

The Asian Society of International Law's interest group of international humanitarian law held a symposium at CUPL in Beijing, China on 16 November 2024

The interest group of international humanitarian law held a symposium at China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) in Beijing, China on 16 November 2024. The theme of the symposium is “Achievements and Challenges of International Humanitarian Law in a Diverse Asia”. It was jointly organized by the School of International Law and International Academy of Red Cross, Soochow University, China. Nearly over 30 experts, scholars, doctoral, and master’s students from around ten Chinese universities and two Chinese think tanks participated in the symposium. Additionally, scholars from eight countries, namely the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, and Malaysia, made presentations via video link. The symposium was composed of six sessions. Key topics discussed in the symposium included the impact of technical developments on international humanitarian law, means and methods of warfare, protection of civilians and civilian populations, implementation of international humanitarian law, as well as the interplay between international humanitarian law and other legal frameworks. A collection of proceedings papers in English and Chinese was made as the fruit of this symposium, and several good papers were recommended to be published in *Chinese Review of Red Cross*.



The opening ceremony was chaired by Associate Professor Jin Zhe, Director of the Institute of Public International Law, CUPL. Attendees included Professor Zhang Ling, Vice Dean, School of International Law, CUPL, Mr. Wang Rupeng, Dean of International Academy of Red Cross, Soochow University, and Ms. Marwa Shabbar, Head of Legal Department, ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia. Mr. Wang expressed gratitude on behalf of the International Academy of Red Cross to Professor

Zhu Lijiang, Vice Dean, School of International Law, CUPL and the convenor of the interest group of international humanitarian law, stressing the need for collaboration among humanitarian law scholars, practitioners, and educators to advance modern humanitarian efforts. Ms. Shabbar introduced the ICRC's quadrennial report on challenges of international humanitarian law.





The first session, moderated by Ms. Shabbar, featured presentations from CUPL's Lecturer Ms Tang Ya, Assistant Researcher Ms Zhang Qiyue from the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, and Ph.D candidate Ms Xu Handong. They discussed the potential restrictions imposed by international humanitarian law on military operations in outer space, the influence of artificial intelligence weapons on fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, and the challenges posed by

lethal autonomous weapon systems.

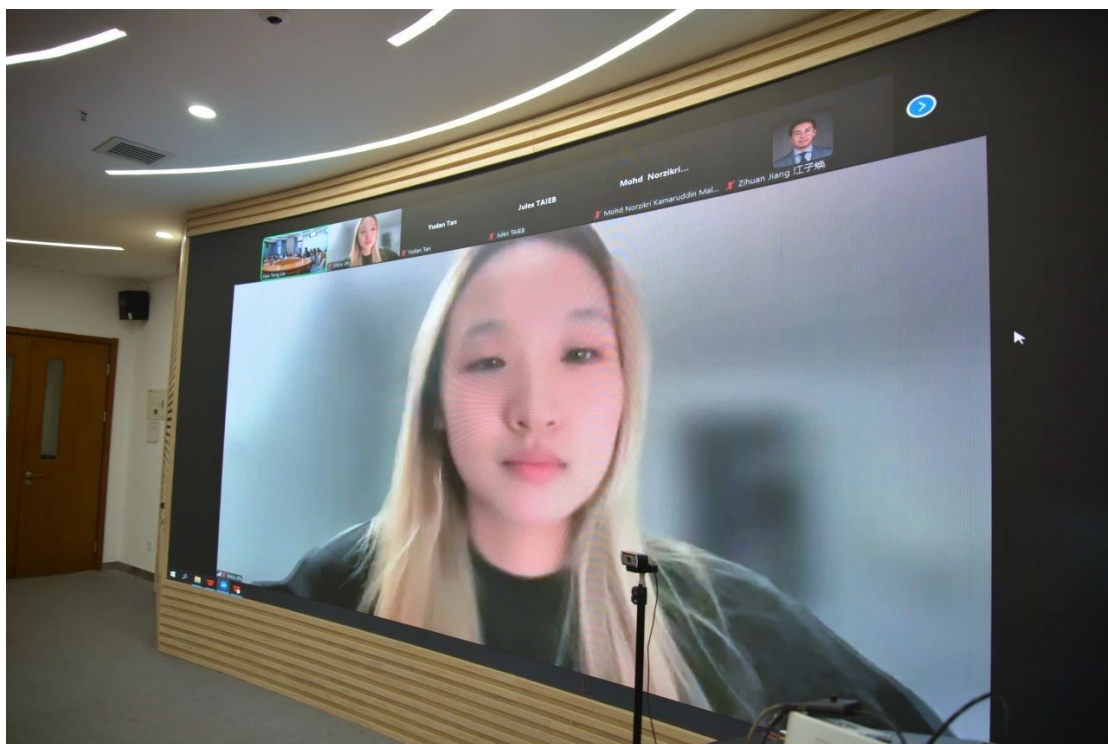






The second session, moderated by Dr. Chao Yi, Legal Adviser, ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia, featured presentations from Assistant Researcher Mr. Cao Qun from China Institute of International Studies, Ph.D candidates Mr. Zhong Qicheng and Ms Jin Xinru. Key issues discussed included naval blockade and the historical practice of starvation as a method of warfare.





The third session, moderated by Mr. Zhao Lizhi from Beijing Foreign Studies University, focused on the applicability and challenges of international humanitarian law in cyberspace. Presentations covered legal regulatory path for cyber-attacks against satellites, challenges in defining attacks in cyber warfare, and international legal responses to disinformation. The speakers were CUPL's Lecturer Ms Zhao Xin, Ph.D candidates Mr. Yang Xiixin from the University of Exeter, and Ph.D candidate Ms Wei Xinyu form Wuhan University.





The fourth session, moderated by Lecturer Ms Tang Ya, addressed civilian protection, humanitarian assistance, and the safeguarding of cultural property in armed conflict. Presenters provided multi-faceted analyses on legal applications for civilian protection, military necessity in cultural property protection, and international law issues in humanitarian assistance. Lecturer Ms Ding Jieqion from Henan University of Economics and Law, Ph.D candidate Ms Xu Haoran and Ms Zu Ruonan shared their perspectives.





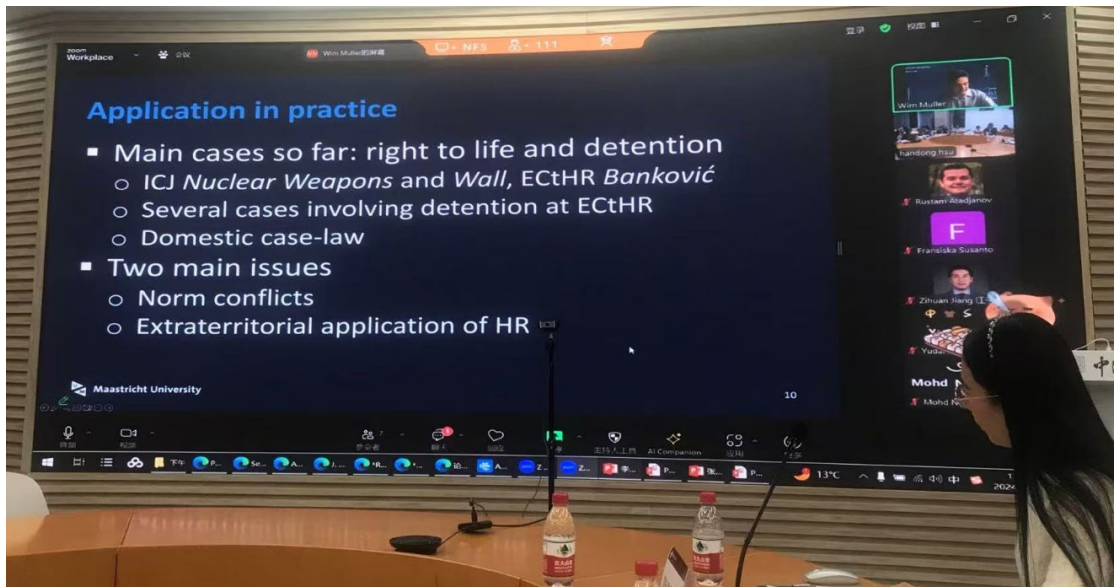
The fifth session, moderated by Ms Zhao Xin, concentrated on war responsibility, legal accountability for autonomous weapon, and regulations on sexual violence. Professor Ruatam Atadjanov from KIMEP University, Kazakhstan, Professor Fransiska A. Susanto from Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia, Ms Li Ziyue from Zhongnan University of Economic and Law, Ms Chen Shiyi from Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and Ms Zhang Hanyu from Wuhan University delivered their presentations.



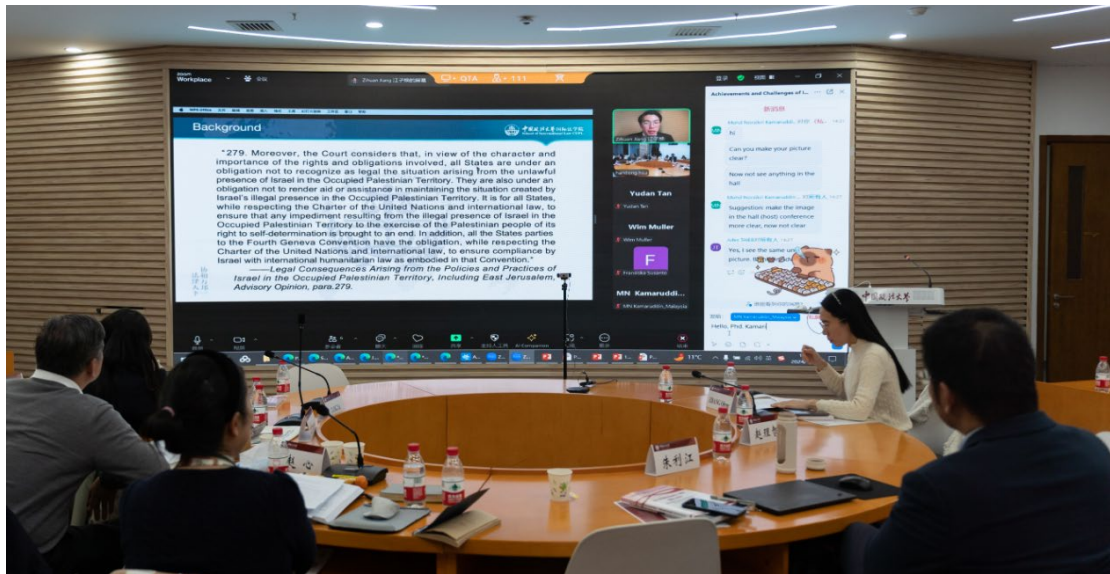




The sixth session, moderated by Assistant Researcher Ms Zhang Qiyue, explored the intersections of international humanitarian law with other fields. Discussions was attended by five scholars. Dr. Wim Muller from Maastricht University, the Netherlands, Lecturer Ms. Tan Yudan from East China University of Political Science and Law, Ph.D candidate Ms Wang Jiayu from Peiking University, Ph.D candidate Mr. Mohd Norzikri Kamaruddin from Universiti Malaya and Mr. Jiang Zihuan from CUPL. The key topics included regional diversity in international humanitarian law and the legal constraints on non-state armed groups.







The closing ceremony, moderated by Professor Zhu Lijiang, featured a summary by Vice Dean Liu Xuanguo, International Academy of Red Cross of Soochow University. He emphasized that the success of the symposium was due to the collaborative efforts of all participants and encouraged continued research in international humanitarian law.





This symposium facilitated the sharing of valuable research findings and practical experiences, providing insights for the further development of international humanitarian law in the context of a diverse Asia. The successful event not only promoted academic exchange but also contributed significantly to the practice and study of international humanitarian law.