

THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT

User's guide



ICRC



ICRC

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

USER'S GUIDE

Preface (by the President of the ICRC)	2
Using the teaching file	4
Teaching file authors and editors	10
Photo credits and copyright	12
Annex A Protective signs	14
Annex B United Nations Secretary-General's Bulletin:	16
Observance by United Nations Forces of International Humanitarian Law	
Annex C List of abbreviations	22

An updated list of States and the IHL treaties/conventions they have ratified is available on the ICRC's website www.icrc.org.

LESSONS 1-12

Lesson 1	Basic knowledge – an introduction to the law of armed conflict
Lesson 2	Integrating the law into military operations – basic terminology and definitions
Lesson 3	Conduct of operations – Part A – common features of the law applicable to all operations
Lesson 4	Conduct of operations – Part B – the law applicable to attack, defence, siege and manoeuvre phases of battle
Lesson 5	Weapons
Lesson 6	Command responsibility
Lesson 7	Logistics and rear areas
Lesson 8	Neutrality
Lesson 9	Belligerent occupation
Lesson 10	Non-international armed conflict
Lesson 11	Internal security operations – Part A
Lesson 12	Internal security operations – Part B

PREFACE

This teaching file for military instructors was commissioned by the Unit for Relations with Armed and Security Forces of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It is part of an ongoing programme involving regionally-based instructors available on request to armed and security forces throughout the world to assist them if and when required in their task of teaching and disseminating the law of armed conflict.

As a military instructor reading through this teaching file for the first time, you may wonder why a humanitarian organization such as the ICRC is concerned with this subject? A brief explanation is required.

The ICRC was born on the battlefield. Its role is to protect the victims of armed conflict, a mandate conferred on it by the international community. Under its mandate the ICRC is also the custodian of the Geneva Conventions, a set of treaties dealing with armed conflict that has been accepted by almost every United Nations Member State. As such, the ICRC has a duty to do whatever it can to ensure knowledge of and respect for **international humanitarian law** or, in terms more understandable to armed forces, **the law of armed conflict**.

The ICRC by no means shoulders this responsibility alone. **It is there to assist armed forces in understanding and spreading knowledge of the law, if and when required. It therefore has a supporting role, because the main responsibility for dissemination of the law clearly lies with the States themselves and with their armed forces.**

As far back as 1907, the Hague Convention No. IV stated: "the contracting Powers shall issue instructions to their armed land forces which shall be in conformity with the Regulations respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, annexed to the present Convention". The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 go slightly further. Each of the four Conventions stipulates that the States Parties have an obligation to "undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, and in particular, to include study thereof in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may be known to the entire population, in particular to the armed fighting forces, the medical personnel and the chaplains" (*Geneva Conventions, Articles 47, 48, 127 and 144, respectively*).

The requirement to disseminate the law was reinforced in 1977 by Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions. Similar provisions are to be found in the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property and its Second Protocol of 1999. The Conventional Weapons Convention of 1980 reinforces the requirement.

So there is no doubt that responsibility for instructing and training the armed forces in the law of armed conflict lies with the States and their respective commanders in chief. It is in peacetime that armed forces have the time to carry out this training. Good training and the setting of high standards and sound examples in peacetime have a good chance to be followed through in battle.

The ICRC is convinced of the law's continuing relevance in contemporary conflict situations. Its experience is that the law must be translated into terms and modes of communication that will reach both the hearts and minds of those to whom it is addressed in a credible and understandable way. This teaching file aspires to achieve exactly that. It has been written by professional retired military officers to assist serving professional instructors. They have tackled the difficult challenge of expressing the essence of the law in terms that the armed forces can understand with commendable success. I congratulate them and their advisers from the ICRC's Legal Division.

May I conclude by wishing you every success in the crucial task of teaching the law of armed conflict and remind you that in line with our mandate, we at the ICRC stand ready to assist and support you, whenever and wherever we can.

Jakob Kellenberger
President of the ICRC

USING THE TEACHING FILE FOR INSTRUCTORS

AIM

The ICRC plays a major role in assisting the armed forces to teach and spread knowledge of the law of armed conflict. The teaching file has been developed for exactly that purpose. It is a training aid, available to any armed or security force that wishes to make use of it.

The aim of the teaching file is therefore to assist instructors of the armed and security forces to teach the law of armed conflict.

GENERAL STYLE AND APPROACH

The file is written in a user-friendly style, avoiding legal jargon as much as possible. It was drafted by retired army, navy and air-force officers experienced in military operations and the humanitarian field, with the needs of serving officers in mind. It was edited by a number of legal experts who provided invaluable advice and ensured accuracy. Where inevitably legal phrases or words have to be used, they are explained in language understandable to the military. In line with two key principles on which the ICRC undertakes all its work, **the file strives throughout to take a neutral and impartial view of the law.** It is for the instructor and his or her students to relate the law to their own particular circumstances.

ADVICE FOR INSTRUCTORS ON USING THE TEACHING FILE

The following advice is offered to all instructors giving lessons on the law of armed conflict.

The target group

The file was designed to be used for the instruction of officers at military academies, staff colleges and training establishments. It can be used in such a wide range of settings because instructors are advised, within the file and later in this introduction, on what should be included for a particular level of military experience or rank and what can be omitted. The file can also be used for senior non-commissioned officers. It is not suitable for the instruction of soldiers. Officers should take what they have learnt from the file and produce their own lessons for soldiers under their command.

The teaching file and lessons in outline

The file comprises:

- a set of 12 lessons on the “land aspects” of the law of armed conflict. Sections covering the law applicable to sea and air warfare will be added in due course;
- a **video** holder to contain “Fighting by the rules” or other video tapes you would like to use in class. A variety of films is available to order from DC/COM/PMD at ICRC headquarters in Geneva;
- a **CD-ROM** containing coloured illustrations to accompany each lesson. This is a “Powerpoint” presentation which must be shown using a suitable computer and projector.

The lessons encompass all levels of armed conflict and internal security operations. Each lesson is roughly timed to last 45 minutes:

- Lesson 1. Basic knowledge – introduction to the law of armed conflict.
- Lesson 2. Integrating the law into military operations – basic terminology and definitions.
- Lesson 3. The conduct of operations: Part A – common features of the law applicable to all military operations.
- Lesson 4. The conduct of operations: Part B – action allowed in operations. The law applicable in attack, defence, siege and manoeuvre phases of battle.
- Lesson 5. Weapons.
- Lesson 6. Command responsibility.
- Lesson 7. Logistics and rear areas.
- Lesson 8. Neutrality.
- Lesson 9. Belligerent occupation.
- Lesson 10. Non-international armed conflicts.
- Lesson 11. Internal security operations: Part A – introduction to the law and standards that apply to internal security operations. The use of force.
- Lesson 12. Internal security operations: Part B – dealing with unlawful assemblies, arrest, detention and search.

United Nations military operations

The teaching file does not address these operations as such because the rules applicable are included in the lessons listed above. Since peace-keeping operations can easily escalate into peace-enforcement operations, armed forces deploying on United Nations operations would do well to have a full understanding of the law of armed conflict. In addition, the *Secretary-General's Bulletin on International Humanitarian Law*, which discusses the law's applicability to United Nations peacekeeping forces, is included for reference at the end of this guide (Annex B).

The "menu" approach – matching the lessons to the target group

The list of lessons is quite exhaustive, and by no means would every officer in the target group mentioned above require every lesson. Indeed, the time for such a comprehensive approach is hardly ever likely to be available. The instructor must use his or her judgement and, on the basis of the rank and experience of the audience members and their likely operational tasks, decide what they "**need to know**" as opposed to what would be "**nice to know**". Suggested programme "menus" for differing levels of military experience are given at the end of the introduction.

The structure and layout of each lesson

Each lesson follows the same pattern, given below.

- **The aim** is highlighted at the outset and accompanied by a CD-ROM illustration.
- **The illustrations and legal references** are indicated in the right-hand margin, as follows:
 - **a thumbnail picture in colour** depicts the suggested CD-ROM illustration to accompany that part of the text;
 - **the legal reference is spelled out** if you want to research further information or are asked for the reference by the class. You are strongly advised not to quote the reference every time. This is unnecessary and would be most off-putting to the class. The legal references are abbreviated. You will soon be able to identify them with ease. In case of difficulty, look up the list of abbreviations (Annex C).

- **The text** is written in the style of an oral presentation. Use it verbatim if you wish or change it to suit your own style of delivery. Key issues which need to be emphasized are highlighted in bold.

- **Instructor's notes**, containing additional ideas and advice to instructors, are signalled by a red and grey box like this.

- **Questions from the class.** After each lesson there is a reminder for the instructor to ask the class if they have any points or questions that require clarification.
- **The appendix to each lesson comprises a series of questions from the instructor to the class** (answers are also included). It is always a good idea to confirm knowledge by asking a few questions.
- **Case studies and examples are also included in the appendix of each lesson.** Use them to bring the lesson to life. Both the questions to the class and the case studies and examples can of course be supplemented with the instructor's own experience and knowledge.

It is important to note that the case studies and examples do not reflect the views or opinions of the ICRC, the authors or the editors, and that in some instances they actually represent violations of the law of armed conflict. They are nevertheless real examples which illustrate the law of armed conflict in action or failure to apply it. As such, they form a useful basis for class discussion. Examples from modern conflicts were used whenever possible. This has led to a slight but hopefully understandable imbalance in the geographical distribution of the examples.

Instructors are encouraged to use their own culturally specific or militarily relevant examples in the place of those offered in the file.

Giving a typical lesson

You have been asked to give a series of lessons on the law of armed conflict. How should you proceed? You could adopt the following approach.

- Consider how much time you have been given. This will tell you how many lessons you can include.
- Take into account the rank of the audience members and the operations they are involved in. Decide what subjects they need to know, based on the menu below.

- Give yourself time to read through each lesson in detail. Change the words to suit your own style if that's what you prefer.
- Rehearse each lesson using the computer and CD-ROM facility.
- Check your "fight it right" video (or other) to see what sections you might use to highlight key points in your lesson.
- If you feel that certain images or case studies are unsuitable for your audience, feel free to change them. For example, you can prepare your own questions and case studies from your own experience or that of your own armed forces or culture. Double check that they are accurate and reflect the correct law or point you are trying to make so that you do not confuse your audience.

To summarize, the key points to remember in actually giving your lesson are:

- relevance to the audience;
- using your own style and words if you wish;
- rehearsing beforehand.

Remember the old military saying based on the seven P's for all instructors:

- ✓ Prior
- ✓ Preparation &
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Prevents
- ✓ Pathetically
- ✓ Poor
- ✓ Performance!

Suggested menus for different audiences

The following training packages are suggested as ideas. Each can, of course, be adjusted to meet the particular needs of the audience.

For young officers at a military academy:

- Lesson 1 – Introduction to the law of armed conflict, less the annex
- Lesson 2 – Basic terminology and definitions
- Lessons 3 and 4 – Conduct of operations
- Lesson 5 – Weapons (outline only)
- Lesson 6 – Command responsibility

Total: 6 lessons/periods of 45 minutes each

For senior officers at a staff college:

Lessons 1-6

Lesson 7

Lesson 8

Lesson 9

Lesson 10

NB: Lessons 11-12 might also be appropriate if the officers are involved in internal security operations

Total: 10 lessons/periods (or 12)

For infantry battalion officers about to depart on a United Nations peacekeeping operation:

The assumption is that the officers have received no previous training in the law of armed conflict.

Lessons 1-6

Lesson 10

Lesson 11

Lesson 12

These lessons cover non-international armed conflicts and internal security operations. This gives the battalion all the law it needs to know and prepares it just in case, as so often happens, the peacekeeping operation turns into a peace-enforcement operation.

Total: 9 lessons/periods

We trust you will find the file useful. Remember, do not hesitate to contact your nearest ICRC delegation through your chain of command if you need any additional assistance. They would be only too pleased to help. Good luck and good teaching.

TEACHING FILE AUTHORS AND EDITORS

LAND SECTION – LESSONS 1-12

David Lloyd Roberts, MBE, is a retired British Army colonel. He graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1966 and joined the Parachute Regiment. His army career took him to a number of armed conflicts. He was decorated for gallantry in 1972 and was mentioned in dispatches for distinguished service in 1981. He attended the Staff College at Queenscliff, Australia in 1977.

On leaving the army he joined the ICRC in 1993 as its operational security adviser. His work in this field has taken him to Abkhazia, Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Burundi, the former Yugoslavia, Georgia, Israel, Rwanda, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Zaire.

Thereafter he has been a delegate to the Unit for Relations with Armed and Security Forces at the ICRC. Between 1995 and 1998 he was based in New Delhi with responsibilities for the dissemination of the law of armed conflict to the armed forces, paramilitary and police in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Recently he has been involved in conceptual studies and publications on the law of armed conflict at the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva.

He holds a Master of Laws degree (LLM) in International Human Rights Law from Essex University in the United Kingdom and is Fellow of the University's Human Rights Centre. He is a Freeman of the City of London.

The author has witnessed wide-ranging conflict situations from both the military and humanitarian point of view. The teaching file draws on these experiences in providing practical lessons for military instructors in the law applicable to the conduct of operations.

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We wish to acknowledge and thank the following who assisted us as editors in the production of the teaching file.

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CD of Powerpoint presentations

We were ably assisted in the production of the slides for the Powerpoint presentation files by **Thomas Pizer**. A longtime ICRC delegate, photographer and multimedia designer, he is now an executive designer with Flying Pixel LTD, a multimedia production company in Geneva.

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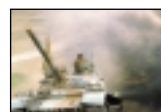
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Eric Bouvet
photographer



03-14

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PROTECTIVE SIGNS



The red cross.



The red crescent.



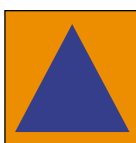
The red lion and sun (unused since 1980).

For specifications on how to use these signs see GC I, Arts. 38-44, GC II, Arts. 41-44, GC IV, Arts. 18, 20-22, GP I, Art. 18 and Annex I, GP II, Art. 12.



Hospital and safety zones and localities.

For specifications on how to mark these zones and localities see GC IV, Annex I.



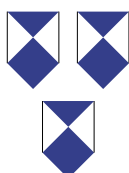
Civil defence.

For specifications on how to use this sign see GP I, Art. 66, Annex I.



Cultural property general protection.

For specifications on how to use the protective emblems see Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, Arts. 16 & 17.



Cultural property special protection.

For specifications on how to use the protective emblems see Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, Arts. 16 & 17.



Flag of truce.

For specifications on how to use this flag see 1907 Hague Regulations, Art. 32.



Works and installations containing dangerous forces.

For specifications on how to use this sign see GP I, Art. 56.

OBSERVANCE BY UNITED NATIONS FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

UNITED NATIONS, SECRETARY-GENERAL'S BULLETIN,
ST/SGB/1999/13, 6 AUGUST 1999

The Secretary-General, for the purpose of setting out fundamental principles and rules of international humanitarian law applicable to United Nations forces conducting operations under United Nations command and control, promulgates the following:

Section 1 – Field of application

1.1 The fundamental principles and rules of international humanitarian law set out in the present bulletin are applicable to United Nations forces when in situations of armed conflict they are actively engaged therein as combatants, to the extent and for the duration of their engagement. They are accordingly applicable in enforcement actions, or in peacekeeping operations when the use of force is permitted in self-defence.

1.2 The promulgation of this bulletin does not affect the protected status of members of peacekeeping operations under the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel or their status as non-combatants, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians under the international law of armed conflict.

Section 2 – Application of national law

The present provisions do not constitute an exhaustive list of principles and rules of international humanitarian law binding upon military personnel, and do not prejudice the application thereof, nor do they replace the national laws by which military personnel remain bound throughout the operation.

Section 3 – Status-of-forces agreement

In the status-of-forces agreement concluded between the United Nations and a State in whose territory a United Nations force is deployed, the United Nations undertakes to ensure that the force shall conduct its operations with full respect for the principles and rules of the general conventions applicable to the conduct of military personnel.

The United Nations also undertakes to ensure that members of the military personnel of the force are fully acquainted with the principles and rules of those international instruments. The obligation to respect the said principles and rules is applicable to United Nations forces even in the absence of a status-of-forces agreement.

Section 4 – Violations of international humanitarian law

In case of violations of international humanitarian law, members of the military personnel of a United Nations force are subject to prosecution in their national courts.

Section 5 – Protection of the civilian population

5.1 The United Nations force shall make a clear distinction at all times between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives. Military operations shall be directed only against combatants and military objectives. Attacks on civilians or civilian objects are prohibited.

5.2 Civilians shall enjoy the protection afforded by this section, unless and for such time as they take a direct part in hostilities.

5.3 The United Nations force shall take all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event to minimize, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians or damage to civilian property.

5.4 In its area of operation, the United Nations force shall avoid, to the extent feasible, locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas, and take all necessary precautions to protect the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects against the dangers resulting from military operations. Military installations and equipment of peacekeeping operations, as such, shall not be considered military objectives.

5.5 The United Nations force is prohibited from launching operations of a nature likely to strike military objectives and civilians in an indiscriminate manner, as well as operations that may be expected to cause incidental loss of life among the civilian population or damage to civilian objects that would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.

5.6 The United Nations force shall not engage in reprisals against civilians or civilian objects.

Section 6 – Means and methods of combat

6.1 The right of the United Nations force to choose methods and means of combat is not unlimited.

6.2 The United Nations force shall respect the rules prohibiting or restricting the use of certain weapons and methods of combat under the relevant instruments of international humanitarian law. These include, in particular, the prohibition on the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and biological methods of warfare; bullets which explode, expand or flatten easily in the human body; and certain explosive projectiles. The use of certain conventional weapons, such as non-detectable fragments, anti-personnel mines, booby traps and incendiary weapons, is prohibited.

6.3 The United Nations force is prohibited from employing methods of warfare which may cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering, or which are intended, or may be expected to cause, widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment.

6.4 The United Nations force is prohibited from using weapons or methods of combat of a nature to cause unnecessary suffering.

6.5 It is forbidden to order that there shall be no survivors.

6.6 The United Nations force is prohibited from attacking monuments of art, architecture or history, archaeological sites, works of art, places of worship and museums and libraries which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples. In its area of operation, the United Nations force shall not use such cultural property or their immediate surroundings for purposes which might expose them to destruction or damage. Theft, pillage, misappropriation and any act of vandalism directed against cultural property is strictly prohibited.

6.7 The United Nations force is prohibited from attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuff, crops, livestock and drinking-water installations and supplies.

6.8 The United Nations force shall not make installations containing dangerous forces, namely dams, dikes and nuclear electrical generating stations, the object of military operations if such operations may cause the release of dangerous forces and consequent severe losses among the civilian population.

6.9 The United Nations force shall not engage in reprisals against objects and installations protected under this section.

Section 7 – Treatment of civilians and persons hors de combat

7.1 Persons not, or no longer, taking part in military operations, including civilians, members of armed forces who have laid down their weapons and persons placed hors de combat by reason of sickness, wounds or detention, shall, in all circumstances, be treated humanely and without any adverse distinction based on race, sex, religious convictions or any other ground. They shall be accorded full respect for their person, honour and religious and other convictions.

7.2 The following acts against any of the persons mentioned in section 7.1 are prohibited at any time and in any place: violence to life or physical integrity; murder as well as cruel treatment such as torture, mutilation or any form of corporal punishment; collective punishment; reprisals; the taking of hostages; rape; enforced prostitution; any form of sexual assault and humiliation and degrading treatment; enslavement; and pillage.

7.3 Women shall be especially protected against any attack, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution or any other form of indecent assault.

7.4 Children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault.

Section 8 – Treatment of detained persons

The United Nations force shall treat with humanity and respect for their dignity detained members of the armed forces and other persons who no longer take part in military operations by reason of detention. Without prejudice to their legal status, they shall be treated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, as may be applicable to them *mutatis mutandis*. In particular:

(a) Their capture and detention shall be notified without delay to the party on which they depend and to the Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in particular in order to inform their families;

(b) They shall be held in secure and safe premises which provide all possible safeguards of hygiene and health, and shall not be detained in areas exposed to the dangers of the combat zone;

(c) They shall be entitled to receive food and clothing, hygiene and medical attention;

(d) They shall under no circumstances be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment;

(e) Women whose liberty has been restricted shall be held in quarters separate from men's quarters, and shall be under the immediate supervision of women;

(f) In cases where children who have not attained the age of sixteen years take a direct part in hostilities and are arrested, detained or interned by the United Nations force, they shall continue to benefit from special protection. In particular, they shall be held in quarters separate from the quarters of adults, except when accommodated with their families;

(g) ICRC's right to visit prisoners and detained persons shall be respected and guaranteed.

Section 9 – Protection of the wounded, the sick, and medical and relief personnel

9.1 Members of the armed forces and other persons in the power of the United Nations force who are wounded or sick shall be respected and protected in all circumstances. They shall be treated humanely and receive the medical care and attention required by their condition, without adverse distinction. Only urgent medical reasons will authorize priority in the order of treatment to be administered.

9.2 Whenever circumstances permit, a suspension of fire shall be arranged, or other local arrangements made, to permit the search for and identification of the wounded, the sick and the dead left on the battlefield and allow for their collection, removal, exchange and transport.

9.3 The United Nations force shall not attack medical establishments or mobile medical units. These shall at all times be respected and protected, unless they are used, outside their humanitarian functions, to attack or otherwise commit harmful acts against the United Nations force.

9.4 The United Nations force shall in all circumstances respect and protect medical personnel exclusively engaged in the search for, transport or treatment of the wounded or sick, as well as religious personnel.

9.5 The United Nations force shall respect and protect transports of wounded and sick or medical equipment in the same way as mobile medical units.

9.6 The United Nations force shall not engage in reprisals against the wounded, the sick or the personnel, establishments and equipment protected under this section.

9.7 The United Nations force shall in all circumstances respect the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems. These emblems may not be employed except to indicate or to protect medical units and medical establishments, personnel and material. Any misuse of the Red Cross or Red Crescent emblems is prohibited.

9.8 The United Nations force shall respect the right of the families to know about the fate of their sick, wounded and deceased relatives. To this end, the force shall facilitate the work of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency.

9.9 The United Nations force shall facilitate the work of relief operations which are humanitarian and impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction, and shall respect personnel, vehicles and premises involved in such operations.

Section 10 – Entry into force

The present bulletin shall enter into force on 12 August 1999.

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEACHING FILE

The following abbreviations listed in alphabetical order are used throughout the teaching file.

Art.

Article referring to a Convention or Treaty.

Basic Principles

Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. Adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990.

Beijing Rules

United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice. Adopted by General Assembly resolution 40/33 of 29 November 1985.

Body of Principles

Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment. Adopted by General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988.

CAT

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984. Entry into force 26 June 1987.

Convention on Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons 1972

Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Opened for Signature on 10 April 1972 at London, Moscow and Washington.

CIMIC

Civil Military Cooperation.

CCW

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. Adopted at Geneva, 10 October 1980.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. Adopted by General Assembly resolution 34/169 of 17 December 1979.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989.

Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV) of 20 November 1959.

GC I

The First Geneva Convention 1949. Convention (I) For The Amelioration Of The Condition Of The Wounded And Sick In Armed Forces In The Field. Signed at Geneva, 12 August 1949.

GC II

The Second Geneva Convention 1949. Convention (II) For The Amelioration Of The Condition Of Wounded, Sick, and Shipwrecked Members Of Armed Forces At Sea. Signed at Geneva, 12 August 1949.

GC III

The Third Geneva Convention 1949. Convention (III) Relative To The Treatment Of Prisoners Of War. Signed at Geneva, 12 August 1949.

GC IV

The Fourth Geneva Convention 1949. Convention (IV) Relative To The Protection Of Civilian Persons In Time Of War. Signed at Geneva, 12 August 1949.

GP I

Protocol Additional To The Geneva Conventions Of 12 August 1949, And Relating To The Protection Of Victims Of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I). Adopted at Geneva, 8 June 1977.

GP II

Protocol Additional To The Geneva Conventions Of 12 August 1949, And Relating To The Protection Of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). Adopted at Geneva, 8 June 1977.

Geneva Gas Protocol 1925

Protocol For The Prohibition Of The Use In War Of Asphyxiating, Poisonous Or Other Gases, And Of Bacteriological Methods Of Warfare. Signed at Geneva, 17 June 1925.

HC V

Neutrality. Convention (V) Respecting The Rights And Duties Of Neutral Powers And Persons In Case Of War On Land. Signed at The Hague, 18 October 1907.

HC XIII

Convention (XIII) Concerning The Rights And Duties Of Neutral Powers In Naval War. Signed at The Hague, 18 October 1907.

HCCP

Convention For The Protection Of Cultural Property In The Event Of Armed Conflict. Signed at The Hague, 14 May 1954.

HR

Human Rights.

HR II

Hague Convention (II) With Respect To The Laws And Customs Of War On Land. Signed at The Hague, 29 July 1899.

HR IV

Hague Convention (IV) Respecting The Laws And Customs Of War Land. Signed at The Hague, 18 October 1907.

ICC

International Criminal Court.

ICCPR

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966.

UN Convention on Chemical Weapons 1993

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, 13 January 1993.

IC

Internment Camp.

ICRC

International Committee of the Red Cross.

IHL

International humanitarian law.

LOAC

Law of armed conflict.

National Societies

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

NGO

Non-Governmental Organization.

OP

Observation Post.

P

Principle.

PG

Prisonnier de Guerre (to designate POW camp in French language).

POW

Prisoner of War.

PW

Prisoner Of War (to designate POW camp in English language).

ROE

Rules of Engagement.

Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty

United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty. Adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/113 of 14 December 1990.

SMR

Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Geneva in 1955, and approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolutions 663 C (XXIV) of 31 July 1957 and 2076 (LXII) of 13 May 1977.

SOPs

Standing Operating Procedures.

UN

United Nations.

UDHR

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

LAND

