

‘Centre d’Etude de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre’
‘Studiecentrum voor Militair Recht en Oorlogsrecht’



Under the Auspices of the



International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
‘Société Internationale de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre’

Our ref.
ISMILLW 869 N E 3

Brussels,
09-03-17

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

The *Belgian Group* of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* is pleased to invite you to attend the first *‘Silent leges inter arma?’* conference. This international conference will be hosted at the Grand Hotel Casselbergh in the centre of the historical city of Bruges (Belgium) from 20 through 22 September 2017.

This conference will bring together practitioners and academics active in the field of security and defence with parliamentarians and their collaborators from a wide variety of Countries, to discuss the following topics:

- The initiative for a new multilateral treaty for mutual legal assistance and extradition for domestic prosecution of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes
- The UN Charter and the legal bases to resort to the use of force in light of contemporary security challenges
- Parliamentary oversight and democratic control over armed forces, in particular with regard to military deployments abroad and in domestic situations, including in situations of state of emergency
- Legal considerations pertaining to the use of armed forces in domestic situations in support of counter-terrorism efforts
- Targeting in complex situations
- The legal challenges in hybrid warfare
- A commentary on the ICRC commentaries on the Geneva Conventions
- The human rights of military personnel
- The Leuven Manual on International Law Applicable to Peace Operation

The language of the Conference will be English. The outline of the programme is attached and subsequent updated versions of the detailed program will be published on the website of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*. The conference is also designed to offer ample professional networking opportunities.

The number of participants in this Conference is **limited to 150**. Travel arrangements should therefore only be made *after* written confirmation of participation has been received. For practical reasons we strongly recommend that participants book their accommodation at the Grand Hotel Casselbergh, using our special hotel reservation form. Special room prices apply for participants in the conference: 148 euro for a room (even if it is occupied by two persons) (breakfast for the guest(s), VAT, free WiFi and free access to the wellness area included, but additional room and hotel services not included).

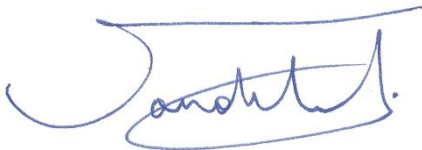
Foreign visitors to Belgium may have to apply for a visa at the appropriate Embassy or Consulate of the Kingdom of Belgium. Participants are responsible for timely application for their visa. Travel to Bruges is an individual responsibility. There are excellent train connections between Brussels Airport and the City of Bruges, and the *Society's* General Secretariat will be happy to advise participants on the best way to reach their destination.

The participation fee for the '*Silent Leges inter Arma?*' conference is 475 euro for members of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*, 575 euro for non-members staying at the Grand Hotel Casselbergh, and 675 euro for non-members not staying at the Grand Hotel Casselbergh. This fee covers a conference package, a reception on Wednesday evening, as well as lunches and coffee breaks as stipulated in the programme. All participants will also receive the brand new and first edition of the *Leuven Manual on International Law Applicable to Peace Operations* after the conference.

Application forms have to be received by the General Secretariat of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* **as soon as possible and in any event no later than 20 May 2017**. Together with confirmation of participation payment details will be provided. Full payment has to be received no later than 31 May 2017.

The *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* and its *Belgian Group* very much look forward to your participation and contribution to this unique event in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bruges.

Yours respectfully,



Ludwig Van Der Veken
Secretary-General of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
& *President of the Belgian Group*



Under the Auspices of the



International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
‘Société Internationale de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre’

THE FIRST ‘SILENT LEGES INTER ARMA?’ CONFERENCE

By the *Belgian Group* of the
International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME

Grand Hotel Casselbergh, Bruges
20-22 September 2017

Wednesday 20 September 2017

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| 11:00 – 13:45 | Check-in at the Grand Hotel Casselbergh |
| 12:00 – 13:45 | Registration & sandwich lunch |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | Opening of the conference |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | Initiative for a new multilateral treaty for mutual legal assistance and extradition for domestic prosecution of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Group photo & Coffee/Tea |
| 16:30 – 18:30 | The UN Charter and the legal bases to resort to the use of force in light of contemporary security challenges |
| 18:45 – 20:15 | Reception at the ‘Beerwall’ (venue TBC) & speech by Brigadier General (ret.) Jan Peter Spijk, President of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War |

Thursday 21 September 2017

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| 09:00 – 10:30 | Parliamentary oversight and democratic control over armed forces, in particular with regard to military deployments abroad and in domestic situations, including in situations of state of emergency |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee/Tea |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Legal considerations pertaining to the use of armed forces in domestic situations in support of counter-terrorism efforts |
| 12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch buffet |
| 14:00 - 15:45 | Targeting in complex situations |

15:45 – 16:15 Coffee/Tea
16:15 – 18:00 The legal challenges in hybrid warfare
18:00 – 18:30 A commentary on the ICRC commentaries on the Geneva Conventions

Friday 22 September 2017

9:00 – 10:30 The human rights of military personnel
10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/Tea
11:00 – 12:40 The Leuven Manual on International Law Applicable to Peace Operation
12:40 – 12:50 Closing remarks

Mr. Ludwig Van Der Veken, President of the Belgian Group & Secretary-General of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War