

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

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Summary: The principle of universal criminal jurisdiction is one of the typical principles of international public law. It fully reflects the specificities of the international public law as a distinct system of rules and the character of the relationship that it establishes with the national law systems. Its origin dates back to the classical period of international law and it is a natural offspring of the support that international law has been looking for within jurisdictional mechanisms of states. Since the jurisdictional branch of the international law in the field of the international criminal law has been developing most difficultly and most slowly, it is clear that prosecution of perpetrators of international crimes had to be entrusted to national courts. Legal basis of such a relation is based on the principle of the universal criminal jurisdiction. Within this paper, the concept of the principle of universal criminal jurisdiction is analyzed, as well as its main elements, functioning and tendency of states to invoke this principle.

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