# **Continuity and Change:**

## Legal Ramifications of the Taliban's Political Takeover

The Taliban took over power in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021 following the withdrawal of the US troops and the flight of former President Ashraf Ghani. Having ruled the country for nearly a year now, they have not yet obtained international recognition as legitimate government.

Meanwhile, important and difficult questions have arisen regarding the national and international legal ramifications of the change of the political regime. These include, among others, the questions of which constitution is in force and whether the Taliban could adopt a new one; how they could form a legitimate national government; how human rights and women rights are affected; what laws are applicable before Afghan courts, and how cases are actually decided; and who may represent the country on the international level. The list could be easily extended.

Given the significant legal implications of the change of regime, the 2022 annual international conference of the Institute for Law and Society in Afghanistan (ILSAF) aims to open the floor for legal debate surrounding these questions. The organizers decided to focus on three matters: government legitimacy; state sovereignty; and the rule of law, where we will take a closer look at the criminal justice system and at the reality of women's rights.

Please register by email with your full name and current or most recent affiliation: conference@ilsaf.org. Only registered participants will receive the link for the event. If you would like to inform colleagues about the event, please write an email to the same address and we will share the invitation with them.



#### Friday, 08/07/2022

#### Opening: Reflections on Legitimacy and Human Rights

Chair: Idris Nassery

1.30 - 1.45 pm	Registration and technical explanations
1.45 - 2.00 pm	Welcome and introduction:
	Suhailah Akbari and Tilmann Röder
2.00 - 2.30 pm	Keynote Speaker: Mohammad Hashim Kamali
2.30 - 3.00 pm	Keynote Speaker: Sari Kouvo
3.00 - 3.30 pm	Plenary Discussion

#### Saturday, 09/07/2022

### Legitimacy and Sovereignty Chair: Suhailah Akbari —

1:00 – 1:30 pm	Legitimacy of the Taliban regime as government Speaker: Malaiz Dawood
1:30 - 1:45 pm	Response: Shamshad Pasarlay
1.45 – 2.15 pm	Plenary Discussion
2.15 – 2.45 pm	Sovereignty and representation of the Afghan state
	Speaker: Mohammad Nagib Eishan Jan
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Response
3.00 - 3.30 pm	Plenary Discussion
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Break

#### Rule of Law

#### Chair: Bahishta Zahir Helali

3.45 - 4.15 pm	Fundamental rights in Afghanistan
	Speaker: Azadah Raz Mohammad
4:15 - 4:30 pm	Response: Orzala Nemat
4.30 - 5.30 pm	Criminal prosecution under the Taliban
	Speakers: Najibullah Amin, Khalid Hatam, Mohammad
	Haroon Mutasem and Lutforahman Saeed
5:30 - 5:45 pm	Response: Ashley Jackson
5:45 - 6:15 pm	Plenary Discussion
6.15 - 6.30 pm	Closing Remarks:
	Idris Nassery