



Alternative Approaches to International Law (AAIL 2020-21)

Lecture Series by

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Weeramantry Centre for Peace, Justice and International Law

Lecture 3

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Statelessness Arising out of Arbitrary Deprivation of Nationality and Persecution: An Irrefutable Link

Details about the talk:

Platform: Zoom | Date: 16 December 2020 | Time: 6:00 P.M. IST

Abstract

Rendering a person stateless can have devastating and long-lasting consequences, restricting an individual's ability to participate in society and severely curtailing their political, civil, economic or social rights. Making an entire population stateless, however, based on their religion, ethnicity, or identity, is arguably an act of persecution and can often lead to crimes against humanity such as torture, enslavement and extermination. However, the links between making an entire population stateless and crimes against humanity of persecution have often been overlooked. The talk explores the nexus between the two issues, arguing that the arbitrary deprivation of nationality to a large population is itself a crime against humanity of persecution and is illegal under international law. The talk begins with an examination of the nature of statelessness, before moving on to a discussion on how the statelessness arising out of arbitrary deprivation of nationality invariably leads to crimes against humanity. The talk concludes with a suggestion to amend the definition of the crime against humanity of persecution under the Rome Statute to act as a deterrent for future violations.