



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

NEW YORK, 12 OCTOBER 2022
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE
STATEMENT BY MR. SNA ALAVI, LEGAL ADVISER
THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION

Chair,

An ever-greater number of national judiciaries are invoking the principle of universal jurisdiction to start investigations and criminal proceedings concerning international crimes. What was once new territory for domestic prosecutors and judges has now become a trend. Liechtenstein welcomes this very encouraging development and commends the accomplishments of national judiciaries invoking the principle of universal jurisdiction. The German courts have been a champion of universal jurisdiction. We applaud, in particular, the Higher Regional Court of Koblenz in Germany for securing convictions against two former Syrian government officials for crimes against humanity. This would not have been possible if we had not had universal jurisdiction as a means to bring justice not only to the perpetrators, but also and most notably to the victims. This watershed decision by the Koblenz Court was assisted by the UN-mandated International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria. We recall that the IIIM helps prepare case files for prosecutions in courts that have jurisdiction over crimes committed in Syria, irrespective of the affiliation of the perpetrators.

