
EDITORIAL

Amidst many events all around the world this latest issue of LJIL is appearing. Unlike the frontpage of a newspaper suggests, today's world is not as simple as it seems. Media tend to focus on 'hot items' and sometimes even limit themselves to just one subject, thereby playing down the complexity of the situation and bypassing other matters of importance.

For the last months the events in the Gulf have dominated the 'world scene'. The crisis which at first appeared to be contained through the unprecedented unity within the United Nations, nevertheless resulted in a war. Even though the Gulf War is terminated now, the Gulf as such still is in the headlines and justly so! There remain quite a number of issues to be dealt with: the exchange of prisoners of war and reparation-payments, but also more structural issues like the Palastinian matter, the erasing of the dammage to the local environment and the question wether or not a tribunal should be set up to judge the crimes against humanity which occured during this war.

For how long will these remain burning questions? Untill the answers are found? Untill practicable solutions are concocted? Or untill the Gulf issue is ousted by novel 'hot items'?

About a year ago all attention was directed towards Eastern Europe: the falling apart of the iron curtain, the unification of Germany and the *detante* between East and West. Yet today, the developments in e.g. the Baltic states and Albania would appear to be of minor importance if measured by the coverage they receive. Questions that were said to be 'burning' then, now still are unresolved. The fact that they are not dealt with on the spot, is in itself not the disquieting factor. What should be avoided is -returning to our notorious newspaper in the beginning- that they are disposed of the old paper.