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A Note from the Editor

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A Note from the Editor

TIMOTHY MCCORMICK[†]

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 29th Volume of *Maryland Journal of International Law*. I would first like to give sincere thanks to all of the brilliantly talented editors, authors, educators, and administrators who made this edition possible. Over the last year, this journal has expanded the size and scope of its operation and you hold the results in your hand. This extensive edition will feature three parts: 1) Pieces arising from the journal's fall symposium: *Law & Politics of External Intervention in Internal Conflicts*, with an introduction from Professor Mortimer Sellers; 2) an inclusive selection of student notes and comments; and 3) a special issue, made in partnership with the *Politics of Religious Freedom* Project, complete with an introduction by Professor Peter Danchin. The combination of these sections amounts to one of the largest, most diverse volumes of the journal to date.

LAW AND POLITICS OF EXTERNAL INTERVENTION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS

On November 19, 2013, this journal hosted a symposium of legal, diplomatic, military, and academic experts to discuss the law of international intervention. We had little idea when we selected the topic how relevant it would remain. Since the topic's selection in June of 2013: "red lines" in Syria were drawn and crossed; coup d'états deposed the governments of Egypt and Thailand; scores of Nigerian schoolgirls were enslaved; disguised Russian troops helped to annex Crimea; violence surged in Libya and elsewhere; and Sunni extremists overran large units of the U.S.-trained Iraqi army. Throughout these crises, the international community has called for everything from humanitarian aid to airstrikes. In the face of such instability, the international legal community is forced to ask questions without easy or obvious answers. What effect can we reasonably expect international law to have on such events? Do powerful world actors actually have a "Responsibility to Protect?"

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and, if so, what triggers it? Can international legal mechanisms be both responsible and accountable for internal conflicts, or should this be left to the realms of international politics and diplomacy? The centerpiece of the symposium was the Keynote Lecture from Professor Henry Richardson III, who offers a dramatic new perspective on intervention. Furthermore, all the members of the symposium's panel of interdisciplinary experts were gracious enough to offer articles for publication, and I am honored to print their insights herein.

STUDENT NOTES AND COMMENTS

This volume also includes an expanded and enhanced student note section, including notes and comments from both 2L and 3L students. Our student authors were encouraged to address a wide range of emerging issues. As a result, the topics selected are far from settled law and our writers have been burdened with constant updates and developments in their respective fields. Despite all the challenges, I am happy to report that the journal authors have triumphed in producing the enclosed pieces with greater speed than previously attempted by this journal.

SPECIAL ISSUE: THE POLITICS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

This year, the *Maryland Journal of International Law* partnered with authors from around the world, in collaboration with *Politics of Religious Freedom* Project. The project, funded by the Henry R. Luce Foundation, is engaged in a four-year interdisciplinary initiative to explore the ongoing transformation in religious freedom throughout the world. By working with this project, the journal worked on a global scale. While the journal remains dedicated to legal analysis, these texts go beyond jurisprudence to discuss the incredibly diverse viewpoints of what exactly constitutes religious liberty. I would like especially to thank Professor Peter Danchin and Emanwel Turnbull for their work in fostering this partnership.