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OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

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STUDY ON CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

**Document prepared by the
International Committee of the Red Cross**

Geneva, October 2007

INTRODUCTION

This report is being submitted pursuant to Resolution 1 of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.¹

Treaty law and customary law are the main sources of international law. In the area of international humanitarian law, treaty law is well developed but its application is limited to States that have ratified the treaties in question, and to armed opposition groups within those States. Customary international humanitarian law, on the other hand, is binding on all States but its content is less clear because it is not written down as such. Customary international law is created by widespread, representative and uniform practice among States. Its rules, as a result, can only be determined on the basis of extensive research into that practice.

The study on customary international humanitarian law which the ICRC published in 2005 is the first of its kind. Undertaken at the request of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 1995, it was completed nearly 10 years later, following extensive research and widespread consultation of experts.²

ORIGIN OF THE STUDY

The International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, convened in Geneva from 30 August to 1 September 1993, discussed ways and means of addressing violations of international humanitarian law but did not propose the adoption of new treaty provisions. Instead, in its Final Declaration, adopted by consensus, the Conference reaffirmed “the necessity to make the implementation of international humanitarian law more effective” and called upon the Swiss government “to convene an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts to study practical means of promoting full respect for and compliance with that law, and to prepare a report for submission to the States and to the next session of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.”

To this end, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims met in Geneva in January 1995 and made a series of recommendations aimed at enhancing respect for international humanitarian law, in particular by means of preventive measures that would ensure better knowledge and more effective implementation of the law. Recommendation II of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts proposed that:

The ICRC be invited to prepare, with the assistance of experts in IHL [international humanitarian law] representing various geographical regions and different legal systems, and in consultation with experts from governments and international organizations, a report on customary rules of IHL applicable in international and non-international armed conflicts, and to circulate the report to States and competent international bodies.³

In December 1995, the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent endorsed this recommendation and officially mandated the ICRC to prepare a report on customary rules of international humanitarian law applicable in international and non-

¹ 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, 2–6 December 2003, Resolution 1, Adoption of the Declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian Action, § 12.

² Jean-Marie Henckaerts and Louise Doswald-Beck, *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, Volume I. Rules, liii + 621 pp., Volume II. Practice (two parts), xxxiv + 4411 pp., International Committee of the Red Cross and Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2005.

³ Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for the Protection of War Victims, Geneva, 23–27 January 1995, Recommendation II, *International Review of the Red Cross (IRRC)*, No. 310, 1996, p. 84.

international armed conflicts.⁴ As mentioned above, this report, now referred to as the study on customary international humanitarian law (hereinafter "the Study"), was published in 2005.⁵

HOW THE WORK WAS CONDUCTED

To determine the best way of fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it, the ICRC consulted a group of 12 academic experts on international humanitarian law, who formed the Study's Steering Committee (see Annex I). The Steering Committee adopted a Plan of Action in June 1996 and research started in October of the same year. Pursuant to the Plan of Action, research was conducted using both national and international sources reflecting State practice.

Nearly 50 countries were selected from all continents and in each a researcher or group of researchers was appointed to compile a report on State practice (see Annex I). Military manuals and the national legislation of countries not covered by the reports were also researched and collected. State practice gleaned from international sources was examined by six teams (see Annex I), each of which concentrated on one part of the Study. To complement the research into national and international sources, the ICRC looked into its own archives relating to nearly 40 recent armed conflicts; these conflicts were selected so as to ensure that countries and conflicts not already dealt with by a report on State practice would also be covered. As a result, in total, practice from more than 150 countries was collected in the course of the research.

Upon completion of the research, the ICRC invited each international team to produce an "executive summary" containing a preliminary assessment concerning which rules of customary international law had been established by the practice examined. These summaries were then discussed within the Steering Committee and, on the basis of this first round of consultations, updated. During a second round of consultations, they were submitted to a group of 35 academic and governmental experts from all geographic regions of the world, whom the ICRC had invited to attend, in their personal capacity, two meetings with the Steering Committee (see Annex I). During these meetings, held in Geneva, the experts helped to evaluate the information collected and pointed out particular practice that had been missed.

The assessment by the Steering Committee, as reviewed by the group of academic and governmental experts, served as the basis for writing the Study. The authors, Jean-Marie Henckaerts and Louise Doswald-Beck, re-examined practice, reassessed the existence of custom, reviewed the formulation and the order of the rules and drafted the commentaries. The final draft of the Study was then submitted for a second reading to the Steering Committee, the group of academic and governmental experts, and the ICRC Legal Division. It was finalized on the basis of comments received during this second reading.

Since the ICRC considered the Study primarily as a work of scholarship, it respected the academic freedom of both its authors and the experts consulted, the idea being to capture the clearest possible "photograph" of customary international humanitarian law as it stands today. The ICRC believes that the Study presents an accurate assessment of the current state of customary international humanitarian law. It therefore takes the Study's findings into

⁴ Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, 3–7 December 1995, Resolution 1, International humanitarian law: From law to action; Report on the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, *IRRC, op. cit.*, p. 58.

⁵ Henckaerts and Doswald-Beck, *op. cit.*

account in its daily work, while remaining aware of the fact that the formation of customary international law is an ongoing process.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

First, the Study shows that agreement on the rules and principles contained in humanitarian treaty law is more widespread than the ratification of those treaties would lead one to believe. While the Geneva Conventions have been universally ratified, other humanitarian law treaties have not. The latter nevertheless contain a large number of rules and principles that have received widespread support from the international community. As a result, there exists an extensive body of law common to all States; a set of rules that all States have accepted and that forms customary international humanitarian law.

Secondly, the Study shows that the normative framework applicable to most of the current armed conflicts, i.e. non-international armed conflicts, has been strengthened in practice. While treaty law governing international armed conflicts is well developed, treaty law governing non-international armed conflicts is not. State practice, however, has filled a large part of this gap and has created customary rules beyond those existing in treaty law. The normative framework for non-international armed conflicts is thus more extensive than that contained in treaty law.

Thirdly, the Study shows that many of the rules applicable to non-international armed conflicts are the same as those applicable to international armed conflicts. This is the case for many rules governing the conduct of hostilities, the use of weapons and the treatment to be accorded to civilians and persons *hors de combat*. As a result, problems relating to the definition of an armed conflict as international or non-international often have no consequence for the application of customary international humanitarian law. The same rules have to be respected in *any* armed conflict.

PROMOTION OF THE STUDY AND UPDATE OF ITS PRACTICE SECTION

After its publication, the Study was officially presented in Geneva and then launched at a conference in London. Subsequently, the Study has been presented at numerous regional and national conferences, as well as at other events (see Annex II). Volume I has been translated in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Serb and Spanish.

The summary of the Study, which first appeared in the *International Review of the Red Cross*, in March 2005, has been translated into more than 30 languages.⁶

Because of its origin – a mandate from the international community – the Study seeks to be a working tool at the service of practitioners involved with humanitarian law, not a handbook of

⁶ Jean-Marie Henckaerts, "Study on customary international humanitarian law: A contribution to the understanding and respect for the rule of law in armed conflict", *International Review of the Red Cross*, Volume 87, Number 857, March 2005, pp. 175–212, available on www.icrc.org/eng/customary-law, original in English, translations currently available in Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bosnian, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Farsi, Finnish, French, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovenian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, with Bulgarian, Cambodian, Croatian, Hungarian and Lao forthcoming.

theoretical considerations. As such, it has already found its way into national and international jurisprudence.⁷

Although the Study has now become the starting point of any discussion on customary humanitarian law, it should not be seen as the final word on custom because, by definition, it cannot be exhaustive and the formation of customary law is an ongoing process. The ICRC has accordingly teamed up with the British Red Cross and initiated a project, based at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at Cambridge University, to update the practice contained in Volume II of the Study.

The ICRC therefore remains receptive to comments on the Study, in addition to those it has already received, but also to information and comments on any further specific practice States and experts wish to share with it. This should be part of an ongoing dialogue.

CONCLUSION

The Study did not attempt to determine the customary nature of each treaty rule of international humanitarian law but sought to analyse issues in order to establish what rules of customary international law can be found inductively on the basis of State practice in relation to these issues. A brief overview of some of the findings of the Study nevertheless shows that many principles and rules contained in treaty law have received widespread acceptance in practice and, as a result, are now part of customary international law. As such, they are binding on all States regardless of ratification of treaties and also on armed opposition groups in the case of rules that are applicable to all parties to a non-international armed conflict.

The Study indicates that many rules of customary international law apply in both international and non-international armed conflicts and shows the extent to which State practice has gone beyond existing treaty law and expanded the rules applicable to non-international armed conflicts. The regulation of the conduct of hostilities and the treatment of persons in connection with non-international armed conflicts is thus more detailed and complete than that which exists under treaty law. It remains to be explored to what extent, from a humanitarian and military perspective, this more detailed and complete regulation is sufficient or whether further development of the law is required.

As is the case for treaty law, effective implementation of the rules of customary international humanitarian law is required through dissemination, training and enforcement. These rules should be incorporated into military manuals and national legislation, wherever this is not already the case.

The Study also reveals areas where the law is not clear and points to issues requiring further clarification or agreement, such as the definition of civilians in non-international armed conflicts, the concept of direct participation in hostilities and the detailed interpretation of the principle of proportionality.

⁷ See Israel, The Supreme Court Sitting as the High Court of Justice, *Adalah and others v. GOC Central Command, IDF and others*, 23 June 2005, HCJ 3799/02, paras. 20, 21 and 24, and *The Public Committee against Torture in Israel and others v. The Government of Israel and others*, 13 December 2006, HCJ 769/02, paras. 23, 29–30 and 41–42; US, Supreme Court, *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, et al.*, Case No. 05-184, 29 June 2006, p. 69; ICTY, Appeals Chamber, *Prosecutor v. Hadžihasanović and Kubura*, Decision on Joint Defence Interlocutory Appeal of Trial Chamber Decision on Rule 98bis Motions for Acquittal, IT-01-47-AR73.3, 11 March 2005, paras. 29–30, 38 and 45–46.

In the light of the achievements to date and the work that remains to be done, the Study should not be seen as the end but rather as the beginning of a new process aimed at improving understanding of and agreement on the principles and rules of international humanitarian law. In this process, the Study can form the basis of a rich discussion and dialogue on the implementation, clarification and possible development of the law. The current work to update Volume II of the Study is intended to contribute to this process.

ANNEX I. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consisted of Professors Georges Abi-Saab, Salah El-Din Amer, Ove Bring, Eric David, John Dugard, Florentino Feliciano, Horst Fischer, Françoise Hampson, Theodor Meron, Djamchid Momtaz, Milan Šahovi• and Raúl Emilio Vinuesa.

National research teams

The reports on State practice were prepared by the following teams:

Algeria:

Professor Ahmed Laraba

Angola:

Professor Maurice Kamto, with the assistance of Albert Hilaire Anoubon Momo and André Ndomikolayi

Argentina:

Professor Raúl Emilio Vinuesa, with the assistance of Silvia Sandra Gonzalez Napolitano and Marta María Pastor

Australia:

Professor Timothy McCormack, with the assistance of Gideon Boas, Malcolm Langford, Colin Andrew Hatcher, Virginia Newell and Shahyar Rousha

Belgium:

Professor Eric David, with the assistance of Isabelle Kuntziger, Garlone Egels and Robert Remacle

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Colonel Mugo Ge• and Professor Liljana Mijovi•, with the assistance of Nedeljko Milijevi•

Botswana:

Professor Oagile Key Dingake

Brazil:

Professor Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade

Canada:

Professor Katia Boustany (deceased), with the assistance of Maria Molina

Chile:

Professor Hernán Salinas Burgos, with the assistance of Daniela Kravetz

China:

Professor Tieya Wang (deceased), with the assistance of Professor Yong Zhang

Colombia:

Fabricio López Sacconi, with the assistance of Raúl Hernández, Magaly Ramos, Sonia Torres and Mauricio Reyes

Croatia:

Professor Maja Seršić, with the assistance of Professor Ksenija Turković, Davorin Lapas and Ivica Kinder

Cuba:

Dr María de los Angeles de Varona Hernández

Egypt:

Professor Ahmed Abou El Wafa

El Salvador:

Professor Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade, with the assistance of Cristina Zeledon

Ethiopia:

Professor Andreas Eshete, with the assistance of Alemu Brook

France:

Professor Paul Tavernier, with the assistance of Eloi Fillion, Claire Servoin, Karine Mollard-Bannelier, Davide Ferrarini, Dr Béatrice Maurer, Karine Christakis, Isabelle Capette, François Darribehaude, Sonia Parayre and Marianne Saracco

Germany:

Professor Horst Fischer, with the assistance of Dr Gregor Schotten and Dr Heike Spieker

India:

Professor Nripendra Lal Mitra, with the assistance of Dr Umesh Veeresh Kadam (research coordinator), Dr M. K. Nawaz, Dr S.V. Joga Rao, Dr V. Vijaya Kumar, M. K. Balachandran, T. S. Matilal and Rekha Chaturvedi

Indonesia:

Professor GPH. Haryomataram, with the assistance of Fadillah Agus, Kushartoyo Budisantoso, Aji Wibowo, Andrey Sujatmoko and Arlina Permanasari

Iran:

Professor Djamchid Momtaz, with the assistance of Farah Rahmani

Iraq:

Professor Mohammed Abdallah Ad-Douri, with the assistance of Dr Janan Sukker

Israel:

Professor Yoram Dinstein, with the assistance of Dr Fania Domb

Italy:

Professor Gabriella Venturini and Professor Paolo Benvenuti, with the assistance of Dr Enrico Casalini and Dr Marco Graziani

Japan:

Professor Hisakazu Fujita, with the assistance of Professor Akira Mayama, Yukiko Takashiba and Hiromi Yoshino

Jordan:

Professor Mohamed Yousef Olwan, with the assistance of Lieutenant-Colonel Muhannad Hijazi and Dr Ghazi ar-Rashdan

Korea, Republic of:

Professor Jae-Ho Sung, with the assistance of Dr Min-Hyo Lee

Kuwait:

Professor Eisa Al-Enezi

Lebanon:

Professor Hassan Kassem Jouni, with the assistance of George Khalil Saad and Abdelrahman Makki

Malaysia:

Professor Nurhalida binti Mohamed Khalil, with the assistance of Zalina binti Abdul Halim

Netherlands:

Anna Nuiten, under the supervision of Dr Gerard Tanja, Professor Frits Kalshoven, Hans Boddens Hosang, Katrien Coppens, Dr Liesbeth Lijnzaad and Hanneke van Sambeek

Nicaragua:

Professor Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade, with the assistance of Cristina Zeledon

Nigeria:

Professor Amechi Uchegbu, with the assistance of Dr B. O. Okere and Muhammed T. Ladan.

Pakistan:

Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Esq.

Peru:

Professor Raúl Emilio Vinuesa, with the assistance of Silvina Sandra Gonzalez Napolitano, Marta María Pastor and Yesenia J. Cabezas Anicama

Philippines:

Professor Alberto T. Muyot, with the assistance of Joel P. Raquedan and Vincent Pepito F. Yambao, Jr.

Russian Federation:

Professor Igor Pavlovitch Blishchenko (deceased), with the assistance of Professor Aslan Abashidze

Rwanda:

Professor Félicité Karomba, with the assistance of Straton Nsengiyumva

South Africa:

Professor Michael Cowling

Spain:

Dr José Luis Rodríguez-Villasante y Prieto, with the assistance of Manuel Fernández Gómez, Professor Dr Julio Jorge Urbina, Juan Manuel García Labajo, Juan Carlos González Barral, Vicente Otero Solana, Dr Gonzalo Jar Couselo, David Suárez Leoz, Dr Francisco Alonso Pérez, Sonia Hernández Prada, Professor Dr Manuel Pérez González, Fernando Pignatelli Meca, Javier Guisández Gómez and Federico Bordas

Syria:

Professor Muhammad Aziz Shukri, with the assistance of Dr Amal Yaziji and Maan Mahasen

United Kingdom:

Professor Françoise Hampson, with the assistance of Dr Jenny Kuper

United States:

Burrus M. Carnahan, with the assistance of Michael H. Hoffman and Professor Theodor Meron

Uruguay:

Professor Raúl Emilio Vinuesa, with the assistance of Silvina Sandra Gonzalez Napolitano and Marta Maria Pastor

Yugoslavia:

Professor Milan Šahovi•, with the assistance of Dejan Šahovi•, Dr Miodrag Star•evi• and Dr Bosko Jakovljevi•

Zimbabwe:

Professor Joel Zowa, with the assistance of Dr Lovemore Madhuku

International research teams*Principle of distinction:*

Rapporteur: Professor Georges Abi-Saab
Researcher: Dr Jean-François Quéguiner

Specifically protected persons and objects:

Rapporteur: Professor Horst Fischer
Researchers: Dr Gregor Schotten and Dr Heike Spieker

Specific methods of warfare:

Rapporteur: Professor Theodor Meron
Researcher: Richard Desgagné

Weapons:

Rapporteur: Professor Ove Bring
Researcher: Dr Gustaf Lind

Treatment of civilians and persons hors de combat:

Rapporteur: Professor Françoise Hampson
Researcher: Dr Camille Giffard

Implementation:

Rapporteur: Professor Eric David
Researcher: Richard Desgagné

Academic and governmental experts

The ICRC invited the following academic and governmental experts to participate in consultations with the Steering Committee, in their personal capacity:

Ambassador Abdallah Ad-Douri (Iraq)
Paul Berman (United Kingdom)
Professor Sadi Çayci (Turkey)
Professor Michael Cowling (South Africa)
Edward Cummings (United States)
Ambassador Antonio de Icaza (Mexico)
Professor Yoram Dinstein (Israel)
Jean-Michel Favre (France)
William Fenrick (Canada)
Dr Dieter Fleck (Germany)
Juan Carlos Gómez Ramírez (Colombia)
Jamshed A. Hamid (Pakistan)
Arturo Hernández-Basave (Mexico)
Ambassador Ibrahim Idriss (Ethiopia)
Professor Hassan Kassem Jouni (Lebanon)
Judge Kenneth Keith (New Zealand)
Professor Githu Mugai (Kenya)
Professor Rein Müllerson (Estonia)
Bara Niang (Senegal)
Professor Mohamed Olwan (Jordan)
Professor Raul C. Pangalangan (Philippines)
Professor Stelios Perrakis (Greece)
Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro (Brazil)
Ambassador Arpád Prandler (Hungary)
Pemmaraju Sreenivasa Rao (India)
Camilo Reyes Rodríguez (Colombia)
Itse E. Sagay (Nigeria)
Harold Sandoval (Colombia)
Ambassador Somboon Sangianbut (Thailand)
Professor Marat A. Sarsembayev (Kazakhstan)
Professor Muhammad Aziz Shukri (Syria)
Parlaungan Sihombing (Indonesia)
Geoffrey James Skillen (Australia)
Guoshun Sun (China)
Professor Bakhtyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russia)
Professor Carol Wolfke (Poland)

ANNEX II. LAUNCH EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

2005

17 March	Geneva – Official presentation at ICRC Headquarters
30 March–2 April	Washington, D.C. – Panel presentation at the ASIL Annual Meeting
18–19 April	London – Launch conference at Chatham House, organized with the British Red Cross and the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law
21 April	Geneva – Presentation for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission
30–31 May	The Hague – Launch conference at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized with the Netherlands Red Cross
10 June	Oslo – Launch event organized by the Nordic Red Cross Societies
14–16 June	Pretoria – Presentation at the Annual SADEC IHL Meeting
22–24 June	Newport, Rhode Island – Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the US Naval War College
28 June	Moscow – Presentation for the Russian Society of International Law
4–6 July	Abuja – Presentation at the ECOWAS IHL Meeting
13 July	Geneva – Presentation for the UN International Law Commission
19–21 July	Nairobi – Presentation at the Meeting of Commonwealth IHL Committees
5–6 September	Geneva – Presentation at the Annual Meeting of National Society Legal Advisers
19 September	Strasbourg – Presentation at the meeting of Council of Europe Legal Advisers (CAHDI)
26–27 September	St. Petersburg – Presentation at the Martens Readings on IHL
28 September	Washington, D.C. – Roundtable at American University, Washington College of Law and Lecture at George Washington University Law School
29–30 September 1 October	Montreal – Launch conference organized by the Canadian Red Cross, with McGill University, University of Ottawa, Department of Justice and National Defence
29 September	Prague – Presentation for the Czech Association of International Law
7 October	Belgrade – Launch of the Serb translation at the Faculty of Political Science

- 11–12 October **Accra** – Presentation at the Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers of Justice
- 20–22 October **New York** – Lecture at Colombia University Law School and Panel presentation at the International Law Weekend organized by the American Branch of the International Law Association
- 25 October **New York** – UN General Assembly, Sixth Committee Presentation at the Informal Legal Advisers Meeting followed by a Workshop on "What Creates Custom?"
- 3 November **Moscow** – Launching event at the ICRC delegation
- 14 November **Helsinki** – Roundtable at the University of Helsinki organized with the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Finnish Red Cross
- 15 November **Stockholm** – Roundtable at the Swedish Red Cross, organized with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Defence College and the Swedish Branch of the International Law Association
- 16–18 November **Seoul** – Council of Delegates, Presentation and Resolution 1
- 17 November **Bogotá** – Presentation to academic circles
- 17 November **Geneva** – Lunch briefing to participants to the CCW session
- 22–25 November **Moscow** – Presentation at a Roundtable on IHL
- 24–25 November **Brussels** – European launch event organized by the Belgian Red Cross, Catholic University of Leuven and ICRC
- 25 November **Brussels** – Presentation at the meeting of EU Legal Advisers (COJUR)
- 28 November **Mexico City** – Roundtable at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 8–9 December **New Delhi** – Asian launch event, organized by the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) and ICRC
- 16 December **Belgrade** – Official presentation of the Serb translation in Parliament

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- 27 January **Athens** – Presentation at the meeting of European National IHL Committees
- 2–3 February **The Hague** – Lecture at the Hague Initiative on the Law of Armed Conflict (HILAC)
- 12 February **Oxford** – Presentation at Oxford University
- 13 February **London** – Lecture at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
- 21–22 February **New York** – Presentation at the Annual ICRC/NYU Seminar for diplomats

- 27 February–
3 March **Sydney/Canberra/Wellington** – Presentations at Australian National University and the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, and roundtables with government representatives (organized with the Australian Red Cross and the New Zealand Red Cross)
- 9–10 March **Sanremo** – EAPC/PfP Workshop on customary IHL, organized by Swiss and Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with NATO, the International Institute for Humanitarian Law and ICRC
- 24 March **Warsaw** – Launch conference organized by Polish Red Cross, University of Warsaw, ICRC Budapest and Ius Gentium International Law Society
- 19–20 April **Yaoundé** – Presentation at meeting on IHL in Central Africa
- 1–2 June **London** – Presentation at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law Conference
- 6–7 June **Kuala Lumpur** – Regional Roundtable on Customary IHL
- 31 August **Geneva** – Lecture at the ICRC/University Centre for IHL Training Seminar on IHL for University Teachers
- 12 September **Geneva** – Presentation at the Annual Meeting of National Society Legal Advisers
- 19 September **Bogotá** – Presentation at the Public Ministry (Procuraduría)
- 4 October **Warsaw** – Side event at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
- 4 October **Tbilisi** – Presentation at the ICRC delegation
- 12 October **Sanremo** – Lecture at the Advanced Course on the Law of Armed Conflict
- 13 October **Dublin** – Launch event at Trinity College Dublin, organized by the Irish Red Cross
- 25–26 October **Beijing** – Regional Roundtable on Customary IHL
- 31 October **Addis Ababa** – African launch at AU Headquarters
- 3 November **London** – Chatham House/BIICL wrap-up session of the monthly IHL Discussion Group sessions ("Focus on the ICRC Study on Customary IHL") (11 sessions from October 2005–September 2006)
- 4–5 November **Adelaide** – Conference of Flinders University and Australian Red Cross on "The Emergence of Customary International Humanitarian Law"
- 10 November **Sarajevo** – Roundtable on Customary IHL at the Law Faculty
- 23–24 November **Moscow** – Official launch of the Russian translation

1 December **Colombo** – Launch conference co-organized with the Weeramantry International Centre for Peace Education and Research (WICPER)

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1–2 February **Geneva** – EAPC/PfP Roundtable (follow-up to 2006 Sanremo Meeting), organized by Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with NATO and ICRC

9 February **Brussels** – Seminar organized by the Centre d'étude de droit militaire et de droit de la guerre

25–26 February **Cairo** – Launch of the Arabic translation, organized with the League of Arab States

7–8 March **Liverpool/Oxford** – Lectures at universities

12 March **Paris** – Launch of the French translation organized by ICRC and Universities of Paris II and XI

16 May **Bucharest** – National launch event at Titulescu University

18 May **Makhashkala** – Lecture at the Law Faculty of the University

18–19 June **Beijing** – Presentation at the regional Symposium for the 30th Anniversary of the 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August, 1949: Principles and Practice, organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC

26 June **Cairo** – Lecture at 4th Arab Course for University Professors on IHL

10 July **Sanremo** – Presentation at 7th IHL Summer Course

16 August **Colombo** – Presentation at the national seminar to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Additional Protocols

22 August **Tokyo** – Launch event organized by the Japanese Society of International Law

12 October **Beijing**
Launch of the Chinese translation

19 October **Madrid**
National Spanish launch event (with Spanish Red Cross)