

## EDITORIAL

The summer 2011 issue of Amsterdam Law Forum marks a new start for the journal: a shift from thematic issues towards publications that fit within the scope of international and transnational law, with a focus on security and criminal law. We view international security in its broadest sense, seeking to reflect upon events and developments that concern our collective security. Therefore we embrace traditional topics of international security, like war and peace, as well as more contemporary and sometimes less obvious security issues such as technology, food and the environment, among others. We also cannot ignore the fact that security and justice are closely related, which is why articles on topics of international criminal law are also considered to fit our new overarching theme. Our aim continues to be providing a platform for discussion on this diverse range of issues which are increasingly important in our globalized world.

The scientific section of the current issue very well reflects the broad range of issues that Amsterdam Law Forum wishes to address. We begin with an article by Fred Grünfeld, who focuses on the differences in methodology between social scientists and legal researchers, and the implications this can have for the study of international law. This translation of a previously published article in Dutch gives us the perfect introduction to the challenges that scholars encounter when dealing with international security issues. Coming from two different fields, generally law or international relations, it is not always easy for the specialised jargon of either discipline to translate well into the other.

After this sound reflection, we jump into matters with the article by Hitoshi Nasu who describes how the contemporary broad understanding of security poses a challenge to the UN collective security system, and evaluates the merits of alternative security approaches in complementing the UN system in dealing with diverse security treats. To follow up on the topic of security, but with a more regional focus, the article by Ramses Wessel delves into the relationship between the EU and its member states in the areas of foreign policy, security and defence.

Jana Panakova focuses on the interplay between international law and international politics with regard to universal jurisdiction. Comparing two cases where this interplay has led to strikingly opposite results, she outlines the so-called Pinochet effect and Rumsfeld effect and creates a checklist to test for the presence of these effects in other cases based on universal jurisdiction.

To close off the scientific section with an article which focuses more on food security, Michael Blakeney's article treats how it is impacted by the circumvention of plant variety protection laws as well as recent efforts of patenting breeding methods.

How to deal with precarious issues as international security and criminal prosecution spark intense debates both in daily life and in academia. Amsterdam Law Forum strives to be a platform for these debates and to foster discussion,

which is why we are proud to present a number of opinion articles on various controversial issues.

Hilla Dayan argues that Israel has recently passed a number of anti-democratic legislation that threatens the position of dissenters and human rights activists in Israel and Palestine.

Monica Serrano addresses some practical implications of using of the Responsibility to Protect as a justification for Security Council intervention, as was done in the cases of Libya and Côte D'Ivoire, as well as the possible need to broaden the scope of authority for more forceful action when argumentation and persuasion prove insufficient.

Monica Den Boer offers a theoretical account of how the *precautionary principle* shapes security governance on both the national and the international level and how this raises several philosophical, legal and political questions concerning legitimate governance.

Finally, Mauricio Bastien discusses the paradox of having legal international arms trade on the one hand and an international human rights regime on the other. He analyzes how arms transfers jeopardize human rights and discusses the role of arms manufacturers in peace negotiations.

Amsterdam Law Forum is now accepting articles that fit within our scope on a rolling basis. As can be seen from the articles on this current issue, the scope has become narrower, but there is still room for a diversity of views and topics. For any further inquiries, please check the 'About' page at [www.amsterdamlawforum.org](http://www.amsterdamlawforum.org) or send an email to [info@amsterdamlawforum.org](mailto:info@amsterdamlawforum.org).

We are happy to announce that from this issue onwards, the Amsterdam Law Forum publications are part of the Ebsco database. Needless to say, previous and future issues will still be accessible at [www.amsterdamlawforum.org](http://www.amsterdamlawforum.org) as well.

This is my last issue as the Editor-in-Chief of Amsterdam Law Forum. I am proud of what we have accomplished with the journal this year, and this would not have been possible without the endless dedication and support of my colleagues Alba Leon and Marcel van Looij for their endless dedication and support; Thank you. Thanks also to the VU University Amsterdam and of course to the Editorial Team of 2010-2011.

From September 2011 onwards, Amsterdam Law Forum will be presided by Louis Middelkoop. I wish him and his Team the best of luck for the coming year. To the readers, thank you for your continuous support, and we hope that these changes help improve the journal. Any comments or questions, are of course welcome.

Sofie Dreef  
Editor-in-Chief  
2010-2011

---

- The Amsterdam Law Forum is supported by the VU University Library -