Sharing information and promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) at the ICRC

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Overview

• Facilitating access to legal information
  – IHL databases
  – IHL bibliography
• Promoting IHL
• Questions
ICRC mandate for IHL dissemination

Statutes of the ICRC

Article 4

The role of the ICRC shall be in particular:

(...)

(g) to work for the understanding and dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts and to prepare any development thereof

“The organization’s real strength lies in the mirror effect on which it was founded: its work in conflict situations to help people in distress derives from IHL, which it encourages belligerent parties to abide by; and this body of law in turn grows and develops by virtue of the observations made by the organization in the theatre of conflict. This mirror effect sets the ICRC apart in the humanitarian sphere.”

Audiences

- Humanitarian practitioners
- Academics in law and international relations
- Government lawyers and diplomats
- Military lawyers
- Think tanks & policy centres
- Private corporations
Access to legal information: primary sources

Geneva conventions and other international treaties
- Treaties database
- Geneva Conventions preparatory documents

Domestic implementation of IHL
- National implementation database
- Customary international humanitarian law database
- State practice collection
State practice institutional workflow

- **State practice institutional repository**
  - **Collect**: ICRC Regional Legal Advisers, Customary IHL Contributors, Delegates Working with Armed Forces, ICRC Legal Advisers, Library
  - **Upload**: Customary IHL
  - **Assess**: Unit for Relations with Arms Carriers, Reference Lists & Bibliographies, Etc.
  - **Enrich**: Advisory Services, Customary IHL Project Team
  - **Publish**: National Implementation, Customary IHL, State Practice Collection
  - **Connect**: IHL Students & Academicians, International Tribunals, Arms Carriers, National Societies, NGOs
  - **Disseminate**: ICRC (Legal) Advisers, Governments
Access to legal information: secondary sources

IHL bibliography

- Quarterly version and annual compilation
- References classified by subject
- Abstracts
- Link to full text if available online

Available online: https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/icrc-ihl-bibliography.htm
Promoting IHL

- ICRC Library
- Reference publications
- Courses
- Training tools
- Conferences
- ICRC website
- Humanitarian Law and Policy blog
- Law and Policy Newsletters
Thematic approach

- New technologies and the modern battlefield
- Principles guiding humanitarian action
- Generating respect for the law

2014
2015
2016
Partnering with reference actors
Adapting messages

- Reference Manuals
- Review
- Modules Simulations Courses
- Conferences Online talks Workshops
- Blog Interviews Visits
How does law protect in war? Online

Regular updates and easy navigation from the IHL outline to more than 300 case studies and pedagogical resources with a comprehensive online index and search engine
International humanitarian law: a comprehensive introduction

New IHL Textbook (Nils Melzer)

Available in 2016
UPCOMING ISSUES

The human cost of nuclear weapons
(Spring 2016)

The evolution of warfare
(Summer 2016)

War in cities
(Winter 2016)
Training Events

- IHL dissemination workshop
- Advanced IHL seminars
- Thematic workshops
- Regional Courses
- Basic IHL courses for humanitarian practitioners
Training tools

Online training modules

- Basic rules and principles of IHL (ENG – FR – SPA)
- Rights and responsibilities of health-care personnel (ENG)
- HCiD: The legal framework (ENG – FR)
In recent years, a wide array of new technologies have entered the modern battlefield, giving rise to new means and
Ready-to-use workshops

- Health Care in Danger
- Sexual violence
- Humanitarian principles and action
- Scope of application of the law

Advanced IHL Learning Series

- IHL and humanitarian principles
- Explosive weapons in urban areas
- Recent development in the interplay between IHL and human rights
Conferences

ICRC Panel Discussion

IS THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT IN CRISIS AND HOW TO RECOMMIT TO ITS RESPECT?

ICRC Humanitarian, Geneva
21 April 2016 18:00 - 19:30

#respectIHL

HELEN DURHAM  VINCENT BERNARD  MARCO SASSOLI  ADAMA DIENG  MICHAEL N. SCHMITT  FIONA TERRY
ICRC website

Humanitarian Law & Policy blog
Cross-files : blog of the ICRC library and archives
Sharing IHL tools within the ICRC

- Mail list

Dear colleagues,

We hope you are well. With apologies for the delay, please find below highlights we found particularly interesting:

- **HQ:** Advanced Training Seminar in IHL for Unr

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**Soins de santé en danger et monde académique**

Meeting start time: mardi 23 février 2016 15:08:19

Organizer: Etienne Kuster

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The ICRC is revolutionizing the way international humanitarian law (IHL) is being taught and promoted. Two new online tools designed to complement each other have just been released to help delegations in their effort to promote the law.

- The e-learning modules give an introduction to the key principles of humanitarian law in eight steps.
- How Does Law Protect in War? Online contains a wealth of resources, references and cases supporting IHL teaching.

They are now available to academics, legal practitioners, students, but also ICRC colleagues worldwide who want to develop or upgrade their knowledge of IHL. ICRC colleagues will also use them to provide references and answer IHL questions.

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Février 2016
Mail list

• 135 focal points in 81 delegations worldwide

• Latest tools, training and IHL-related events

• Between 2 and 4 issues a year
The following page provides an overview of available teaching tools for academics. While not necessarily exhaustive, it is relatively comprehensive and diverse enough to support various kinds of academic courses, competitions and events. Use the feedback button on the right to share innovative teaching tools and methods developed by your delegation.
Conference calls

- Calls by region (Europe and Central Asia, Africa, Near and Middle East, Asia, Americas)
- Between 1 and 2 times a year
- Presentations of tools, Q&A, discussion
Sharing information and promoting IHL @ the ICRC

- Digital tools and databases
- Specialized audiences / general public-oriented services
- Thematic approach
- Engage in debates
- Combine audiences, combine expertise
- Use diversity of tools (from solid to fluid)
- Create win/win partnerships
- Manage contacts and networks
Discussion


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