International Law and Covert Operations

James W. Zirkle

Course Syllabus

Georgetown University Law Center

Spring Semester – 2016

In addition to other readings which will be assigned and posted on Canvas we will be using the following books:


21 January 2016

Introduction

We will discuss the scope of the course and the paper requirement. We will begin our discussion regarding law and its application to various types of covert activities. Please read “The Use of Drones and Targeted Killing in Counterterrorism”, 12 Engage: J. Federalist Soc'y Prac. Groups 73 (June 2012).

28 January 2016

International Law and the Use of Force

Please read: “The Obama Administration and International Law,” a speech by Harold Koh to the Annual Meeting of the ASIL, March 25, 2010; and “Covert War and the Constitution,” Jules Lobel, and “Covert War and the Constitution: A Response,” Robert F. Turner. These materials are on Canvas.
4 February 2016

Preemptive Self-Defense


11 February 2016

Prof. Stewart’s discussion with UN Under Secretary 1:45 – 3:30 in room 200.

18 February 2016

No Class

25 February 2016

The Law of Armed Conflict: Security Detention and Internment

Prof. Gary Solis

Please read: Chapter 22 in Prof. Solis’ treatise, in the Canvas Module.

3 March 2016

Assassination and “Targeted Killings”

We will examine the Israeli operations against Black September following the Munich Massacre in 1972. We will also briefly examine the more recent operation in Dubai.

"From the blood-drenched history of the Jewish nation, we learn that violence which begins with the murder of Jews ends with the spread of violence and danger to all people, in all nations. We have no choice but to strike at terrorist organizations wherever we can reach them. That is our obligation to ourselves and to peace." – Golda Meir, 1972
Prime Minister Golda Meir addressed a special session of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, on September 12, 1972. She discussed the Munich tragedy and assured the parliament that Israel would respond to the attack.


10 March 2016

[Spring Break]

17 March 2016

Convergence Theory: Covert Action (Title10/Title 50)


Eliana V. Davidson
Deputy General Counsel, Intelligence
Office of General Counsel
Department of Defense

24 March 2016

The Use of UAVs in the War on Terror: Targeting Anwar al-Awlaki


31 March 2016

Preemptory/Anticipatory Self Defense: The Israeli Attacks on the Iraqi and Syrian Nuclear Facilities
Please read Raid on the Sun; the background briefing “Attack on Syrian Nuclear Facility;” and, “Osiraq Revisited.”

7 April 2016

Humanitarian Operations and the Use of Force


14 April 2016

TBD

21 April 2016

TBD

28 April 2016

TBD

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