



## LAW, ETHICS AND ARMED CONFLICT

International Legal Symposium  
& Continuing Legal Education Course\*

Sponsored by:

the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Task Force Spartan  
The International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee  
Advocates Group Academy | JuraLaw

\*application for New York and Indiana CLE accreditation for this course is currently pending

Wednesday, 14 May 2025  
Kuwait

On any given day, international armed conflict, civil war and belligerent occupations threaten the lives of civilians. The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate of Operation Spartan Shield, the Human Rights Law Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA), Advocates Group Academy and JuraLaw are organizing an international legal symposium that will explore how international law can be used to mitigate the adverse impacts of armed conflict on civilians.

This Symposium will feature a series of panels that will examine ethics in armed conflict, the crime of aggression, the laws of targeting, the Islamic laws of war, international criminal justice, corporate accountability for war crimes and humanitarian assistance and protection. Entitled "Law, Ethics and Armed Conflict," the Symposium will be held on Wednesday, 14 May 2025.

Panels will feature international lawyers and senior officials from militaries, the United Nations, international NGOs, foreign ministries, the ICRC, academic institutions and international tribunals.

For further information and to register, please email [Law.Ethics.ArmedConflict@gmail.com](mailto:Law.Ethics.ArmedConflict@gmail.com).

Welcome Coffee and Refreshments (08:30)

Opening Remarks (09:00-09:05)

**Ambassador Karen Hideko Sasahara**, United States Ambassador to Kuwait

Break – 09:05-09:15

Keynote Address (09:15-09:25)

**Ms. Ghada Al-Taher**, United Nations Resident Coordinator to Kuwait

## Session 1: Ethics in Armed Conflict: The Martens Clause, the Principle of Humanity, and the Dictates of Public Conscience (09:30-10:20)

### 1.1 Moderator: **Michael A Fish**, COL

Staff Judge Advocate, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Task Force Spartan

### 1.2 Mr. **Mamadou Sow**

Head of Delegation for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

### 1.3 Ambassador **Steven Rapp**

U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice (ret.); Senior Visiting Fellow of Practice, Blavatnik School's Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict, University of Oxford

### 1.4 **Douglas K Bryson**, Maj

Staff Judge Advocate, Office of Military Cooperation, Kuwait

### 1.5 Dr. **Zahra Albarazi**

Board Member and Director of Programmes, Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)

## Session 2: The Law of Armed Conflict from the Perspective of Public International Law and the Islamic Laws of War (10:30-11:20)

### 2.1 Moderator: **John Balouziyeh**

Chief, National Security Law, Task Force Spartan; Treasurer, International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee; Partner, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, NY

### 2.2 Dr. **Mohammad Fadel**

Professor of Islamic Law, University of Toronto

### 2.3 Dr. **Saad Rustem**

Syria Program Coordinator, Geneva Call

### 2.4 Dr. **Dawood Bin Essa**

Professor of Jurisprudence and Islamic Studies, Kuwait International Law School

### Session 3: The Crime of Aggression: From World War II to the Present (11:30-12:20)

3.1 Moderator: **Daniel B Bagley, LTC**

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Task Force Spartan

3.2 Ambassador **Steven Rapp**

U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice (ret.); Senior Visiting Fellow of Practice, Blavatnik School's Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict, University of Oxford

3.3 Dr. **Humoud Y. Alfadhli**

Academic Visitor, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge; Assistant Professor of International Law, Kuwait University, College of Law

3.4 **John Ford, MAJ**

Command Judge Advocate, ASG-Kuwait

3.5 Ms. **Federica D'Alessandro**

Director of the Oxford Programme on International Peace and Security (IPS)

### Lunch Break (12:30-13:30)

Catered Lunch

### Session 4: The Laws of Targeting and the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (13:30-14:20)

4.1 Moderator: **Douglas M Fahl, LTC**

Incoming Chief of National Security Law, Task Force Spartan; Chief of Administrative and Fiscal Law, Operation Inherent Resolve

4.2 Ms. **Nisreen Rubaian**

Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the State of Kuwait

4.3 Ms. **Amal Albeedh**

Protection Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

4.4 **Bryan R Root, MAJ**

National Security Law Judge Advocate, Task Force Spartan, Joint Training Center, Zarqa, Jordan

4.5 **Frank Lumpkin, 1LT**

National Security Law Attorney, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Task Force Spartan; Associate Attorney, Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

Session 5: The Intersection of International Criminal Justice and Islamic Law (14:30-15:20)

5.1 Moderator: Dr. **Felicity Gerry**

International King's Counsel, London, Libertas Chambers; International King's Counsel, Australia, Greens List Barristers; Defense Counsel, International Criminal Court

5.2 Ms. **Sara Elizabeth Dill**

Co-Vice Chair, International Bar Association War Crimes Committee; Partner, Anethum Global

5.3 Dr. **Mohamed E Badar**

Professor of Comparative and International Criminal Law, Northumbria University; Legal Consultant, International Criminal Court

5.4 Professor **Jonathan Hafetz**

Officer, International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee; Professor of Law, Seton Hall Law School

Session 6: Corporate Liability for War Crimes (15:30-16:20)

Co-Sponsored by the Japanese Federation of International Bar Associations

Co-Sponsored by the International Bar Association Business Human Rights Law Committee

6.1 Moderator: Dr. **Felicity Gerry**

International King's Counsel, London, Libertas Chambers; International King's Counsel, Australia, Greens List Barristers; Defense Counsel, International Criminal Court

6.2 **Ms. Suha AlSahli**

Head of Legal Training Department, Advocates Group Academy, Kuwait City, Kuwait; Lecturer, Kuwait International Law School

6.3 **JohnPaul LeCedre, COL**

Assistant United States Attorney, Los Angeles; Commander, 358th Civil Affairs Brigade, California

6.4 **Mr. Yohei Suda**

Chair, International Human Rights Committee, Japanese Federation of Bar Associations

6.5 **Ms. Meriam Al-Rashid**

Member, Board of Directors, Business and Human Rights Lawyers Association; Independent Arbitrator; Adjunct Faculty member of Fordham School of Law

Session 7: Negotiating with Militant Groups Towards Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (16:30-17:20)

7.1 Moderator: **John Balouziyeh**

Chief, National Security Law, Task Force Spartan; Treasurer, International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee; Partner, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, NY

7.2 **Dr. Omar Mekky**

Regional Legal Coordinator for the Near and Middle East, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

7.3 **Dr. Iyad Nasr**

Professor of IHL and Diplomatic Law; MENA Regional Director for the European City University-France; Former Head of the Regional Office for the Middle East & North Africa, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

7.4 **Dr. Mohamed Abdelaziz Ibrahim**

Judicial Affairs Officer for Islamic Law, Department of Peace Operations, United Nations, New York

Closing Remarks (17:20-17:25)

**Shirley Magniez-Pouget**

Avocate à la Cour, Legal Director, Business & Human Rights, DLA Piper; Co-Chair, International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee



**Recommended Conference Hotel:**

Mövenpick Hotel & Resort Al Bida'a Kuwait  
Salmiya, 22084 Al-Ta'awen St, Kuwait 13008  
+965 2225 3100

The organizers wish to express their gratitude to [Advocates Group Academy](http://advocates-group.com), the official sponsor of the "Law, Ethics and Armed Conflict" International Legal Symposium. Advocates Group Academy is Kuwait's premier legal training institute for CLE and certificate-based training on public international law, corporate law, dispute resolution and technology law. For information, contact [info@advocates-group.com](mailto:info@advocates-group.com).

Following the Symposium, JuraLaw will publish a selection of papers presented by Symposium participants entitled *Law, Ethics and Armed Conflict: A International Law Reader*. For further information, contact [JuraLaw@tellerbooks.com](mailto:JuraLaw@tellerbooks.com).

**DISCLAIMER:**

Speakers at the "Law, Ethics and Armed Conflict" International Legal Symposium speak in their personal capacities only. Their views do not necessarily reflect those of Advocates Group Academy, the Task Force Spartan Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, the International Bar Association, the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its branches or agencies. Speakers' views do not necessarily reflect and are not necessarily endorsed by their affiliated institutions or by the organizers of the Symposium. None of the content of the Symposium is to be construed as legal advice.