

Leila Hadya Sadat, ed., *Forging a Convention for Crimes against Humanity*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

AS WE ARE building a just global village, which may also be called international community or world society, an essential part of our effort is to establish a justice system that has jurisdiction over the entire village and an indispensable component of this system is a legal mechanism that imposes duties and burdens on each and every family existing in this village that they don't commit to such serious crimes as crimes against humanity. These legal duties and burdens must be sufficiently stringent that either prevents familial criminals from gaining benefit from crimes against humanity or approximates the loss and pains the familial criminals inflicted on their victims. *Forging a Convention for Crimes against Humanity* is a project that embodies persistent effort in the development of international criminal law for the global village since the Nuremberg Trials and presents the outcome of scholarly collaboration worldwide and over one hundred years. The importance and significance this volume cannot be overestimated. It is a pioneer work in international law in a number of ways.

The first and the foremost contribution of this volume to the movement for global justice is the monumental piece "Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity," which constitutes a comprehensive international convention dealing with crimes against humanity, rendered in both English and French. Crime against humanity is the most heinous category of crimes; but it has not been dealt with effectively. A protection for threatened victims of crimes against humanity has not been effectively enhanced. It is no doubt that the Nuremberg Trials laid a solid foundation for dealing with crimes against humanity. The Nuremberg Charter included crimes against humanity as one of the three categories of crimes. However, unlike the cases of genocide and war crimes, there hadn't since had an international convention codifying and developing customary law on crimes against humanity, which is obviously indispensable and long-wanted. This volume fills this vacuum in international law. The text of the proposed convention on crimes against humanity articulates and consolidates the category of crimes against humanity, enhances the principle of international accountability for mass slaughters, facilitates the legal vehicle for international court to impose accountability on those who are responsible for crimes of this category, and enables relevant organizations at national and international levels to adopt appropriate measures of preventing crimes against innocent civilians.

Forging a Convention for Crimes against Humanity raises serious questions about global justice at international level, that is, about the legal mechanisms that hold a family rather than individuals accountable in our global village. The reigning

idea of legal theories is the doctrine of individual responsibility. That idea is now confronting a challenge from the idea of collective responsibility. How a family, rather than an individual, in our global village is held accountable for crimes? On what ground is the village's humanitarian intervention into the territory of a family in our global village to be justified? Could the proposed international law apply to a terrorist network that possesses neither territory nor government and that operates across families in our global village? Questions like these demand intensive researches. *Forging a Convention for Crimes against Humanity* provides an outstanding scholarly contribution to the studies of international law, making it a valuable and essential resource for future studies.

Attached to the proposed convention is another important piece titled "A Comprehensive History of the Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity" written by Leila Nadya Sadat, who has been the leading figure of this project. Fifteen thoughtful papers collected in this volume, which are written by prominent and leading experts in the field of international criminal law, address issues concerning the legal regulation of crimes against humanity and examine relevant social and historical contexts. These papers present best reflections on various aspects of crimes against humanity. Topics range from technical discussions of specific legal issues such as modes of responsibility, the responsibility to protect, amnesties and immunities, enforcement, and gender crimes to broader conceptual treatments of earlier codification efforts, the definition of the crime in customary international law, and the phenomenon of ethnic cleansing. Several of these papers cover the topic of ad hoc tribunal definition of crimes against humanity and the history of codification efforts. Many papers collected in this volume discuss specific topics such as universal jurisdiction, peace and justice dilemmas, the architecture of international criminal justice, modes of criminal participation, crimes against humanity and terrorism, and the interstate enforcement regime.

The movement for global justice on crimes against humanity is of course not merely an intellectual movement. *Forging a Convention for Crimes against Humanity* fills a vacuum in international law but it does not grow out of vacuum. The Nuremberg legacy discontinued or legged in its progress during the cold war; but the social movement for global justice on crimes against humanity revived by the end of the 20th century. This movement embraces such prominent events as the statute to establish an international criminal court agreed by 120 nations in Rome in July 1998, the arrest of General Pinochet accused for systematic use of torture, the war against former Yugoslavia to stop "ethnic cleansing" of Kosovo, UN-backed invasion of East Timor to stop massacres by militias in league with Indonesian army, the Hague Criminal Tribunal, etc. Cumulative human efforts of reviving the Nuremberg

legacy over twenty some years paved the road to the achievement of *Forging a Convention for Crimes against Humanity* that refines this important social movement toward completion of building a global village in its true sense.

Dr. ZHAOLU LU, Professor of Philosophy, Tiffin University, LUZ@TIFFIN.EDU.