

## **Legal Network Initiative - Legal Research Grants Program**

### **Current challenges and legal aspects facing the State of Israel**

Online conference was held on 28 October 2020 on the topic of current challenges and legal aspects facing the State of Israel in cooperation between law office Mijailović, The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation - Thinc and ICEJ Serbia.

The purpose of this conference was to provide a high-level exposition of current challenges facing the State of Israel and to examine the role of international law in these challenges. Special attention was given to the City of Jerusalem.

In the opening introductions, it was Rodoljub Oreščanin, Chair of ICEJ Serbia and prof. Darko Trifunović, Director of Institute for international and national security – INIS. They addressed the listeners on the topic of the long friendship between Serbia and Israel. The special place took the Honorary consul of the Republic of Serbia to the State of Israel Mr. Alexander Nikolić with the same topic and also the future meaning of the friendship between the Republic of Serbia and the State of Israel.

In the first session, it was spoken about the legal aspects of the State of Israel. Andrew Tucker, a lawyer from the Netherlands, as a member of the Thinc organization, put a summary of this part of the program and also introduced the following speakers.

On the topic “Zionism, the Jewish people and Israel”, Yitzhak Sokoloff, now founder and CEO at Keshet: The Center for Educational Tourism in Israel, addressed the listeners.

After him, Dr. Matthijs de Blois, Senior Fellow in Thinc, from the office of Thinc in Amersfoort, talked about the mandate for Palestine and the borders of Israel. Continuing on that note Andrew Tucker, talked on the topic of Israel and the “Two-state solution” under international law.

Following the Q&A of the first panel, a screen trailer named “Whose Land?” was played during the break time.

Yifa Segal and Jonathan Heuberger introduced the LNI and their mission and called upon listeners to join the ILF.

In the second session, the topic was the status of Jerusalem and on that note, the panel was opened with a presentation of Andrew Tucker presenting the controversial status of Jerusalem since 1967 throughout history.

David Parson, the Vice President of ICEJ and also an attorney, writer, and Middle East specialist, talked about the US Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act from 1995 and its implementation throughout history.

Prof. Avi Bell, an Israeli Professor of Law at the University of San Diego School of Law and Bar-Ilan University's Faculty of Law, talked on the topic of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel.

Continuing on the topic of embassies in Jerusalem, Dr. Mathijs de Blois talked about the status of foreign embassies in Jerusalem and with that, the conference was closed.

The conference was followed by 18 registered participants from the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Judge from Higher Court of Novi Sad and Judge from Third basic court in Belgrade, INIS, different law offices, BEKOP - Belgrade jurist conference, Israeli Centar, Centre for International Public Policy, Christians for Israel Italy, law students from Faculty of law Union University and Media Advocacy Forum Nepal and also 4 more participants that were on joint viewing on one link from law offices.