INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *Israel Law Review* focuses on international humanitarian law (IHL). It contains three articles resulting from a major international conference entitled "Securing Compliance with IHL—the Promise and Limits of Contemporary Enforcement Mechanisms" which was co-organized by the Minerva Center for Human Rights at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the International Committee of the Red Cross (with the support of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Hebrew University's Bruce W. Wayne Chair of International Law); three additional articles on IHL, and a short note, are also featured in this issue.

Our opening article, "The Tremors of *Tadić*" by Dino Kritsiotis, discusses the ways in which the seminal 1995 decision of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia affected the subsequent understanding of what constitute international and non-international armed conflicts—thus delineating the field of application of IHL.

The following article, "Multilateral versus Unilateral Exercises of Universal Criminal Jurisdiction" by Jean D'Aspremont, is the first of four articles in this issue that examine enforcement problems. It takes issue with the manner in which universal jurisdiction has been applied to enforce IHL obligations, suggesting that the application has been beset by a host of political and legal problems.

The third article in this issue, Marco Roscini's "The United Nations Security Council and the Enforcement of International Humanitarian Law," explores the promise and limits of this body as a multilateral avenue for enforcing IHL, suggesting again that existing practice reveals troubling tendencies.

Matthew Happold then focuses in "Protecting Children in Armed Conflict: Harnessing the Security Council's 'Soft Power'" on Security Council enforcement action in one area, the protection of children during armed conflict.

The next article—and the last one dealing with enforcement—is Andrea Breslin's "Ensuring Respect for International Humanitarian Law: The European Union's Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with IHL," which examines the influence of the EU on the promotion and enforcement of IHL by non-member states and critically looks at the EU as an IHL enforcement agent.

The final article in this issue, Eitan Diamond's "Before the Abyss: Reshaping International Humanitarian Law to Suit the Ends of Power," calls to reject the

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proposition that acts which are absolutely prohibited under IHL should nevertheless be deemed legally permissible when their foreseen consequences are less harmful than lawful alternatives.

The issue concludes with a short "current issues" note, which also has an IHL dimension: Ruth Lapidoth and Ofra Friesel's "Some Reflections on Israel's Temporary Legislation on Unification of Families" discusses the international lawfulness of a controversial piece of domestic legislation, which curbs the right of Palestinians to acquire Israeli residency rights upon marriage to Israeli citizens, due to the ongoing armed conflict in the region.

It is important to acknowledge the contribution of some individuals to the publication of this issue. In particular we thank the organizing committee of the Minerva/ICRC conference—David Kretzmer, Yaël Ronen, Charles Shamas, Eitan Diamond, and Larry Maybee. We also thank the organizers of the Concord Center and Tel Aviv Minerva Center for Human Rights Conference on "Humanitarian Law: Reflecting on Change over Time in Theory, Law and Practice" for encouraging their speakers to submit papers to our journal (both Breslin and Diamond participated in that conference). As always, we are extremely grateful to the student and non-student editors and support staff for their hard and dedicated work in publishing this issue. Thank you!

Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, University of Essex
Professor Yuval Shany, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Editors-in-Chief

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