

Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law (CIHOL)

In 2022, **Members of the Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law (CIHOL)** engaged in various expert activities. Many of them related to legal aspects of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Thus, just a few days after the outbreak of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, a round-table was organised where CIHOL members (Dr Pavel Bureš, Dr Martin Faix, Dr Petr Stejskal and doc. Ondřej Svaček) **explained some of the international legal aspects of the conflict**. This hybrid event saw significant attendance from the public, namely in an online platform (the roundtable is available online at the University's **YouTube channel**). Members of the Centre also analysed legal aspects of the conflict on other fora, both domestic and international. For example, doc. Svaček participated in a **panel discussion on Ukraine** organised by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in a **scientific workshop** organised by the European Society for International Law. It is also worth mentioning that a seminar, 'Russian-Ukrainian Conflict from the Perspective of International Law', was organised by Dr Bureš for the Czech Bar Association. A colleague from the Department of Constitutional Law then organised a seminar on the application of the European Convention on Human Rights in armed conflict.



Apart from that, CIHOL members, including its military representative, **Col. Otakar Foltýn**, have often been **invited by media to provide expert views** on current international topics. In 2022, individual aspects of the Russian aggression naturally prevailed among the topics. Among these included interviews for **Český rozhlas** and **Studio 6** (Dr Faix), Studio ČT24 (for example, see **here** - Dr Faix, and **here** - Dr Maxim Tomoszek), and also **Události a komentáře** and **Lidové noviny** (Dr Stejskal).



CIHOL members, as scholars in international law of course also engaged in **academic cooperation with international partners**. For example, Dr Svčevic and Dr Stejskal participated in guest lecture exchanges at the University of Northumbria (Newcastle) in May. Lectures focused on the topics of the international legal regime of utilisation of transboundary groundwater resources (Dr Stejskal) and the externality requirement of an armed attack in relying on the right of self-defence between States (Dr Svčevic). Dr Svčevic also undertook a guest lecture at the University of Graz, where he presented on legal aspects of the deployment of South African Development Community and Rwanda troops

in Mozambique (see [here](#)). Members of the Centre also **engaged in expert cooperation with operational practice**. In October, on the invitation of the 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment, Dr Svčević presented a lecture on the topic of Private Military and Security Companies in International Law: The Wagner Group in Africa. Dr František Tóth, a doctoral student affiliated with the Centre, held a lecture on the topic of humanitarian and operational law for the Department of the Armed Forces of the Academy of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic. Among the academic achievements in the field of international security, we can also mention the participation of Dr Stejskal and Dr Faix in the **NATO CCD COE's CyCon 2022 (14th International Conference on Cyber Conflict)** in Tallinn, Estonia at the turn of May and June 2022. Here, Dr Stejskal **presented** research conducted together with Dr Faix on the topic of **Legal Aspects of Misattribution Caused by Cyber Deception**, followed by a publication output

Moreover, a **round-table for a wider audience** focused on military, legal, political and economic aspects of sanctions against Russia, organised for the broader public in November 2022. Col. Foltýn explained strategic and



operational relevance of sanctions against Russia, including their effects on the battlefield. Dr Stejskal then introduced the international legal framework and conditions of sanctions. Invited experts from practice, Ing. Magdaléna Plevová from the Czech Financial Analytical Unit, explained the processes and challenges of implementation of Russian sanctions on the national level; and Dr Michael Romancov and Karel Svoboda then contributed with their expertise on international relations, geopolitics and political economy in the context of Russian sanctions.

In November 2022, members of the Centre were successful in the university grant competition when their Junior **research project** was approved. Its topic is: 'The Ukraine crisis - Challenging military aggression without direct military force: Mapping the road for European Union security and collective responses under international law'. The lead project researcher is Dr Svčević; with Dr Faix and Dr Stejskal as co-researchers. The grant amounts to some 4 million CZK across three years (2023 – 2025).

In 2022, Dr Faix, Dr Stejskal and Dr Svčević also contributed as guest-editors to a **special issue of the International and Comparative Law Review**, an international journal published by the Faculty of Law of Palacký University. Due out in 2023, this special issue focuses on legal issues arising from the conflict in Ukraine.

Last but not least, one of the Centre's members, **Major T.H.**, served in 2022 as the **Chief Legal Advisor of the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM)**, which has been **operating in the Sahel region** since 2013. He was part of the mission commander's advisory team, which was both in command and control of more than 700 members of the mission from 25 European countries.

