

Frontiers of International Criminal Law and Justice

**Monday, 1 December 2025, 13:15-15:00,
The Hague, World Forum, 'Europe 1-2'**

A side-event (with lunch) to the 24th Session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties, convened by the Centre for International Law Research and Policy (CILRAP), sponsored by Korea, Norway and Sweden, co-sponsored by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), Stockholm Centre for International Law and Justice, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Human Rights Law Centre (University of Nottingham), Institute for International Peace and Security Law of the University of Cologne, Coalition for International Criminal Justice (CICJ), European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC).

Statement by Professor Mohammad H. Zakerhossein *University of Tehran*

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, colleagues, and friends,

It is a great pleasure to speak at this side event of ASP 24, on the occasion of launching [Lexsitus 3.0.](#), and in particular, its Persian version – a project that is very close to my heart.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to CILRAP, to its Director Morten Bergsmo, and to all partners who have supported this important initiative.

The story of Persian Lexsitus began in 2018, when I approached Morten with a simple proposal – to record a few lectures in Persian. He kindly agreed, and we began with modest steps. Over time, the project grew: from translating English lectures, to producing the full commentaries on the ICC Statute and the Rules of Procedure and Evidence in Persian.

This project has been carried out by a small but deeply dedicated team of Iranian scholars and students. With limited resources but great motivation, we worked patiently and persistently, fully believing in the value of what we were building.

Today, we proudly present Persian Lexsitus – a comprehensive platform of freely accessible materials for Persian-speaking audiences worldwide. The birth of Persian Lexsitus reflects a powerful vision: that access to international legal knowledge should be as open as possible in order to strengthen domestic capacity and broaden ownership of the international legal order. In this sense, Persian Lexsitus supports legal communities in Afghanistan and Tajikistan and is especially meaningful in Iran, which is not a State Party to the Rome Statute yet.

Iran is still in the early stages of developing its engagement with international criminal law. However, interest in international justice has grown, among scholars, students, and even policymakers – particularly following the recent twelve-day conflict between Iran and Israel, which raised profound questions about peace, security and justice. The country has also experienced other crises that bring issues of international criminal justice to the forefront. In this context, Persian Lexsitus helps create the knowledge foundation needed for these national and regional discussions. By making the ICC's work visible and understandable, it helps pave the way toward greater engagement with the Court.

Although Persian-language resources are increasing in my home country, they remain limited. Financial constraints restrict access to international books, journals, and databases – leaving many universities without physical or digital resources. Moreover, English is still not widely mastered among students. Persian Lexsitus bridges this gap by offering a trusted and structured reference in Persian for studying, teaching and researching international criminal law, and ensuring no student regardless of their location is left behind.

At the University of Tehran, where I teach, many students have already benefited from Lexsitus. They use its lectures and commentaries to learn, conduct research, and better understand the ICC's legal framework. Their enthusiasm has been inspiring – many have told me they were waiting for the day when the entire Persian Lexsitus would become accessible. In addition, since its introduction, more students have chosen to write their theses on the ICC and on international criminal law.

Next year, our university will launch – for the first time – a Master's programme in international criminal law. This will train Iran's first generation of experts in the field, and Persian Lexsitus will be an essential academic and learning tool in that process. This programme and this platform will shape how global criminal justice is taught and one day practised in Persian.

In conclusion, the launch of Lexsitus 3.0., including its Persian version, marks a milestone in strengthening international criminal law knowledge across Persian-speaking societies.

I am proud to have led this project, and I deeply thank CILRAP, Morten, my dear colleague Dr. Fereydoon Jafari, Dr. Sepideh Tabatabaei, and my small team of Iranian scholars and students for their tireless commitment.

Thank you for your attention.