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30IC/07
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**30th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

Geneva, Switzerland,
26-30 November 2007

**SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF THE SIDE EVENTS TO BE
HELD DURING THE 30TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Outlines prepared by
the organizers of the side events**

Geneva, 13 November 2007

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: IHL and War Reporting / Safety of media Staff

Date and venue: Monday 26 November 2007, 10.00 – 12.00, CCV, Room A

I. Organizer

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

To inform and discuss with conference participants who are interested in the matter how the international RCRC Movement can contribute to improving media staff's safety and how IHL can become a stronger element of war reporting. Possible topics of discussion will be:

- Safety training of media staff (first aid training and equipment; safety training, risk-awareness, safety rules; etc.)
- Stress and trauma management for media staff (stress and trauma management training for media professionals; support to field staff; etc.)
- IHL provisions and how to improve their implementation in the field (national implementation; ASF training, SOP and best practices; non-state actors; combating impunity; etc.)
- IHL and war reporting (IHL for journalists and editors who cover armed conflicts).

III. Contributors/panellists

Chairman and / or moderator: Yves Daccord, ICRC Director of Communication

Other contributors (experts, panellists):

Knut Doermann, Deputy Head of the ICRC Legal division (presentation on IHL rules on the protection of journalists in armed conflicts)

Eric Bernes, First aid Specialist, ICRC (presentation on RC/RC First Aid training for media staff)

Renée Monin Zellweger, Deputy Head of the ICRC Protection Division (presentation on the ICRC Hotline for media staff on dangerous assignments)

Antonella Notari, Head of Project, ICRC (to help with all of the above; to provide press lines; to work on model pledges for SN and for States; to report on the results of the event)

IV. Languages

English, French

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: Protecting Civilians in Air Warfare: Development of a manual on IHL applicable to air and missile warfare
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Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 2007 13.00 – 14.30, CCV, Room A

I. Organizers

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, Harvard University

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

In response to extraordinary tactical and strategic developments in the field of aerial and missile technology, the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR) at Harvard University launched an international, expert-driven project to codify international humanitarian law applicable to air and missile warfare. The project draws from existing models for legal codification, including the *San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea*, published by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in 1995. Now in its final phase, the International Humanitarian Law in Air and Missile Warfare Project aims to produce a manual and commentary restating customary international law governing air and missile warfare. In this session, HPCR welcomes the participation of legal advisors, policymakers, and practitioners for a discussion of the history of the project, its methodology, and the legal themes addressed in the draft Manual.

III. Contributors/panellists

Claude Bruderlein and Yoram Dinstein, co-chairs

IV. Language

English

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: Presentation of the Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts and the New Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.00 – 14:30, CCV, Room B

I. Organizer

The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (formerly the University Centre for International Humanitarian Law) has launched a Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts Project (RULAC Project) designed to generate an online global database of the implementation of international law in situations of armed conflict. The Academy will put on-line a country by country consideration of the applicable international law. This includes an examination of the implementation of legal obligations during peacetime, during the conflict and following the end of hostilities.

The “proposed side event” would have as a goal to present the new Academy and to inform governments and national societies about the RULAC project, which could be used as a way to compare national legislations on certain topics or to have a rapid access to important legal documents pertaining to a particular country involved in an armed conflict. As a mean to enhance a better knowledge of the law applicable in situation of armed conflicts, the side-event is linked to the objectives of the Conference.

III. Contributors/panellists

Chairman and/or moderator: Prof. Andrew Clapham, Director, Geneva Academy of International humanitarian law and human rights (hereafter Geneva Academy)

Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists):

Dr. Vincent Chetail, Director of research, Geneva Academy

Dr. Annyssa Bellal, Senior researcher, Geneva Academy

Dr. Stuart Maslen, researcher, Geneva Academy

Mrs. Sharon Weill, researcher, Geneva Academy

Mr. Gilles Giacca, researcher, Geneva Academy

Mr. Ernesto Acebal, webmaster, Geneva Academy

IV. Language

English

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**Side Event: International humanitarian law and gender**

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.00 – 14:30, CICG, Room 15

I. Organizer

Government of Sweden

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

During the last 15 years issues of “women and war” have been addressed by various fora. Less has been done to discuss the issue of a true gender perspective on international humanitarian law. When gender issues are raised or noted, they are most often equalled with women’s perspective. Hence, they often miss the point of the more ‘neutral’ gender perspective.

The crucial issues are:

- Can IHL be interpreted from a true neutral gender perspective?
- What would it mean?
- What can be gained or lost in terms of protection of civilians and combatants?
- Is it achievable?
- Is it desirable?

Addressing IHL from a true gender perspective is not uncontroversial. It could mean that the existing “pattern of protection” will be changed. But it is worth a discussion. Those who are participating in armed conflicts today are not only men, but an increasing number of women also engage themselves in hostilities (incl. in non-international armed conflicts). In parallel, more and more men are carrying and/or taking the responsibility for children and elderly.

The expert meeting had four workshops. These included Participation in international and non-international armed conflict, Methods of warfare, Means of warfare, Special aspects: protected persons, R2P, PoW, detainees, UN res 1325, fact-finding.

This side event will present the findings of an expert meeting on IHL and Gender held in Stockholm 4-5 October 2007.

III. Contributors/panellists

Bosse Hedberg, Deputy Director-General, Head of International Law, Human Rights and Treaty Law Department, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Dr. Marie Jacobsson, Principal Legal Adviser on International Law, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Professor Elzbieta Mikos Skuza, Poland, University of Warsaw, Member International Fact-Finding Commission

Cecilia Hellman, Legal Adviser, Swedish National Defence College

VI. Language

English

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: Launching of a book - "Killing civilians, method, madness and morality in war"

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.00 – 14:30, CICG, Room 18

I. Organizers

Permanent Mission of Canada and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

"Killing civilians" addresses the challenges of preserving human life and dignity in armed conflicts.

The book explores how civilians suffer in war, and why people decide that they should. It analyses the main anti-civilian ideologies and looks deeply into the reasons and arguments for limiting human violence in armed conflict.

III. Contributors/panellists

Contributors (experts, panellists):

Dr. Hugo Slim, Author;

H.E. Mr Marius Grinius, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations at Geneva

IV. Languages

English, French

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: " Enhancing respect for international humanitarian law: Exploring sanctions and the work of national IHL committees"

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.00 – 14:30, CICG, Rooms 5 and 6

I. Organizers

International Committee of the Red Cross, in cooperation with chosen national international humanitarian law Committees

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

There is gathering momentum for States' to implement their obligations to investigate and prosecute, on the basis of universal jurisdiction, grave crimes committed in connection with armed conflict and to cooperate with international tribunals and the International Criminal Court. The above-mentioned event will be an opportunity to impart information about the degree of universality achieved by international humanitarian law treaties providing for the repression of war crimes and other serious violations of IHL, to share sound practices in matters related to the domestic implementation of these treaties and to discuss trends at national, regional and universal levels, as well as to address persistent obstacles and challenges.

National IHL committees have in previous years made an essential contribution to the reform of national criminal justice systems in order to create the conditions needed to prosecute and punish war crimes and to incorporate in domestic law the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Acting as a catalyst for consultations between concerned authorities at the national level, national committees have often played a central part in providing technical advice and recommendations on draft laws to the ministries.

National committees should be encouraged to pursue their work to promote and incorporate the provisions of international law in this field at the national level and to further develop their cooperation and their exchange of experience regionally and globally. This event will provide an insight into the practical experiences of the national committees in promoting and developing domestic law to implement international law for the repression of war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The event will also provide an opportunity to review issues of joint interest, such as the role of sanctions in achieving greater compliance with international humanitarian law. Both the characteristics of sanctions and the environment in which their application becomes necessary will be presented and discussed. The event will constitute a useful forum in which to share and test with the participants the preliminary conclusions of the interregional ICRC group of experts on sanctions, which will have met a few weeks previously.

III. Programme

13.00-13.15 Welcoming address (Yves Sandoz, member of the Committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross)

Introduction and main issues (María Teresa Dutli, head of the ICRC Advisory Service on IHL)

13.15-14.00 Keynote presentations

Ending impunity: International criminal justice in action (Judge Erkki Kourula, International Criminal Court, The Hague)

Ensuring the involvement of National IHL Committees in the fight against impunity for war crimes: a few proposals (Ambassador Laura Thompson Chacón, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica in Geneva, Representative of the Costa Rican National Commission for international humanitarian law)

Role of sanctions in achieving greater respect for and compliance with IHL (Xavier Philippe, Professor of public law, University of Aix-Marseille III (France))

14.00-14.30 Open forum and discussion

IV. Languages

English, French, Spanish

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**Side Event: Human Development and Climate Change**

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.15 – 14:30, CCV, Room C

I. Organizers

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

Under the title “Human Development & Climate Change”, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will:

- address climate change from human development’s angle,
- share thoughts on the humanitarian consequences of climate change, and
- exchange their views on the role that each sector (governments, UN system, international/regional organisations, Red Cross and Red Crescent) can play and the need of collaboration at all levels to address the challenges and make adaptation a reality.

The event links with Objective 1 for issues relating to “environmental degradation, including climate change.

III. Contributors/panellists

Chairman and/or moderator: Mr Ibrahim Osman, Deputy Secretary General, IFRC

Other contributors (experts, panellists):

Ms Cécile Molinier, Director, UNDP Office in Geneva

Ms Madeleen Helmer, Head, RCRC Climate Centre, IFRC

IV. Languages

English

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**Side Event: Engaging armed non-State actors to respect international humanitarian law**

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 13.00 – 14.30, CCV, Room A

I. Organizer

Geneva Call

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

Among the topics of the agenda of the Conference is the issue of humanitarian challenges.

The *Geneva Call* `side event` will focus on the challenge of ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) by armed non-State actors (NSAs) and the ways to address it.

Mr Pascal Bongard, Programme Director, Geneva Call, will outline the experience and achievements of *Geneva Call* in persuading NSAs to commit to respect humanitarian norms, starting with the ban on anti-personnel mines.

Professor Marco Sassoli will make a presentation on the respect of international humanitarian law by NSAs.

Mr Jean-Claude Legrand, UNICEF Geneva, will present the organization's practical experience in negotiating with non-State armed groups on child protection issues.

Finally, Mrs Elisabeth Decrey Warner, as Chairwoman, will attempt to draw together strands of both approaches before opening the floor for discussion.

III. Contributors/panellists

Chairman and/or moderator: Mrs Elisabeth Decrey Warner

Other contributors (experts, panellists):

Pascal Bongard, Geneva Call

Professor Marco Sassoli, University of Geneva

Jean-Claude Legrand, UNICEF Geneva

VI. Language

English

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**Side Event: Assisting survivors of Explosive Remnants of War**

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 13.00 – 14.30, CICG, Rooms 5 and 6

I. Organizers

Permanent Missions of Austria and New Zealand

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

Over the last years, assisting victims of landmines and other ERW has drawn increasing attention by the international community. In 1997 the Mine Ban Treaty, also known as Ottawa Convention, was adopted; it became the first ever disarmament and arms control treaty to include specific provisions on assistance to victims of this weapon system. Following this example the 2003 Protocol V to the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention on ERW also enshrined a similar provision. The issue of assistance to victims now also plays a prominent role in the process concerning cluster munitions. Most recently, the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities added a new dimension as it further clarifies the legal and policy framework under which victim assistance is being operationalized. Victim Assistance also represents an important element of the work of the ICRC and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Victim Assistance is understood as a wide-ranging phenomenon, which encompasses i.a. emergency medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support, socio-economic reintegration of victims as well as collection of relevant data. Presentations could focus on lessons learned under the framework of the Mine Ban Treaty, the newly adopted Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and provide an outlook on a possible victim assistance component for the upcoming instrument on cluster munitions.

III. Contributors/panelists:Chairman and/or moderator

Chairman: H.E. Don Mackay, Ambassador of New Zealand

Vice-chair: Markus Reiterer, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Austria

Other contributors (experts, panellists):

List to be completed

VI. Language

English

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: Fact-finding as a mean to better implement international humanitarian law – Current Issues

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 13.00 – 14.30, CICG, Room 15

I. Organizer

International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

This event will consist in a discussion on how to conduct fact-finding missions which are to ascertain facts which may constitute, or alleged to constitute, violations of international humanitarian law. General Satish Nambiar, in the light of his recent experience in the conflict between Israel and Lebanon, will give a talk which will be followed by questions and comments.

III. Contributors/panellists

Chairman and / or moderator: Prof. Michael BOTHE, President of the IHFFC and member of the German Red Cross

Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists): Lt Gen. Satish Nambiar (Retd)

IV. Languages

English, French

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: Red Cross/Red Crescent and Civil Society: Together for Peace Building

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 13.00 – 14.30, CICG, Room 18

I. Organizers

Jordan Red Crescent and McGill University/MMEP (McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

The side event will review the work of the McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building and its accomplishments in promoting a unique network of Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian and Canadian academic institutions and nongovernmental organizations to promote peace and advance civil society.

Notwithstanding the instability and conflict in the region, this unique network has not only held together over the past decade, but has steadfastly introduced new methods of social advocacy which promote peace and civil society. The program has established 9 communities based, academically linked and volunteer driven centers in the three countries which assist 100,000 people per year to access entitlements, create new organizations, and develop partnerships across borders to advance a regional rights based culture. The program will be reviewed and a film presented.

III. Contributors/panellists

Chairman and / or moderator: Prof. Jim Torczyner, McGill University

Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists):

Sami Al-Kilani, Director of the An-Najah Community Development Centre in Nablus

Mr Talal Qdah, Director of the Sweileh Community Development Center

Ms Barbara Epstein, Executive Director of Community Advocacy Israel

IV. Languages

English

30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: "Partnership for health: the role of civil society"

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 18.15 – 20.30, CICG, Room 18

I. Organizers

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

To be completed

III. Contributors/panellists

To be completed

IV. Languages

English, French, Spanish