

The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

The Lebanese Republic is not a party to any treaties or agreements on the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Lebanese law contains no provisions that could be construed as establishing that principle.

The Centre for Legal Studies, Research and Documentation has, however, made the following observations on the subject:

1. The scope of the principle of universal jurisdiction should not be in violation of national sovereignty but rather should complement it. Jurisdiction belongs first and foremost to Lebanese courts.
2. Universal jurisdiction should be invoked only for the most serious crimes against humanity that are universally agreed upon by the international community and constitute a violation of human rights.
3. International cooperation in the extradition of wanted persons should be emphasized, and recourse to force for that purpose should be prohibited.