

# Human Rights in Armed Conflicts: DRC, Sudan and Ukraine

## *Expert Panel Discussion on Peace Building and Justice*

**Date:** March 4, 2025

**Venue:** In person Moot Court Room, University of Pretoria

<https://zoom.us/j/92175340566?pwd=0pecUkaFJ9PWZM592Al7O9cZacsKQN.1>

Meeting ID: 921 7534 0566

Passcode: 107813

**Time:** 12.30 for 1 pm - 4.00pm

### Event Overview

This expert panel discussion is focusing on rising violations of human rights and war crimes, with the special focus on environmental war crimes in three raging armed conflicts in DRC, Sudan and Ukraine. Through presentations of documented evidence and expert analysis, the event will illuminate current challenges in human rights protection, war crimes documentation, and paths to accountability. The discussion aims to foster meaningful dialogue between experts from different countries while sharing practical approaches to human rights protection in conflict zones.

### Program

12.30- 13.00	<b>Registration</b>
13.00 – 13.40	Opening session: <b>Human Rights in Armed Conflict with a special focus on Environmental war crimes</b> <b>Programme Moderator, Dr Michelle Maziwisa.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Lloyd Kuvuya &amp; Dzvinka Kachur - Introductions</li><li>- Professor Kilele Muzaliwa, Goma University DRC– overview of the HR situation in DRC</li><li>- Ms Razan Haroun– overview of the HR situation in Sudan</li><li>- Dmytro Koval - overview of the HR situation in Ukraine</li></ul> Q&A

13.40 – 14.00	<p><b>Documentation of Environmental War Crimes in Ukraine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volodymyr Hryshko (Truth Hounds) &amp; Myroslava Markova (PEJ) Expert analysis of environmental war crimes. Case studies of the Kakhovka Dam destruction and Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant occupation.</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
14.00 - 14.10	<b>Break</b>
14.10 – 14.50	<p><b>Challenges in Defining and Documenting Environmental War Crimes (Ecocide) on the African continent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudan &amp; DRC: Kate Metzger, s Executive Director at Africa accountability Project HRDA LLM Student</li> <li>• James Gondi, Africa Director Stop Ecocide International</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
14.50 – 15.40	<p><b>Protection of Civilians, International Justice and Accountability Mechanisms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Magnus Killander, Centre for Human Rights.</li> <li>• Pascal Turlan: Legal and Programme Director at Project Expedite Justice, Adjunct Professor at Sciences Po, and former ICC OTP member.</li> <li>• Dmytro Koval, Truth Hounds</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
15.40 – 16.00	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <p>Summary of key discussions and outline of potential cooperation initiatives.</p>

## Discussion Focus Areas

The event will concentrate on three key areas through both Ukrainian and African perspectives:

**Documentation of Systematic Violations** Expert presentations will showcase current documentation methodologies, evidence collection practices, and approaches to investigating systematic human rights violations. Speakers will share practical experiences from Ukraine while exploring parallels with African contexts.

**Environmental and Nuclear Security Challenges** Through the cases of the Kakhovka Dam destruction and ZNPP occupation, experts will examine the environmental impact of armed conflicts and approaches to documenting environmental crimes. The discussion will include comparison with environmental challenges in African conflicts.

**Protection of Civilian Population** Special attention will be given to the documentation of crimes against civilians, particularly focusing on children's rights violations and forced deportation. The discussion will examine protection mechanisms and international response strategies.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The discussion aims to establish practical connections between the human rights violations and potential cooperation between experts on defending human rights in DRC, Sudan and Ukraine, share effective documentation methodologies, and develop frameworks for future cooperation in human rights protection.