

The UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted in 1948 was undoubtedly a breakthrough in the development of international criminal law. Although this crime had been committed earlier, it did not function as a legal concept. The definition of genocide accepted in the UN Convention does not contain all the elements specified by Rafał Lemkin, the originator of this definition, but introduced a certain standard, repeated in the statutes of ad hoc international criminal tribunals and in the statute of the permanent International Criminal Court. The convention itself, uniting the international community against the most grievous crime, influenced the penalization of genocide in criminal laws of almost all countries of the world and subjected this crime to universal jurisdiction.

The UN convention was a reaction to the atrocities and bestiality of World War II, but it did not prevent further genocides occurrences in Asia and Africa, as well as in Europe, where the people had already experienced this crime. The seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention is therefore a good opportunity to commemorate Rafał Lemkin's efforts and achievements concerning the penalization of genocide and to look at his legacy, above all the interpretations of this crime by international criminal tribunals. It is also worth considering the effectiveness of the UN convention and the mechanisms of its application and implementation. However, the multifaceted nature of genocide implies interdisciplinary approach to this issue. Thus, the organizers wish to invite not only lawyers, but also historians, sociologists and political scientists to participate in the anniversary conference, to jointly analyze and present the legal, historical and sociological aspects of the "crime of crimes", as genocide is defined.

This conference will bring together scholars and practitioners working in different fields of law, history, international relations. Selected papers will be published in an edited collection by a leading publisher.

Paper proposals related to the conference theme are now invited. Possible topics for papers include:

Rafał Lemkin - Madrid conference – achievements and legacy

ICTR and ICTY jurisprudence on genocide

Genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity – Syria case?

Current challenges – genocide, hate speech and social media

Jews genocide on the territory of Poland,

New developments Cultural genocide

Education for the prevention of the crime of genocide