Translating Legal Texts in Humanitarian Contexts

5 June-3 July 2015 | Module 1: English – Arabic Translation
2-20 October 2015 | Module 2: Arabic – English Translation
Supervisor

**Sonia Asmâhène Halimi**, Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI), University of Geneva

Instructors

- **Karim Bouarar**, Senior Arabic Reviser/Interpreter, ICRC Headquarters, Geneva
  Karim Bouarar has worked for over 27 years with the ICRC, visited detainees (Europe, Palestine, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay), attended high level deliberations, and interpreted in international conferences on IHL, Shari’a Law, Human Rights Law, Refugee Law and International Criminal Law with participants who were magistrates, deans/professors of International Law, diplomats, military and police officers, Islamic scholars, representatives of International Tribunals, Medical doctors, etc.). He went on field missions to Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Korea, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey and UAE. He has given training courses (3-4 days) on interpretation/translation in conflict areas in Erbil, Cairo, Paris (INALCO), London (SOAS) and Moscow (MGIMO). He is knowledgeable about humanitarian action and its legal basis in times of conflict. In addition to the abovementioned tasks, he served as ICRC Arabic spokesperson for almost five years in the early nineties.

- **Sonia Asmâhène Halimi**, Assistant-Professor, Arabic Unit responsible, FTI, University of Geneva
  Sonia Halimi worked as Arabic translator at the ICRC Headquarters, Geneva, for several years before joining the FTI as an Assistant Professor. She has experience in professional translation in a number of UN agencies, including the UN Office in Geneva, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the International Labor Office (ILO). She currently teaches economic and legal translation, translation practice (English-Arabic, French-Arabic) and specialized text analysis. She has also been involved in various research projects on the development of speech translation systems and L2 learning tools for CALL. Her PhD thesis in translation studies addressed the use of concept maps as a cognitive tool for knowledge acquisition and their application in teaching specialized translation.
Presentation

The translation of legal texts at the international level is increasingly related to humanitarian situations and human rights protection. Thus, the present international situation requires from translators and other professionals in-depth knowledge of specific legal notions ranging from rigid norms in respect of protecting civilians to descriptive legal texts, reporting human rights abuses, or judicial decisions that will ultimately involve different legal systems. This is an advanced translation course that will consist of a thorough examination of rules and norms governing the subject of international law in international conflict situations. It will also look at the translation approach to be adopted in politically sensitive settings and the coping skills that a translator should develop in unsafe environments. The course will provide 50 hours of training aimed at thoroughly grounding participants in the subject matter.

Objectives

- The theoretical portion of the course will afford translation practitioners and other professionals at the international level a comprehensive knowledge of the key areas of International Humanitarian Law and a good understanding of types of legal texts addressed in the humanitarian context.

- The practical component aims at enhancing translation skills in specific legal contexts by translation exercises, text analysis and documentary research.

Participants

Professional translators and revisers, legal experts, humanitarian workers, media professionals

Language

Arabic and English
Course Structure

- 2 modules, each divided into two parts. 50 hours per module.
- Module 1 focuses on translation from English to Arabic, while Module 2 focuses on translation from Arabic to English.
- The lecture part focuses on building domain expertise by explaining key concepts in the areas of International Humanitarian Law and mechanisms of legal text production in humanitarian contexts. It provides detailed information on the hows and whys in this legal context.
- The workshop part is aimed at enhancing translation expertise for specific genres of legal texts, developing documentary research and adapting attitudes to achieve the expected performance in this particular field. It consists of translation exercises, text analysis and documentary research. Interaction during sessions is strongly recommended and any question is welcome at any time.

Schedule

- Each module is a series of training sessions taking place over one month. Friday afternoons (2pm-6pm) and all day on Saturdays (10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm),
- Module 1: from 5 June to 3 July 2015
- Module 2: from 2 to 20 October 2015

Certificate of attendance

A certificate of attendance will be issued, on request, to participants
Module 1 | from 5 June to 3 July 2015

Topics

**Security:** ICRC, UN, HCR
- Protecting civilians: the Status of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (UN resolutions on the protection of civilians)

**Complaints and visiting detainees:** ICRC, UN Commissions, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International
- Norms governing the treatment of detainees and conditions of detention (Geneva conventions-the judicial safeguard principle)
- Detention reports (Human Rights Watch)
- Individual communications and opinions on arbitrary detention

**International Humanitarian Law (IHL): International Court of Justice (ICJ)/International Criminal Court (ICC)**
- Analysis of the Arabic translation of Article 8 of the Rome Statute
- Advisory Opinions of the ICJ
- Decisions of the ICC

Module 2 | from 2 to 20 October 2015

**Linguistic and Methodological Information**

**Communicative aspects**
- Situation of communication and background of the text, legal translation specificities in the context of armed conflicts

**Specialized language aspects**
- Terminology, phraseology, text genre conventions
Practical Information

Registration
Online (or pdf registration form to be downloaded) from: www.unige.ch/formcont/translatinglegaltexts
- Before 15th May 2015 for the entire course and Module 1
- Before 18th September 2015 for Module 2
Maximum number of participants: 15

Tuition fees
- CHF 2’500.- for the entire programme
- CHF 1’500.- per module
To be paid upon receipt of the letter confirming your registration.

Place
Faculty of Translation and Interpreting
University of Geneva – Uni Mail
Bld du Pont-d’Arve 40 – 1205 Genève
The room number in Uni Mail will be indicated in the letter confirming
your registration for the course.

For further information
Véronique SAURON
FTI – Université de Genève
Bd du Pont d’Arve 40
1211 Genève 4
Tél.: +41 (o)22 379 86 76 | veronique.sauron@unige.ch
www.unige.ch/formcont/translatinglegaltexts