

From a prominent scientific academic generation, the late Professor François Ernest Robert Rigaux stands out above all for his career as a jurist. A great man whose main concern throughout his life of 87 years was the respect and promotion of the rule of law in the public international law sphere and the support of private rights of people at the private international law level.

His sharp intellectual curiosity made his teachings multidisciplinary, focused on private and public international law, while also embracing other legal disciplines such as theory and history of law, constitutional law and procedural law, without being indifferent to legal orders in religion, culture and even sports. For years, he was a member of the Belgian State Council, and a member of the Institute of International Law.

His humanitarian views on the role of public international law left a mark on all his scholarly pieces. He perceived public international law as something far beyond making an order within the international community. Rather, he viewed it as a way to sensitize the public at large, promote access to justice and foster respect for cultural diversity. He built an excellent reputation as professor of private international law and was particularly well-known for his superb knowledge of conflict of laws technique. However, as a member of the Institute of International Law, he adopted more of a public international law perspective.

To demonstrate Professor Rigaux's commitment to the humanitarian aspect of public international law, it suffices to mention two occasions: first, his article in honor of Charles De Visscher¹ (1884–1973) for his achievement at PCIJ clearly illustrates his passion and dedication to upholding philanthropic nature of public international law; and second, his appointment as member of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996.

Further, his press conference at the ICJ building in The Hague in 1984 on the occasion of the decision of the Iran-US Claims Tribunal in case A/18 concerning dual nationals and his arguments on the link between international and domestic law, along with his separate opinion in the *Oil Platforms Case* issued in 2003,² have memorialized him as an exemplary and outstanding lawyer with two scientific innate traits: private and public international law.

As the author of the Declaration of the Rights of Peoples (1976), which led to the creation of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in 1979, François Rigaux was appointed member of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996. Professor Rigaux was also appointed judge *ad hoc* by Iran at the International Court of Justice in the case concerning Iranian oil platforms.

Acting in this capacity was in fact in line with his professional choice and scientific devotion, since 1982, to help the Iranian nation, freed from the regime of the Shah. The newly established Islamic Republic of Iran was involved soon after its revolution in early 1979 in almost 3,800 cases brought before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, established pursuant to the Algiers Accords of January 1981 in The Hague.³

These *Mélanges* are hence dedicated to only a fragment of his achievements throughout the many years of outstanding academic and humanitarian life that he carried with him.

Professor Rigaux's wealth of academic knowledge and expertise was so vast that it would be near impossible to dedicate contributions for each field. Nevertheless, some of his colleagues and notable

¹ "An Exemplary Lawyer's Life" (2000) 11(4) *European Journal of International Law* 877–886.

² *ICJ Reports*, 2003, p. 161 *et seq.*

³ See the Annex in this volume: *List of Selected Research Works by Prof. François Rigaux & Prof. Joe Verhoeven Involving Different Legal Issues of Cases Before the Iran-US Claims Tribunal*.

scholars chose to write articles on the topics of public and private international law and international dispute resolution.

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Prof. Rigaux passed away in December 2013. Through an official announcement, the Iranian legal community was informed of his death and numerous colleagues submitted their respect to the memory of Prof. Rigaux. At that time, the first undersigned was the director of the Center of International Legal Affairs (CILA) (2013–2018), an Iranian organization in charge of international law affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Iran-US Claims Tribunal and other international fora including the ICJ. Years before, he had been an *étudiant étranger* at Louvain-la-Neuve (1989–1994) and accomplished his Ph.D. thesis under the illuminating supervision of Prof. Rigaux. It was therefore only natural to initiate these *Mélanges* in memory of Prof. Rigaux in order to cherish his international law contributions to the Iranian nation. In 2018, this initiative was shared with scholars and colleagues in Iran and abroad and was received with appreciation and the promises for contribution.

At first, an editorial board consisting of Professors Alain Pellet, Vaughan Lowe and the undersigned was organized and the invitation letters for contributions were issued. During the preparation of this work, Professor Nasser Mansourian acted as Executive Secretary of the *Mélanges* and thoroughly coordinated the contributors and editors.

This all being said, these *Mélanges* would not have been possible without the incredibly helpful and continuous support of the *Centre Charles De Visscher pour le droit international et européen* of the *Université catholique de Louvain* (UCLouvain). In particular, Ms Annie Fourny provided invaluable editorial work and supervised the publication of the *Mélanges*.

Further, Dr. Hossein Piran, senior legal adviser at the Iran-US Claims Tribunal afforded considerable time and editorial help to these *Mélanges*.

We very much appreciate their help.

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The *Mélanges* contain 20 articles, all concerning new approaches to old private and public international law issues.

The contributions are grouped into four parts as follows and are published on alphabetical order:

- Part 1. International Law in Motion: Some New Insights (9 articles),
- Part 2. Contribution of Iran-US Claims Tribunals to International Law (4 articles),
- Part 3. Some Achievements of Prof. Rigaux (5 articles),
- Part 4. Legal aspects of international Sanctions (2 articles).

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