

Preface

Volume 23 of the *Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law* covers the period from 2022 to 2023. As has become by now tragically familiar, this volume goes to print before the background of war and widespread human suffering in many of the countries and regions covered by the *Yearbook*. At the time of writing this Preface, Palestine, Lebanon and Israel are all witnessing deaths and destruction on an unprecedented scale, with the risk of further regional escalation rising by the day. Many other countries in the Middle East and North Africa continue to be exposed to armed conflict, extreme weather events and economic hardships. The civil war in Sudan continues unabated whilst in Yemen, Houthi attacks against a number of naval and merchant ships as well as targets in Israel itself have been met with military action under the United States-led *Operation Prosperity Guardian*, following on from the adoption UN Security Council's *Resolution 2722 (2024)*, demanding that Houthis immediately stop attacks on merchant, commercial vessels in the Red Sea.

Turning to the content of this year's volume, I note with much sadness and a heavy heart the passing of Professor M.A. Ansaripour in June 2023. As a member of the University of Tehran, Professor M.A. Ansaripour was one of the longest serving contributors of country surveys to the *Yearbook*, having filed surveys on the legal developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran in every single volume of YIMEL, starting with volume 1 in 1994. For the Iran survey of volume 22 of YIMEL, Professor M.A. Ansaripour had been joined by his PhD student Dr. Ahmad Mohammadi. In addition to his regular in-depth and highly informative surveys on Iranian legal developments, Professor M.A. Ansaripour also authored and published a number of insightful and thoughtprovoking research articles on wide range of subjects in the *Yearbook*. Professor M.A. Ansaripour's contributions to legal scholarship will be greatly missed and all members of the editorial team of YIMEL convey their heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and students.

Volume 23 of the *Yearbook* continues to benefit from a number of specialist and general surveys on legal developments in the Middle East and in a number of jurisdictions of the Islamic world. I am grateful to the esteemed contributor of surveys on *Afghanistan* (Haroun Rahimi), *Algeria* (Ammar Belhimmer and translated by Prof Baudouin Dupret), *Bahrain* (Raed Alnimer), *Egypt* (Noha Khaled and Prof Mohamed S. Wahab), *Jordan* (Kamal Alawamleh and Ali Mohamad Aldabbas), *Kuwait* (Fahad Ali Alzumai), *Libya* (Gofran Abaoub and Adam Abouda), *Malaysia* (Umami Hani Binti Masood), *Saudi Arabia* (Beata Maria Polok), *Türkiye* (Deniz Tekin-Apaydin), the *United Arab Emirates* (Dr Gordon Blanke and Farhan Shafi), as well as the survey on *Recent Developments*

concerning the Rights of Migrant Workers and of Women: A survey of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, authored by Radhika Kanchana. Produced by leading practitioners and academics, the country surveys published in this volume, as well as those in the past, are authored within a very short period of time and submitted and edited to very tight deadlines. By way of this Preface, and on behalf of the entire editorial team, I thank all the authors and contributors of country surveys for their valued contributions, in the hope and expectation of their continued support for future volumes of the *Yearbook*.

Four of the articles published in volume 23 of the *Yearbook* form part of the *Special Edition: Succession in Islamic Law*. Edited by Professor Dr Nadjma Yassari, Director of the *Swiss Institute of Comparative Law* in Lausanne, Switzerland, this Special Edition emanates from the proceedings of the international conference on *Succession in Islamic Law* that took place at the *Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law* in Hamburg in March 2023. I refer with many thanks to Professor Yassari's highly informative Preface to the Special Edition in Part 2 as well as the valuable scholarly contributions published in Part 2 of this volume.

Five further articles, already published in *YIMEL*'s on-line version, are included in volume 23. Edited by Mr Tachfine Baida, Managing Editor of articles, and Dr Zubair Abbasi, Associate Editor, these articles cover Iranian perspectives on *Arbitrability and Mediability of Disputes*, authored by Sima Ghaffari and Rasoul Kashkouli, *Palestinian Refugees' Right to Work in Lebanon*, authored by Majd Owda and Raed Abubadawia, Mais Qandeel's article on *Digital Rights in Palestine: Prospects of a Constitutional Judicial Review*, an article on *Shedding Light on the Inadequate Protection of Internet Users' Right to Privacy under Kuwaiti Law*, authored by Noura Hezam Almutairi, and Nora Noralla's article titled *Gender Trouble in the Land of the Nile: Transgender Identities, the Judiciary and Islam in Egypt*.

The publication of volume 23 of *YIMEL* would not have been possible without the many hours of work spent by the members of the editorial team, in commissioning, reviewing and editing every single of the many contributions listed in the table of content. My thanks go to Mr Tachfine Baida, Managing Editor (Articles), Dr Zubair Abbasi, Associate Editor, and Mr Mohammad Kamran Ahmed (Student Fellow) who, having mastered Brill's Editorial Manager software, have been responsible for the production of the research-based articles, both in Part 1 and Part 2 of this volume, as well as the editing of the surveys.

I am grateful to the members of the Board of Editors and our peer-reviewers who have offered sound advice on a number of occasions and who have contributed their time and expertise in reviewing the manuscripts of articles published in this volume 23.

As in previous years, I owe a special debt of gratitude to the whole team at Brill. With their customary professionalism and efficiency, Ms Ingeborg van der Laan and Mr Peter Groen have again managed all aspects of the production of volume 23 of *YIMEL*. I convey many thanks to Ms Ingeborg van der Laan and Mr Peter Groen for their wonderful work for this and for future volumes of the *Yearbook*. Finally, as in previous years, I owe a special debt of gratitude to Ms Marie Sheldon, who, as Brill's Publishing Director, International Law, has continued to offer wise counsel and professional support for the production of the *Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law*.

Martin Lau

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