



## **International Law of Armed Conflict**

The international law of armed conflict has emerged from the classical laws of war, the *ius in bello*. It deals with international legal norms applying in the case of an armed conflict. The law of armed conflict is intended to ensure the protection of particularly vulnerable persons (such as prisoners of war or civilians living under military occupation), but also determine which concrete rules are applicable directly on the battlefield (for instance the prohibition on the use of certain weapons). One key aspect of the actual discussion concerns the extent to which relevant provisions shall also be applicable in cases of civil war.

The lecture will discuss the issue of state reactions to non-state terror attacks and the questions of law that subsequently arise. Finally, the criminal law regime of war crimes shall be borne in mind as well. Questions of law, often containing politically explosive issues, will be illustrated for students through various case studies from international politics. In addition to the Gulf Wars and armed confrontations in connection with the Middle East conflict, the armed conflicts in and around Afghanistan offer plenty of illustrative material for contemporary problems in this field of law, problems that also affect Germany.

Combined with the lecture, 'International Law of Peace', students will obtain an overview of contemporary 'International Peace and Security Law' in its broad sense.