pillars of the multilateral edifice. It is a collective responsibility of the international community to put in place appropriate mechanisms to ensure accountability for these heinous acts, which may constitute war crimes under international law...” - United Nations Staff Union President, Aitor Arauz.

18th January 2023

2. *‘Forge Pathways to Cooperation in Our Fragmented World, Adopt Multilateral Institutions’, Secretary-General Tells Davos Economic Forum*

“.....We are doing our best making progress where we can — particularly in facilitating exports of food and fertilizers from Ukraine and also Russia. But we are a far cry from peace in line with international law and the United Nations Charter...” - UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

3. *With 2022 Deadliest Year in Israel-Palestine Conflict, Reversing Violent Trends Must Be International Priority, Middle East Coordinator Tells Security Council*

Addressing the Council, the Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine noted that “peace is still possible”, albeit less probable with every day that passes. Spotlighting Israel’s violations of international law, he underlined his rejection of the impunity Israel enjoys for such crimes as killing and maiming Palestinians and conducting mass arbitrary arrests.

4. *Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General*

The Secretary-General detailed the challenges we face regarding global health, the fear of recession, debt load, violations of international law and climate change — to name just a few. “It would be difficult to find solutions to these global problems in the best of times — if the world was united,” - UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

17th January 2023

1. **Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General**

Burkina Faso continues to confront a multidimensional crisis. Insecurity is growing and nearly one fifth of the population needs urgent humanitarian aid. Between April and June 2022, at least 400 incidents involving violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law have been reported.

2. **Concerned by Restrictions on Religious Freedom, Speakers Warn against Using Religion to Fuel Conflict, as Security Council Considers Situation in Ukraine**

In November and December, the security service of Ukraine conducted searches in the premises and places of worship of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and at least three clergy are now facing criminal charges. Urging Ukraine's authorities to ensure that any such searches are in full compliance with international law, Ilze Brands Kehris from OCHCR added that fair trial rights must be given to those facing criminal charges.

16th January 2023

1. **Situation in Yemen Remains Stable, Special Envoy Tells Security Council, Highlighting Importance of Resuming Political Process, Ceasefire**

The overall military situation in that country has remained stable, with no major escalation, Hans Grundberg said, noting that there was some military activity around the front lines, including along the Saudi-Yemeni border. Calling on the parties to respect international humanitarian law, he said that military activity combined with negative rhetoric can create a situation where a simple miscalculation could reignite the cycle of violence.

2. **Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General**

On Ukraine, Stephanie Tremblay, Associate Spokesperson on behalf of the UNSG said that international humanitarian law is clear: humanitarian workers and facilities are protected and constant efforts must be made to spare them. A hospital, also protected under international humanitarian law, was hit in the city.

3. **A Secretary-General Strongly Condemns Lethal Missile Attack on Ukraine Residences**

The Secretary-General strongly condemns a deadly missile strike on a residential building in the city of Dnipro, Ukraine, in which at least 40 people were killed, with many more wounded and dozens missing. Attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure violate international humanitarian law. They must end immediately.



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

20th January 2023

1. Press release No. 2023/4

The General Assembly of the United Nations requests an advisory opinion from the Court in its resolution A/RES/77/247 on “Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem”.

Upcoming hearings (Up to 31st January 2023)

1. **Case: Armenia v. Azerbaijan** (Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination) - Public hearings on the Request for the indication of provisional measures of Armenia.

Date: 30 January 2023

2. **Case: Azerbaijan v. Armenia** (Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination) - Public hearings on the Request for the indication of provisional measures of Azerbaijan.

Date: 31 January 2023

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

20th January 2023

1. Press Release: 20 January 2023 (International Criminal Court Marks Opening of the Judicial Year 2023)

“.....It is first and foremost the domestic courts that must be the vanguard against impunity, and only when they cannot or will not act, the ICC should intervene.....” - President of the Court, Judge Piotr Hofmański.

2. Press Release: 20 January 2023 (International Criminal Court Launches French and Spanish Versions of Case Law Database)

ICC launched the French and Spanish versions of the [ICC Case Law Database \(CLD\)](#). The CLD is an easily searchable database of the Court's jurisprudence providing free access to the entire case-law of the ICC in English.

16th January 2023

3. Press Release: 16 January 2023 (ICC concludes an online Training for Counsel)

On 16 December 2022, the International Criminal Court (“ICC” or “Court”) held a Training for Counsel with the participation of more than 219 lawyers including counsel registered on the [ICC List of Counsel](#), [list of assistants to counsel](#) and members of the legal teams currently active before the Court.

4. Statement: 16 December (The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announces conclusion of the investigation phase in the Situation in the Central African Republic)

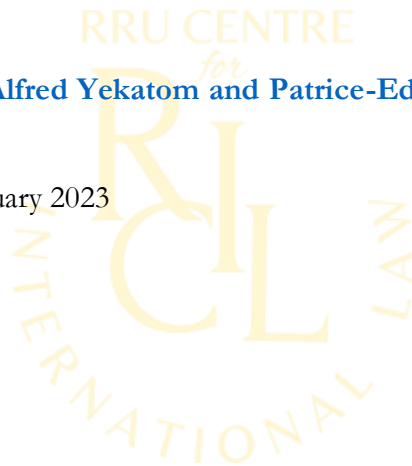
“.....Today I can confirm that, beyond the cases pending before the ICC, my Office will not pursue new lines of inquiry into the alleged criminal responsibility of other persons or for other conduct within the Situation in the Central African Republic.....” – Karim A.A. Khan KC.

5. Statement: 16 December (The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announces conclusion of the investigation phase in the Situation in Georgia)

“.....The investigation also uncovered the alleged role of Mr Vyacheslav Borisov, Major General in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and Deputy Commander of the Airborne Forces at the time of events, who is believed to have intentionally contributed to the execution of some of these crimes.....” – Karim A.A. Khan KC.

Upcoming hearings (Up to 31st January 2023)

1. **Case: [The Prosecutor v. Mahamat Said Abdel Kani](#)** (ICC-01/14-01/21) – Trial hearing
Date: 16, 17, 18 January 2023
2. **Case: [The Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali-Al-Rahman](#)** (“Ali Kushayb”) (ICC-02/05-01/20) – Trial hearing
Date: 16, 17, 18 January 2023
3. **Case: [The Prosecutor v. Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona](#)** (ICC-01/14-01/18) – Trial hearing
Date: 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 January 2023



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

No Updates Available



UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL LAW EVENTS

1. **27 January 2023:** Migration & Refugee Law Conversation Series: Reflecting on Refugee Crises
2. **27 January 2023:** The Inaugural Professor Henry J. Richardson III Lecture
3. **31 January 2023:** Missing Histories of International Economic Law Adjudication: Extraterritorial Quarters of the Past and the Present

THIS WEEK'S READS

1. Alternatives to Adjudication in International Law: A Case Study of the Ombudsperson to the ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions Regime of the UN Security Council – Andrej Lang
2. Korea: From Norm Taker to Norm Maker in International Law – Seokwoo Lee and Hee Eun Lee
3. Participation in Multilateral Treaties – Karin Arts



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