



# The Israel-Palestine Conflict

## Recent developments at the International Court of Justice

15 May 2024 | 14:30 – 18:00 (BST) | B63, Law and Social Sciences (LASS) Building, University Park

### PROGRAMME

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- 14:30 – 14:35: Welcome & Introduction (**Olympia Bekou**, *Head of School of Law, University of Nottingham*)
- 14:35 – 15:00: Keynote address by **Yasmine Ahmed** (*UK Director, Human Rights Watch*)
- 15:00 – 15:10: Q&A / discussion
- 15:10 – 16:00: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem
- Chair – (**Mando Rachovitsa**, *Associate Professor in Human Rights Law, University of Nottingham*); Panellists:
- **Mais Qandeel** – *Senior Lecturer of International Law and Technologies, Örebro University, Sweden*
  - **Andrea Pelliconi** – *Teaching Associate, School of Law, University of Nottingham*
  - **Victor Kattan** – *Assistant Professor in Public International Law, School of Law, University of Nottingham*
- 16:00 – 16:15: Q&A / discussion
- 16:15 – 16:40: Coffee/tea break (25 mins)
- 16:40 – 17:40: Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip at the ICJ (*South Africa v. Israel*)
- Chair – **Hemi Mistry** (*Associate Professor in Law, University of Nottingham*); Panellists:
- **Maha Abdallah** (online) – *Teaching Assistant and PhD researcher, Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp*
  - **Gerhard Kemp** – *Professor of Law, UWE Bristol Law School, UK; Extraordinary Professor of Public Law, Stellenbosch University, South Africa*
  - **Luigi Daniele** (online) – *Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University*
  - **Kai Ambos** (online) – *Chair for Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Comparative Law, International Criminal Law and Public International Law, Faculty of Law, Georg August Universität Göttingen, Germany; Judge, Kosovo Specialist Chambers*
- 17:40 – 17:55: Q&A / discussion
- 17:55 – 18:00: Closing and thanks (**Mando Rachovitsa**, *Deputy Director, Human Rights Law Centre*)



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Yasmine Ahmed is UK Director of Human Rights Watch.** She has two decades of experience as a public international lawyer, and human rights advocate. In her current role, she advocates for the United Kingdom's foreign and domestic policies to be consistent with human rights. Yasmine is a well-known human rights commentator and regularly appears on the BBC, Sky, Times Radio, Al Jazeera and other broadcasters, and her comments have featured in the Guardian, the Independent, the Times, and the Washington Post.



Prior to Human Rights Watch, Yasmine was Executive Director of the multi award winning human rights organisation, Rights and Security International. She also worked as a public international lawyer for the UK and Australian Governments and the UN at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the Serious Crimes Unit in Timor-Leste. She started her career supporting asylum seekers and refugees in Australia. She is a Chevening Scholar, has an LLM in Public International Law from the University of London, and has taught public international law at the School of Oriental and African Studies and the University of Adelaide, South Australia. She also worked as an Associate to a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia and qualified as a solicitor (former solicitor) of England and Wales and a barrister and solicitor in Australia.

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SPEAKERS

**Maha Abdallah is a teaching assistant and PhD researcher at the Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp.** She was born and raised in occupied Jerusalem. She obtained her LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the Irish Centre for Human Rights in Galway, Ireland. Maha's research investigates genocide in relation to Zionism, settler-colonialism and the Palestinian people. She has authored and co-authored academic papers, reports, and articles on international law and human rights. Her legal research and human rights advocacy at UN and EU levels have primarily focused on Palestine and corporate accountability. Maha continues to be active with civil society in the pursuit of human rights and justice.





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**Kai Ambos is Chair for Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Comparative Law, International Criminal Law and Public International Law, Faculty of Law, Georg August Universität Göttingen, Germany, and Judge at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers.** His main research lies in criminal law and procedure, comparative law, international criminal law with a regional focus on Latin America, Portugal, Spain and Eastern Europe. He has various publications in various languages (Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish) in these areas, recent English ones include: *Commentary of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*, Beck/Nomos/Hart, 2022 (fourth edition); *Treatise of International Criminal Law*, three volumes, Oxford: OUP, 2013-2016 (first edition) and 2021-2024 (second edition); 'The Crime of Genocide and the Principle of Legality under Article 7 of the European Convention on Human Rights', 17 *Human Rights Law Review* (2017), 175-186.



**Luigi Daniele (Ph.D. Nottingham Trent University and University of the Studies of Naples Federico II) is Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University.** He is Module Leader in Laws of Armed Conflict (LLB), Public International and Humanitarian Law (LLM), and International, European and Comparative Law (DL). He is a member of the NLS Centre for Rights and Justice, and of the ESIL (European Society of International Law).



**Victor Kattan is Assistant Professor in Public International Law at the University of Nottingham.** Victor joined the School of Law at the University of Nottingham in July 2020 from Southeast Asia where he was based for several years at the School of Law and the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore. He moved to Singapore from Jerusalem where had been legal adviser to the Palestinian Negotiations Affairs Department in Ramallah on secondment from the United Nations Development Program. In that capacity, he advised the Palestinian leadership on treaty accession when it was conferred observer state status by the UN General Assembly in November 2012. [Read more about Victor's expertise here.](#)





**Gerhard Kemp is Professor of Law at UWE Bristol Law School, UK, and Extraordinary Professor of Public Law at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.** He is admitted as an advocate of the High Court of South Africa and has published widely on international criminal law, comparative criminal law, and transitional justice. Gerhard has received several awards and scholarships for his work, including fellowships of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, the Robert Bosch Foundation, and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study. He serves on the Board and Executive Committee of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town and on the Advisory Council of the Crimes Against Humanity Project.



**Hemi Mistry is an Associate Professor in Law at the University of Nottingham.** She specialises in international criminal law, public international law, international law theory and the law and politics of international adjudication and international courts and tribunals, with a specific focus on the international criminal tribunals and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Her research focuses on specifically on the nature and sources of international judicial authority – that of institutions and also of individual judges – and is currently working on projects that explore the nature of judicial authority in international law, and in particular how that authority is established and reproduced through visual and material performance and ritual.



**Andrea Maria Pelliconi is an international human rights law expert and is currently a Teaching Associate at the University of Nottingham.** Her research focuses on the practice of demographic engineering under public international law, looking at the legal implications of authority-sponsored demographic alterations, particularly in the context of territorial disputes. Andrea is a qualified lawyer at the Rome Bar Association and before her academic career, she worked in private practice and a researcher with the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and the Civic Freedoms & Human Rights Defenders Programme of the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRRC).





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**Mais Qandeel is Senior Lecturer of International Law and Technologies at Örebro University, Sweden**, with more than 15 years of experience at national and international human rights organizations/institutions. She holds a Ph.D. in international humanitarian law from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. She has extensive experience in working on issues in relation to international humanitarian law and the question of Palestine.



**Mando Rachovitsa is Associate Professor in Human Rights Law at the University of Nottingham School of Law, where she also serves as Deputy Director of the Human Rights Law Centre.** Her research explores the intersection between human rights law and technology, including digital human rights, and human rights-centred design for cybersecurity and AI systems. Mando is also systematically writing on comparative human rights law, bringing together the case law of the three regional courts of human rights regarding substantive and procedural issues. She publishes extensively in highly regarded journals, including *International & Comparative Law Quarterly*, *Human Rights Law Review*, *Harvard Human Rights Journal*, and *International Journal of Law & Information Technology*.

