

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND FOREWORD FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**

The third volume of the "*Contemporary Challenges: The Global Crime, Justice and Security Journal*" marks our growth, slow but steady. We had set out three years back with an aim of consolidating a rich collection of literature on the theme of global crime, justice and security, and in keeping with the scope of the journal, the second volume went on to accept and feature submissions from authors outside of the University of Edinburgh as well. This edition's essays and commentary link a number of academic fields, such as law, criminology, political science, and international relations. They also span a number of geographical areas and discuss transnational and global topics.

In this edition, while Nishat and Hossain in their submission discussed genocide of Bengali intellectuals in Bangladesh in the light of 1948 Genocide Convention, with a specific focus on how such killings would aptly fit the definition of genocide set out in the convention, Yu-Hsuan delved into a theoretical analysis of the discipline of Critical Criminology as a whole and explored the directions it could resort to in future.

Denndorfer, Strauer and Thebes in their article analyses the case of political assassinations in Pakistan by mapping the structure and gravity of incidents of political murders and then explore the factors of socioeconomic realities, political and fundamentalist patterns to finally arrive at a discussion of both long-term and short-term measures to address the issue. Athina Bisback writes about restorative justice and how it might play a key role in addressing the concerns of both victims as well as offenders involved in a crime.

The legal distinction between combatants and non-combatant civilians, and subsequent considerations about targeting and proportionality, constitute the fundamental problem with sieges. The article by Hale demonstrated how differentiation is a relatively new development in International Humanitarian Law and how it is ambiguously reflected in military policy. The first section examines changing IHL standards relevant to contemporary sieges, following which the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) trial of Major Generals Stanislav Gali and Dragomir Milosevi is used to evaluate contemporary legal doctrines governing the conduct of siege warfare.

The article by Chakraborty and Chakraborty explores the question of abortion laws in India, where they discuss the growth of India's abortion laws gradually, while creating a connection with current relevant legislative changes and the sociopolitical significance of the pro-choice vs. pro-life argument in judicial decision-making. The final article by Brenner addresses the issue of rising incidence of knife crime involving youths in London and Croydon. After discussing how such increase in youth knife crime has been attributed in large part to the effects of austerity policies and budget cuts to community and social services, this article highlights how an effective public health approach could help the situation.

Without the extraordinary assistance our team gets from many different sources, Contemporary Challenges would not be conceivable. We appreciate Dr. Andy Ayn-Aitchison, who serves as our academic patron, for his words of wisdom and support. We are grateful to Dr Milena Tripkovic and Dr Andrea Birdsall for agreeing to be the Faculty Advisors for the Journal. We also appreciate Rebecca Wojturska for her tireless efforts to expand the journal's audience and her background work. We would additionally love to extend my gratitude to the former editorial boards and all their members; especially the founding Editor-in-Chief Frederick Florenz and Deputy Editor-in-Chief June Shuler, and the Editor-in-Chief for the second edition Alicja Polakiewicz and Deputy Editor-in-Chief Kağan Sürücü for their extraordinary support. Lastly, as the Editor-in-Chief, I would love to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Editorial Board of the third edition, without whom this publication would have remained a figment of imagination.

Adwitia Maity

Editor-in-Chief