



CHRIST
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

School of Law

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Campus

1st CHRIST Law Alumni International Moot Court Competition, 2026

MOOT PROPOSITION

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Republic of Ravania v. Federation of Astoria

1. The Republic of Ravania, a sovereign State situated along the strategically significant Strait of Navaros, possesses one of the largest reserves of crude oil and natural gas in the region. It is a non-nuclear weapon State party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Strait serves as a major international maritime route connecting multiple continents and facilitating nearly one-fifth of global petroleum trade.
2. The Federation of Astoria is a federal constitutional republic located on the North Astorian Continent and is regarded as one of the most influential nations in global politics, economics, military affairs, and international law.
3. Astoria declared independence in the year 1767 and adopted its Constitution in the year 1778, thereby establishing a federal democratic republic. The executive head of the government is the President, the Legislature is known as the Congress, and the Supreme Court heads the judiciary.
4. Comprising forty States and a federal district, Astoria operates under a democratic system founded on the principles of liberty, rule of law, separation of powers, and protection of fundamental rights. It is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and plays a central role in international diplomacy, global security, trade, and counter-terrorism initiatives.
5. Astoria possesses one of the world's largest economies and most advanced military establishments, enabling it to exert significant influence over international relations and strategic alliances such as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Its foreign policy has often involved intervention in international conflicts, peacekeeping efforts, economic sanctions, and strategic partnerships across regions including the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. It ensures the freedom of navigation and protection of international commerce.
6. Astoria has immense influence on international law, trade law, global governance and human rights. It has been involved in several international conflicts including World War I and World War II and has been a victim of the War on Terror due to which it has often invoked international security and protection of commerce to justify overseas actions.
7. Astoria claims to have been under constant threat from the State of Tujillo with allegations of corruption, narcotic trafficking and crimes against humanity against its leaders. A proxy leader of Tujillo has been involved in covert attacks on Astorian officials in different States. On discovering this action, Astoria indicted the proxy leader in 2024. However, the proxy leader fled to a Ravania city and took refuge in the Tujillo Embassy in Ravania. Astoria launches an unauthorised special operation/raid inside Ravania's sovereign borders to capture and abduct the proxy leader from inside the Tujillo Embassy. Thereafter he is captured and brought to Astoria for prosecution.

8. Launching an unauthorised military or special operations raid (any covert abduction team) inside Ravania's sovereign borders is a direct, unlawful deployment of force on foreign soil without Ravania's consent or United Nations Security Council authorisation. The United Nations is explicitly based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members. A crucial element of sovereignty is a State's exclusive jurisdiction over its own territory. Dictating or forcing law enforcement measures within Ravania's borders to capture a proxy leader constitutes a coercive and prohibited intervention into Ravania's internal affairs and domestic territorial management.
9. Ravania protested that Astoria's operation on Ravanian territory, including entry into premises claimed to be inviolable under diplomatic law, was unlawful absent Ravanian consent or Security Council authorization. Astoria responded that the operation targeted an individual allegedly responsible for grave offenses against Astorian officials and was justified by exceptional security necessity.

Position of Ravania

10. The Cerulean Gulf region has historically remained a geopolitical flashpoint due to strategic energy resources, military rivalries, and the significance of the Strait of Navaros, through which nearly one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas trade passes. The operative geography is the Cerulean Gulf, a semi-enclosed sea connected to the open ocean by the Strait of Navaros. At the mouth of the Gulf lies the Aurelian Keys, an overseas Astorian territory consisting of Selene Island and Beacon Rock. This is a cluster of small islands, cays, or low-tide elevations situated within the gulf. Crucially, they lie within Ravania's territorial sea. Selene Island is inhabited and contains a logistics port, an airstrip, a fuel terminal, and an undersea power-and-data cable connection to Talir, a friendly third State on the southern littoral. Beacon Rock is a much smaller feature, 8 nautical miles northeast of Selene Island and 14.5 nautical miles from the Ravania mainland at Cape Varek. Ravania claims Beacon Rock is historically part of its continental shelf and Astoria's occupation of it via Aurelian Keys territory is unlawful.
11. Astoria claims that Beacon Rock is an island capable of generating a territorial sea and at least some relevance for delimitation; Ravania argues that it is a rock within Article 121(3) entitled to no independent effect. No final maritime boundary has ever been agreed between Ravania and the Aurelian Keys. Astoria publicly uses a provisional equidistance line adjusted slightly to reduce Beacon Rock's effect; Ravania rejects that line and claims that any EEZ or continental-shelf entitlement from the Keys must be drastically discounted because of the disparity between coastal lengths and because Beacon Rock should have no effect.

12. The Strait of Navaros is one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes and serves as a critical passage for international oil and gas transportation. Any disruption in the Strait has historically caused severe consequences for global commerce and energy markets. The Strait is an integral part of Ravania's navigation route. It is a chokepoint near Ravania and Aurelian Keys and Beacon Rock.
13. For several years, Astoria has accused Ravania of supporting armed proxy groups operating in neighbouring States; developing clandestine nuclear weapons capabilities under the guise of civilian nuclear research; and conducting cyber espionage against foreign governments and commercial shipping systems.
14. Ravania has consistently denied these allegations, asserting that its nuclear programme has been peaceful and safeguarded under international monitoring mechanisms.

Intelligence against Ravania

15. In January 2026, Astorian intelligence agencies released declassified excerpts of satellite imagery and summaries of intercepted communications allegedly demonstrating that Ravania had secretly deployed nuclear-capable devices beneath portions of the Strait of Navaros using autonomous underwater vehicles.
16. Astoria claimed that these devices could potentially cause catastrophic disruption to maritime navigation and that the concealed weapons posed an imminent threat to international peace. Astoria claims that Ravania intends to use the Strait as leverage against foreign States dependent on regional energy supplies.
17. However, these allegations were rejected by Ravania as fabricated and politically motivated. It argued that the underwater installations were part of a defensive maritime surveillance programme intended to monitor illegal military intrusions into its territorial waters. There was no independent verification of this intelligence and hence it remained inconclusive.

Conflict of Zafran with Ravania

18. Against this background, Astoria sought assistance from the State of Zafran. Both States are long-standing allies, and Zafran was integral in providing all the intelligence on Ravania and its alleged nuclear actions.
19. Zafran publicly supported Astoria's position that the alleged deployment of concealed nuclear-capable devices beneath the Strait of Navaros posed a grave threat to regional and international security.
20. For several years prior, Zafran had repeatedly asserted before international forums that Ravania's nuclear programme lacked transparency and that Ravania has been supporting armed non-State groups hostile to Zafran. The development of advanced missile and cyber

capabilities by Ravana threatened regional stability. All these allegations were rejected by Ravana and in turn accused Zafran of conducting covert destabilisation campaigns against its government.

21. In the early part of February 2026, several unexplained instances took place in Ravana like the explosions at the nuclear research facilities, cyber disruption affecting uranium enrichment systems, sabotage of military communication infrastructure and the assassination of a nuclear scientist of Ravana.
22. Ravana alleges that the joint operation of Zafran and Astoria is a step to destabilise the region and for Astoria to claim its position as the protector of the region, which is being supported by Zafran.

Armed Conflict against Ravana

23. Towards the end of February 2026, Astoria launched “Operation Silent Tide” without seeking the authorisation from the United Nations Security Council. The operation involved
 - precision missile strikes against naval facilities and coastal command centres within Ravana;
 - naval deployment across strategic points of the Strait of Navaros;
 - cyber operations targeting Ravana’s communications, satellite systems, banking infrastructure, and electrical grids;
 - interception and inspection of vessels travelling toward Ravana.
24. Astoria did not report about the action to Security Council under Article 51. All these actions of Astoria were supported and backed by Zafran. Astoria justified its actions on the following grounds of
 - Anticipatory self-defence;
 - Prevent nuclear proliferation;
 - Protection of freedom of navigation and transit passage.
25. Astoria established a declared maritime inspection regime in the approaches to and within parts of the Strait of Navaros. Under that regime, certain vessels believed on reasonable grounds to be carrying military goods destined for Ravana were intercepted, delayed, or boarded. Several neutral States protested that the regime unlawfully impeded transit passage. Astoria asserts that their efforts are to control the imminent threat of the devices in the seas which could destabilise international peace and cause catastrophic environmental harm.

26. The attacks on Ravania, resulted in the death of their President and several ministers. Ravania claimed that these attacks seemed to be targeted killings. The act of use of force was initiated by Astoria without any provocation by Ravania and without any concrete proof of nuclear threat. Further, Astoria's actions were motivated by geopolitical and economic interests in controlling regional trade routes and energy markets. Ravania further claimed that Astoria's cyber-attacks disabled hospitals, civilian airports, and emergency response systems, resulting in civilian casualties and humanitarian disruption.
27. Within hours of the strikes, Ravania alleged that Astoria deployed malicious cyber tools that infiltrated civilian infrastructure indiscriminately, causing severe humanitarian consequences. Hospitals lost access to emergency medical systems, financial institutions ceased operations, and civilian airports suffered communication failures resulting in multiple aviation incidents. Thousands of civilians were displaced, and critical medical services became inaccessible in several provinces. Astoria denied intentionally targeting civilians and argued that any collateral damage was incidental to legitimate military objectives.
28. Following the military operation, Astoria stationed warships across key points of the Strait of Navaros and established "security inspection corridors" for all passing vessels. Commercial ships suspected of carrying military goods to Ravania were detained and inspected. This was vehemently protested by neutral nations which was considered as a blockade of an international strait having the right of transit passage.

Counter-attack by Ravania

29. After suffering several blows on Ravania's side, they decided to defend themselves and hence initiated "Operation Sovereign Resistance." As a counter measure, cyber-attacks against Astorian military databases and financial institutions; drone and missile strikes targeting Astorian naval assets positioned in allied neighbouring States; deployment of sea mines, underwater drones, and missile batteries throughout the Strait of Navaros.
30. During the counter attack, Ravania launched long range drones and hypersonic missiles aimed at Astoria naval bases stationed in neighbouring nations. In this retaliatory response, several projectiles missed their intended targets and struck commercial ports, airports, merchant vessels and oil terminals.
31. One of the missiles struck an offshore oil facility operated by foreign corporations, causing marine pollution, civilian deaths and disruption of international fuel supplies. The neighbouring states accused Ravania of recklessly expanding the conflict wider.
32. To counter Astoria's blockade of the Strait of Navaros, Ravania suspended all maritime traffic through the Strait until Astoria withdrew its troops as an assertion of sovereignty

and as a leverage to compel Astoria's withdrawal. Further, Ravania also used automated underwater drones and missile equipped coastal batteries throughout the strait to prevent any kind of navigation. Due to this development, several companies suspended their operations in the region, further, the right of transit passage was violated due to this development, which resulted in global energy crisis. Ravania responded that this step was initiated as a lawful wartime security measure necessitated due to Astoria's unlawful intervention and continuing occupation of the maritime zone.

33. Further, Astoria claimed that in addition to attacking it, Ravania also targeted several third-party States that had cordial relations with Astoria and were supporting them in this conflict. Some of the nations claimed that malware spread indiscriminately across interconnected global systems thereby affecting hospitals, airports, emergency systems and financial institutions. Ravania denied responsibility to the same and argued that non-state hackers who were sympathetic to Ravania might have acted independently.

Impact of the Attack

34. The blockade of the strait by Astoria resulted in strangling the economy of Ravania and violated the principle of transit passage under international law. Ravania's closure of the Strait impeded the right of transit passage of neutral vessels.
35. During the conflict, multiple underwater explosions occurred near ecologically sensitive areas topped with oil pipe ruptures and radioactive contamination in several parts of the Strait.
36. Marine experts have reported the destruction of the coral reef ecosystem, death of endangered marine species and contamination affecting fisheries and coastal communities. Both sides have blamed the other for military strikes and underwater detonations causing environmental catastrophe.

International Reaction

37. The international community remained divided on the issue. Some States supported Astoria as a necessary action to prevent nuclear escalation and preserve global maritime security. Others condemned the attack by Astoria for bypassing multilateral mechanisms and violating the prohibition on the use of force.
38. The major powers in the world also refrained from joining the conflict as they felt it was a direct violation of the UN Charter.
39. On the other hand, some states were in favour of Ravania's retaliation as legitimate self-defence while others argued its cyber operations and deployment of mines in the seas endangered neutral states and international commerce. Attempts within the United Nations to pass resolutions condemning either State failed due to political deadlock.

40. The escalation of the matter seems to have created a volatile situation not only in the region but has its impact across the globe. With no possibility of diplomatic resolution, it was decided to approach this court for seeking a declaration from it.

Since the parties are at an impasse and unable to reach a resolution to their issues, under pressure from the United Nations, they agree to adjudicate the dispute before the International Court of Justice. Several neighbouring States and international organisations have sought permission to intervene citing threats to global trade, marine security and environmental stability.

The Parties shall address, inter alia, the following issues:

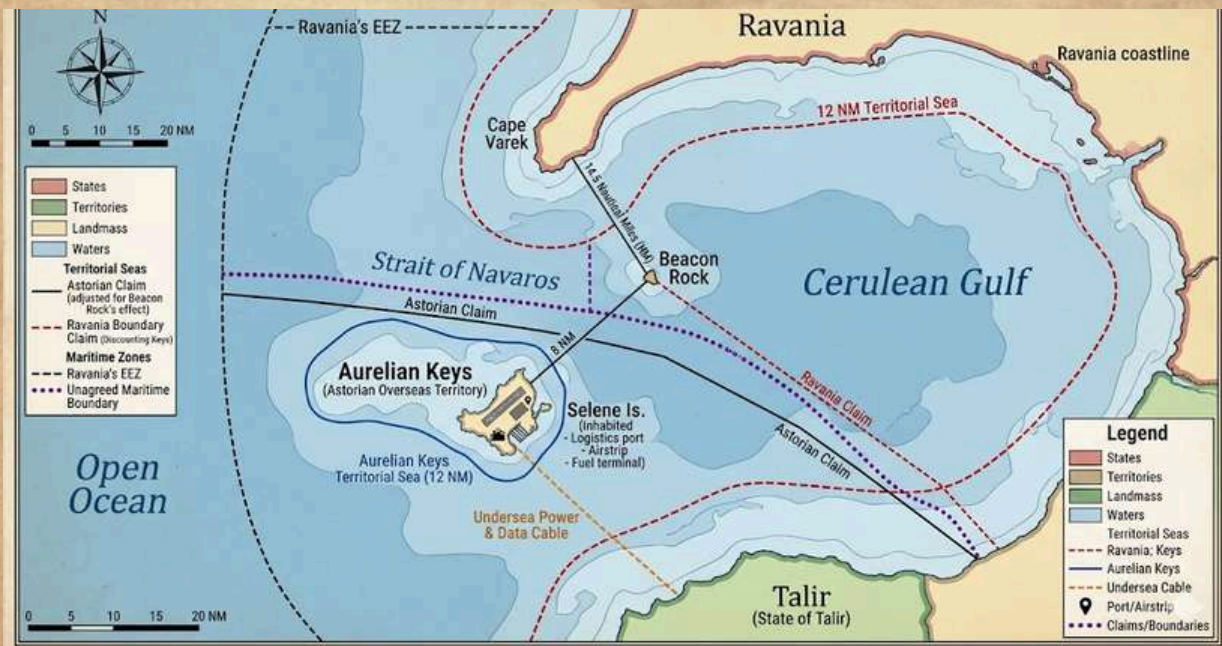
- Whether the Federation of Astoria's unauthorized military raid, extra-territorial abduction, and subsequent "Operation Silent Tide" against the Republic of Ravania violated the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and prohibition on the use of force under the United Nations Charter and customary international law.
- Whether the cyber operations and conventional military actions undertaken by both Astoria and Ravania violated the principles of distinction, proportionality, necessity, and protection of civilians under international humanitarian law.
- Whether the establishment of inspection corridors by Astoria and the subsequent suspension and militarization of the Strait of Navaros by Ravania violated the regime of transit passage, freedom of navigation, and other obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and customary international maritime law.
- Whether the retaliatory cyber operations, deployment of sea mines, underwater drones, missile systems, and attacks affecting third-party States attributable to Ravania constitute internationally wrongful acts engaging State responsibility under international law governing cyber warfare and maritime security.
- Whether the environmental destruction, marine pollution, humanitarian disruption, and transboundary civilian and economic harm arising from the conduct of Astoria and Ravania give rise to international responsibility and reparations claims by affected neutral States.

41. Both the States are parties to the following Conventions:

- (i) United Nations Charter, 1945
- (ii) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982
- (iii) Geneva Conventions of 1949
- (iv) Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions
- (v) Statute of the International Court of Justice
- (vi) Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
- (vii) International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards
- (viii) Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961
- (ix) Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (ARSIWA)
- (x) International Committee of the Red Cross principles

The parties may rely on relevant rules of customary international law and where appropriate persuasive subsidiary materials, including the Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, the ICRC Customary IHL materials, the San Remo Manual, and the Tallinn Manual 2.0

MAP





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