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Global Diplomacy Lab

GENOCIDE as a legal term – Online Session 28 / 04 / 2022

Argentinian time 12 – 2 pm // German time / CET 5 – 7 pm

ZOOM link: bit.ly/genocideaslegalterm Passcode: 567975

GENOCIDE: Controversial debates and disputes over the definition of the term „Genocide“ had preceded before the term gained legal validity in 1948 with the „Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide“. To a large extent, they were guided by the interests of state and lobby representatives. The consensus ultimately reached was not without contradictions and compromises and, since its implementation in international jurisprudence, has been criticized by scholars, human rights activists and politicians from various perspectives. Its definitional weakness complicates the legal application of the term and has become the basis for claims by national and social groups to be victims of genocide.

Apart from jurisprudence, other fields of scholarship are also engaged in attempting to re-define it. Different positions are opposed to each other. Some fear a ranking of crimes against humanity, others recognize a trivialization of the Holocaust in the expanded application of the term, and still other representatives consider the definition of the term to be insufficient for use in case law.

The online session invites experts to present and discuss different positions with the aim of conveying the diversity of arguments and the complexity of the discourse.

Dr. Kristin Platt, researcher in history, cultural theory, and social theory. She graduated in social psychology with a thesis on the Jewish diaspora. Doctorate in social psychology at the Ruhr University Bochum. Dr. Platt is co-editor of the “Zeitschrift für Genozidforschung/Journal for Genocide Studies”. She received her post-doctoral degree at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Department of Cultural History and Theory. Head of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Genocide Studies, Ruhr University Bochum. Her main research focus is on violence and genocide research.

Eduardo B. Toledo, researcher at the Instituto de Estudios del Proceso Penal Acusatorio (INEPPA), Mexico City. He is a jurist specialized in international and European criminal law. His work is focused on the field of international criminal law and business. Mr. Toledo is a Visiting Professor in several universities in Europe and Latin America. From 2017 to 2021 he held the position of a Senior Officer on International Criminal Law at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy. In 2014 he worked on a communication submitted to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court attributing international criminal responsibility to the CEO of the Chevron Company for the harmful activities of the legal entity in Ecuador.

Dr. Natalia Barbero is an expert and Counselor in International Criminal Law and International Human Rights Law, author of books and legal publications at Law Reviews in Criminal and International Law. Professor of Criminal Law, Human Rights and International Criminal Law at the University of Buenos Aires, she is also a Law Professor at graduate, postgraduate, master and PhD levels, at national universities and abroad. She is in charge of courses for prosecutors, judges and defense counselors in Argentina and abroad.

Dr. Daniel Feierstein holds a degree in Sociology and a PhD in Social Sciences (UBA); Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) in the Center for Genocide Studies (UNTREF); Head of the Genocide Social Practices Analysis department at the School of Social Sciences (UBA). He was president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) between 2013 and 2015. UN Consultant on topics such as Genocide, Human Rights and Discrimination.

Facilitation:

Dr. Vivian Valencia, Assistant Professor at Wageningen University. She is a food systems expert, member of the Global Diplomacy Lab (from 2016–2018 on the Advisory Council) and participated in the Lab on Mass Atrocity Prevention at Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA in 2015.

The session will be held online via Zoom in Spanish with simultaneous translation to English, transmitted via YouTube. The event is open to public, free of charge and will include a Q&A part.