WHEN GENEVA MEETS ROME IN NUREMBERG

Two persons meet in Nuremberg, not far from the Palace of Justice. One is E.D. Geneva, the head of the World Organisation of Oppressive States (WOOS). The other is E.D. Rome, chief of Criminals Organized Global Union (COGUN). The two are are to discuss the evolution of international law on enforced disappearances. E.D. Rome is anxious about the inclusion of non-state actors as potential perpetrators of enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity in article 7, paragraph 2-i of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. E.D. Geneva, on his part, is worried that states are being pushed to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons Against Enforced Disappearances. They both argue about a number of interpretative issues: is the state-agency element a part of the definition of enforced disappearances? What does "placement of the person outside the protection of the law" really mean? And is it true that the person must be removed from the protection of the law "for a prolonged period of time"? Is there an efficient way for perpetrators to escape prosecutions at the domestic level? Is it true that one can commit enforced disappearance in connection with an armed conflict and enjoy impunity?