



# ICRC

## INTER ARMA CARITAS

### Regional Delegation for CENTRAL ASIA

#### WHAT IS THE ICRC?

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is responsible for directing the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

#### WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)?

International Humanitarian Law, also known as the law of armed conflict (LoAC), seeks to mitigate the effects of war, firstly in that it limits the choice of means and methods of conducting military operations, and secondly in that it obliges the belligerents to spare persons who do not or no longer participate in hostile actions. The bulk of the dispositions on IHL can be found in the four *Geneva Conventions of 1949* and their two *Additional Protocols of 1977*.

### Promoting International Humanitarian Law in the Higher Educational Institutions of Central Asia

Considering the role played by higher educational institutions in forming future politicians and statesmen, in developing the general culture of society and in shaping public conscience, the ICRC believes it is particularly important to cooperate with the academic circles in the promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Since 1997, the ICRC Regional Delegation for Central Asia developed a programme of introducing the teaching and researching of International Humanitarian Law in the most prestigious higher educational institutions of the Region. Today, in the major law faculties of the Region, courses of International Humanitarian Law are taught. Elements of IHL are also incorporated and taught in the general courses of Public International Law or in other relevant courses at the faculties of Conflictology, International Relations, Political Sciences as well as Journalism and make part of their respective curricula.



#### Supporting IHL publications and research

More than 50 publications on IHL have been translated and published in Russian. Some of these titles were also translated into the national languages of the countries covered by the ICRC Regional Delegation. These publications are distributed free of charge in higher educational institutions. **Nowadays, in all the targeted institutions' libraries, treaties and international instruments relevant to International Humanitarian Law as well as various publications, videotapes and pedagogical material are accessible to academicians and students. The ICRC continues to support with material institutions, where the discipline is taught, studied and researched.** Moreover, the ICRC encourages the creation and the publication of textbooks and methodological material on IHL written by scholars of the Region.

#### The primary aims of the programme are the following:

##### Training scholars on IHL

Basic and advanced courses on IHL are organised by the ICRC Regional Delegation of Tashkent as well as by the Regional Delegation of Moscow for scholars of the faculties of law, journalism and political science. In 1999 a Central Asian Conference on the teaching of IHL was held in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, in co-operation with the Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany. Over 22 scholars attended the Conference.

The ICRC also encourages participation of the scholars of the Region in different international forums, such as the Scientific Conference held in St-Petersburg the Martens Readings.

#### Dissemination of IHL is a State obligation:

*«The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, and, in particular, to include the study thereof in their programmes of military and civil instruction...»*

**Common article of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 as well as most IHL instruments.**

#### Including IHL in the standard programme of universities

Since 1999 the teaching of IHL has been compulsory in Turkmenistan due to a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers. In all Central Asian countries, specific courses on IHL are delivered in the law faculties of:

##### Kazakhstan:

- Almaty State University
- Kazakh Institute of Jurisprudence and International Relations
- Private Institute of International Law and International Business "Daneker"

##### Kyrgyzstan:

- International University of Kyrgyzstan
- Kyrgyz State Pedagogical University
- Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University

##### Tajikistan:

- Russian-Tajik Slavonic University
- Tajik State National University
- Tajik State University for Law, Business and Politics
- Tajik Tax and Law Institute

##### Turkmenistan:

- Turkmen State University

##### Uzbekistan:

- Tashkent State Law Institute

- Uzbek State National University
- University of World Economy and Diplomacy

A number of universities have included elements of IHL in the courses of Public International Law, International Journalism and the relevant courses of the political sciences faculties.

#### DOCUMENTATION CENTRE ICRC Delegation in Tashkent

Over 500 publications in Russian, English and French about the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Public International Law and International Humanitarian Law are available for consultation.

The Centre is open  
Monday to Friday  
**9.00 am - 6.00 pm**

#### Developing knowledge and interest on IHL among university students

The ICRC holds an annual IHL competition for law students, which consists of a series of role-playing exercises relating to a hypothetical situation of armed conflict. Named after the famous Russian lawyer Fedor Fedorovich Martens, the **Martens Moot Court Competition** is organised simultaneously in Moscow and in Tashkent. 42 students from the leading Central Asian law faculties participated in the Tashkent edition in 2001.

Graduate students also have the possibility to follow training courses organised in Europe as well as to do an internship in the ICRC Regional Delegation in Tashkent.

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