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FOREWORD

The Institute of International Legal Studies (IILS) of the University of the Philippines Law Center is proud to release the 2025 Edition of the Asia-Pacific Journal of International Humanitarian Law. Guided by the Journal's Board of Experts, APJIHL continues to provide peer-reviewed scholarship on significant developments in international humanitarian law (IHL) and related fields, with emphasis on voices and perspectives from the region. Now in its sixth year of publication, we build on the gains of the previous editions and reaffirm our commitment to rigorous, interdisciplinary inquiry that is relevant to practice and policy.

This year marks an important milestone: APJIHL is now indexed in Scopus. Scopus accreditation recognizes the Journal's editorial and peer-review standards, enhances the global visibility and citability of our authors' work, and helps ensure that scholarship from and about the Asia-Pacific is more readily discoverable by researchers, practitioners, and policy makers.

The 2025 Edition appears at a moment of sharpening humanitarian challenges. Contemporary conflicts continue to test environmental protection norms, accountability and reparations frameworks, and the regulation of emerging military technologies, while age-old ethical traditions remain powerful resources for reflection on the conduct of hostilities. In this context, the contributions in this volume illuminate both principle and practice:

- Of Divine Wars: A Comparison of Hindu Teachings with International Humanitarian Law and Jus Ad Bellum by Wamika Sachdev, which revisits ancient ethics of war to illuminate the moral foundations of IHL;
- The Polymorphic Environmental Impact of the USSR and US Wars on Afghanistan: A Forgotten Prism of International Law by Sayed Qudrat Hashimy and Jackson Simango Magoge, which examines long-term ecological damage and gaps in legal protection during armed conflicts;
- India's Regulatory and Ethical Stance on Autonomous Weapons Systems by Anviksha Pachori, which addresses critical questions on accountability, human control, and strategic choices in the age of AI and autonomous warfare;
- Guarantees of Non-Repetition as Reparations: Exploring a Developing Modality in the Context of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia by Nathanael Thomas, which explores innovative approaches to victim-centered justice and transitional accountability; and
- Environmental Damage in Outer Space: Increased Risks and the Legal Framework under International Humanitarian Law by Xinyi Pan and Xidi Chen, which proposes a nature-centric, practicable IHL framework for environmental protection in outer space conflicts.

We also note a marked increase in submissions from emerging scholars across the region. This aligns with APJIHL's purpose to serve as a platform where new and diverse perspectives enrich doctrinal debates, inform operational practice, and catalyze reforms in rights protection, international relations, and the rule of law.

The publication of this volume follows our established multi-layer process of editorial screening and double-blind peer review. We are grateful to the members of the Board of Experts and to our anonymous reviewers for their careful engagement and generosity of time.

We extend our gratitude to the research and administrative staff of the UP Law Center, whose steady support made this edition possible. We likewise acknowledge the dedicated work of our editorial team—Associate Editor Atty. Joan Paula Deveraturda; Assistant Editor Prof. Michael Tiu, Jr.; Editorial Assistants Chester Louie Tan, Wenona Dawn Catubig, Aira Lynn Cunanan, Ma. Flordeliza Villar, and Mackie Valenzuela—as well as Marilyn Cellona of the IILS for her administrative support.

As the intersections, challenges, and possibilities for IHL scholarship continue to evolve, APJIHL remains committed to providing a space for interdisciplinary discussion, from and for the Asia-Pacific, to advance the law applicable in situations of armed conflict.

ROMMEL J. CASIS
Managing Editor
2025

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