**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**

For this assignment, you must:

1. Provide an answer to the **problem question** below following the methodological guidelines explained in class (no word limits apply to the problem question)
2. Choose **one** **essay topic** (out of three options below) and develop your argument in relation to it (the essay should have between 1000 and 1500 words, *excluding* footnotes and bibliography)
3. Submit the written assignment as ONE file (Word or equivalent, PDF) on Moodle by **May** **27, 15h.**

Each part of the assignment carries an equal weight (50% for the problem question and 50% for the essay) for the written assignment grade. The overall written assignment counts for 70% of the final grade (30% of the final grade goes for the group presentation).

**Reminder**:

1. The **problem question** should have the following **structure**: very brief summary of facts + main issue or issues + relevant law + application of law to the facts + conclusion. The most important is to provide a good argument about how the relevant rules of public international law should be applied to the hypothetical fact scenario.
2. The most important criterion for the evaluation of the essay is the existence of a well-constructed argument in relation to the topic. **Elaborate as much as possible on a topic in as few words as possible**. That means that short sentences must be privileged over long ones and that your ideas must be framed in a clear and concise manner. That also means that you are expected to **avoid large quotes from other sources** and always privilege explaining the ideas taken from other sources with your own words (while properly referencing the sources in footnotes).

**Note that this is an individual work for which the relevant material has been explained in class or will be explained before May 13th.**

1. **Problem Question**

In the last two years, ANGMAR, a Non-Governmental Organization specialized in animal rights has been conducting operations that aim to disrupt the activities of the research labs of the State of Ithilien. Such operations were initiated when ANGMAR received reliable information on the extensive use of animal testing by Ithilien.

The authorities of Ithilien decided to initiate secret operations to stop the actions of ANGMAR. They sent two agents to the headquarters of ANGMAR, located in Erebor, a neighboring State. All the most important decisions of ANGMAR are taken in its headquarters. The Ithilien agents were instructed to steal ANGMAR’s documents on its past and future operations and to cause the explosion of the computer server room. The explosion led to the death of the building caretaker and 12 injured persons that were in an adjacent building. The two agents have been arrested by the authorities of Erebor and each of them has been sentenced to 30 years of prison in Erebor.

Ithilien authorities would like to get its agents back. They argue that they should be returned on the basis of medical reasons: the two agents allegedly must undertake surgical procedures in Ithilien for different reasons. After a series of long negotiations, Erebor accepted to send the two agents back to their country of origin, but under the condition that they would be sent back to Erebor after they undertake the necessary medical interventions. When Ithilien was expected to send its agents back to Erebor, it claimed that they disappeared and that it became impossible for it to respect its promise.

After this incident, the tensions between the two states escalated. The media headlines now refer to a serious diplomatic incident that might lead to the use of force. Despite prolonged negotiations and a tentative of conciliation conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, as well as economic sanctions imposed on Ithilien, the tensions continue, and the agents have not yet been sent back to Erebor.

Ithilien decided to place part of its military troops in the proximity of its border with Erebor. The troops regularly conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations. Erebor decided to act for preventing an allegedly imminent strike by Ithilien. It sent its own troops at the border with Ithilien and allowed them to use force against Ithilien’s military. The attack resulted into 16 deaths, including both combatants and civilians, all of Ithilien nationality.

Ithilien decides to bring an action against Erebor before the International Court of Justice. Both States have previously accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ, but Erebor issued the following reservation :

“The Government of Erebor accepts as compulsory and without special convention, on condition of reciprocity, the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, in conformity with paragraph 2 of Article 36 of the Statute of the Court. The present declaration does not apply to disputes resulting from a multilateral treaty”.

Erebor seeks for your legal advice.

1. **Choose ONE of the following topics:**
2. In what ways does the U.N. General Assembly contribute to collective security on the international scene? You are expected to answer to this question while reflecting on the overall efficiency of the U.N. system of collective security.
3. How did public international law approach colonialism before the World War II? You are expected to give examples, while highlighting specific public international legal arguments made in relation to colonialism during the most important epochs mentioned in class (until World War II).
4. Is the use (or the threat) of force sufficiently well regulated in public international law? You are expected to give examples when answering this question.