

VUB Law & Criminology talks

Facultaire Onderzoekscommissie · Faculteit Recht en Criminologie

International Criminal Responsibility in the Age of Social Media



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Organised by Department of Public Law, International and European Law section

Introduced by Prof. Dr. Stefaan Smis

Introduction

Recently, the U.N. Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar asserted that Facebook has 'turned into a beast' as it played a 'determining role' in spreading hate speech which fueled the commission of numerous international crimes in Myanmar, in particular in the Rakhine State. This L&C talk will explore the implications of the rise in prominence of social media for international criminal responsibility. More in particular, three dimensions will be explored. A first part will question the applicability of international crime definitions to situations in which State but more importantly non-State actors use social media to implement international criminal policies by directing, inspiring or enabling individuals to carry out attacks against civilians anywhere in the world. Secondly, it will be explored how the use of social media can be captured under the specific modes of liability of International Criminal Law. Last, the talk will assess whether international law regulates the obligation to remove inciting extremist propaganda or violent material by social media companies, while simultaneously preserve content that could be of evidentiary value in proving international crimes.

Biographical note

Mathias Holvoet obtained a PhD in International Criminal Law from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in March 2018. In 2017, he was a Visiting Professional within the Chambers of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Free entrance, no registration required.



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14:00-16:00

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Room: 4B302

Campus Etterbeek