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International Law News & Insights

Carter-Ruck specialises in sensitive disputes when reputations, livelihoods and assets are at risk.

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Al Jazeera files ICC request over Israeli killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh



Al Jazeera Media Network has filed a formal request with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, seeking an investigation into the killing of the renowned journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, shot by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) while reporting from Palestine on 11 May 2022.

Senior partner [Cameron Doley](#) chaired a press conference at The Hague immediately after the evidence had been submitted, following which the filing received extensive media coverage across the world. Watch the [video](#) and [read more](#).

Al Jazeera is advised by [Cameron Doley](#), [François Holmey](#), [Amber Courtier](#), [Sara Hdiguellou](#) and [Rodney Dixon KC](#).



Parliamentary Ombudsman finds FCDO failed to protect torture victim

The Parliamentary Ombudsman has held that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office failed to protect Matthew Hedges, the British academic who was falsely imprisoned and tortured in the UAE over a period of more than six months in 2018. [Read more.](#)

Mr Hedges is represented by [Cameron Doley](#), [François Holmey](#) and [Amber Courtier](#).



Supreme Court of Canada dismisses Rebel News libel claim against Al Jazeera using Anti-SLAPP laws

The Supreme Court in Canada has issued a judgment dismissing an application by Rebel News Network for leave to appeal an earlier decision of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Rebel News was also ordered to pay Al Jazeera Media Network's costs. [Read more.](#)

Al Jazeera is represented by [Claire Gill](#).

EU General Court annuls sanctions against Nizar Assaad

On 8 March 2023 the General Court of the EU handed down a significant judgment upholding Mr Assaad's annulment application and annulling sanctions which had been imposed on him by the EU Council.

The court upheld four out of five of Mr Assaad's pleas and found it unnecessary to decide on the fifth. The court annulled the sanctions and ordered the EU Council to pay Mr Assaad's legal costs, finding that the restrictive measures were not factually justified and also that they breached important principles of EU law. [Read more.](#)

[Guy Martin](#) and [Charles Enderby Smith](#) represented Nizar Assaad.

His Majesty King Juan Carlos I succeeds in Sovereign Immunity Appeal

The Court of Appeal delivered judgment on 6 December 2022 upholding the claim to sovereign immunity of His Majesty King Juan Carlos I in respect of allegations made against him by Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein relating to alleged conduct pre-dating his abdication in 2014.

The judgment was handed down following the appeal by His Majesty against the 24 March 2022 High Court decision of Mr Justice Nicklin rejecting his claim to immunity. [Read more.](#)

[Guy Martin](#), [Charles Enderby Smith](#) and [Lawrence Northmore-Ball](#) represented His Majesty.

High Court gives tortured football fan Ali Issa Ahmad permission to pursue his claim against six senior UAE Officials

Ali Issa Ahmad, the British tourist who was falsely arrested and tortured in the UAE in 2019 after attending an Asian Cup football match, has now been given permission by the High Court to serve out of the jurisdiction and pursue his claim against six senior UAE officials, including against Major General Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi, the recently appointed President of Interpol. Mr Ahmad's case has featured widely in the media, including The Guardian. [Read more.](#)

Mr Ahmad is advised by [Cameron Doley](#), [François Holmey](#) and [Amber Courtier](#).

Carter-Ruck launches International Sanctions Guide



Carter-Ruck has launched an [International Sanctions Guide](#). Written by leading experts in the field, the Guide provides a reference tool to identify and aid in the understanding of the sanctions frameworks of some of the most prominent and relevant sanctions regimes globally, as well as guidance on the legal rights of persons designated under those regimes. Sanctions are becoming ever more common as a go-to foreign policy tool of Western governments. But the systems are imperfect and can produce improper and unjust results when it comes to the implementation of sanctions and the designation of individuals, companies and entities on sanctions lists. The Guide provides an overview for the EU, UN and UK and will be expanded with the addition of other jurisdictions moving forwards.

If you would like to contribute to this Guide, please contact [Guy Martin](#) or [Charles Enderby Smith](#).



Charles Enderby Smith joins the Partnership

Carter-Ruck is pleased to announce that [Charles Enderby Smith](#) joined the partnership on 1 May 2023.

Charlie advises on international law, commercial and media disputes. He maintains a leading practice in international sanctions, spanning international administrative and judicial challenges before various tribunals including the authorities and courts of the EU, the UK, the US and the UN. [Read more.](#)



Key Updates to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct

On 8 June 2023, the OECD agreed key revisions to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct which will have an important impact on corporate sustainability, particularly in relation to businesses' human rights and environmental responsibilities. [François Holmey](#) and [Amber Courtier](#) consider the changes for Solicitors Journal. [Read more.](#)

Chambers & Partners Sanctions overview

Guy Martin and Charles Enderby Smith have written the Sanctions practice area overview in the 2023 edition of Chambers & Partners. The overview is an exclusive insight, demonstrating the thought leadership of experts in their practice area. The Sanctions overview is positioned above the ranking table where Carter-Ruck features as a top firm in this area. [Read more.](#)

Damages under the UK's sanctions regime

There has been no shortage lately of legislative tinkering with the framework governing the UK's sanctions regime.

With sanctions becoming an ever-increasingly important and prolific foreign policy tool these alterations are growing in consequence. Charles Enderby Smith provides a detailed report for Law360. [Read more.](#)

What EU Corporate Sustainability Plan means for contracts

François Holmey writes for Law360 on the EU proposal for a directive on corporate sustainability due diligence, which the European Commission released on 23 February 2022, and would require large companies operating in the EU to conduct human rights and environmental due diligence throughout their value chains, representing a significant development for business and human rights. [Read more.](#)

Annual McNair International Conference

Charles Enderby Smith of Carter-Ruck and James McGlaughlin of McNair International provide a summary for Global Arbitration Review of the McNair International annual review of the key decisions of 2022 concerning the English Arbitration Act 1996, investment treaty disputes, and public international law before the English courts. [Read more.](#)

Carter-Ruck

'Simply the best' – Carter-Ruck ranked across all four core areas by Legal 500 and retains its Band 1 status in Chambers & Partners in the latest results

'Legal 500 has once again confirmed Carter-Ruck's position in the top tier of law firms across all of its practice areas, with the firm's team being described as 'absolutely amazing'.

Chambers & Partners highly commend the Public International Law team and report that 'their work evinces a sophisticated understanding of not only politics at local, national and international levels, but also the inner workings of government institutions. This allows the team to develop an effective legal strategy to win cases for their clients.'

Spotlight on Sanctions

The team also appears as a leading law firm for Sanctions. It is 'widely praised' for its 'expertise in advising clients who are the subject of targeted sanctions and restrictive measures at domestic, EU or international levels', and as having a number of 'star individuals' with Guy Martin and Charles Enderby Smith being recognised for their leading practice in this area.

The firm is praised for being 'particularly adept at handling cases involving political, geopolitical and diplomatic sensitivities'.

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Our International Team

Carter-Ruck's **International** team understand nuanced geopolitical situations and how they impact on their clients' interests. The firm has extensive experience in contentious matters with an international, diplomatic or political context.

Specialist areas

- International arbitration in all forums
- Cross-border litigation
- Human Rights investigations (including the application of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises)
- Economic sanctions and restrictive measures
- Petitions to national and international organisations for relief from restrictive measures and travel bans
- State/Sovereign and Diplomatic Immunity
- Regulatory issues
- International Criminal Law
- Bids for independence/recognition of Statehood
- Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA)
- Extradition
- INTERPOL Notices
- Targeted sanctions imposed by the UK, EU, UN and USA
- Diplomatic Protection
- International investment law and Investor-state dispute settlement

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