

# PROFESSOR DR. MOHAMED S. HELAL

Associate Professor of Law, The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law

Member, Permanent Court of Arbitration

Member, African Union Commission on International Law

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## Current Positions

*Associate Professor of Law (Tenured)*, Michael E. Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University

*Member*, Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

*Member*, African Union Commission on International Law

*Affiliated Faculty Member*, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The Ohio State University

*Co-Founder & Co-Editor-in-Chief*, Arab Yearbook of Public & Private International Law

## Legal Positions & Judicial Activities with the African Union

*Counsel for the African Union before the International Court of Justice (ICJ)*

Advisory Opinion requested by the U.N. General Assembly pursuant to resolution A/RES/77/247 on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

*Counsel for the African Union before the International Court of Justice (ICJ)*

Advisory Opinion requested by the U.N. General Assembly pursuant to resolution A/RES/77/276 on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change

*African Union Special Rapporteur on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace*

Principal drafter of the Common African Position on the Application of International Law to the Use of Information and Telecommunication Technologies in Cyberspace, adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council pursuant to Communiqué 1196 (2024) and endorsed by the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union.

## Education

**2016 – Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.)**

Harvard Law School

**2010 – Master of Laws (LL.M.)**

Harvard Law School

**2009 – Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)**

Ain Shams University Faculty of Law

**2004 – Diploma in International Criminal Law**

Istituto Internazionale Superiore Di Scienze Criminali (Siracusa, Italia)

**2004 – Master of Arts in International Human Rights Law**

American University in Cairo

**2002 – Bachelor of Arts (Specialized in Public International Law)**

American University in Cairo

**Previous  
Academic &  
Professional  
Positions**

**May 2019 – Aug. 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt**  
Counsellor, Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Legal Counsel to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

**August 2020 – Jan. 2021, Harvard Law School**

Visiting Associate Professor of Law & John Harvey Gregory Lecturer on World Organization (*Teaching Public International Law*)

**Jan. 2016 – Aug. 2016, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt**  
First Secretary, Office of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for African Affairs

**Jan. 2016 – Jun. 2016, Ain Shams Faculty of Law, Section Française**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Law

**Sept. 2014 – Jan. 2016, Harvard Law School**

Lecturer-on-Law (*Teaching Public International Law*)

**Sept. 2010 – Jan. 2014, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government**

Teaching Fellow (*Teaching Global Governance*)

**Jul. – Nov. 2011, Kingdom of Bahrain, Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry**  
Chief Legal Officer

**Jul. – Oct. 2010, DePaul University, International Human Rights Law Institute**

Visiting Lecturer-on-Law (Iraq Office)

**Sept. 2005 – Aug. 2009, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt**

Diplomatic Attaché/Third Secretary, Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Mar. 2005 – Sept. 2005, DePaul University, International Human Rights Law Institute**

International Fellow

**Sept. 2004 – Mar. 2005, American University in Cairo**

Human Rights Law Lecturer

**Jul. 2002 – January 2004, League of Arab States**

Legal Officer, Cabinet of the Secretary-General

**Publications**

**LAW REVIEW & OTHER ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

Mohamed S. Helal & Hesham Bekhit, *So Near, Yet So Far: An Egyptian Perspective on the U.S.-Facilitated Negotiations on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam*, WATER INTERNATIONAL, Vol. 48, Issue 5, 580-614 (2023).

Mohamed S. Helal, *The Thucydides Trap and the Future of Global Governance*, 113 PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 100-104 (2019).

Mohamed S. Helal, *On Coercion in International Law*, 52 N.Y.U. JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLITICS, 1-122 (2019).

Mohamed S. Helal, *Two Seas Apart: An Account of the Establishment, Operation, and Impact of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI)*, 30 EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (2019).

Mohamed S. Helal, *Anarchy, Ordering Principles and the Constitutive Regime of the International System*, 8 GLOBAL CONSTITUTIONALISM (2019).

Mohamed S. Helal, *Freedom From; Freedom For – A Personal Reflection on the Life and Legacy of M. Cherif Bassiouni (1937-2017)*, 68 DEPAUL LAW REVIEW 733 (2019).

Mohamed S. Helal, *The Crisis of World Order and the Constitutive Regime of the International System*, 46 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW (2019).

Cinnamon P. Carlarne & Mohamed S. Helal, *A Conversation about Climate Change Law and the 'International Community'*, 8 CLIMATE LAW 229 (2018).

Mohamed S. Helal, *The Myth of U.N. Collective Security*, 32 EMORY INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW 1063 (2018).

Mohamed S. Helal, *The Unknown Unknowns of Humanitarian War*, 111 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW – UNBOUND 297 (2017).

Mohamed S. Helal, *Teaching Public International Law: Reflections on the State of the Art in an Era of Uncertainty*, 7 JOURNAL OF COMMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE AFRICAN UNION (2017).

Mohamed S. Helal, *Am I My Brother's Keeper? The Reality, Tragedy, and Future of Collective Security*, 6 HARVARD NATIONAL SECURITY JOURNAL 383 (2015).

Mohamed S. Helal, *Justifying War and the Limits of Humanitarianism*, 37 FORDHAM INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 551 (2014).

Mohamed S. Helal, *Inheriting International Rivers: State Succession to Territorial Obligations, South Sudan, and the 1959 Nile Waters Agreement*, 27 EMORY INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW 907 (2014).

David Rosenbloom, Noam Noked, & Mohamed S. Helal, *The Unruly World of Tax A Proposal for an International Tax Cooperation Forum*, 15 FLORIDA TAX REVIEW 57 (2014).

Mohamed S. Helal, *Sharing Blue Gold: The 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses Ten Years On*, 28 COLORADO JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY 337 (2007).

### **BOOKS:**

M. CHERIF BASSIOUNI & MOHAMED HELAL, THE SECOND REPUBLIC IN EGYPT, El-Shorouk Publishers (2012) [*in Arabic*]

### **WORKS IN EDITED VOLUMES:**

Mohamed Helal, *Law as Power: Advising the State and the Practice of Diplomacy*, in David P. Stewart & Margaret E. McGuinness, eds., RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON LAW AND DIPLOMACY, (Edward Elgar, 2022)

Mohamed Helal, *The ECOWAS Intervention in The Gambia – 2016*, in TOM RUYS & OLIVER CORTEN eds., INTERNATIONAL LAW ON THE USE OF FORCE: A CASE BASED APPROACH (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Mohamed Helal & Philippe Kirsch, *Case Studies: Libya*, in JARED GENSER AND BRUNO STAGNO UGARTE eds., THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE AGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 396-433 (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

Mohamed Helal, *Regional Perspectives: The Middle East*, in JARED GENSER AND IRWIN COTLER eds., THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: THE PROMISE OF STOPPING MASS ATROCITIES IN OUR TIMES, 201-231 (Oxford University Press, 2011).

### **Opinio Juris & EJILTalk BLOGPOSTS:**

Crisis in The Gambia: How Africa is Rewriting *Jus ad Bellum*, Jan. 24, 2017. [[Link](#)]

“We’re on the Air!” Michael Flynn, Sergey Kislyak and the Paradoxes of Diplomatic Immunities, Feb., 21, 2017. [[Link](#)]

Of Fire and Fury: The Threat of Force and the Korean Missile Crisis, Aug. 30, 2017. [[Link](#)]

In Celebratus: M. Cherif Bassiouni (1937-2017), Sept., 26, 2017. [[Link](#)]

On the Legality of the Russian Vetoes in the UN Security Council and the Harsh Reality of International Law: A Rejoinder to Professor Jennifer Trahan, May 4, 2018. [[Link](#)]

The Past, Present, and Future of the Veto: A Further Response to Professor Jennifer Trahan, May 10, 2018. [[Link](#)]

The Crisis of World Order and the Missing Voice of International Law, Sept. 14, 2018. [[Link](#)]

On Territoriality, Power, and Influence – A Review of John Heieck’s A Duty to Prevent Genocide: Due Diligence Obligations Among the P5, Dec. 12, 2018. [[Link](#)]

Clouds of War Over the Persian Gulf – A *Jus ad Bellum* Analysis (Part I), June 4, 2019. [[Link](#)]

Clouds of War Over the Persian Gulf – A *Jus ad Bellum* Analysis (Part II), June 4, 2019. [[Link](#)]

The Global Hawk Incident: Self-Defense Against Aerial Incursions – Reflections on the Applicable Law, Jul. 4, 2019. [\[Link\]](#)

So Close, Yet So Far: An Account of the Negotiations on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, May 4, 2020. [\[Part I\]](#), [\[Part II\]](#), [\[Part III\]](#)

Counseling the Prince: Reflections on the Art of Advising the State on International Law, August 13, 2020. [\[Link\]](#)

Symposium on Rewriting Histories of the Use of Force: Of Rules and Exceptions in Jus ad Bellum, February 14, 2023 [\[Link\]](#)

The Common African Position on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace: Reflections on a Collaborative Lawmaking Process, Feb. 5, 2024. [\[Link\]](#)

### **NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

Against All Odds, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue No. 1455, August 22, 2019. [\[Link\]](#)

### **Academic Conferences & Invited Talks**

- African Union, Office of the Legal Counsel, Speaker on the Law of State Responsibility during the Capacity-Building Write-Shop for the Member States of the African Union on the Advisory Proceedings before the International Court of Justice on the Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change, online, March 8-9, 2024.
- Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Microsoft, Temple University’s Institute for Law Innovation & Technology, Side-Event held in New York on the sidelines of the UN Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) substantive session titled “Reflecting on the International Law Multistakeholder Compendium” on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.
- Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations in New York, Side-Event on the Margins of the Open-Ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies to mark the adoption of the Common African Position on the Application of International Law to the Use of Information & Communication Technologies in Cyberspace, March 4, 2024.
- Volterra Fietta, New Frontiers in International Law: Recent Developments in Cyberconflict & Cyberspace, February 22, 2024.
- Geneva Academy, Cyberspace, International Law & Why it is Relevant in Geneva? Conference co-organized by the UK Mission to the United Nations and the Canadian Mission to the UN, Participant (online/) on Panel Discussion on Formation of National Positions on Application of International Law: Towards an Increasing Convergence? November 14, 2023.
- Yale Law School, The Oxford Process on International Law & Cyberspace: Rights and Responsibilities in Cyberspace, Panelist on Session 2: Process - The Development of Rules of International Law in Cyberspace, October 27-28, 2023.

- Advancing Opportunities and Responsibilities for a Peaceful, Safer and Rights Respecting Cyberspace, Panelist in a conference organized by the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores de Mexico, Microsoft, and Temple University Beasley School of Law, (online) October 18, 2023.
- Advancing Opportunities and Responsibilities for a Peaceful, Safer and Rights Respecting Cyberspace, Panelist in a conference organized by the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores de Mexico, Microsoft, and Temple University Beasley School of Law, (online) September 6, 2023.
- Women in Cyber Africa Conference: Bridging the Gender Gap and Breaking the Glass Ceiling, Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority, Lilongwe, Malawi, August 1-4, 2023, Speaker on the African Union common position on the application of international law in cyberspace (online).
- Organizer and Convenor – African Union / Global Affairs Canada, Capacity Building Workshop for A.U. delegates, policymakers, and experts on the application of international law in cyberspace, March 29-30, 2023 (Online) / June 7-9, 2023 (AU, Addis Ababa) / July 20-21, 2023 (UN, New York).
- African Union Commission on International Law – President of the Forum Conference on Business and Human Rights, May 15-16, 2023.
- International Crisis Group, Virtual Roundtable: Solutions to Water Crises and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa, Apr. 25, 2023.
- Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law – Panelist on Economic Statecraft or Economic Warfare? March 31, 2023.
- African Union Peace and Security Council, Expert Speaker on the Applicability of International Law in Cyberspace, Nov. 7, 2022.
- U.N. General Assembly Sixth (Legal) Committee, Observer delegate on behalf of the African Union Commission of International Law, Oct. 24-27, 2022.
- Mission of the African Union to the United Nations & Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA), Panelist on The Role of Regional and International Codification Bodies in the Development of International Law, New York, Oct. 26, 2022.
- African Society of International Law, 2022 Annual Conference, Moderator for Panel VI titled: Climate Change and Human and Peoples' Rights, Oct. 29, 2022.
- University of Oxford, Oxford Process on International Law Protections in Cyberspace, Panelist on Future Developments in the Law Relating to Cyber Operations, Oct. 12-13, 2022.
- Guest Speaker, Seminar: International Lawyering, Harvard Law School, Sept. 21, 2022.
- American University Washington College of Law, The Evolving Face of Cyber Conflict and International Law: A Futurespective, Participant on Panel titled: Cognitive Conflict, June 15-17, 2022.
- Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA), Participant on a Panel titled: Africa, the Ukraine Crisis, and International Law: Quo Vadis?, June 1, 2022.

- American Society of International Law – Africa Interest Group, Moderator on a panel titled: COP27: African Priorities for an African COP, April 6, 2022.
- Faculty Workshop, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, Paper presented: book proposal on the prohibition on intervention in international law, Feb. 7. 2022.
- Discussant on a panel on Dapo Akande and Kati Johnston’s article: Implications of the Diversity of the Rules on the Use of Force for Change in the Law, Sept. 27, 2021.
- American Society of International Law – Africa Interest Group, Discussant on a panel on Dapo Akande and Kati Johnston’s article titled: Implications of the Diversity of the Rules on the Use of Force for Change in the Law, Sept. 27, 2021.
- Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law – Moderator, New Voices Panel, March 25, 2021.
- American Branch of the International Law Association, International Law Weekend, participant on panel titled: Law & Diplomacy, Oct. 24, 2020.
- U.N. General Assembly Sixth (Legal) Committee, Meeting of the Legal Advisors of the Member States of the African Union at the United Nations on the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Criminal Jurisdiction, May 10, 2019.
- 113th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law, participant on panel titled: “San Francisco 2.0: Constructing a Global Governance Architecture for the 21st Century”, March 27-30, 2019.
- Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Annual Faculty Dinner. Paper presented: On Coercion in International Law, March 25, 2019.
- Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The Ohio State University: What is Realist Foreign Policy? Paper presented: The Norms of Anarchy, March, 1-2, 2019.
- Junior International Law Scholars Association conference. Paper Presented: On the Legality of Coercion as an Instrument of Statecraft. January 11, 2019.
- Canadian Council on International Law, participant on panel titled: Is the Security Council in Crisis? November 1-2, 2018.
- American Branch of the International Law Association, International Law Weekend, participant on panel titled: The Security Council in a Fracturing World: Questions of Effectiveness, Legitimacy and Legal Coherences, Oct. 19-20, 2018.
- Global Constitutionalism Journal, Workshop on Challenges to Global Constitutionalism. Berlin, Germany, 5-6 July, 2018.
- Northwestern University Buffett Institute, Workshop on Power and International Relations. Paper presented: *The Crisis of World Order and the Constitutive Regime of the International System*. Chicago IL., May 4, 2018.
- DePaul Law Review Symposium, Featured Speaker. Symposium title: “The Intersection of International Criminal Law and Gender: Progress of the Past and Goals for the Future.” March 23, 2018.
- American Branch of the International Law Association, International Law Weekend, Panelist on Water Conflicts and Cooperation, Oct. 20, 2017.

- Lauterpacht Center for International Law, Cambridge University, Workshop on the Empirical Effects of International Commissions of Inquiry, Jan. 5-6, 2017.
- African Union, Participant on Panel on Teaching International Law, 5th Forum the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL), Accra, Ghana, Dec. 5-6, 2016.
- United Nations General Assembly, Chair of the Panel on Strengthening the Legal Regime to Counter Terrorism, VI (Legal) Committee, International Law Week, Oct. 24, 2016.
- Harvard Law School, International Law Workshop Paper presented: Constitutional Collisions in International Law, Sept. 25, 2015.
- Yale Law School, Presentation title: Dead But Not Buried: The Withering of Sykes-Picot and the Future of the Middle East, April 6, 2015.
- Salzburg Lloyd Cutler Fellows, Paper presented: Am I My Brother's: The Reality, Tragedy, and Future of Collective Security, Washington D.C., Feb. 20-21, 2015.
- Columbia Law School, International Criminal Law Colloquium, Presentation topic: Reflections on the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, Sept. 26, 2014.
- Dartmouth University, Tuck School of Business, Presentation title: A New Arab Order? Feb. 28, 2011.

## Areas of Expertise

### **Primary: Public International Law**

Law of Treaties

*Jus ad Bellum*

Law of the Sea

Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses

International Human Rights Law

International Criminal Law

### **Secondary:**

U.S. Law of Contracts

Jurisprudence

Islamic Law

## Awards & Honors

- 2014 John F. Kennedy School Dean's Award for Excellence in Student Teaching
- 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholar
- 2009 Harvard Law School David L. Shapiro Award
- Valedictorian of the Class of 2005, Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt
- 2005 Frank G. Wisner Award for Best Masters Thesis at the American University in Cairo
- 3rd Best Oralist, 2004 Phillip Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition International Rounds
- 2002-2003 Graduate Merit Fellowship at the American University in Cairo

## Languages

**Arabic (native speaker)**

**English (native command of writing, reading, and speaking)**

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