

EDITORIAL

The Gaza Strip has witnessed dire humanitarian crises since the onset of the Israel-Hamas war on October 7, 2023. Hamas initiated armed attacks on Israel, prompting retaliatory measures that resulted in the reported loss of over 10,000 innocent lives, half of whom were children. The UN General Assembly, with an overwhelming majority (120 in favor, 14 against, and 45 abstentions), adopted a resolution urging an immediate, durable, and sustained humanitarian truce between Israeli forces and Hamas militants in Gaza. Simultaneously, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres strongly urged the cessation of inhuman collective suffering and a significant expansion of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Despite international appeals for a “humanitarian ceasefire,” Israel vehemently rejects such requests, persisting with military operations in Gaza. Underscoring the essential role of a ceasefire in international law before political and military resolutions, the UN should consider humanitarian intervention. The active involvement of the United States is imperative, echoing Mr. Guterres’s assertion that “Hamas attacks did not happen in a vacuum.” Resolving the current conflict hinges on both sides breaking free from the vicious cycle of hatred, condemnation, reprisal, and extremism, and a return to the fundamental principles of international law.

The current issue covers highly topical questions of international law in the digital revolution age. The <Issue Focus> section centers around Cyberspace International Law, featuring insightful contributions from five distinguished international lawyers discussing: Privacy Protection in the Context of CBDC (Xin Chen); Regulating Cyber Security of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship (Junghwan Choi & Jiancui Qi); International Law of Just AI Development (Ridoan Karim); China’s Security Assessment Measures for Outbound Data Transfers (Junchao Liu); and Legal Issues in Designing DeFi Regulation (Young Yoon Park). In the <Notes & Comments> section, Kim Anh Dao discusses the Environmental Provisions in ASEAN Investment Agreements, while Aryuni Yuliantiningsih and colleagues examine the Nexus between Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction and Extended Continental Shelf. The central theme of <Regional Focus & Controversies> is the Responsibility to Protect Vulnerable Persons. Natalia Yeti Puspita and collaborators delve into the Legal Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in the wake of Climate Change Disasters in Indonesia. Nehaluddin Ahmad and colleagues tackle the Responsibility to Rescue Refugees at Sea under International Law. In a <Student Contribution>,

Xinyi Sun, publishes an article entitled A Preview of the Legislative Practice for Universal Jurisdiction. In <East Asian Observer>, Abdirizak Osman Abdullahi offers a nuanced perspective on the enduring unrest in Syria. Simultaneously, Badar Alam Iqbal and Mohd Nayyer Rahman reflect on The US-India Interactions amid the Russia-Ukraine War. In the <Communication> section, Ma Xinmin addresses the BBNJ Agreement and the International Law of the Sea, offering a valuable perspective on this complex subject matter. In a sad turn of events, we received the unfortunate news of the passing of Professor Dr. Sompong Sucharitkul on May 3, 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. Renowned as a great statesman, well-recognized diplomat, erudite scholar, and cherished teacher, Professor Sucharitkul left an indelible mark on the realms of international law and relations. Our deepest condolences extend to his family and all those who were enriched by his remarkable contributions.

The Journal extends sincere gratitude to our esteemed editorial members, diligent reviewers, knowledgeable experts, and collaborative colleagues for their unwavering dedication and cooperation throughout the preparation of this issue. The Journal remains steadfast in its commitment to thoroughly scrutinizing highly critical legal issues both on a regional and global scale. Our preference lies in the exploration of provocative, timely, and creative subjects, while also giving due consideration to fair national and topical issues. Notably, each volume of the Journal undergoes a rigorous peer-review selection process, ensuring the highest standards of scholarly integrity. We encourage submissions on a rolling basis, welcoming contributions that align with our commitment to advancing legal discourse.

Editor-in-Chief

