Exporting Human Rights Risks Abroad?
Controlling the Export of Cyber Surveillance Technology

Friday 14 December, 12.00-13.30
Room 019, Janskerkhof 2-3, Utrecht

Programme

12.00-12.20  Introduction to the topic/context
   Machiko Kanetake
   Lecturer in Public International Law, Utrecht University

12.20-12.40  The EU’s legislative process on ICT export control
   Marie Zuidema
   Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

12.40-13.00  Human rights due diligence in ICT exports
   Tim van Essen
   Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

13.00-13.30 Discussion

International trade in the ICT (information and communication technologies) sector can be a vehicle to bring, not only business opportunities, but also human rights risks into trading partners. Following the Arab Spring, the political climate within the EU has pushed forward legislative reforms towards a better human rights risk management of ICT exports. In response to the European Parliament’s call, the European Commission submitted, in September 2016, the proposal to recast the EU’s existing dual-use regulation. In essence, the Commission’s proposal situated human rights as one of the conceptual pillars of dual-use export control. In the European Parliament, the proposal received strong support in January 2018 in the first reading. Yet subsequent negotiations have slowed down as a number of member states, as well as industries, have manifested their opposition. Against this background, this seminar will address how human rights norms should and could be relevant in regulating the export of cyber surveillance technology.

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