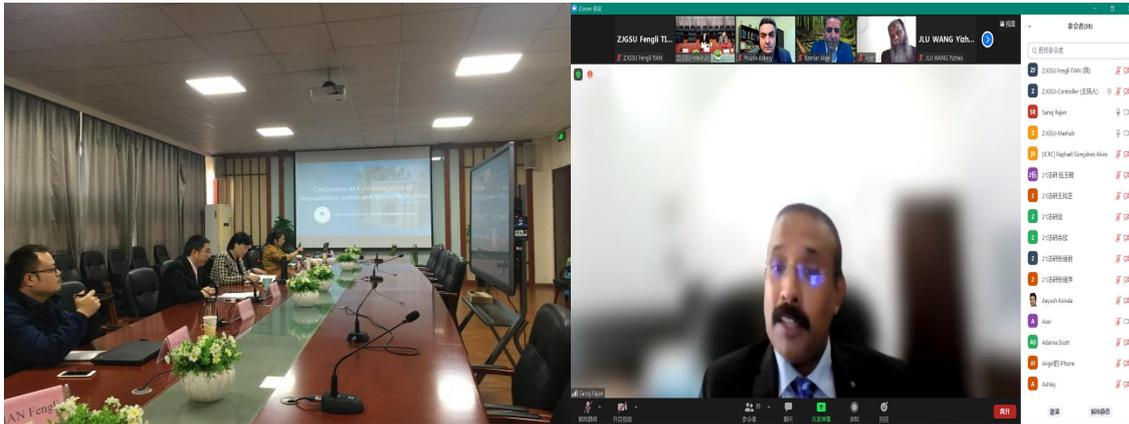


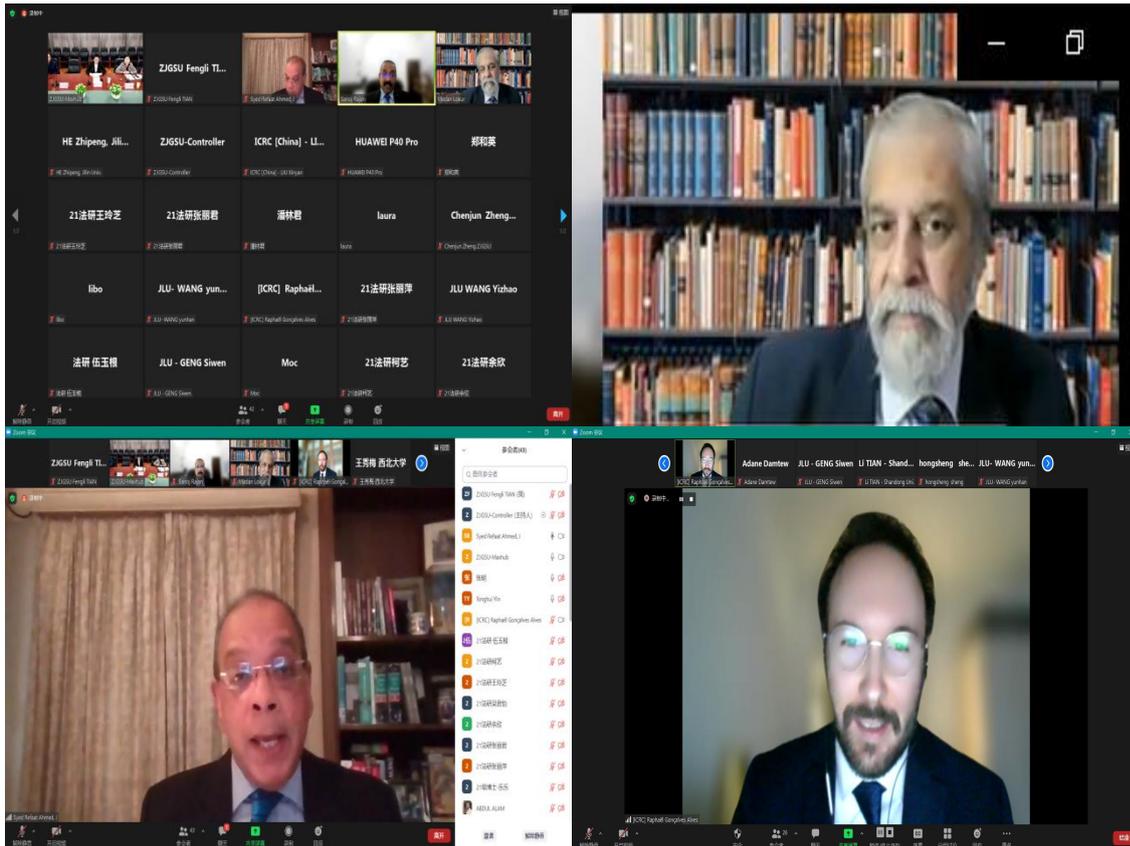
Report on International Conference on Criminalizing Humanitarian Action and Access to Victims

School of Law, Zhejiang Gongshang University organised an International Conference on Criminalizing Humanitarian Action and Access to Victims in association with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Regional Delegation for East Asia on 20th November 2021. The conference saw the participation of 23 delegates drawn from 10 different countries. The conference was coordinated by Professor Sanoj Rajan, Distinguished Professor of Law, supported by the international office of the School of Law under the guidance of Dean Professor Song Jie.



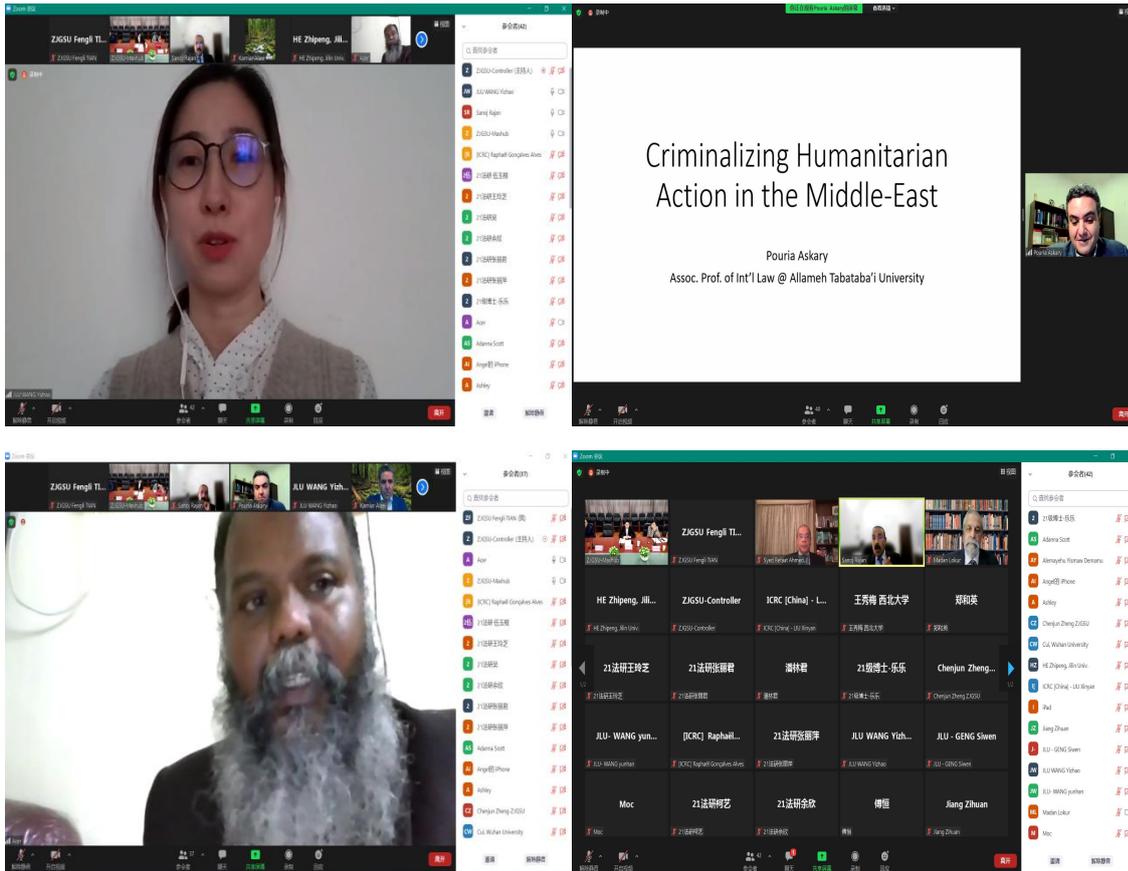
The Conference has focused on the criminalization of humanitarian action as a local phenomenon in different jurisdictions. The deliberations saw discussions on local laws and international obligations; centre-state relations and political dynamics; national interests/priorities; the pattern of state response to individual actors and independent organizations devoid of state control. The participants further elaborated on the expressions and trends in the criminalization of humanitarian action in various countries and made recommendations to improve humanitarian access in those jurisdictions.

The conference was divided into four sessions; an inaugural session and three technical sessions. The inaugural session was moderated by Professor Yu Yanning and the welcome address was delivered by Dean Song Jie. Professor Sanoj Rajan has introduced the theme of the conference and Justice Madan Lokur, Judge Supreme Court of Fiji and former Judge Supreme Court of India has delivered the Keynote address. In his keynote address, Justice Lokur has highlighted that denial of humanitarian assistance and worse, criminalising humanitarian assistance goes against the basic tenets of humanitarian law and the idea of humanity. He further urged the immediate need for nations to protect genuine humanitarian aid. Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, Judge, Supreme Court of Bangladesh who was the Distinguished Expert Speaker of the conference delivered his speech on judicial perspective to criminalising humanitarian action comparing various jurisdictions emphasising the UK and Bangladesh. The last speaker of the session Raphaël Gonçalves Alves, Regional legal adviser and Head of the legal department of the Beijing Regional Delegation for East Asia, ICRC spoke on the ICRC's perspective on the topic.

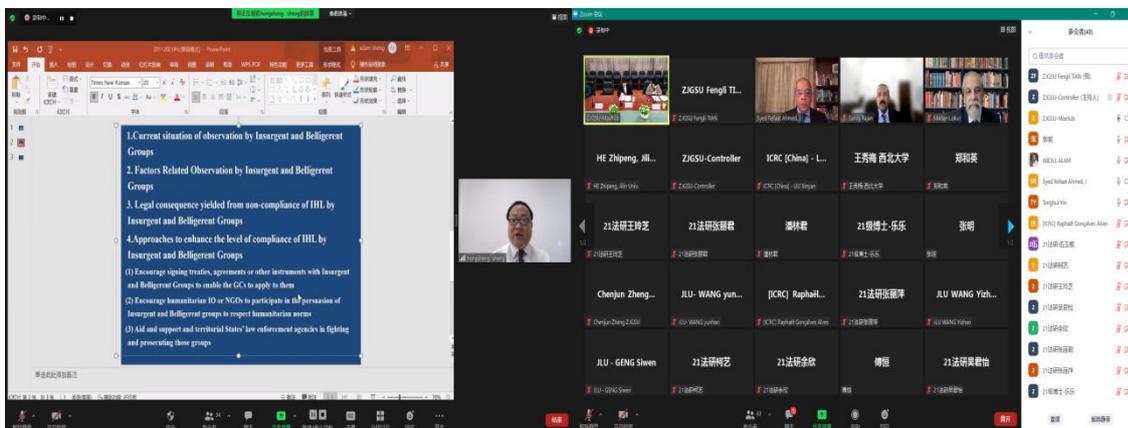
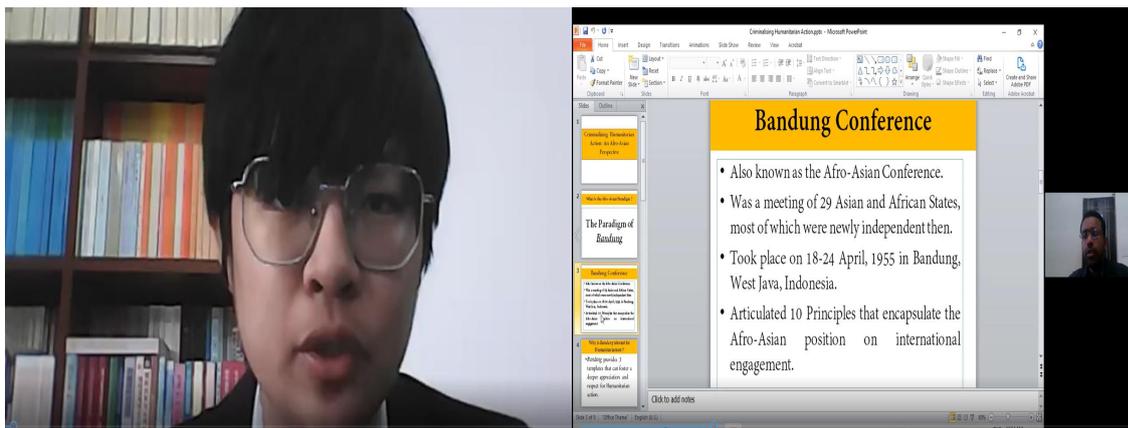


The first technical session was moderated by Professor Sanoj Rajan. The session saw a detailed discussion on criminalizing humanitarian action and access to victims in various jurisdictions. Dr Kamiar Alaei, Global Health Expert and President, Institute for International Health and Education, California State University, the USA spoke on the challenges faced in humanitarian initiatives for internally displaced students in Syria. Following that Prof HE Zhipeng, Dean of School of Law, Jilin University and WANG Yizhao, PhD Candidate in International Law, School of Law, Jilin University spoke on the topic ‘Criminal Conviction of Humanitarian Actions in the Framework of Anti-terrorism.’ Following that Professor Pouria Askery, Faculty of International Law at Allameh Tabataba’i University (ATU) and Secretary-General of the Iranian Association for UN Studies (IAUNS, Iran) had a detailed analysis on Criminalizing Humanitarian Action in Middle Eastern Countries. Dr Rajashekar. G, Faculty, University of Madras, had spoken on the regulation of Non-State Actors and its impact on Humanitarian Action in India.

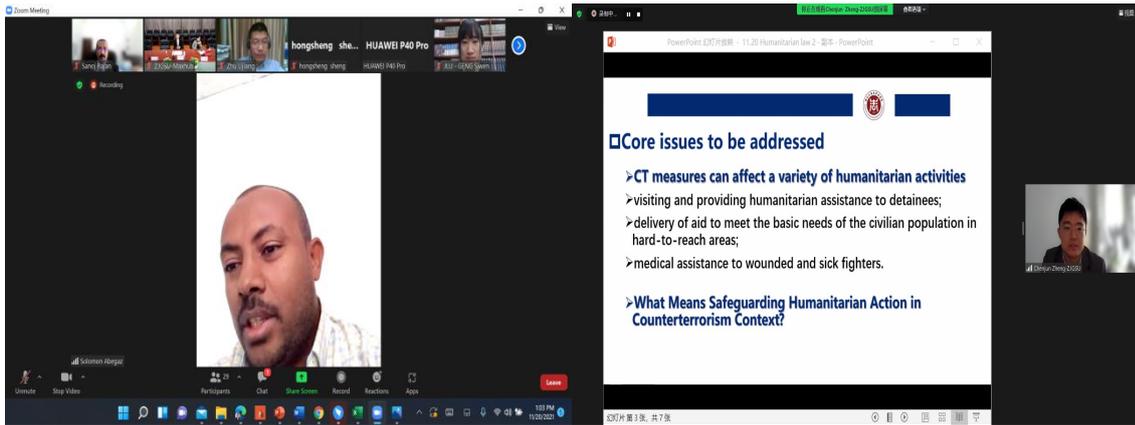




The second technical session moderated by Prof. Pouria Askery had six excellent presentations. Prof ZHU Lijiang, School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law had spoken on The IHL Exclusion Clause in National Counter-terrorism Legislations with a special emphasis on New Zealand. Leila Delovarova, Associate Professor, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan elaborated on Challenges in Refugee Rights and Statelessness Issued in Kazakhstan. WANG Yunhan, PhD Candidate in International Law, School of Law, Jilin University spoke on Application of IHL to NIAC: Challenges and Responses. In the following speech Abraham Joseph, Legal officer, Afro-Asian Consultative Organization discussed how Bandung principles in light of the Afro-Asian perspective on criminalizing humanitarian action. In his passionate speech Sylvester Uhaa, Country Director, Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants, (CURE), Nigeria elaborated on the Nigerian experience on Criminalizing Humanitarian Action. Prof SHENG Hongsheng, School of International Law, Shanghai University of Political Science and Law as the last speaker of the session made an interesting discourse on the implementation of IHL among Insurgent and Belligerent Groups.



The third and final technical session moderated by Professor ZHU Lijiang had five speakers. The first speaker Dr Abegaz Solomon Tekle, Associate Professor of Law, University of Gondar, Ethiopia while discussing the Ethiopian legislative framework on criminalising humanitarian action touched upon the ongoing Tigray War in Ethiopia. Dr ZHENG Chenjun, Lecturer, School of Law, Zhejiang Gongshang University spoke on The Role of Armed Non-State Actors in Humanitarian Relief Operations. Prof TIAN Li, School of Law, Shandong University aired his critical views on American Exceptionalism and Adversarial State Practice in criminalising humanitarian action regimes. GENG Siwen, PhD Candidate in International Law, School of Law, Jilin University emphasised on the conflicts between the United States' Material-support Statutory and the Need for Humanitarian Action. The last speaker of the session Professor Geeta Pathak Sangrola, Professor of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, Kathmandu School of Law & Senior Advocate at Supreme Court of Nepal spoke on the Nepal experiences on criminalising humanitarian action.



The event concluded with the closing remarks by Raphaël Gonçalves Alves and Professor Sanoj Rajan posted a vote of thanks.