

Editorial



© the author

Recommended citation: GARCIA ESCOLAR, À. (2026). “Editorial”. *Journal of Human Security and Global Law*, 5, 13-17. <<https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/jhsgl.75>>

Dear readers,

On 26 June 2025, eighty years elapsed since the signing of the United Nations Charter, the document that gave rise to the UN with the purpose of guaranteeing global peace and security and of promoting economic and social development after the devastation of the Second World War.

However, over these eight decades there have been episodes that call into question the capacity of that agreement to achieve its original aims. During the Cold War, although a direct confrontation between superpowers never occurred, the world was the scene of proxy wars such as those in Vietnam, Korea and parts of the Middle East. More recently, conflicts in the Balkans, Kargil and Iraq have demonstrated the persistence of international violence over the past thirty-five years.

Today we face serious crises: Russia’s war against Ukraine and the conflict between Israel and Palestine are causing an intolerable number of victims every day and producing devastating costs to human life, health, political systems and communities.

Added to this is an alarming trend of erosion of international law and of the principles that underpin human security. President Donald Trump, after returning to power, withdrew the United States from 66 international organisations (although some had already been disengaged previously), a move that has been criticised as an assault on the multilateral order and as evidence of disdain for international law. Moreover, his administration supported military actions without Security Council backing, such as strikes on Iran or the apprehension of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, measures that have been described as violations of Article 2.4 of the UN Charter.

The case of Venezuela illustrates the scale of the deterioration of the global legal framework. In January 2026, U.S. special forces detained President Nicolás Maduro in Caracas without authorisation from the UN or from the Venezuelan State itself, and numerous people lost their lives in the operation. International law experts and bodies such as the

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights characterised the episode as a breach of the principle of non-intervention and of state sovereignty, and warned that it sets dangerous precedents.

These events, together with the paralysis of global governance mechanisms—including the security umbrella that the Security Council is supposed to provide—and the disregard for rulings of the International Criminal Court, reflect a deep crisis of the rules-based order: decisions are taken outside the law, treaties are suspended when convenient, and international authority becomes increasingly precarious.

Faced with this panorama, we must ask: if we cannot guarantee world peace, is it at least possible to secure a minimal global human security? To answer this we must rethink:

- The viability of a multilateral system that functions without the genuine commitment of key powers;
- The need to strengthen mechanisms that compel respect for international law, even in the face of unilateralism;
- The urgency of building practical bridges of cooperation—humanitarian, climate, health—beyond power dynamics.

Invoking the UN Charter is not enough: reforms are needed to restore credibility to institutions, effective accountability mechanisms and the political will to keep alive the founding ideal of peace and collective security.

Human Security, a matter beyond peace

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1994, it should be emphasized that human security is not merely the absence of war but encompasses seven dimensions: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security.

While the absence of war is the first step toward claiming full human security, it is a necessary but not sufficient condition. There are countries that are not at war and yet many of their inhabitants, both nationals and foreigners, struggle to secure adequate supplies because of a lack of economic resources.

In this regard, it should be noted that in 2026 a large portion of the world's population lacks access to sufficient food, as a consequence of conflicts and agricultural crises that reduce production and drive up prices, preventing people from acquiring food on a regular basis.

With respect to health, it is important to recall the crisis caused by Covid-19, experienced only six years ago, which produced a severe glob-

al hospital collapse and shortages of appropriate medicines for treatment. In addition, there are various epidemics and pathologies worldwide that are often overlooked by more developed countries and that also require study and eradication.

In terms of personal, community and political security, the world currently faces threats from groups seeking to impose themselves, weakening human rights and cultural identity through the use of physical and armed violence. It is therefore crucial that those who consider their freedoms to be restricted—by any means—do not resort to the same, but instead use the national and international mechanisms at their disposal to avoid an arms escalation that could destroy these securities.

Finally, special mention must be made of environmental security, which is not being achieved as rapidly as anticipated. Although some countries are advancing toward a more environmentally respectful economy, other territories continue to base their productive capacity on polluting processes, with a negative effect on global pollution levels. This hinders efforts to halt climate change, which continues to progress, producing significant climatic shifts, deforestation and threats to certain species.

Future perspectives

Given the above, it is difficult to imagine a near future in which the entire population enjoys the desired levels of human security. To achieve that goal, first and foremost all existing armed conflicts and the geopolitical tensions that have emerged and intensified in recent times would need to be brought to an end. Once that were accomplished, the seven dimensions established by the UNDP would have to be seen through—a prospect that currently appears wholly utopian.

Such development must be promoted through action that encompasses as many territories of the world as possible. In any case, it will be a very long process; proof of this is the number of international environmental treaties that have yet to be implemented effectively and therefore have not achieved their basic objectives regarding environmental security. For that reason, it is unlikely in the short term that all countries will reach agreement, but it is necessary to demand from the more developed states a firm commitment to adopt ambitious regulation to attain the highest possible level of holistic security. This should be the seed that encourages other countries and peoples to join in pursuit of what is best for their populations, regardless of ideology and based solely on technical and objective criteria.

Contents of this issue. Uncertain Times: Law and security in the face of contemporary complexity

The era in which we live is defined by an algorithmic revolution. Economic and social structures that for centuries seemed immutable now face unprecedented pressure because of technological evolution and global dynamics. This context has forced traditional institutions to redefine their role, limits and mechanisms of action.

This issue looks more closely into those systemic tensions, offering in-depth analysis and a diagnostic of current challenges: the erosion of state sovereignty before the digital giant, the struggle for legal primacy in Europe, the need for a new paradigm in the security of mass events, and the return to civic co-responsibility in disaster response.

The volume's reflection begins by addressing the mutation of the contemporary State in the face of digital transformation, which dilutes its traditional sovereignty vis-à-vis the power of large corporations. The risk this poses to citizens is highlighted, and, from a European perspective, a new legal *nomos* is proposed to reorder the State in response to the technological challenge. This need for cohesion demands a robust European normative architecture; nevertheless, current cracks in the uniform application of European Union law are also noted. Despite its vital importance for the common project, latent conflicts persist, such as the resistance of some constitutional courts to the principle of primacy, demonstrating that legal integration remains an open battle.

Given the limited capacity of public authorities to react to existing risks, another contribution argues for the establishment of duties of self-protection. For reasons of sustainability of the welfare state, the author defends greater regulation of self-care and the promotion of civic awareness, shifting the focus toward a co-responsible citizen in disaster management. This adaptation philosophy is transferred to security at large public gatherings under the paradigm of the Austrian School. Criticising conventional static metrics, the author proposes understanding security as a subjective, dynamic value based on tacit knowledge, replacing regulatory rigidity with a flexible model capable of confronting real uncertainty.

The issue closes with a text devoted to the impact of the new European Union Artificial Intelligence regulation on the energy sector, where the author presents the regulation as a framework to foster responsible and trustworthy innovation in the energy field.

The Person at the Centre: Toward tangible human security

We want this journal to be a meeting point, a space where jurists and experts from all fields collaborate to place the person at the centre of the debate. Embracing human security in all its dimensions is no longer a theoretical option but the only way to understand law today.

We aspire to the idea of living free from fear and that having our basic needs met will cease to be a distant ambition and become a tangible guarantee. Our commitment is to work so that the law does not look on impassively at the mistakes we make, promoting a dialogue that does not remain on paper but transforms academic reflection into tools that are useful for the real world.

Thank you for joining us on this path,

Àlex Garcia Escolar
Editor of *Journal of Human Security and Global Law*
February 2026

