INTERNATIONAL LAW FALLACY

Law, Power, and the Illusion of Sovereignty

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The International Law Fallacy: Law, Power, and the Illusion of Sovereignty

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PREFACE

This work is a forensic audit of the relationship between legal form and operational reality in contemporary governance. It examines how international and domestic legal frameworks retain their formal structure while exhibiting consistent patterns of selective enforcement, a condition defined in this work as Statutory Inactivity.

The analysis is observational rather than normative. It does not advocate for reform or advance ideological claims. It records and classifies observable divergences between declared legal principles and their practical application across materially comparable conditions. The 2026 case study contrasting institutional responses to water deprivation in Mexican World Cup host cities and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz serves as a measurable instance of these structural patterns.

Central to this audit is the Soltani Order, an analytical framework developed by the author. The framework treats modern legal systems as structurally coherent but operationally variable, allowing for the identification of Statutory Inactivity, Enforcement Divergence, and Social Contract Forfeiture through comparative analysis across domains.

This work was undertaken as an independent documentation project during 2024–2026. Its purpose is to establish a permanent analytical record of system behavior in the early twenty-first century. By anchoring institutional analysis in verifiable cases and cross-domain patterns, it provides a structured lens for evaluating the reliability of legal systems under conditions of asymmetrical enforcement.

The findings are presented for scrutiny and further application. The terminology employed reflects observed structural patterns and is not intended as normative characterization.

Sahar Soltani
April 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This work presents a forensic audit of international legal systems, examining the divergence between formal legal structures and their operational enforcement across multiple domains. Through a series of technical annexes, it identifies recurring patterns in which legal authority remains intact while enforcement is applied selectively based on systemic priorities.

The Soltani Order framework is introduced as a method of classification, allowing these patterns to be analyzed across maritime, judicial, domestic, and international contexts. The analysis culminates in the 2026 comparative case study, in which institutional activation in the Strait of Hormuz contrasts with inactivity under conditions of water deprivation in Mexico.

The findings suggest that this divergence is not incidental, but structural, and that international law operates through conditional activation rather than uniform enforcement. This document records that condition.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface iii
Executive Summary.....v

TECHNICAL ANNEX A
Maritime Corridor Risk Assessment.....…1

TECHNICAL ANNEX B
Jurisdictional Inactivity in International Proceedings…9

TECHNICAL ANNEX C
THE SOLTANI ORDER
Framework for Evaluating Enforcement Divergence....15

TECHNICAL ANNEX D
Statutory Inactivity in National Classification
Frameworks..…….……...…...21

TECHNICAL ANNEX E
The Century of Forfeiture
Sovereign Equality, Structural Inactivity,
and the 2026 Halt……...…..…31

CONCLUSION
THE ARCHITECTURE OF ASYMMETRY……..……..41

GLOSSARY OF FORENSIC TERMS……..……45

APPENDIX I
RECORD OF SUBMISSIONS & NOTICE……..…...49

APPENDIX II
SOURCES & METHODOLOGY…….…..53

BIBLIOGRAPHY……...…57

TECHNICAL ANNEX A

MRF-2026-04
Maritime Corridor Risk Assessment and Exposure Analysis

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report examines the operational reliability of international maritime frameworks within high-risk maritime corridors. It identifies a condition defined as "Statutory Inactivity," in which a governing legal framework ceases to function as a uniform enforcement mechanism due to selective application across materially comparable operational environments. The period between 2024 and 2026 demonstrates a sustained pattern of selective enforcement affecting maritime activity, altering the predictability of jurisdictional reliance within critical transit zones.

Under these conditions, legal frameworks no longer operate as consistent risk-stabilizing systems. Instead, they introduce asymmetrical exposure for vessels, insurers, and corridor authorities. To address this condition, the report introduces a structured risk framework that translates disruption events into quantifiable financial exposure. The framework

establishes a baseline exposure level and applies adjustment factors based on event severity, vessel classification, duration of disruption, and strategic risk conditions.

The objective of this report is not to redefine international law, but to provide a method for evaluating operational risk where legal predictability is no longer consistent. This document presents a structured approach to maritime risk assessment in environments where enforcement asymmetry has become a defining operational condition.

II. INTRODUCTION

International maritime operations rely on the assumption that governing legal frameworks function as consistent and predictable systems of enforcement. Within established corridors, these frameworks are expected to provide stability by aligning state conduct, transit expectations, and risk allocation under uniform principles.

Recent operational conditions have demonstrated increasing divergence between formal legal structures and actual enforcement behavior. This divergence introduces uncertainty into maritime operations, particularly in high-risk territorial corridors where legal

expectations and real-world conditions no longer align. This report addresses that divergence by defining and analyzing a condition termed "Statutory Inactivity," and by proposing a structured method for evaluating the resulting risk exposure. The analysis focuses on the 2024–2026 period and examines how selective enforcement conditions alter the reliability of jurisdictional frameworks within operational environments.

III. PROBLEM DEFINITION

Maritime legal frameworks are designed to operate as uniform systems, applying consistent principles across comparable operational scenarios. This uniformity is essential for maintaining predictable risk environments for vessels, insurers, and corridor authorities. When enforcement becomes selective, the framework ceases to function as a consistent mechanism of governance.

Comparable operational conditions produce divergent enforcement outcomes, resulting in asymmetrical application of legal principles. This condition disrupts the foundational assumption of predictability within maritime operations. As a result, reliance on formal legal structures no longer provides an accurate basis for assessing operational risk. The absence of uniform enforcement transforms the legal framework from a

stabilizing system into a variable factor within the risk environment.

IV. STATUTORY INACTIVITY

Statutory Inactivity is defined as the condition in which a governing legal framework ceases to function as a uniform enforcement mechanism due to selective application across materially comparable operational environments. A legal framework derives operational reliability not from its existence, but from its consistent application. Where enforcement diverges across comparable scenarios, the framework no longer operates as a stabilizing system.

The period between 2024 and 2026 demonstrates a sustained pattern of selective enforcement within maritime and kinetic operational environments. Comparable events produce divergent legal responses, altering the assumption that legal frameworks provide neutral and predictable guidance. Under these conditions, the framework remains present in language and reference but is absent in uniform execution. The result is a system that retains symbolic authority while losing operational reliability.

This condition introduces asymmetrical exposure. Vessels, insurers, and corridor authorities can no longer

rely on consistent legal treatment across comparable operational circumstances. Risk is no longer governed by stable rules, but by variable enforcement outcomes. Legal reliance becomes an insufficient basis for operational decision-making, and the framework transitions from a source of predictability to a variable component within the risk environment.

Statutory Inactivity emerges through repeated divergence between declared legal principles and actual enforcement behavior. Once sustained, the framework ceases to function as a coherent system of governance. This report proceeds on the basis that such a condition materially alters the structure of maritime risk and requires independent methods of exposure assessment.

V. RISK CALCULATION FRAMEWORK

The assessment of disruption-related exposure within a maritime corridor requires a structured method for translating operational events into quantifiable impact. This report introduces a structured risk framework consistent with the Soltani Order. Total Risk Offset (RO) is determined by the baseline exposure (B) adjusted by event severity (S), vessel exposure (V), duration of disruption (D), and strategic risk conditions (St).

$$RO = B \times (S \times V \times D \times St)$$

For illustrative purposes, if a maritime route presents a base operational risk of 2%, and a surcharge factor of 3.5 is applied under elevated conditions, the adjusted risk offset (RO) is calculated as follows:

$$RO = 2\% \times 3.5 = 7\%$$

To illustrate the application of this framework under high-impact conditions, the following calculation applies a defined baseline exposure to a disruption event within a strategic maritime corridor:

Baseline Exposure (B):	USD 5,000,000
Event Severity (S):	2.5
Strategic Risk Multiplier (St):	3.0

For illustrative purposes, variables V and D are held constant. Risk Offset (RO) is calculated as follows:

$$RO = B \times (S \times St)$$

$$RO = 5{,}000{,}000 \times (2.5 \times 3.0)$$

$$= 5{,}000{,}000 \times 7.5$$

$$= \text{USD } 37{,}500{,}000$$

This result illustrates the scale of financial exposure generated under elevated strategic conditions.

The framework therefore translates enforcement variability into quantifiable financial impact, establishing a measurable relationship between legal unpredictability and operational liability.

The USD 5,000,000 baseline represents the minimum corridor exposure associated with a verified disruption event. It reflects the immediate operational impact on monitoring systems, traffic flow, and risk conditions within the corridor, and serves as the starting point for calculating event-specific impact.

The baseline is modified through the application of defined adjustment factors. Event severity reflects the intensity and operational impact of the disruption. Vessel exposure reflects the risk profile associated with vessel type and cargo. Duration reflects the length of time the corridor is affected. Strategic conditions reflect broader escalation and environmental risk factors. The application of these factors produces a scaled exposure outcome that reflects the specific conditions of each event.

VI. CONCLUSION

The conditions described in this report reflect a shift in the operational reliability of legal frameworks within high-risk maritime environments. Where enforcement becomes inconsistent, legal structures no longer function

as stable reference systems for risk assessment. This condition alters how exposure must be evaluated by vessels, insurers, and corridor authorities.

The framework presented in this report provides a structured method for interpreting disruption events under conditions of reduced legal predictability. The distribution of this report establishes a documented point of reference within the 2024–2026 operational period. Its relevance is not dependent on immediate adoption, but on its role as a structured articulation of a condition affecting operational conditions across maritime environments.

The full publication,

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is available under ISBN 978-1-0698031-9-1 and through major distribution platforms.