INTRODUCTION

A SYMPOSIUM ON CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS HONORING PROFESSOR DAVID KRETZMER

This double-issue symposium contains nine articles which were originally presented in a conference organized by the Minerva Center for Human Rights held in November 2007 in honor of Prof. David Kretzmer (one of the founders and past directors of the Minerva Center) upon his retirement from active teaching at The Hebrew University Law Faculty. Given Prof. Kretzmer's important scholarship and practice in the fields of public law and international law, it is only befitting that the conference and this Israel Law Review symposium in his honor be dedicated to the interplay between these two branches of law of which he has worked so extensively.

Prof. Kretzmer has had (and still has) a most illustrious career as a law professor, lawyer, human rights activist, and world-renowned expert. In all of these roles, his work has been characterized by rigorous methods of analysis, great attention to detail, and creative scholarship. Most remarkably, he is able to "square the circle" and to strike a coherent balance between idealism and pragmatism or between activism and realism in his writings. Indeed, notwithstanding the sharp critical perspective that imbues Prof. Kretzmer's academic work; he has never abdicated the responsibility of the lawyer—that is, offering solutions to "real life hard choices."[1]

The impressive list of contributors to this symposium is indicative of the professional respect and personal friendships which Prof. Kretzmer has generated over the years and throughout the world. The list includes retired Supreme Court justices: from South Africa (where Prof. Kretzmer was born) and from Ghana; two former members of the U.N. Human Rights Committee (on which Prof. Kretzmer sat for seven years, including two years as the Vice-Chair of the Committee); distinguished law professors

[1] David Kretzmer, *Targeted Killing of Suspected Terrorists: Extra-Judicial Executions or Legitimate Means of Defence?*, 16 EUR. J. INT'L L. 171, 212 (2005).

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(including from the universities in which Prof. Kretzmer has taught and lectured); and younger researchers whose work he has inspired. The choice of article topics is also largely reflective of Prof. Kretzmer's areas of interests, including minority rights, challenging the executive in times of emergency, and the co-application of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

I wish to use this opportunity and thank Prof. Kretzmer for his friendship, collegiality and immense contribution to the Minerva Center for Human Rights. In addition, I thank the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Bruce W. Wayne Chair of International Law at The Hebrew University Law Faculty, whose generous cooperation enabled the organization of the 2007 conference; all participants of the conference (including those participants whose contributions are not included in the present symposium); and the other members of the organizing committee—Prof. Ruth Gavison, Prof. Barak Medina; and Dr. Na'ama Carmi—who advised us on the program. Special thanks are due to the staff of the Minerva Center, headed by Adv. Danny Evron, who labored to organize the 2007 conference, and to the board of editors of the Israel Law Review, headed by Dr. Margit Cohn, Dr. Re'em Segev, and Adv. Michele Manspeizer, who made this publication possible. Thank you all!

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