

**OUR WORLD. VIEWS FROM THE FIELD.**

# **SUMMARY REPORT: AFGHANISTAN, COLOMBIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, GEORGIA, HAITI, LEBANON, LIBERIA AND THE PHILIPPINES**

**OPINION SURVEY, 2009**

**This document contains the second set of research results,  
released to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Geneva  
Conventions. Part 1 was released on 23 June 2009.**



**Our world is in a mess.  
It's time to make your move.**

**Ipsos**



**ICRC**

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International Committee of the Red Cross  
19, avenue de la Paix  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland  
**T** +41 22 734 60 01 **F** +41 22 733 20 57  
E-mail: [shop.gva@icrc.org](mailto:shop.gva@icrc.org) [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)  
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# **Executive Summary**

# Executive Summary

This research was undertaken in eight countries that are currently experiencing or have experienced armed conflict or other situations of armed violence. The aim was to develop a better understanding of people's needs and expectations, to gather views and opinions, and to give a voice to those who have been adversely affected by armed conflict and other situations of armed violence.

The eight country opinion surveys will be complemented by more in-depth research (qualitative survey).

This research has been commissioned by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) within the framework of the **Our world. Your move.** campaign. Launched in 2009, the campaign's goal is to draw public attention to the vulnerability and ongoing suffering of people around the world. The intention is to emphasise the importance of humanitarian action and to convince individuals that they have the ability to make a difference and reduce suffering.

2009 is an important year for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with three significant anniversaries (the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions).

In 1999, the ICRC undertook a similar survey entitled *People on War*, which serves as a basis for comparison and as a means of highlighting trends in opinions 10 years on.

## Most people say there should be 'limits' to behaviour in war

Some 75% of those surveyed across the eight countries feel there should be limits to what combatants are allowed to do in the course of fighting their enemies; just 10% say that there should be no such limits. The remainder are undecided.

All Colombians and 99% of respondents in the Philippines identify certain behaviour that should be 'off limits'. Percentages are somewhat lower in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (79%), Afghanistan (78%), Liberia (73%), Haiti (56%) and Lebanon (54%).

Through an open question the respondents provided unprompted answers. The actions most widely viewed as unacceptable are "the killing of civilians/children/the innocent", "specific types of violence/oppression, such as kidnapping, torture and stealing", "attacks on buildings/specific areas, including looting and attacks on civilian areas" – and "sexual violence", the latter is mentioned by 43% of respondents in the DRC.

## People believe civilians should be spared in armed conflict

Overall, 97% of those surveyed say that there should be a clear distinction between combatants and civilians when carrying out attacks in armed conflict. Most say civilians should always be left alone. This view is predominant in Colombia (88%), the Philippines (80%), and the DRC (75%).

The same question was asked in Colombia and Georgia in 1999. Today, more people in these countries want civilians always to be left alone. The figures rose from 72% to 88% in Colombia, and from 69% to 73% in Georgia.

In Afghanistan and Lebanon the trend has shifted. In 2009 more people say that civilians should be left alone only 'as much as possible' rather than "always to be left alone". In Afghanistan, the percentage of people holding this view has risen from 32% to 47%, and in Lebanon from 29% to 63%.

When looking at a range of possible scenarios which may affect civilians in armed conflict, respondents consistently favour the view that civilians must be spared. For example:

- Taking civilian hostages in order to get something in return. 88% of all respondents say this is not acceptable. This view is held by 100% of those surveyed in Colombia and the Philippines.
- Attacking enemy combatants in populated villages or towns, knowing many civilians would be killed. 88% of all respondents view this as 'not OK'. The practice is rejected by 99% of respondents in Colombia and by 100% of respondents in the Philippines. In Georgia, where 39% of those surveyed in 1999 felt that it was 'OK', just 12% now do so.
- Depriving civilians of food, medicine or water to weaken the enemy. Overall, 91% of respondents reject this behaviour, and as many as 97% in Liberia and Colombia do so. In Lebanon, opposition to this behaviour has risen from 69% (in 1999) to 94% (in 2009). In Afghanistan, acceptance of this practice has only marginally increased from 11% to 17%.
- Planting landmines, even though civilians may step on them. This is the most widely rejected practice affecting civilians. Almost all respondents (93%) deem it 'not OK', and the percentage is high in all countries. In Lebanon, the trend since 1999 shows a huge increase, with those saying this practice is 'OK' down from 27% to just 5%.
- Attacking religious and historical monuments. Almost everyone (96%) objects to this and the national figures are consistent across each of the 8 countries.

On the whole, across the eight countries, respondents are seen to favour the view that civilians must be spared. However where civilians voluntarily support the enemy they are seen by a significant minority as acceptable targets:

- Although 54% say it is 'not OK' to attack civilians who voluntarily transport ammunition for the enemy, 41% across the eight countries say it is 'OK'. Acceptance of this is highest in Liberia (75%), Lebanon (62% – up from 37% in 1999), Haiti (55%) and Afghanistan (45% – up from 31% in 1999). Only in the Philippines and Colombia is there overwhelming opposition to this idea, with 92% of respondents in the Philippines and 85% of respondents in Colombia saying it is 'not OK'.
- Although 63% say it is 'not OK' to attack civilians who voluntarily give food and shelter to the enemy, 31% across the eight countries say it is 'OK'. The highest figures in support are in Liberia (49%), Lebanon (46% – up from 22% in 1999), Haiti (47%) and Afghanistan (43% – up from 21% in 1999). The Philippines and Colombia stand out as particularly opposed to the idea of attacking civilians who voluntarily give food and shelter to the enemy (95% and 96% respectively).

## **People oppose attacks on health workers and ambulances**

Most people say that attacks on health workers (89%) and ambulances (87%) are never acceptable.

Virtually everyone (98% and over) holds this view in the Philippines, Lebanon and Colombia. However, in Afghanistan, 27% say there are sometimes reasons to attack health workers and 32% believe there are sometimes reasons to attack ambulances.

To minimise the risk of attack, respondents say that health workers and ambulances must:

- remain neutral/not take sides;
- clearly identify their role.

If these requirements are not met, some people, especially in Afghanistan, the DRC, Haiti and Liberia, view attacks as acceptable.

### **Support for health care in armed conflict is almost universal**

The question of whom health workers and ambulances should help is generally less of an issue for respondents. There is general consensus across the 8 countries that health workers must be protected even when they are treating wounded or sick enemy combatants, and especially when treating enemy civilians.

Virtually everyone (96%) accepts the principle that all wounded or sick during an armed conflict should have the right to health care. The principle is strongly endorsed in all countries (from 96% in Lebanon to 71% in Afghanistan). Similarly, most people (89%) want health workers to treat the wounded from all sides in armed conflicts. The level of support for this principle ranges from 96% in Colombia to 84% in Afghanistan.

### **The Geneva Conventions**

Overall, slightly less than half of the respondents (42%) have heard of the Geneva Conventions. More than half (56%) of those who have heard of them say the Geneva Conventions have an impact in 'limiting the suffering of civilians in war time'.

Awareness of the Geneva Conventions varies widely, from 69% in Lebanon down to 19% in the Philippines.

The clear majority in Liberia (65%) have heard of the Geneva Conventions. Liberians also have the most positive views of them, with 85% saying the Geneva Conventions have 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount' of impact.

In Afghanistan and among the resident population in Georgia, the Geneva Conventions are viewed favourably (70% and 67%, respectively).

With one exception (Lebanon), people in countries with direct experience of armed conflict tend to hold the most positive view of the Geneva Conventions.

# Introduction



# Introduction

## The Solferinos of Today

To raise awareness of the impact of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence on civilians, the ICRC decided to launch a vast research programme. This research focused on some of the most troubled places in the world – the Solferinos of today – which are either experiencing situations of armed conflict or armed violence or suffering their aftermath:

- Afghanistan
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Georgia
- Haiti
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- The Philippines

## Research

The ICRC commissioned Ipsos, a polling firm, to conduct quantitative (statistical) research surveys in all eight countries. A broadly representative sample of the adult general public was interviewed, either in person or by telephone, in each country. The specific sampling methods and any groups/areas excluded are described in the relevant country reports.

The aim of the questions – given in full together with overall results in the appendices – was to determine whether the respondents had personal experience of armed conflict or armed violence and, if so, the specific impact it had on them. Questions also explored respondents' views on what conduct is acceptable for combatants, the effectiveness of various groups and organizations in helping to reduce suffering during armed violence, the actions expected of the international community, awareness of the Geneva Conventions, and the role of health workers during armed conflict or armed violence.

The eight Ipsos national surveys were but one element of a broader research programme undertaken by and for the ICRC, which also involved:

- **Statistical research carried out (by Ipsos) on the basis of the results of the eight national surveys.** This has yielded powerful insight into the experiences and opinions of civilians in some of the most troubled places in the world. The work was co-ordinated by the Ipsos office in Geneva.
- **In-depth (qualitative) research.** This has enabled the ICRC to deepen its understanding of the values, motivations, fears and aspirations of those who have been direct victims of armed conflict or armed violence. The research was carried out through focus groups and one-to-one in-depth interviews moderated by ICRC staff. Those covered include people separated from other members of their families, displaced people, first respondents and others directly affected by armed conflict or armed violence.

In 1999, ICRC carried out broadly similar opinion research as part of its People on War project. The programme covered some of the countries being reported on in 2009. Several of the 1999 questions have therefore been revisited in order to provide trendlines. These are highlighted in the report where applicable.

## Background & Objectives

The year 2009 has great significance for the ICRC and the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ("the Movement"), as two major anniversaries in the history of humanitarian work will be celebrated:

- **The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino** (24 June 1859). Exactly 150 years ago, Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman, happened to witness the aftermath of one of the most brutal battles of the 19th century – at Solferino, in what is now northern Italy – and the carnage left on the battle field. The suffering he saw there prompted him to take the first steps towards the creation of the Movement. His book *A Memory of Solferino* led to the founding of the ICRC in 1863. In recognition of his work, Dunant was the joint first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1901.
- **The 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions** (12 August 1949). The four Geneva Conventions are the cornerstone of international humanitarian law. They protect, respectively, wounded and sick members of armed forces on the battlefield; wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea; prisoners of war; and civilians in time of war.

To mark these anniversaries, as well as the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Movement launched a campaign – **Our world. Your move.** – to remind everyone of their individual responsibility to relieve human suffering.

The campaign is based on the premise that **Our world** faces unprecedented challenges, from conflict and mass displacement to climate change and migration; it contends that **Your move** reminds us of our collective responsibility to make the world a better place. Like Henry Dunant, we can all make a difference, even through the simplest of gestures.

Throughout 2009, the ICRC will be undertaking various activities to mark both these historic milestones, by highlighting the ongoing plight of people – particularly those who are most vulnerable – caught up in armed conflict or armed violence around the world.

## Research Methodology

The grid below outlines the basic parameters of the research.

Country	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia
Sample Size	535	501	538	300 (+ 200 IDPs)
Age Range	18+	18+	18+	18+
Methodology	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person
Fieldwork (2009)	13-21 February	12 February – 06 March	12-19 March	16-24 February
Coverage	National	National	3 Major Cities *	National (Excluding Abkhazia / Shide Kartli)
Covered in 1999 ICRC 'People on War' study	YES	YES	-	YES (Georgia – Abkhazia)
Full Population	33m	45.5m	69m	4.6m
Population represented by 2009 study	15m	30.5m	4.6m	3.7m

Country	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
Sample Size	522	601	500	500
Age Range	18+	18+	18+	18+
Methodology	In-Person	Telephone	In-Person	In-Person
Fieldwork (2009)	15-23 February	10-25 March	22-28 February	3 March – 11 April
Coverage	3 Major Cities *	National	National	5 Non-Conflict Zones *
Covered in 1999 ICRC 'People on War' study	-	YES	-	YES
Full Population	9.0m	4.0m	3.5m	98m
Population represented by 2009 study	1.5m	2.0m	1.7m	10.5m

The work in each country was intended *as far as possible* (see below) to represent a broad cross-section of the general public – so that conclusions can be drawn about the experiences / opinions of the wider population.

In almost all cases, except Lebanon, interviews were carried out face-to-face / in-person between the interviewer and respondent. This is partly due to the limited communications infrastructure in some areas – but also to allow trust to develop between the two parties: an essential element in gaining the most valuable and candid views possible.

The coverage of those aged 18 and over in each country reflects standard practice that children *not* be interviewed (although undoubtedly they have experienced very great suffering alongside the adult populations). It should also be noted that in many of these countries, children and young adults make up a very large proportion of the population. A grid with the number of people that each survey represents is included above.

In four countries, the geographical coverage of the survey was restricted due to the political situation (in the Philippines) and the difficulty to reach people (Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti and Colombia – where mainly urban areas have been covered)

These are as follows:

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the survey covered three cities:

- Kinshasa (the capital)
- Lubumbashi
- Goma

Similarly in Haiti, three major cities were covered:

- Port-au-Prince, the capital
- Les Gonaives
- Cap-Haitien

In the Philippines only five areas were focused on where the current / recent armed conflict is having less effect\*:

- Metro Manila
- Paganisan
- Batangas
- Cebu
- Davao

\*(This coverage is different to that of the 1999 Philippines survey, and this should be borne in mind when comparing the results from the two projects).

Finally, in Georgia, two parallel surveys were conducted:

300 interviews were conducted with the resident population from a range of areas (excluding Abkhazia and South Ossetia). These are the people covered in this report.

200 further interviewees were conducted with internally displaced persons (IDPs), who fled from either Abkhazia or South Ossetia and who now reside in Georgia. No interviews were conducted in Abkhazia or Shida Kartli. Details on this group can be found in the individual Georgia report.

Each country's results have been 'weighted' to ensure that the sample profile in each matches as far as possible the equivalent population profiles. Typically, the profiles have been weighted by population distribution, age or gender.

Please see the Appendices for details of the 'sampling tolerances' (the statistical boundaries of reliability) that apply to this survey.

On the charts, a '\*\*' sign refers to a percentage of less than 0.5%, but greater than zero.

- **Report Structure**

It contains an Executive Summary, with a round-up of the main findings and then the main body of the report, covering each broad subject area in turn. Charts are used to back-up the accompanying text.

The Appendices contain the sample profile and 'marked up' questionnaire (ie the full questions, with overall results for each country added in – including the 1999 trend comparisons where applicable).

A range of country comparisons are made in this report, where particularly notable. However, these are not noted in *all* cases and for *all* questions, as this would make the report unwieldy. For the full country comparisons, please refer to the topline questionnaire in the Appendices.

Also, only *sometimes* are aggregate or average results reported for the eight countries as a whole. While the countries covered include a range of areas where armed conflict is a current problem, it is not exhaustive – and so an 'average' figure would not truly represent 'countries suffering armed conflict'.

However, some average figures are included to show how an individual country's results compare to the broader picture.

Where average figures are included, these are a simple average of the eight national results. They are not 'weighted' eg by sample or population numbers.

This report is accompanied by separate reports summarising the findings in each of the eight countries in more detail.

## The Countries in Context and the ICRC

### Afghanistan:

Afghanistan's recent as well as past history has been marked by frequent turmoil. Life in the country has been extremely hard, with the burden of warfare often amplified by periods of drought.

The last 30 years of war in Afghanistan can be divided into several distinct phases:

- The 1979 invasion of the country by the Soviet Union and the decade of war that followed until the Soviet departure in February 1989;
- Three years of armed conflict between the *mujaheddin* (resistance fighters) and the Soviet-supported communist government until its collapse in April 1992;
- Two years of civil war between Afghan factions;
- Five years of fighting between the Northern Coalition – an alliance of factions drawn mainly from Afghanistan's minority populations – and the Taliban, a conservative Sunnite Pashtun group, that draws its name from a Persian word meaning "seekers of the truth" (meaning, in Pashto, "students"). The Taliban forces seized power in Kabul in late September 1996 and were in control of much of Afghanistan until late 2001;
- The armed conflicts initiated in the wake of the attacks on the US on 11 September 2001. After the Taliban refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, accused by the US of masterminding the bombing of their embassies in Africa in 1998 and the attacks on the US mainland on 11 September 2001, the US military launched aerial attacks that paved the way for Afghan opposition groups to drive the Taliban from power. These events were followed by the Bonn Agreement, the setting up of a provisional administration, the presidential elections held in October 2004 and won by Hamid Karzai, the ratification of the Afghan Compact (a cooperation framework with the international community replacing the Bonn Agreement), and the official transfer of power to the elected Afghan government;
- The armed conflict pitting Afghan armed forces supported by international military forces against various Afghan armed factions in the country.

In 2009, the armed conflict in Afghanistan has been intensifying and affecting more areas of the country. Fighting between armed groups and national and international forces has taken place regularly in more than half of Afghanistan's territory. Even provinces not directly affected by the fighting have endured roadside bombs, targeted killings, suicide bombings and deliberate intimidation of civilians. While the south and the south-east remain the regions hardest hit by the conflict, the security situation has also deteriorated in the eastern and in particular the western provinces.

Military operations by international forces have involved aerial bombardments and night-raid operations in the south, west and east. In the north, which had remained calm in recent years, armed confrontations, rocket attacks, ambushes and explosions of roadside bombs increased sharply at the beginning of spring but calmed again at the end of April.

The daily lives of people living in areas where the fighting is taking place are being disrupted by air strikes, night raids, suicide attacks, the use of improvised explosive devices, and intimidation by the various parties to the conflict.

Rising food prices have aggravated the already chronic food insecurity faced by many Afghans. In addition, a drought is expected to affect the planting season.

Political and military developments in Pakistan have continued to destabilize the region

## The ICRC in Afghanistan

The ICRC has been assisting victims of the Afghan conflict since the 1979 Soviet invasion, initially through its delegation in Pakistan and then through a delegation opened in Afghanistan itself in 1987. It has carried out a broad range of humanitarian activities uninterrupted ever since.

The ICRC continues to respond to the needs of people adversely affected by the armed conflict, though security constraints still limit its operational range and hamper its humanitarian work in many areas. Its current operations focus on:

- Visiting detainees and submitting reports to the detaining authorities on conditions of detention and treatment. In particular, the ICRC has continued its visits to people held by Afghan and US authorities and by the NATO-led ISAF. Ongoing US and ISAF detention in Afghanistan and the transfer of internees from US and ISAF authority to Afghan custody have been the subject of dialogue with the detaining authorities. These talks have focused on detention conditions, the treatment of detainees and compliance with applicable legal provisions;
- Helping detainees to maintain contact with their families, for example through Red Cross messages and – for internees held in one US-run internment facility – video conferencing and face-to-face visits;
- Collecting allegations of violations of international humanitarian law concerning the conduct of hostilities and people not or no longer taking direct part in the hostilities, and reminding all parties (Afghan authorities, international military forces and armed opposition groups) of their obligations under international humanitarian law and, when necessary, making confidential representations to the parties concerned regarding specific cases of violations;
- Assisting the wounded and disabled. In particular, six ICRC physical rehabilitation centres provide services for the disabled all over the country, with emphasis placed on extending services to and improving accessibility from conflict-affected provinces through enhanced patient referral systems, often involving the Afghan Red Crescent Society;
- Supporting hospital care, with emphasis on responding to the needs of conflict casualties and developing, in cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent, a comprehensive approach to medical assistance, ranging from community-based first aid to surgical care; maintaining support for hospitals in several areas; and coordinating medical and physical rehabilitation programmes for conflict victims in the south and east with similar ICRC programmes in Pakistan's border areas;
- Improving water and sanitation services – for example, by completing urban water-supply projects which have been handed over to the authorities;

- Distributing emergency food and other aid to conflict-affected people;
- Promoting accession to and implementation of treaties of international humanitarian law, and compliance by military forces with that body of law;
- Meeting with representatives of local *shuras* in conflict-affected areas to discuss humanitarian issues;
- Strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent Society through support for first-aid and primary health-care programmes for weapon-wounded patients, and through support for their primary health-care centres in conflict-affected provinces.

In recent months, persistent insecurity and the high number of armed confrontations have continued to seriously impede the ICRC's movements in Afghanistan. Humanitarian aid workers have faced increasing threats to their security, particularly in the south and east, but also in the north, making it difficult for them to carry out their work. Much of southern and eastern Afghanistan, with the exception of the major cities, has remained off limits to ICRC staff, although they have had a greater degree of accessibility elsewhere. The ICRC has relied on an extensive network of Afghan Red Crescent Society volunteers to help the people worst affected by the conflict.

The parties to the armed conflict recognise the ICRC's role and mandate as an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organization thanks to the organization's long presence in Afghanistan and the pains it has taken to explain its work. They turn to the ICRC for support and assistance as a neutral intermediary in situations involving the release and handover of prisoners, or the collection, burial and/or repatriation of mortal remains after fighting.

## Colombia:

Colombia's conflict, still continuing after more than 47 years, has lasted longer than any other in modern times. The murder in Bogota in April 1948 of presidential candidate Jorge Eliécer Gaitán is generally viewed as the trigger that set off a huge outbreak of violence between Liberals and Conservatives which quickly spread from the capital to the rest of the country. These events influenced the non-international armed conflict in Colombia for many decades.

Guerrilla groups were formed in the 1950s and a state of virtual civil war broke out. Over 200,000 people lost their lives between 1948 and 1957. These groups have constituted the main armed opposition movement of the past 40 years.

The "Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia" (FARC), now the largest guerrilla organization in the country, was created in 1964.

Another major guerrilla organization is the "Ejército de Liberación Nacional" (ELN). Other armed opposition groups, like the "Ejército Popular de Liberación" (EPL), the "Organización Indígena Quintín Lame" and the "Movimiento 19 de Abril" (M-19) (formed between 1960 and 1970), were demobilised between 1991 and 1994. Paramilitary groups formed in the 1980s to counter these armed opposition groups quickly spread over a big part of the country. The paramilitary movements, the main objective of which is to fight the guerrillas, have been regrouped since April 1997 under the name of "Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia" (AUC).

On 21 June 1998, Andrés Pastrana of the Conservative party was elected president of Colombia. He based his electoral campaign on a platform of peace and reform. As president, he ceded an area in south-central Colombia to the FARC as a goodwill gesture.



On 20 May 2002, Álvaro Uribe Vélez, a right-wing candidate who promised to crack down on insurgents, won the presidential election. As a former member of the Liberal party who then went on to run as an independent, President Uribe declared a limited state of emergency, thereby broadening the government's authority in its campaign against the armed groups. In December 2002, the AUC declared a unilateral cease-fire and initiated talks with the government. Peace talks with the FARC ended in 2002 without success.

In 2004, talks with the AUC continued and a safe zone was established. In 2006, more than 31,000 members of AUC were disarmed, and the Constitutional Court approved a constitutional amendment authorizing a presidential re-election, thereby enabling President Uribe to seek – and win – a second term that year.

In what was seen as a rare show of unity, hundreds of thousands of Colombians staged nationwide protests against kidnapping and the civil conflict in July 2007, demanding the release of some 3,000 people still being held hostage by different groups. In 2008, a series of military successes against the FARC took place.

In recent times, many members of armed groups have turned themselves in. Some groups have been dissolved, but others have survived or re-emerged. Millions of Colombians have had to flee their land for fear of being killed or persecuted by one or more of the armed groups involved in the conflict. In several regions of Colombia, armed hostilities persist and show little sign of abating, offering little hope to the thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire. Violent acts against the Colombia population are committed against a background of over four decades of violent political conflict between armed opposition groups and the State.

The consequences of Colombia's conflict are severe. Thousands of people have disappeared, and Colombia now has one of the world's largest internally displaced populations – between three and four million people have been displaced since 1985. In addition to massive displacement, there are summary executions, disappearances, hostage-taking, forced recruitment of children and an increasing number of mine related injuries or deaths. People flee their homes following threats against or executions of family members, or because they fear their children will be coerced into joining the armed groups.

## The ICRC in Colombia

In Colombia, the ICRC has been at the forefront of efforts to provide emergency assistance, including food and household items, to people affected by the armed conflict. The ICRC has been present in Colombia since 1969, with its main objective being to ensure greater respect for international humanitarian law – particularly for provisions protecting persons not taking part in the conflict – by all armed groups. It also strives to provide emergency assistance to the displaced and other victims of the conflict and implements public health programmes and small-scale infrastructure renovation projects in conflict-affected areas. The ICRC provides victims with assistance and protection, reminds all parties of their obligation to respect and protect the civilian population, medical facilities and personnel and those *hors de combat* because they have laid down their arms or because they are wounded, sick or detained.

The inclusion of international humanitarian law in the training of the Colombian armed forces and of police taking part in military operations is another of the ICRC's priorities, along with efforts to strengthen the Colombian Red Cross's response capacity in conflict-affected areas.

In particular, the ICRC:

- visits places of detention to monitor detainees' treatment and conditions, especially with regard to health. It also seeks access to all prisoners held by armed groups;

- has assisted more than 1.1 million displaced people. The ICRC provides assistance during the first three months of displacement and up to six months for single-parent households. When mass displacements occur, the ICRC works hand-in-hand with the Colombian Red Cross to assess needs on the ground prior to organizing transportation and distribution of assistance. In addition, the ICRC seeks preventive measures to stem the flow of internal displacement by continuing its dialogue with both state and non-state actors to ensure greater respect for international humanitarian law;
- remains in constant contact with people affected by the armed conflict and collects allegations of possible violations of international humanitarian law. Where possible, the ICRC shares this information on a confidential basis with the alleged perpetrators – whether the armed and security forces or organized armed groups – reminding them of the rules of international humanitarian law, urging them to respect these rules and drawing their attention to the humanitarian consequences of the alleged acts;
- gathers reports of people who have disappeared in connection with the armed conflict;
- voices its concern for the safety of hostages held by organized armed groups, and talks to the parties to the conflict in order to secure the hostages' release. When hostages are freed, the ICRC provides logistical support to take them home;
- continues to facilitate the exchange of personal news between civilians in order to ease the suffering of those who have lost touch with their relatives;
- implements agricultural programmes designed to maintain or restore the means of survival of families affected by the armed conflict. In order to cover families' basic needs, the ICRC also distributes food parcels and essential household items such as hygiene articles, cooking utensils, plates, clothes, mattresses and/or hammocks, sheets, blankets and tarpaulins;
- has built, adapted and/or donated basic medical equipment and materials for Colombian health posts. These are now able to offer better medical care to communities in areas severely affected by the armed conflict. The ICRC has also accompanied health workers to different regions of the country, assisted victims of sexual violence and formed mobile health units which have carried out almost 4,000 medical consultations. It has also assisted victims of mine injuries and provided limb-fitting centres with training;

has made it a priority to include international humanitarian law in the training of the Colombian armed forces and of police taking part in military operations.

## **The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):**

The DRC (formerly Zaire) gained independence from Belgium in June 1960. General Mobutu, the chief of the army, came to power in a coup in 1965 and remained largely unchallenged throughout the 1970s and 1980s. In 1996, in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, Laurent Désiré Kabila, with strong support from Rwanda and Uganda, led a revolt. He entered Kinshasa and declared himself president in 1997. General Mobutu fled to Morocco, where he later died.

In 1998, a new rebel group was formed, again with the backing of Rwanda and Uganda, and a second conflict broke out. Some fellow members of the Southern African Development Community (Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia) and Chad intervened on the side of the Kabila government. A cease-fire was signed in Lusaka in August 1999 and the United Nations established a peacekeeping force (MONUC) to implement the Lusaka Accord. President

Kabila was assassinated in 2001, however. His son, Joseph, took over as head of state. An agreement was reached in 2003 between the belligerents and members of the political opposition on the formation of a transitional national government formally ending a war that had cost millions of lives either as a direct result of fighting or through disease and malnutrition.

The DRC is a vast country with immense economic resources. Fighting has been spurred by the country's mineral wealth and violence has been continuous in the eastern part of the country.

The prospect of a stable, secure and peaceful DRC was threatened by the limited success of reforms to the armed forces of the DRC and delays in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former fighters. The situation was particularly difficult in the provinces of North and South Kivu.

Joseph Kabila won the 2006 presidential elections. Following this important political step, there was hope for a better future for a country which had seen so many setbacks over the last decade.

Nevertheless, in the eastern part of the country, mainly in North and South Kivu, outbreaks of fighting between numerous armed groups and the DRC armed forces continued. The government called for a conference to resolve the problems in the Kivus, with the participation of most of the armed groups fighting in the region. The conference was held in Goma in early 2008.

However, the humanitarian and security situation continued to deteriorate in North Kivu and to a lesser extent in South Kivu and remained a cause for grave concern. Full-scale hostilities resumed in North Kivu in August 2008 between the DRC armed forces and the *Congrès national de la défense du peuple* (CNDP), with fighting escalating by the end of 2008. A ceasefire was concluded in 2009 and was followed by the signing of a peace agreement between the CNDP and the DRC.

In parallel, the governments of the DRC and Rwanda launched a joint military operation on 22 January 2009 against the *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) in North Kivu. Despite this month-long operation, clashes pitting the FDLR against the DRC army backed by MONUC increased in frequency following the official withdrawal of Rwandan troops. Clashes continue and are seriously affecting the civilian population in districts in the region.

The long and brutal conflict in the DRC has caused massive suffering for civilians, with estimates of millions dead either directly or indirectly as a result of the fighting.

There have been frequent reports of weapon bearers killing civilians, destroying property, committing widespread sexual violence, causing hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes or otherwise breaching humanitarian and human rights law.

## The ICRC in the DRC

The ICRC opened a permanent delegation in the DRC (then Zaire) in 1978. It promotes respect for the basic rules of international humanitarian law and human rights law by the authorities in their treatment of civilians and detainees. It sees to it that displaced people and residents adversely affected by armed conflict and other violence have the means to survive and look after themselves and that the wounded and sick receive adequate health care. It works to restore contact between separated family members – where necessary and possible, reuniting children with their families – and supports the development of the DRC Red Cross.

In particular, the ICRC:

- and the DRC Red Cross have launched extensive emergency relief operations in conflict-prone areas to assist people living near the fighting or in areas to which displaced people had fled. Although poor security can make it difficult to reach some affected people, the extensive network of DRC Red Cross staff and volunteers throughout the provinces has helped. Providing emergency aid such as food and essential household items, water supply, sanitation facilities and medical care has been a priority;
- and the DRC Red Cross have provided displaced people, residents and returnees with seed and tools, and have undertaken water and sanitation projects to help to revive farming activities and boost self-reliance;
- has addressed the physical, psychological and social needs of victims of sexual violence in specialized counselling centres throughout the country. Where necessary, patients have been referred to local health-care facilities to receive appropriate treatment;
- and the DRC Red Cross register unaccompanied children, endeavour to trace children and help reunite family members separated by the conflict. The children include those formerly associated with the armed forces and armed groups;
- regularly visits places of detention to monitor the condition and treatment of individuals detained in connection with the conflict;
- continues its dialogue with weapon bearers about numerous allegations of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law that it has received.

## Georgia:

Georgia's history can be traced back to ancient times, when it was known as Colchis, but today the country is best remembered as one of the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union. After the restoration of independence in April 1991, it was governed by the nationalist forces of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia during a brief period characterized by a society split between supporters and opponents of the government, economic stagnation and armed conflict in the northern province of South Ossetia. The regime was deposed in an armed conflict that brought to power a military council headed by Edvard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A ceasefire was achieved in South Ossetia; however, in 1992 another armed conflict, in the north-western province of Abkhazia, resulted in massive destruction, human casualties on both the Georgian and Abkhaz sides and the displacement of approximately 250,000 people of Georgian ethnicity from Abkhazia. In September 1993, Sukhumi was taken by Abkhaz forces, which subsequently pushed south towards the administrative border between the Soviet-era Abkhaz Autonomous Republic and Georgia. A ceasefire established in 1994 has since been overseen by a peacekeeping force from the Community of Independent States (CIS) made up of 1,500 Russian troops, with the limited United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) deployed within a 24-km "security zone". Fighting flared up again during the summer of 1998 in the security zone between Georgian and Abkhaz forces, causing further displacements of the civilian population. The situation in Abkhazia has since remained generally "calm and stable", although irregular fighters engage in periodic operations and crime remains widespread, particularly in the southern districts.

Within Georgia, the opposition was splintered by rivalries and so for years failed effectively to challenge the Shevardnadze regime. However, in November 2003, following flawed parliamentary elections, opposition forces united under Mikheil Saakashvili (of the National Movement) and Zurab Zhvania/Nino Burzhanadze (of the Democrats) and staged mass protests, which eventually resulted in Shevardnadze's resignation. The so-called Rose Revolution was followed by presidential elections in January 2004 (won by Saakashvili) and parliamentary elections in March, at which the opposition parties won a monopoly of seats in the National Parliament. The new government committed itself to the restoration of territorial integrity, radical reform and a pragmatic western-oriented foreign policy.

As for the frozen armed conflicts, both in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the peace process has not resulted in any tangible progress – the separatist territories continue to insist on their "independence" or, at least, an associative status within the Russian Federation, while the Georgian side stresses the need for a return of Georgian internally displaced persons (IDPs). Hostilities (including criminality) and diplomatic tension periodically flare. Following a period of serious tensions in early May in Adjara, the region returned to central control. In the wake of this crisis, the Georgian authorities turned their attention to addressing the South Ossetian problem. During 2004, this resulted in rising tensions between Tbilisi and the *de facto* authorities in Tskhinvali (the South Ossetian capital), including several minor clashes.

On 7 August 2008, a major military offensive began in South Ossetia. An offensive by Russian Federation armed forces began in South Ossetia and further into Georgia and led to the outbreak of a full-scale international armed conflict. The Russian Federation emerged as the clear victor and the Georgian armed forces were forced to withdraw from South Ossetia and subsequently from several parts of Georgia proper. Negotiations led by France, with substantial input on the Georgian side from the United States, resulted in the signing of a ceasefire agreement on 15-16 August that provides for the withdrawal of Russian troops to their pre-conflict positions and allows Russian peacekeeping forces in South Ossetia to adopt "additional measures of security". The Georgian armed forces have regained control over most (but not all) of the areas from which they had previously withdrawn. Both Georgia and the international community reacted strongly to the Russian Federation's recognition of the independence of both South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and the exact fall-out of this development remains to be seen. Active hostilities have nevertheless ended. Nine months after the end of the fighting, the humanitarian situation for most of those affected has improved, even though chronic problems that predate the latest conflict remain. While the overall situation is calm, tensions persist in villages close to the demarcation line. People displaced by conflict and those living in remote rural areas, already vulnerable before August 2008, remain the most at risk. In Western/Central Georgia, most of the IDPs who fled the hostilities in August have been able to return to their places of origin. Many displaced people from South Ossetia have left collective centres for new settlements built by the authorities in Central Georgia. In the past few months, numerous humanitarian organizations have carried out a wide range of programmes that have had a positive impact on the victims of the August conflict.

The United States' growing economic and political influence in the country has long been a source of concern for the Russian Federation, as have Georgia's aspirations to join NATO and the European Union.

## The ICRC in Georgia

The ICRC has been present in Georgia since 1992. It visits detainees throughout Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and supports the endeavours of the authorities in bringing tuberculosis in prisons under control. It contributes to efforts to provide answers to

families of missing persons and protects and assists displaced people and other vulnerable groups in conflict-affected regions. The ICRC also promotes the integration of IHL into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. In cooperation with Movement partners, the ICRC helps to strengthen the capacities of the National Society.

Following its emergency response of August 2008 during the conflict between Georgia and Russia, the ICRC focused on the needs of the most vulnerable population during winter. The organization is now consolidating its various assistance programmes based on longer-term needs assessments. The overall objective of the ICRC operation is to enable people living in conflict-affected areas to sustain themselves over the short-term and regain their pre-conflict levels of economic security. While many humanitarian organizations currently operate in Central and Western Georgia, the ICRC remains the only international humanitarian organization active in South Ossetia.

Restoring contact between family members remains a priority for the ICRC in the region. In its role as neutral intermediary, the ICRC has helped to reunite families in Tskhinvali, Gori and Tbilisi. These reunifications take place with the full support of all parties. The ICRC offers family members separated by the conflict the possibility to exchange news through Red Cross messages.

The ICRC has distributed food and non-food items to persons in rural areas of South Ossetia to cover the winter period and also distributed clothes and shoes to orphans, displaced people and the elderly in South Ossetia. The ICRC has rehabilitated water and sanitation facilities in schools, hospitals and other Tskhinvali public buildings. It provided cement, stoves, window glass, timber and roofing material to local authorities and individuals. In an effort to improve the living conditions of persons living in Tskhinvali collective centres, the ICRC is helping rehabilitate the city's power and water networks and its garbage disposal system.

In Western/Central Georgia, the ICRC rehabilitated collective centres housing people displaced recently and during the 1992-93 conflict. The organization also continued to support ambulatories, notably in Rukhi, Shamgona and Zugdidi districts. Through its emergency shelter programme, the ICRC provided temporary repairs for the homes of over 8,500 people.

ICRC medical teams have also conducted medical consultations in areas where normal healthcare services had been suspended. Once the local health structures reopened, the ICRC supported them by carrying out light repair work and distributing medical equipment and medicines. In South Ossetia, the ICRC is still organising and facilitating medical evacuations in cases of emergency.

The ICRC regularly visits places of detention to monitor the living conditions and treatment of detainees, particularly those held in connection with the recent conflict. From the onset of the hostilities, the ICRC in Tskhinvali has taken steps to ensure that it can visit all persons detained in relation to the conflict. The objective of ICRC detention visits is to assess the treatment of detainees and their conditions of detention and to assure that the detainees have established contact with their family members via the system of Red Cross messages.

People seeking missing relatives continue to contact the ICRC. The ICRC follows up each individual case of a person who went missing during the conflict and its aftermath with the relevant authorities and on a confidential basis. The organisation follows whether the economic, legal and psychosocial needs of the families of the missing have been taken into account by the authorities. In addition, an ICRC forensic expert in Tbilisi offers technical support to the authorities with the aim of strengthening their capacities in the handling of mortal remains.

Mines and unexploded ordnances continue to pose a risk for civilians. To minimize this risk, the ICRC raises the awareness of the population about the danger posed by explosive remnants of war.

The organization regularly informs members of the armed forces and other weapon bearers about international humanitarian law and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

The ICRC works closely with the Georgian Red Cross whenever it distributes assistance.

## Haiti:

Haiti is the world's oldest black republic and the second-oldest republic in the Western Hemisphere, after the United States. It is the only country in the world to have gained its independence following a successful slave rebellion. However, Haiti achieved notoriety during the brutal dictatorships of the physician, François Duvalier, "Papa Doc", and his son, Jean-Claude, or "Baby Doc". From February 1986 – when the 29-year-old rule of the Duvalier family ended – until 1991, tens of thousands of people were killed. In 1987 a constitution was ratified that provides for an elected government. The election in December 1990 of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a former priest, was overthrown by the military in September 1991. Economic sanctions and US-led military intervention forced a return to constitutional government in 1994, but Haiti was plagued by extra-judicial killings, torture and brutality. In 2004, President Aristide (re-elected in November 2000) was forced out of the country. Since then, an elected leadership took over in May 2006 from an interim government (2004-2006) and a UN stabilisation force has been deployed.

During the period leading up to the departure of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004, and for several weeks after, Haiti experienced a general breakdown of law and order. The vast majority of prisons were emptied of their occupants, burned and ransacked, leading to a near collapse of the penal system. The situation in Haiti remained very unstable throughout the year, with localized sporadic outbreaks of violence.

Various armed groups, including members of the former armed forces, had yet to be disarmed by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Supporters of the ousted President were accused of being the instigators of the so-called "Operation Baghdad" in the poorer neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince on the one-year anniversary of President Aristide's first removal from power in 1991. In September 2004, violence flared in the capital and its poorer neighbourhoods. Supporters of President Aristide were accused of being the instigators. Violent confrontations with the police left more than 200 people dead, including 20 policemen.

In recent years, Haitians have continued to endure dire poverty, major economic disparities, insecurity, violence, and environmental degradation that is steadily driving the rural population into urban slums. Access to basic necessities, such as health care, clean water, sanitation and electricity, is largely lacking. The population's already precarious economic and social situation has been made even worse by soaring food and fuel prices. In April 2008, riots broke out in many parts of the country, especially in Les Cayes and Port-au-Prince. Protesters vented their anger at the government and MINUSTAH. Four people were reportedly killed and hundreds injured during the violent demonstrations. In the wake of the riots, the Senate voted to remove the prime minister, Jacques-Edouard Alexis, from his post. A replacement was not found until early September, when Michèle Pierre-Louis took office.

Haiti is also subject to regular tropical storms and severe flooding. A state of emergency, followed by three days of national mourning, was declared after a spate of cyclones and tropical storms devastated the country between August and September 2008. Hundreds of people reportedly died, others were injured and many lost their already precarious livelihoods as agriculture was damaged.

### The ICRC in Haiti

The ICRC has been working in Haiti without interruption since 1994. In early 2004, when internal strife threatened to degenerate into armed conflict, it expanded its operations.

In violence-prone shantytowns the ICRC improves water and sanitation services and ensures that people wounded as a result of violence have access to medical services. In addition to emergency response, assistance activities involve support to local water boards, to communities in shantytowns and to health facilities, including the first aid posts and evacuation service run by the Haitian National Red Cross Society (hereafter Haitian Red Cross) in areas such as Cité Soleil and Martissant.

In civilian prisons and police stations the ICRC visits people deprived of their freedom. Detainees in Haitian prisons face many difficulties, especially severe overcrowding. The ICRC visits prisons countrywide and works with the authorities and other organizations to bring about urgently needed improvements in prison infrastructure, health care and sanitation, and to make sure detainees' rights are upheld during arrest and detention.

Among weapon bearers – including gang leaders in the most violent neighbourhoods – the ICRC promotes basic humanitarian principles such as the obligation to spare medical facilities, first-aid workers and others taking no part in violence.

Boosting the capacity of the Haitian Red Cross, especially in the areas of management, emergency-response preparedness of first-aid workers and dissemination of humanitarian principles, is one of the main activities of the ICRC in the country.

The ICRC is also renewing its efforts to address the issue of persons unaccounted for in connection with political violence and/or natural disaster.

The ICRC will continue to increase its involvement in training police recruits and instructors in international human rights law applicable to law enforcement. Briefings for MINUSTAH troops on international humanitarian law, humanitarian principles and the Movement will also continue.

### Lebanon:

Lebanon has suffered from years of war and is one of the most complex countries in the Middle East region. In the last three decades, long-lasting and destructive armed conflicts – notably the outbreak of civil war in 1975, the Israeli invasion of 1982, the July 2006 war, the 2007 Nahr el Bared conflict and the armed violence that occurred last May 2008 – have shaken the country.

The civil war that began in 1975 and ended in 1991 resulted in more than 100,000 deaths, hundred of thousands people left wounded or handicapped, and thousands of disappearances.



The violent and diverse character of warfare in Lebanon has reflected the wide range of combatants, which has included regular armies, guerrilla forces and militias. Tactics have included air bombardment, tank battles, block-by-block urban assault, truck bombings and a constant series of assassinations. In addition, a large number of people have been taken hostage by various factions; some have been released, but the fate of thousands of others remains unknown.

The assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri led to huge rallies in Beirut, triggering the government's downfall and Syria's military pullout in 2005.

2006 saw a resurgence of hostilities between Hezbollah and the state of Israel, with a 34-day military offensive and a blockade. Around 1,200 Lebanese, most of them civilians, were killed, more than 3,000 were wounded, and damage to civilian infrastructure was extensive. Since the fighting ended, cluster bombs have killed more than 20 and wounded around 200 people. International peacekeepers were drafted in to help police a UN-brokered ceasefire.

Less than a year later, another conflict erupted in the north of the country, close to the town of Tripoli. Fighting took place in the Palestinian camp of Nahr el Bared, where the Lebanese Army fought an Islamist group named Fatah el Islam. Around 400 people died (including more than 160 soldiers), around 500 were wounded, more than 30,000 were displaced and the camp suffered extensive damage as a result of the three months of fighting.

The Lebanese, gripped by the political tensions paralysing the country, again suffered in May 2008 when armed violence erupted in several parts of the country.

## The ICRC in Lebanon

The ICRC has been present in Lebanon since 1967 providing assistance and protection to civilians affected by armed conflict, in close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross Society and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Over the last 42 years, the ICRC has assisted families separated by war, prisoners and internally displaced people, and it has served as a neutral intermediary in exchanges of combatants and mortal remains. In addition, it has reminded the various parties involved in the conflict of their obligations under international humanitarian law. Likewise, the ICRC has actively disseminated international humanitarian law among armed groups and civil society.

Today in Lebanon, the ICRC focuses on visiting detainees, restoring family links and helping preserve or restore acceptable living conditions for civilians, the sick and the wounded. The ICRC seeks to provide protection by ensuring respect for international humanitarian law. It endeavours to minimize the dangers to which people are exposed, to prevent or put a stop to violations committed against them, and to make their voices heard.

Since February 2007, the ICRC has been authorized by the Lebanese authorities to visit detainees in the country in order to monitor their living conditions, the manner in which they are treated and respect for their basic rights.

Efforts to restore contact between family members have focussed on:

- enabling people in Lebanon to maintain contact with family members in Israel or the occupied Palestinian territories through Red Cross messages;
- repatriating Lebanese nationals released from prison in Israel, or living in that country, but who wish to return home;

- supporting Lebanese or Palestinian families who want to repatriate the remains of relatives who died in Israel;
- offering technical support to the Lebanese authorities in resolving the issue of people missing in connection with the civil war and its aftermath; extending support to committees of families of the missing.

The ICRC pays particular attention to people who determine the fate of victims of armed conflict or who can facilitate ICRC action, such as: the armed forces, security and police forces, other weapon bearers; decision-makers and opinion leaders at the local and international levels; and the youth, students and their teachers. The Lebanese armed and internal security forces regularly attend sessions on international humanitarian law.

The ICRC also focuses on health, economic security and water and sanitation programmes. It seeks to preserve or restore acceptable living conditions for civilians and assist sick and wounded military and civilians. The ICRC supports hospitals run by the Palestine Red Crescent by providing them with training, teaching materials, medical materials and hospital equipment; organizes seminars on war surgery for surgeons working in Lebanese and Palestinian hospitals; maintains a supply of medical and surgical stocks to enable hospitals and emergency medical services to treat future war wounded. In addition, the ICRC supports the local water authorities in upgrading water-supply facilities that are run down or damaged as a result of conflict. It also runs projects to improve water supply to vulnerable populations in Lebanon, concentrating on marginalized areas in the south, north and the Bekaa valley.

The ICRC provides extensive support to the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Societies. The goal is to improve their emergency response and organizational capacity, and to meet the needs of affected populations more effectively and in particular to help emergency medical services to strengthen response capacity.

## Liberia:

Liberia was founded by freed slaves from America and the Caribbean, called Americo-Liberians, in 1820, and thus became the first African republic. Liberia is mostly made up of indigenous Africans, with the slaves' descendants comprising around 5% of the population.

The West African nation was relatively calm until the late 1980s, when arbitrary rule and economic collapse culminated in armed conflict. In April 1980, Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, from the Krahn ethnic group, staged a military coup and seized power. Doe's rule was challenged in December 1989 by President Charles Taylor, plunging the country into an armed conflict that would later be known as one of Africa's bloodiest, claiming the lives of more than 200,000 people and further displacing a million others into refugee camps in neighbouring countries. Fighting intensified as rebel groups splintered and battled each other, the Liberian army and West African peacekeepers. In 1995 a peace agreement was signed, leading to the election of Mr Taylor as president. Anti-government fighting broke out in the north of the country in 1999. Under intense US and international pressure President Taylor stepped down in 2003 and went into exile in Nigeria. This move paved the way for the deployment by ECOWAS of what became a 3,600-strong peacekeeping mission in Liberia (ECOMIL). Leaders from the Liberian government, the rebels, political parties, and civil society signed a comprehensive peace agreement that laid the framework for a National Transitional Government of Liberia. In September 2003, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1509 establishing a peacekeeping operation under Chapter VII authority (UN Mission in Liberia, UNMIL). In November 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected the first female president of Liberia and in Africa. She took office on 16 January 2006, ending two years of transitional government. The conflict left the country in economic ruin and teeming with weapons.

Today's Liberia has not been spared by the worldwide increases in prices of basic commodities. These have jeopardized the positive effects of debt relief and poverty reduction measures.

The country still depends heavily on international support to overcome economic problems and the legacy of its violent past. UNMIL's 12,000 civilian and military personnel provide security. The potential for unrest remains, given rampant unemployment and the slow pace of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former fighters. Violent disputes over land ownership are also on the rise. The humanitarian landscape is changing as aid organizations and NGOs leave or cut back their activities and development agencies move in. Despite progress towards recovery, much remains to be done to improve the population's still limited access to basic services.

## The ICRC in Liberia

The ICRC has worked in Liberia since 1970. It opened its operational delegation in Monrovia in 1990.

Since the onset of the first war in 1990, the ICRC has adopted a public health approach to the situation. To help avert epidemics in the besieged city of Monrovia, it has had engineers and medical personnel work hand in hand to restore infrastructure, such as the urban water supply and electricity, and support the health system. During the last war of 2003, ICRC surgical teams treated the war wounded at JFK Hospital, where the organization also provided medications and specialized medical equipment.

The ICRC has endeavoured to carry out extensive health care and water and sanitation programmes in Liberia combined with shelter and income projects to provide people with better access to health facilities and clean water.

In 1991, the ICRC's first tracing activities were conducted in Liberia. The ICRC arranged family reunifications and distributed Red Cross messages enabling family members to stay in touch with each other. Hundreds of Liberian Red Cross volunteers collected and distributed messages between people displaced within Liberia and between Liberian refugees in Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

The ICRC has also carried out regular visits to people detained in Liberia in connection with the civil war with the aim of monitoring and improving their treatment and conditions of detention.

The year 2009 is a turning point for the ICRC in post-conflict Liberia, as it switches its focus from protection and assistance to activities promoting the inclusion of international humanitarian law and human rights law in the training programmes of the newly established Liberian armed, police and security forces. The ICRC will also work with the authorities to enhance their understanding and acceptance of international humanitarian law and to press for its national implementation. Priority will also be given to helping the Liberia National Red Cross Society fulfil its responsibilities in the changing context and strengthening the image of the Red Cross in the country.

Over the course of 2009 the ICRC will phase out its assistance projects involving health care, water and sanitation, economic security and shelter in areas where large numbers of returnees now reside. Priority will be given to helping communities and authorities to assume their responsibility for basic services and to sustain community facilities constructed or repaired by the ICRC. ICRC projects have given a major boost to the resumption of staple food production and to efforts to help returnees and residents restore their livelihoods.

The ICRC provides support for the Liberia National Red Cross Society and promotes international humanitarian law among the armed forces present in Liberia.

## The Philippines:

For more than 20 years, the Philippines has been the site of localized armed conflicts, which have affected some areas of the country while leaving most of its territory almost untouched. On the southern island of Mindanao, Muslim groups have battled to establish an independent Islamic government. In other parts of the country the conflict is between the communist guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) and government security forces.

During the presidency of President Ferdinand Marcos (elected in 1965), localized conflicts in the Philippines flared up against a background of economic inequality and corruption. The concerns of Filipino Muslims (Moros) about Christian settlers occupying their land spurred the formation of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in 1968, which launched a rebellion that at its height brought two thirds of the Filipino army to Mindanao. Unable to quell the MNLF, President Marcos was forced to grant a degree of autonomy to the region in 1977 and invite Muslim leaders to occupy positions of authority in the regional government. Later, splits among Muslim nationalists led to the formation of dissident groups, who continue to demand full independence for the region.

In the 1970s, the country became increasingly destabilized by violence and corruption, and there was an escalation of the armed struggle by communist forces. The NPA – the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines – was formed and established a base on the island of Mindanao. In February 2004 a peace process was revived, with representatives of the NPA meeting government officials in the Norwegian capital Oslo. The two sides agreed a series of measures to move towards a formal peace deal. In 1986, a popular uprising resulted in the overthrow of the Marcos regime and the democratic election of Corazon Aquino as President. Government-initiated talks with the NPA in 1995 led to a preliminary peace agreement.

In the south, several peace agreements were also signed in Mindanao, but these failed to stick and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the long-term aim of which is to create a separate Islamic state in the southern Philippines, continues to press for independence.

Abu Sayyaf is the smallest of the Islamic separatist groups in the southern Philippines and has claimed responsibility for a series of bomb attacks. Abu Sayyaf's stated goal is an independent Islamic state in Mindanao and the Sulu islands, but the government refuses to hold any talks with them.

Armed conflicts have thus claimed thousands of lives over an extended period. Despite a 2004 ceasefire, violence erupted in August 2008 between Philippine government forces and the MILF, forcing over 600,000 civilians to flee their homes.

## The ICRC in the Philippines

The ICRC has been working in the Philippines since 1982. It assists and protects civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern island of Mindanao. It serves as a neutral intermediary between opposing forces in humanitarian matters, visits security detainees and works with the Philippine National Red Cross, through its network of regional chapters and local branches, to assist displaced people and promote compliance with international humanitarian law.

The ICRC monitors the treatment and conditions of detention of people detained in connection with armed conflict and violence in the Philippines. It visits detention facilities under the authority of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), the provincial authorities and the security forces. While taking care not to take over the authorities' responsibility to provide suitable conditions of detention for detainees, the ICRC carries out small-scale assistance and renovation projects in order to address the most urgent needs observed in places of detention. These projects involve improving water and sanitation facilities, exploring the use of renewable energy, monitoring detainee health, providing training for prison staff on how to deal with health issues, and distributing hygiene articles and recreational items.

To address the needs of the victims of armed conflict, the ICRC monitors the situation of civilians in conflict-affected areas and, where necessary, makes oral and written representations to the parties to the conflict to remind them of their obligation under international humanitarian law to protect civilians. In cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross, the ICRC provides food and essential household items for conflict victims and access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for displaced people and the resident population. In addition, it covers the medical costs of people wounded in conflict-related incidents, distributes supplies to hospitals, and provides specialized training in surgery for civilian and military medical professionals.

The ICRC maintains a confidential dialogue with the parties to the armed conflict about the way they conduct hostilities as part of a long-term strategy to prevent violations of international humanitarian law. The ICRC organizes sessions and workshops for members of the security forces and the various rebel groups to inform them of its mandate and activities and of their obligations under international humanitarian law.

The Philippine National Red Cross's extensive network and its intimate knowledge of local conditions are essential to the planning and conduct of ICRC operations. The ICRC supports the efforts of the Philippine Red Cross to expand operations in conflict-prone areas, monitors the humanitarian situation there, provides aid and takes other action as needed. The ICRC provides financial assistance and expertise in support of Philippine Red Cross training programmes and other humanitarian activities.

# **Part 2- Behaviour During Armed Conflict**

## Part 2 - Behaviour During Armed Conflict

### Limits to Behaviour

**Those interviewed in this survey have wide experience of armed conflict. They are therefore well placed to judge where limits to behaviour by those fighting should be set.**

**Three quarters of them (75%) specify certain actions that should be forbidden during armed conflict. Just 10% say that there should be no limits. The remainder are undecided.**

Respondents were asked their opinion about whether there is anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy.

All respondents (100%) in Colombia identify some action/s that should not be carried out, and 99% do so in the Philippines. Around three quarters do so in the DRC (79%), Afghanistan (78%) and Liberia (73%). The figures are lower in Haiti (56%) and Lebanon (54%).

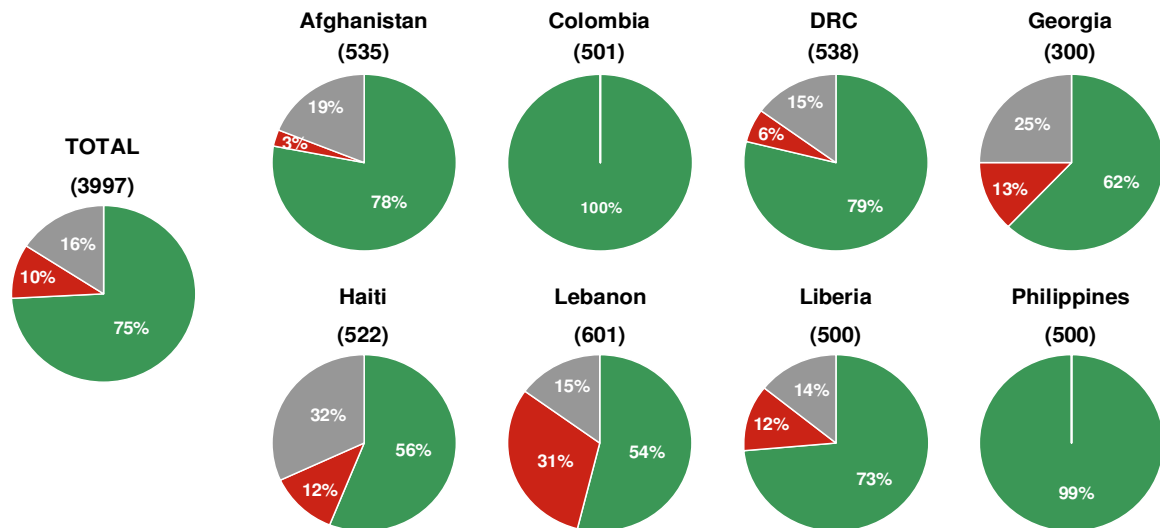
Through unprompted answers to an open question, the respondents listed certain behaviour viewed as unacceptable, namely "the killing of civilians/children/the innocent", "specific types of violence/oppression, such as kidnapping, torture and stealing", "attacks on buildings/specific areas, including looting and attacks on civilian areas" and "sexual violence" (mentioned by 43% of respondents in the DRC).

## Limits to behaviour

Q12. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy?

■ Yes – There are things combatants should not be allowed to do  
■ No – There is nothing combatants should not be allowed to do

■ Don't know/ Refused



Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Base: All respondents

## Threats to Civilians

To prevent unnecessary suffering among civilians, international humanitarian law (IHL) prohibits methods and means of warfare that fail to distinguish between those taking part in the fighting and those, such as civilians, who are not. It requires that combatants take every possible precaution to avoid or minimize incidental loss of life and injury to civilians, and damage to civilian property.

Respondents in the survey showed that there is generally widespread support for the principles outlined in IHL.

People were asked if it is acceptable for combatants to target civilians in order to weaken the enemy.

An impressive 97% say that there should be a distinction between combatants and civilians in times of armed conflict.

Respondents were offered two possible scenarios: that civilians should be 'left alone' or that they should be avoided 'as much as possible'. 66% agree that civilians should be 'left alone' and 31% feel civilians should be avoided 'as much as possible'.

The view that civilians should always be spared is most evident in Colombia (88%), the Philippines (80%), the DRC (75%) and Georgia (73%).

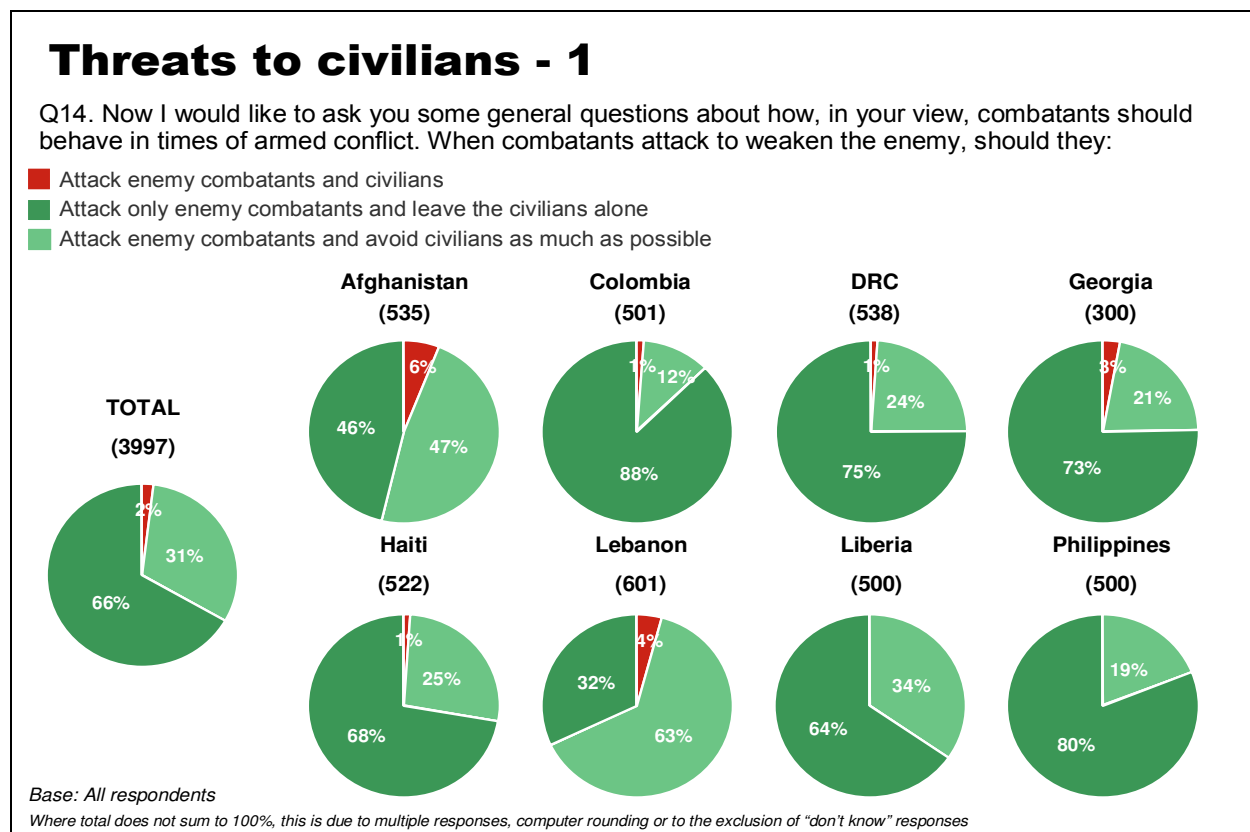


In Lebanon, however, a higher percentage of people say that civilians should be spared only 'as much as possible' (63%, against just 32% who want them always to be left alone). In Afghanistan, views are equally split (47% vs. 46%).

How have views changed since 1999?

Of the countries surveyed in both 1999 and 2009, it is seen that in Colombia and Georgia, support has grown for the view that civilians should always be left alone. These figures have increased from 72% to 88% in Colombia and from 69% to 73% in Georgia.

In Afghanistan and Lebanon, respondents increasingly say that civilians should be left alone only "as much as possible". The proportion of people holding this view has risen from 32% (1999) to 47% (2009) in Afghanistan and from 29% (1999) to 63% (2009) in Lebanon.



Respondents were also asked about specific scenarios involving civilians in times of armed conflict.

The vast majority think the following scenarios are unacceptable:

- Taking civilian hostages in order to get something in return. 88% of respondents overall say this is not acceptable – including everyone (100%) in Colombia and the Philippines. The trends since 1999 (where available) have generally risen.
- Attacking enemy combatants in populated villages or towns, knowing many civilians would be killed. 88% of respondents view this as 'not OK'. The practice is rejected by 99% of respondents in Colombia and by 100% in the Philippines. In Georgia, where 39% of people felt it was 'OK' in 1999, just 12% now do so.

- Depriving civilians of food, medicine or water to weaken the enemy. Overall 91% of respondents reject this (97% in Liberia and Colombia). In general, there has been a shift in attitude since 1999. For example in Lebanon, opposition to this practice has risen from 69% to 94%.
- Planting landmines, even though civilians may step on them. This is the most widely rejected practice affecting civilians. Almost all (93%) deem it 'not OK', and levels of opposition are very high in all countries. In Lebanon, the trend since 1999 shows a huge change, with those saying 'OK' down from 27% to just 5%.

The single most widely rejected practice of all relates to attacking religious and historical monuments. Almost everyone (96%) objects to this, with similar levels of opposition across all the countries. Opposition to this is greater still in 2009 than it was in 1999 in Colombia, Georgia and Lebanon.

Views on behaviour towards civilians who voluntarily help the enemy are similar across all countries:

- Overall, 41% across the eight countries say it is 'OK' to attack civilians who voluntarily transport ammunition for the enemy (however 54% feel it is 'not OK'). Acceptance of this is higher still in Liberia (75% say 'OK'), Lebanon (62% – up from 37% in 1999), Haiti (55%) and Afghanistan (45% – up from 31% a decade ago). Only in the Philippines and Colombia is sentiment overwhelmingly against any attacks on civilians who voluntarily transport ammunition (92% and 85%, respectively, are opposed).
- 31% on average say it is 'OK' to attack civilians who voluntarily give food and shelter to the enemy (however 63% say it is 'not OK'). The highest figures in support are again in Liberia (49%), Lebanon (46% – up from 22% in 1999), Haiti (47%) and Afghanistan (43% – up from 21% in 1999). The Philippines and Colombia again stand out as particularly opposed to such attacks (respectively 95% and 96%).

## Threats to civilians - 2

Q15. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy? For each one, please indicate whether it is okay or not okay to do that in fighting their enemy.

“Okay” responses	TOTAL	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
Base:	(3997) %	( 535 ) %	(501) %	(538 ) %	(300) %	(522) %	(601) %	(500) %	(500) %
Attacking civilians who voluntarily transported ammunition for the enemy	41	45	15	41	24	55	62	75	7
Attacking civilians who voluntarily gave food and shelter to enemy	31	43	4	35	20	47	46	49	4
Depriving civilians of food, medicine or water to weaken the enemy	8	17	3	5	9	18	5	3	4
Attacking religious and historical monuments	3	4	1	4	5	3	2	3	1
Attacking enemy combatants in populated villages or towns knowing many civilians would be killed	11	10	1	10	12	15	20	8	*
Taking civilian hostages in order to get something in exchange	9	6	*	7	13	21	18	10	0
Planting landmines even though civilians may step on them	5	9	*	4	9	3	5	12	0

Base: All respondents

## Health Workers and Ambulances

### What do respondents think about protecting health workers and ambulances?

**Under international humanitarian law, health workers, hospitals, ambulances and medical supplies must be protected.**

**Most people say that health workers and ambulances (89% and 87% respectively) are never acceptable targets in armed conflicts.**

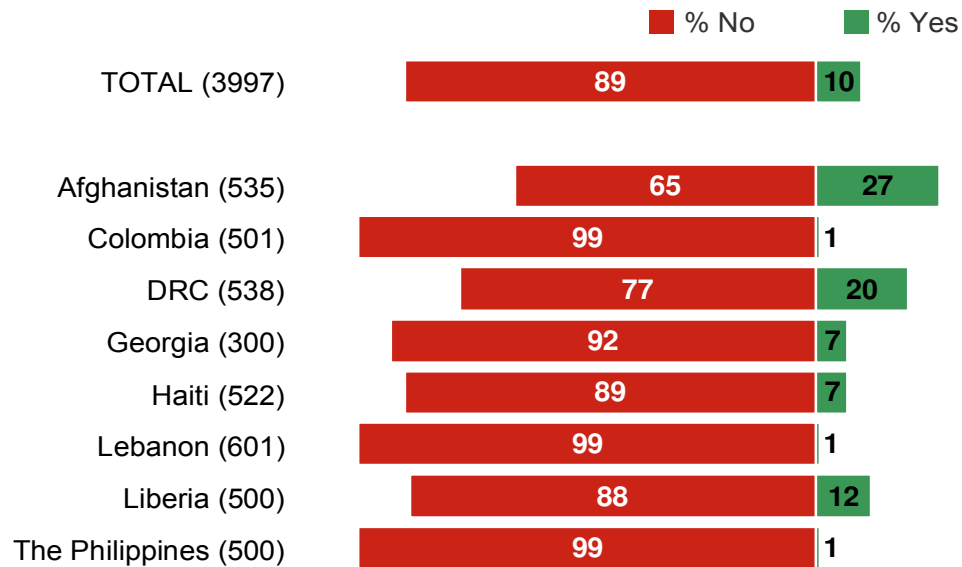
**Respondents cite the need for health workers to be identified clearly as such, and say that ambulances must be clearly marked.**

Nine in 10 respondents (89%) think there are no circumstances in which it is acceptable to target health workers. A similar percentage (87%) believe the same for ambulances.

Virtually everyone in the Philippines, Lebanon and Colombia are opposed to such attacks (at least 98% in each case). In Afghanistan, however, 27% say that attacks on health workers may sometimes be acceptable (32% for ambulances).

## Targeting health workers

Q16. In a situation of armed conflict, are there any circumstances in which you think it is acceptable for combatants to target health workers?

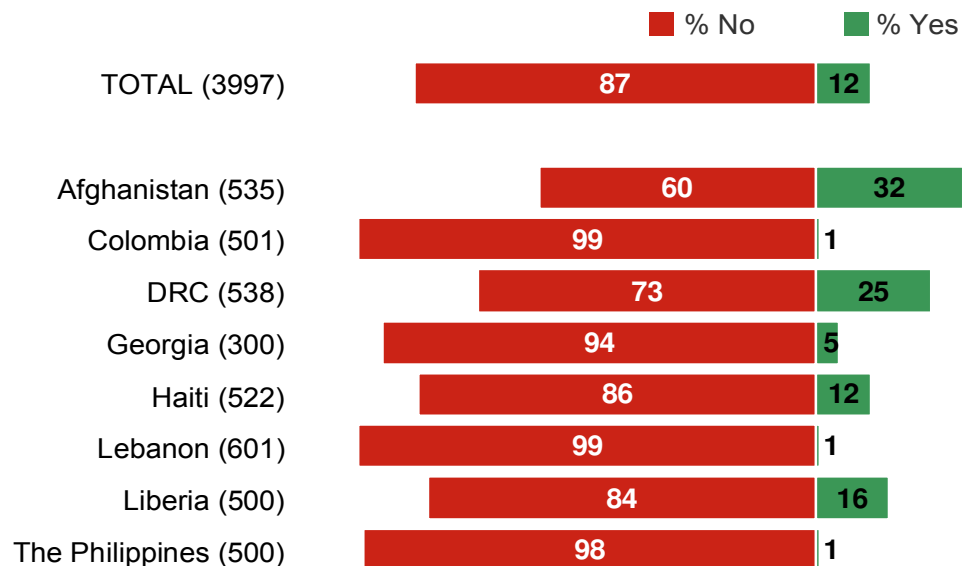


Base: All respondents

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

## Targeting ambulances

Q18. In a situation of armed conflict, are there any circumstances in which you think it is acceptable for combatants to target ambulances?



Base: All respondents

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

## Why might health workers and ambulances be viewed as acceptable targets?

Significant numbers of people in four countries (Afghanistan, the DRC, Haiti and Liberia) provided responses which allowed this to be analysed. The results below are based on those who think there are circumstances in which health workers and ambulances might be seen as acceptable targets.

They contend that such attacks are acceptable when health workers are seen to take sides and compromise their neutrality. In each of the four countries more than half of respondents (ranging from 55% in Afghanistan to 86% in the DRC and Liberia) say this is an acceptable circumstance for an attack.

Similarly, when ambulances are used 'by combatants for hostile purposes' (i.e. when they are not perceived to be neutral), people's views shift. In this scenario, between 58% of those asked in Haiti and 83% in Liberia feel attacks on ambulances are acceptable.

Health workers must be clearly identifiable and ambulances clearly marked. Most people in Liberia and the DRC (82% and 64%, respectively) view health workers who are not clearly identifiable as such as acceptable targets, while in Haiti 61% do not. The percentage of respondents who view ambulances as acceptable targets when they are not clearly marked ranges from 54% in Haiti to 95% in Liberia.

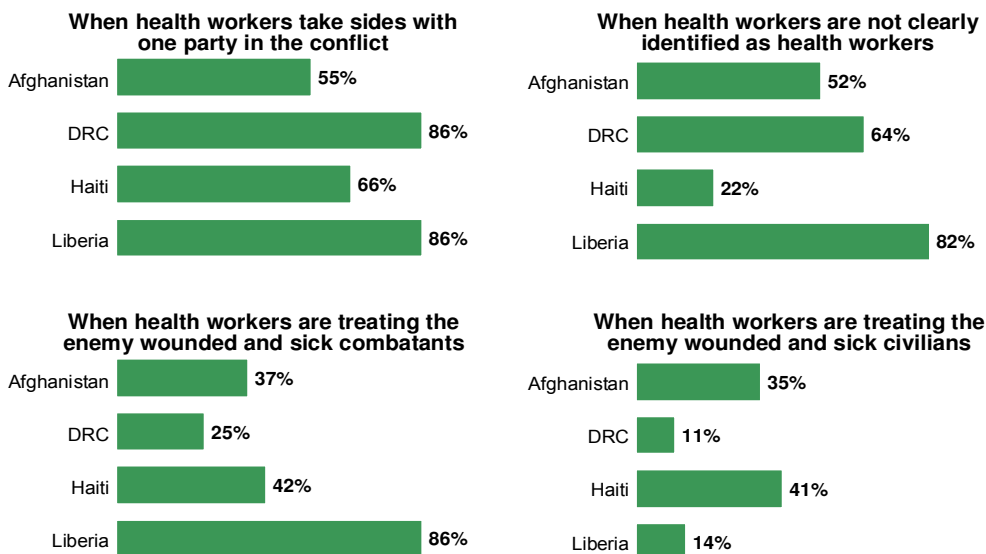
On the other hand, most people do not think it is acceptable to attack health workers or ambulances on the grounds that they are helping the wounded and sick of the "other side".

This is especially true when it is civilians from the other side who are being helped: in these circumstances, 72% across the four countries oppose attacks on health workers, and 74% oppose attacks on ambulances.

When it is enemy combatants who are receiving care, 48% oppose attacks on health workers while 48% also approve them. When ambulances are used to assist enemy combatants do views are mixed, with 47% saying that attacks on such vehicles in this situation are acceptable and 47% saying they are not.

## Targeting health workers

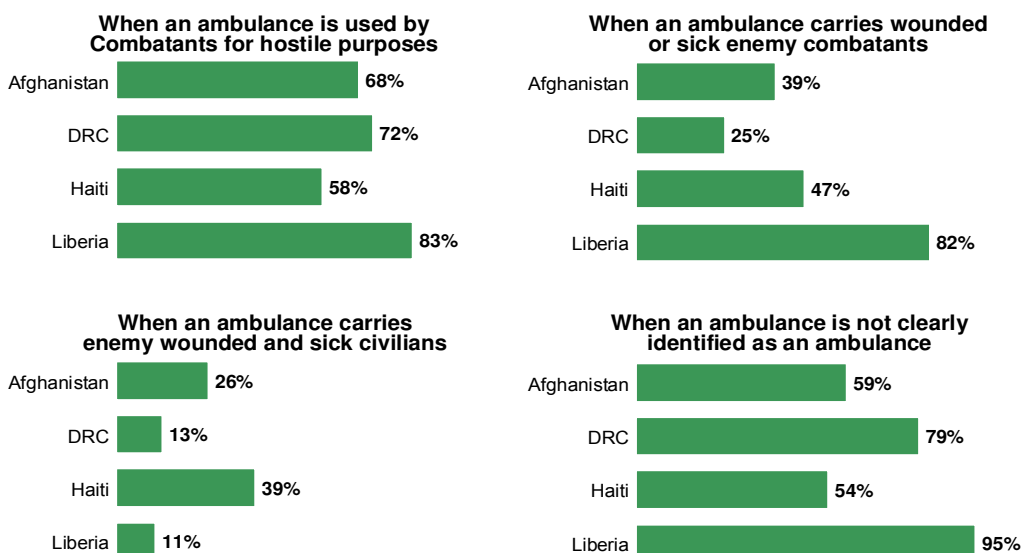
Q17. In which, if any, of the following circumstances do you think [targeting health workers] is acceptable?



Base: Respondents who say "there are circumstances in which it is acceptable to target health workers"  
 Afghanistan (145); DR Congo (126); Haiti (44); Liberia (64). Few thought targeting health workers is acceptable in other countries

## Targeting ambulances

Q19. In which, if any, of the following circumstances do you think [targeting ambulances] is acceptable?



Base: Respondents who say "there are circumstances in which it is acceptable to target ambulances"  
 Afghanistan (180); DR Congo (150); Haiti (70); Liberia (88). Few thought targeting ambulances is acceptable in other countries

# Health Workers and Services: The Right to Health Care

**How do respondents view people's right to health care?**

**Under IHL, all wounded and sick people – whether civilian or military – must be cared for.**

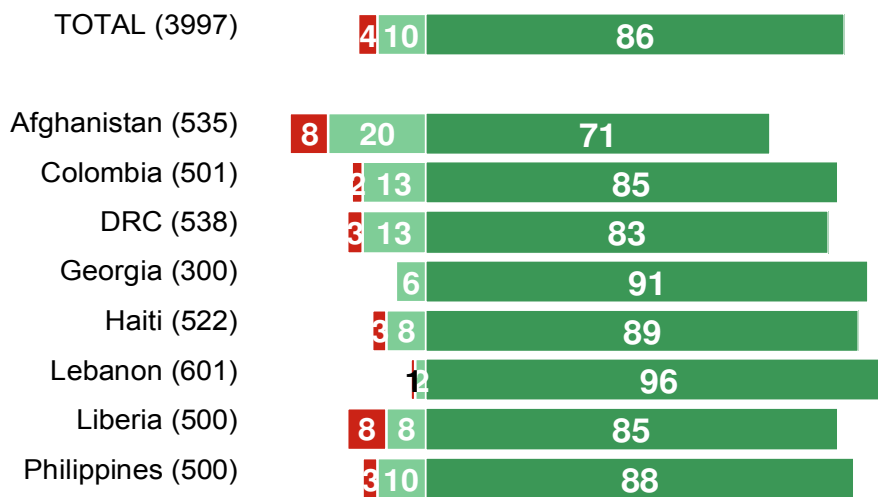
**An overwhelming majority of people in all countries agree with this provision.**

Virtually everyone (96%) accepts to some degree the principle that people should be provided with health care during armed conflict. In all countries, most people endorse this principle strongly (from 71% in Afghanistan to 96% in Lebanon); the cumulative percentage of those who 'strongly' agree or 'tend to' agree rises to 98% in Lebanon and 91% in Afghanistan.

## The right to health care - 1

Q25. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Everyone wounded or sick during an armed conflict should have the right to health care"

■ % Neither agree Nor Disagree/Tend to disagree /Strongly disagree      ■ % Tend to agree      ■ % Strongly agree



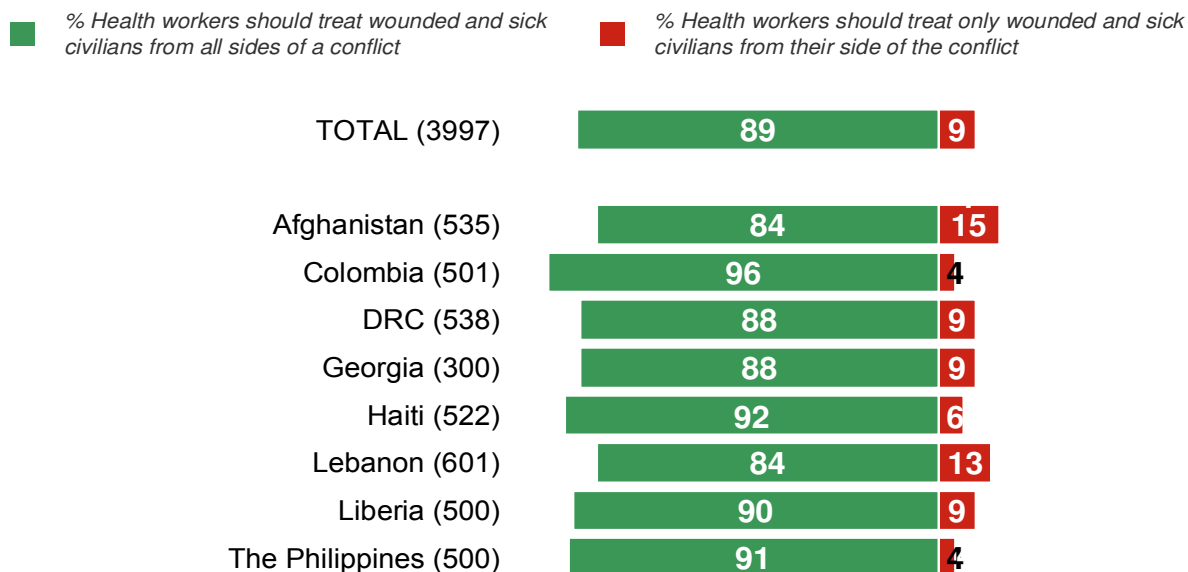
Base: All respondents

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

A large majority of people (89%) believe health workers should not favour one side or the other, but treat the sick and wounded of all parties to a conflict. The percentage of those holding this opinion ranges from 96% in Lebanon to 84% in Afghanistan.

## The right to health care - 2

Q26. In the context of an armed conflict, what best describes your personal views:



Base: All respondents

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

## The Geneva Conventions

**The Geneva Conventions set out rules to protect people not, or no longer, participating in hostilities and to restrict the means and methods of warfare.**

**Approximately half of the people across the eight countries (42% on average) have heard of the Geneva Conventions. Of this group, slightly more than half (56%) consider the Geneva Conventions effective in 'limiting the suffering of civilians in war time'.**

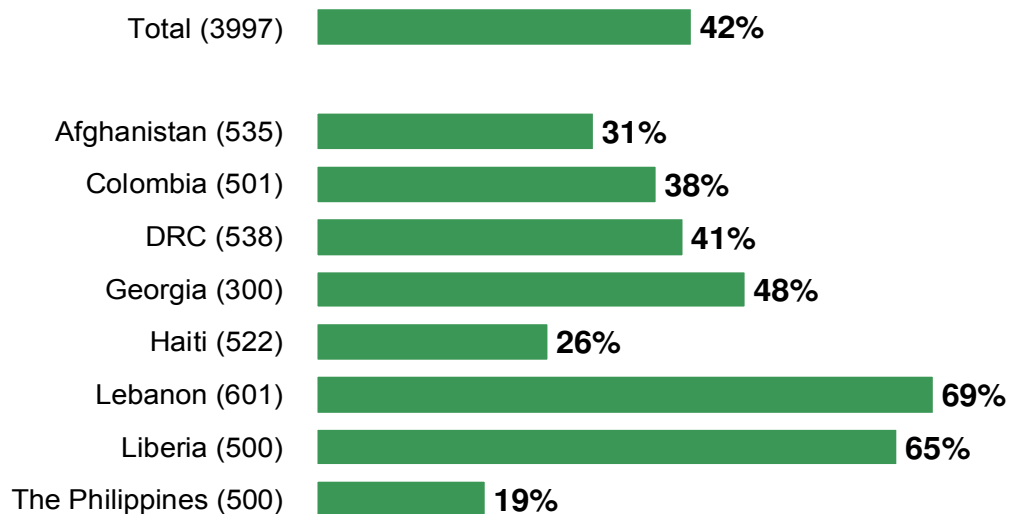
Awareness of the Geneva Conventions varies widely, from 69% in Lebanon to 19% in the Philippines. The clear majority (65%) have heard of them in Liberia, and 48% have heard of them in Georgia. Across the eight countries, 42% of the people, on average, claim awareness of the Geneva Conventions.



## Awareness of the Geneva Conventions - 1

Q23. Have you ever heard of the Geneva Conventions?

Yes



Base: All respondents

How effective are the Geneva Conventions in 'limiting the suffering of civilians in war time'? Again, the response varies considerably by country. Overall, just over half who know of the Geneva Conventions (56%) say they have 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount' of impact in limiting suffering.

Most encouraging are the views in Liberia, where 85% perceive 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount' of impact. People in Afghanistan and Georgia also view the Geneva Conventions favourably (70% and 67% respectively).

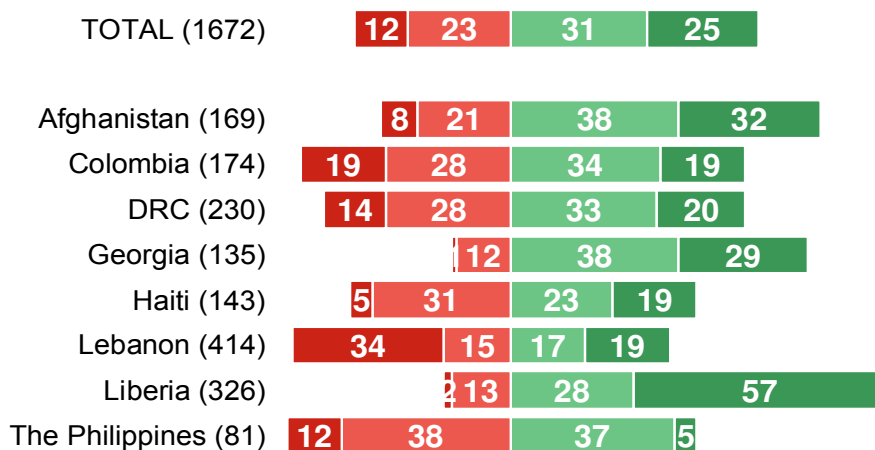
This is less the case in Colombia, the DRC and Haiti – but even in those countries the views are on balance positive. In Lebanon, however, more people feel the Geneva Conventions have 'not very much' or 'no' impact (49%).

It would appear that, in general, people who have the greatest exposure to armed conflict and violence also have the greatest appreciation of the role the Geneva Conventions can play in reducing suffering.

## Awareness of the Geneva Conventions - 2

Q24. To what extent do you think the existence of the Geneva Conventions limits the suffering of civilians in war time?

■ % Not at all    ■ % Not very much    ■ % A fair amount    ■ % A great deal



Base: All respondents who have heard of the Geneva Conventions

**This summary represents what respondents think of international humanitarian law (IHL), health care and their views on acceptable behaviour during times of armed conflict. Part 1 of this research study, representing the views of respondents regarding the impact of armed conflict or armed violence on their lives, was released on 23 June 2009.**

# Appendices

# Appendices

## Sample Profiles

This table shows the main characteristics that can be directly compared or summarised across all or most of the eight countries.

Please see the individual country reports for more detailed breakdowns, including religion / ethnicity, regional distribution, and the full education level bandings.

	AFG	COL	DRC	GEO	HAI	LBN	LIB	PHL
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	51	46	49	42	48	50	51	50
Female	49	54	51	58	52	50	49	50
<b>Age</b>								
18-24	31	21 (18-25)	33	11	24	19	29	26
25-29	12		22	6	23	13	22	12
30-34	13	23 (26-35)	16	13	13	12	16	15
35-39	10		11	12	7	11	11	12
40-44	11	22 (36-45)	7	10	8	11	9	9
45-49	8	16 (46-55)	5	9	7	9	4	8
50-64	12		6	21	13	16	7	16
65 or over	4	18 (56+)	1	18	6	8	1	1
<b>Area</b>								
Urban	22	n/a	n/a	n/a	42	88	83	65
Rural	78	n/a	n/a	n/a	58	12	17	35
<b>Education / Literacy</b>								
No Education (Illiterate in AFG)	62	0	2	0	7	2	n/a	*

## Sampling Details

'Sampling tolerances' essentially describe how accurately a result *from the survey* is likely to match the results if a similar question had been asked *of the full or equivalent population*. (In other words, how precisely does the survey represent the fuller population?).

Sampling tolerances vary, depending on the size of the survey sample and the percentage figure concerned. For example, for a question where 50% of the people in a sample of 500 give a particular answer, the chances are 95 in 100 that this result would not vary by more than 4 percentage points plus or minus (ie between 46% and 54%) from the result that would have been obtained from a census of the wider population (using the same procedures).

Some examples of the tolerances that may apply in this report are given in the table below.

<b>Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels (at the 95% confidence level)</b>			
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<b>10% or 90%</b> ±	<b>30% or 70%</b> ±	<b>50%</b> ±
<b>Size of sample on which survey result is based</b>			
500 (eg all respondents in one country)	3	4	4
250 (eg men or women only)	4	6	7
<i>Source: Ipsos</i>			

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results between different elements (sub-groups) of the sample – and between the 1999 and 2009 results. A difference must be of at least a certain size to be statistically significant. The table below shows the sampling tolerances applicable to some common sub-groups comparisons, and between the 1999 & 2009 research in each country.

<b>Differences required for significance at the 95% confidence level at or near these percentages</b>			
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<b>10% or 90%</b> ±	<b>30% or 70%</b> ±	<b>50%</b> ±
<b>Size of 2009 sub-groups and 1999 vs 2009 samples involved in this survey</b>			
250 (Men) vs 250 (Women)	5	8	9
1,000 (1999 full sample for one country) vs 500 (2009 full sample for one country)	3	5	5
<i>Source: Ipsos</i>			

## Ipsos / ICRC

# “Our World: Views from the Field. Summary Report”

## Marked-Up Questionnaire

- **Fieldwork**
- Afghanistan: 13-21 February 2009; 535 face-to-face interviews
- Colombia: 12 February-6 March 2009; 501 face-to-face interviews
- DRC: 12-19 March 2009; 538 face-to-face interviews
- Georgia: 16-24 February 2009; 500 face-to-face interviews (300 Georgians; 200 IDPs)
- Haiti: 15-23 February 2009; 522 face-to-face interviews
- Lebanon: 10-25 March and 10-14 May 2009; 601 telephone interviews
- Liberia: 22-28 February 2009; 500 face-to-face interviews
- The Philippines: 3 March-11 April 2009; 500 face-to-face interviews
  
- **Results are weighted**
  
- **An asterisk ( \* ) indicates a result of less than 1% (but not zero)**
  
- **A "n/a" denotes "not asked"**
  
- **Base for each question is written above percentages**
  
- **Questionnaire for Haiti asked about “armed violence” rather than “armed conflict”**
  
- **‘POW’ indicates a question also asked in 1999**

Results for questions Q1 to Q11 representing the views of respondents regarding the impact of armed conflict or armed violence on their lives, were released in Part 1 of this research study, on 23 June 2009.

**CC) WARFARE / COMBATANTS****Q12. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy? And what else?**

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION. DO NOT PROMPT – BUT PROBE FULLY.

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL MENTIONS – KILLING / TARGETING CERTAIN KIND OF PEOPLE	37	63	34	20	12	24	52	63
Kill civilians	20	35	27	-	-	17	32	51
Kill the innocents	12	19	-	8	6	-	14	11
Kill children	-	13	-	-	-	5	-	-
TOTAL MENTIONS – TYPES OF VIOLENCE/ OPPRESSION	15	44	35	16	29	11	22	37
Kidnapping/Hostage Taking	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	19
Killing (unspecified)	-	-	10	-	17	-	8	9
Steal/ Rob	-	-	23	16	-	-	8	-
Physical assault	-	-	6	-	13	-	-	-
Torture people	-	5	-	-	-	-	6	-
TOTAL MENTIONS – NOT RESPECT CIVIL SOCIETY/ CULTURE/ SOCIETY/ LAWS	12	20	-	-	-	12	5	-
TOTAL MENTIONS – TYPES OF WEAPONS	9	15	45	-	19	-	24	14
Sexual violence/ Rape	-	-	43	-	-	-	22	-
Shooting/ Guns	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	6
Use bombs	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
TOTAL MENTIONS – ATTACK BUILDINGS/ DESTROY SPECIFIC AREAS	18	13	32	-	5	5	10	31
Attack civilian areas	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	23
Loot homes	-	-	25	-	-	-	5	-

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
There is nothing they should not be allowed to do	3	0	6	13	12	31	12	0
Any answer (ie indicating that some action/s <u>should</u> be allowed)	78	100	79	62	56	54	73	99
Don't know	19	0	13	24	28	10	14	*
Refused	0	0	2	1	4	5	*	0

**Q13. And why do you think that combatants should not be allowed to do this? Is that because it...?**

READ OUT. ROTATE ORDER. MULTICODE OK

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who identify some action/s that combatants should <u>not</u> be allowed to do</i>	(409)	(501)	(421)	(178)	(306)	(321)	(364)	(499)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Is against your religion</b>	48	23	65	47	33	53	48	29
<b>Is against your personal code/ethics</b>	21	27	46	43	60	44	53	32
<b>Is against the law</b>	37	46	76	36	59	49	70	53
<b>Is against your culture</b>	29	15	45	17	16	33	38	23
<b>Is against human rights</b>	41	82	75	44	48	74	77	70
<b>Produces too much hate and division</b>	22	21	39	17	44	32	45	41
<b>Produces too much destruction</b>	27	31	37	8	53	28	47	50
Other	0	1	*	2	3	1	0	1
Don't	9	2	0	3	2	4	*	7
Refused	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0



**Q14. Now I would like to ask you some general questions about how, in your view, combatants should behave in times of armed conflict. When combatants attack to weaken the enemy, should they: (POW)**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY.

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Attack enemy combatants and civilians</b>	6	1	1	3	1	4	*	0
<b>Attack enemy combatants and avoid civilians as much as possible</b>	47	12	24	21	25	63	34	19
<b>Attack only enemy combatants and leave the civilians alone</b>	46	88	75	73	68	32	64	80
Don't know	1	0	*	3	4	1	1	2
Refused	0	0	*	0	1	*	*	0

**Q15. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy? For each one, please indicate whether is it okay or not okay to do that in fighting their enemy (POW).**

SINGLE CODE EACH STATEMENT

<b>Depriving civilians of food, medicine or water to weaken the enemy</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Okay	17	3	5	9	18	5	3	4
Not okay	81	97	94	89	78	94	97	96
Don't know	2	0	1	2	4	1	*	*
Refused	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0

<b>Attacking religious and historical monuments</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Okay	4	1	4	5	3	2	3	1
Not okay	93	99	93	94	95	98	97	99
Don't know	3	0	3	1	2	*	*	1
Refused	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0

**Attacking civilians who voluntarily transported ammunition for the enemy**

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Okay	45	15	41	24	55	62	75	7
Not okay	40	85	50	67	40	32	25	92
Don't know	15	0	8	9	3	5	0	1
Refused	0	0	1	*	2	1	0	*

**Attacking enemy combatants in populated villages or towns knowing many civilians would be killed**

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Okay	10	1	10	12	15	20	8	*
Not okay	86	99	86	83	80	77	92	100
Don't know	4	0	4	4	4	3	*	0
Refused	0	0	*	*	1	*	0	0

**Taking civilian hostages in order to get something in exchange**

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Okay	6	*	7	13	21	18	10	0
Not okay	89	100	88	81	74	80	90	100
Don't know	6	0	4	6	4	2	*	0
Refused	0	0	1	0	1	*	0	0

**Attacking civilians who voluntarily gave food and shelter to enemy**

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Okay	43	4	35	20	47	46	49	4
Not okay	45	96	56	68	47	49	51	95
Don't know	13	0	8	12	5	4	*	*
Refused	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	*

**Planting landmines even though civilians may step on them**

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Okay	9	*	4	9	3	5	12	0
Not okay	87	100	93	88	91	94	87	100
Don't know	4	0	3	2	5	1	*	0
Refused	0	0	*	*	1	*	0	0

**Q16. In a situation of armed conflict, are there any circumstances in which you think it is acceptable for combatants to target health workers?**

SINGLE CODE ONLY

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	27	1	20	7	7	1	12	1
No	65	99	77	92	89	99	88	99
Don't know	9	0	2	1	3	*	0	*
Refused	0	0	*	0	1	*	0	0

**Q17. In which, if any, of the following circumstances do you think this is acceptable?**

READ OUT EACH STATEMENT. ROTATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE EACH STATEMENT

^ denotes low base

<b>When health workers are treating the enemy wounded and sick civilians</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target health workers</i>	(145)	(3 <sup>^</sup> )	(126)	(16 <sup>^</sup> )	(44)	(6 <sup>^</sup> )	(64)	(9 <sup>^</sup> )
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, Acceptable	35	74	11	81	41	71	14	54
No, Not acceptable	63	26	88	19	51	29	86	46
Don't know	2	0	*	0	8	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>When health workers are treating the enemy wounded and sick combatants</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target health workers</i>	(145)	(3 <sup>^</sup> )	(126)	(16 <sup>^</sup> )	(44)	(6 <sup>^</sup> )	(64)	(9 <sup>^</sup> )
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, Acceptable	37	74	25	81	42	52	86	63
No, Not acceptable	61	26	71	19	48	48	14	37
Don't know	2	0	3	0	10	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

<b>When health workers are not clearly identified as health workers</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target health workers</i>	(145)	(3 <sup>^</sup> )	(126)	(16)	(44)	(6 <sup>^</sup> )	(64)	(9 <sup>^</sup> )
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, Acceptable	52	41	64	32	22	36	82	27
No, Not acceptable	44	59	33	26	61	64	18	73
Don't know	4	0	2	42	17	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

<b>When health workers take sides with one party in the conflict</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target health workers</i>	(145)	(3 <sup>^</sup> )	(126)	(16 <sup>^</sup> )	(44)	(6 <sup>^</sup> )	(64)	(9 <sup>^</sup> )
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, Acceptable	55	41	86	19	66	43	86	37
No, Not acceptable	40	59	11	69	33	57	14	63
Don't know	5	0	3	12	1	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Q18. In a situation of armed conflict, are there any circumstances in which you think it is acceptable for combatants to target ambulances?**

SINGLE CODE ONLY

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	32	1	25	5	12	1	16	1
No	60	99	73	94	86	99	84	98
Don't know	8	0	2	1	2	*	0	*
Refused	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

**Q19. In which, if any, of the following circumstances do you think this is acceptable?**

READ OUT EACH STATEMENT. ROTATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE EACH STATEMENT

^ denotes low base

<b>When an ambulance is used by combatants for hostile purposes</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target ambulances</i>	(180)	(4 <sup>^</sup> )	(150)	(9 <sup>^</sup> )	(70)	(5 <sup>^</sup> )	(88)	(8 <sup>^</sup> )
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, Acceptable	68	24	72	33	58	41	83	24
No, Not acceptable	29	76	24	67	42	59	17	76
Don't know	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

<b>When an ambulance carries wounded or sick enemy combatants</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target ambulances</i>	(180)	(4 <sup>^</sup> )	(150)	(9 <sup>^</sup> )	(70)	(5 <sup>^</sup> )	(88)	(8 <sup>^</sup> )
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, Acceptable	39	5	25	67	47	41	82	66
No, Not acceptable	59	95	70	33	41	59	18	34
Don't know	3	0	4	0	9	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0

<b>When an ambulance carries enemy wounded and sick civilians</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target ambulances</i>	(180)	(4 <sup>^</sup> )	(150)	(9 <sup>^</sup> )	(70)	(5 <sup>^</sup> )	(88)	(8 <sup>^</sup> )
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, Acceptable	26	13	13	87	39	23	11	84
No, Not acceptable	72	87	86	6	50	77	89	16
Don't know	2	0	2	7	10	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

<b>When an ambulance is not clearly identified as an ambulance</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target ambulances</i>	(180)	(4^)	(150)	(9^)	(70)	(5^)	(88)	(8^)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, Acceptable	59	17	79	0	54	58	95	8
No, Not acceptable	37	83	17	70	40	42	4	92
Don't know	4	0	4	30	6	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Results for questions Q20 to Q22 representing the views of respondents regarding the impact of armed conflict or armed violence on their lives, were released in Part 1 of this research study, on 23 June 2009.

## EE) GENEVA CONVENTIONS

### Q23. Have you ever heard of the Geneva Conventions?

SINGLE CODE ONLY

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	31	38	41	48	26	69	65	19
No	66	62	58	50	70	29	34	81
Don't know	4	0	1	2	4	1	2	*
Refused	0	0	0	1	1	*	*	0

### Q24. To what extent do you think the existence of the Geneva Conventions limits the suffering of civilians in war time?

SINGLE CODE ONLY

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All who have heard of the Geneva Conventions</i>	(169)	(174)	(230)	(135)	(143)	(414)	(326)	(81)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>A great deal</b>	32	19	20	29	19	19	57	5
<b>A fair amount</b>	38	34	33	38	23	17	28	37
<b>Not very much</b>	21	28	28	12	31	15	13	38
<b>Not at all</b>	8	19	14	1	5	34	2	12
Don't know	1	0	4	19	22	14	1	8
Refused	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0

## FF) MEDICAL MISSION

### Q25. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

READ OUT STATEMENT. SINGLE CODE ONLY

<b>Everyone wounded or sick during an armed conflict should have the right to health care</b>								
	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	71	85	83	91	89	96	85	88
<b>Tend to Agree</b>	20	13	13	6	8	2	8	10
<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>	7	2	2	*	1	*	5	2
<b>Tend to Disagree</b>	1	*	1	0	1	1	2	1
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	*	0	*	0	1	*	1	0
Don't Know	1	0	*	2	*	*	*	0
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Q26. In the context of an armed conflict, what best describes your personal views:

READ OUT STATEMENTS. ROTATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY.

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Health workers should treat only wounded and sick civilians from <u>their</u> side of the conflict</b>	15	4	9	9	6	13	9	4
<b>Health workers should treat wounded and sick civilians from <u>all</u> sides of a conflict</b>	84	96	88	88	92	84	90	91
Don't know	1	0	2	3	1	2	*	4
Refused	0	0	1	0	1	1	*	0

## Demographics

### Respondent's Gender

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	(535)	(501)	(538)	(300)	(522)	(601)	(500)	(500)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Male</b>	51	46	49	42	48	50	51	50
<b>Female</b>	49	54	51	58	52	50	49	50

## Respondent's Age

	Afghanistan	Colombia	DRC	Georgia	Haiti	Lebanon	Liberia	The Philippines
<i>Base: All</i>	<i>(535)</i>	<i>(501)</i>	<i>(538)</i>	<i>(300)</i>	<i>(522)</i>	<i>(601)</i>	<i>(500)</i>	<i>(500)</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>18-24</b>	31	21	33	11	24	19	29	26
<b>25-29</b>	12	23	22	6	23	13	22	12
<b>30-34</b>	13		16	13	13	12	16	15
<b>35-39</b>	10	22	11	12	7	11	11	12
<b>40-44</b>	11		7	10	8	11	9	9
<b>45-49</b>	8	34	5	9	7	9	4	8
<b>50-64</b>	12		6	21	13	16	7	16
<b>65 or over</b>	4		1	18	6	8	1	1

**Other demographic information is contained in the individual country marked-up questionnaires**



## Trends 1999- 2009

ASK ALL →

**Q14. Now I would like to ask you some general questions about how, in your view, combatants should behave in times of armed conflict. When combatants attack to weaken the enemy, should they: (POW)**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY.

	Afghanistan		Colombia		Lebanon		The Philippines		Georgia	
	1999	2009	1999	2009	1999	2009	1999	2009	1999	2009
Base: All	(995)	(535)	(857)	(501)	(1,000)	(601)	(1,100)	(500)	(534)	(300)
	%	%			%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Attack enemy combatants and civilians</b>										
	3	6	1	1	2	4	1	0	1	3
<b>Attack enemy combatants and avoid civilians as much as possible</b>										
	32	47	20	12	29	63	65	19	30	21
<b>Attack only enemy combatants and leave the civilians alone</b>										
	62	46	72	88	68	32	29	80	69	73
Don't know	3	1	6	0	1	1	5	2	0	3
Refused		0		0		*		0		0

**ASK ALL →**

**Q15. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy? For each one, please indicate whether it is okay or not okay to do that in fighting their enemy (POW)**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE EACH STATEMENT

	Afghanistan		Colombia		Lebanon		The Philippines		Georgia	
	1999	2009	1999	2009	1999	2009	1999	2009	1999	2009
<i>Base: All</i>	<i>(995)</i>	<i>(535)</i>	<i>(857)</i>	<i>(501)</i>	<i>(1,000)</i>	<i>(601)</i>	<i>(1,100)</i>	<i>(500)</i>	<i>(534)</i>	<i>(300)</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Depriving civilians of food, medicine or water to weaken the enemy</b> (Afghanistan: 'Depriving the civilian population of food, medicine or water to weaken the enemy' in 1999) (Colombia: 'Depriving the civilian population of food and water to gain a military advantage' in 1999)										
Okay	11	<b>17</b>	17	<b>3</b>	23	<b>5</b>	41	<b>4</b>	44	<b>9</b>
<b>Attacking religious and historical monuments</b> (Afghanistan: 'Attacking religious and historical monuments during the fighting' in 1999) (Colombia : 'Attacking religious monuments, mosques or churches in order to gain a military advantage' in 1999)										
Okay	4	<b>4</b>	15	<b>1</b>	13	<b>2</b>	34	<b>1</b>	20	<b>5</b>
<b>Attacking civilians who <u>voluntarily</u> transported ammunition for the enemy</b> (Afghanistan: 'Attacking civilians who voluntarily transported ammunition for the enemy for enemy combatants' in 1999)										
Okay	31	<b>45</b>	n/a	<b>15</b>	37	<b>62</b>	32	<b>7</b>	28	<b>24</b>
<b>Attacking enemy combatants in populated villages or towns knowing many civilians* would be killed</b> *(Afghanistan: '...civilians / women & children..' in 1999)										
Okay	8	<b>10</b>	n/a	<b>1</b>	31	<b>20</b>	31	*	39	<b>12</b>
<b>Taking civilian hostages in order to get something in exchange</b> (Georgia/Lebanon : Kidnapping civilians in order to get something in exchange)										
Okay	n/a	<b>6</b>	n/a	*	24	<b>18</b>	26	<b>0</b>	25	<b>13</b>
<b>Attacking civilians who <u>voluntarily</u> gave food and shelter to enemy*</b> *(Afghanistan: '...to enemy combatants' in 1999)										
Okay	21	<b>43</b>	n/a	<b>4</b>	22	<b>46</b>	14	<b>4</b>	29	<b>20</b>
<b>Planting landmines even though civilians may step on them</b>										
Okay	11	<b>9</b>	n/a	*	27	<b>5</b>	10	<b>0</b>	n/a	<b>9</b>

## **MISSION**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

## **ABOUT IPSOS**

Ipsos is a leading international research agency, with offices in over 60 countries worldwide and global reach.

Established in 1975, it conducts qualitative and quantitative research with the private, public and voluntary sectors. One of its key areas of specialization is in social and opinion research. This includes extensive work with a wide range of national and international NGOs, charities and aid organizations.

This study was coordinated by Ipsos Switzerland, with fieldwork on the opinion survey component conducted by local agencies in Afghanistan (ACSOR Surveys); Colombia (Ipsos Napoleón Franco); Democratic Republic of the Congo (the Steadman Group and Ipsos Markinor); Georgia (IPM); Haiti (Ipsos Dominicana); Lebanon (Ipsos Lebanon); Liberia (RMS and Ipsos Markinor) and the Philippines (Ipsos Philippines).



ICRC