

EDITORIAL DECISION NOTE

(English)

Editorial decision: Editorial acceptance (invited paper)

Section: International Articles (Invited Articles)

Editors-in-Chief: Katherinne Maciel / Sidney Soares Filho

Publication date: 15/05/2026

1. Editorial nature of the submission

The manuscript entitled “*Towards a Humanized Border Governance in Africa: Protecting Vulnerable Migrants and Displaced Persons (The Cases of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya)*”, authored by Professor Khalid Cherkaoui Semmouni (Moroccan University Professor of Public Law and internationally recognized expert in migration, forced displacement, human rights, and strategic governance), is part of the *International Articles (Invited Articles)* section of *Pensar – Journal of Legal Sciences*.

The contribution originated from a formal editorial invitation issued after the in-person academic encounter between the Editor-in-Chief and Professor Cherkaoui Semmouni during the *10th Academic Days on Open Government & Digital Issues (Acadays 2025)*, held on 4 and 5 November 2025 at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, under the direction of Professors Irène Bouhadana and William Gilles and the organization of the Institut du Monde et du Développement pour la Bonne Gouvernance Publique (IMODEV). Given the international relevance of Professor Cherkaoui Semmouni’s research on migration governance, refugee protection, and human rights in North Africa, the invitation was extended with the aim of fostering scientific exchange, deepening South-South academic dialogue between Brazilian and African legal scholarship, and strengthening the international circulation of legal research published by the journal.

It is emphasized that this section has its own editorial regime and does not replace the journal’s regular peer-review flow for manuscripts submitted through continuous submission.

2. Editorial procedure adopted

Due to its specific editorial nature as an invited contribution, the manuscript was not submitted to the ordinary peer-review process, in accordance with this section’s editorial policy.

The article was assessed directly by the scientific editorial team, considering:

- alignment with the journal’s scope and thematic axes, particularly regarding international human rights law, refugee protection, and comparative public law;
- academic relevance and topicality of the subject in light of contemporary migration crises and border governance debates;



- scholarly contribution to the legal debate concerning the reconciliation of state sovereignty with international human rights and refugee protection obligations;
- theoretical consistency and methodological adequacy of the comparative analysis among Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, grounded in international and African Union legal instruments;
- ethical and editorial compliance.

Throughout the editorial process, communications were maintained with the author in order to align the manuscript with the journal's editorial guidelines, normative standards, and formatting requirements. Following the editorial invitation, the article was formally received on 06/02/2026 and accepted on 28/02/2026, having been deemed suitable for publication and forwarded to technical review, copyediting/standardization, and editorial production stages.

3. Originality check

The article underwent an originality check using **Crossref Similarity Check (iThenticate)**, resulting in a similarity index of **12%**, which was qualitatively assessed by the editorial team.

The analysis indicated that matches are predominantly related to properly referenced quotations, citations of international treaties and instruments (such as the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1969 OAU Convention, the Kampala Convention, and core United Nations human rights treaties), institutional reports from UNHCR, IOM, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch, technical and doctrinal expressions characteristic of international migration and refugee law, and standard academic elements. No evidence of scientific misconduct, plagiarism, or improper appropriation of third-party content was identified.

4. Final editorial decision

Considering the invited nature of the contribution, its scholarly relevance, the timeliness and humanitarian significance of its theme, and its compliance with the journal's editorial and ethical guidelines, the Editors-in-Chief resolved to grant **FINAL ACCEPTANCE** of the article for publication in *Pensar – Journal of Legal Sciences*, under the continuous publication model, with DOI <https://doi.org/10.5020/2317-2150.2026.16691>.

The publication of invited papers follows internationally recognized editorial practices and is used judiciously as an instrument to enhance academic quality and strengthen the journal's internationalization, particularly through the inclusion of voices from the African legal academy.

Pensar – Revista de Ciências Jurídicas is an academic publication of the Center for Legal Sciences at the University of Fortaleza (Universidade de Fortaleza – UNIFOR), Brazil. It holds the print ISSN 1519-8464 and the electronic ISSN 2317-2150.

Official website: <https://ojs.unifor.br/rpen/about>

Sidney Soares Filho

Prof. Dr. Sidney Soares Filho

Editor-in-Chief, *Pensar – Journal of Legal Studies*

Postdoctoral Fellow, Czestochowa University of Technology

PhD in Law | PhD in Education

sidney@unifor.br

sidney@unifor.br

Pensar – Revista de Ciências Jurídicas is an academic publication of the Center for Legal Sciences at the University of Fortaleza (Universidade de Fortaleza – UNIFOR), Brazil. It holds the print ISSN 1519-8464 and the electronic ISSN 2317-2150.

Official website: <https://ojs.unifor.br/rpen/about>