



ICRC



FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT



on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law at the level of Arab States 2009

**Counselor
Cherif Atlam**

ICRC Regional Coordinator
for the Advisory Service
on International Humanitarian Law

**Counselor
Mohamed Redouane Ben Khadra**

Legal Advisor to the Secretary
of the League of Arab States
Director of the legal Department

The reader will find enclosed a CD-ROM comprising decrees establishing National Commissions for International Humanitarian Law within the Arab World, in addition to model laws for the protection of the emblem and for the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines.

Information included in the CD is not exhaustive. Material is continuously being updated and incorporated for States which do not yet appear in the CD-ROM.



ICRC



FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

**on the Implementation
of the International Humanitarian Law
at the level of Arab States
2009**

Counselor
Cherif Atlam
ICRC Regional Coordinator
for the Advisory Service
on International Humanitarian Law

Counselor
Mohamed Redouane Ben Khadra
Legal Advisor to the Secretary
of the League of Arab States
Director of the legal Department

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	5
Introduction	
First Section: Report on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law in Middle East and North Africa, 1999-2009:	
*Report on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law in Middle East and North Africa, 1999 - 2009	9
*Annex 1: Agreement between the government of Kuwait and the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding the Establishment of the Regional Center for Training Judges and Prosecutors in the Field of International Humanitarian Law	23
*Annex 2: Agreement between the government of the United Arab Emirates and the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding the Establishment of the Regional Center for Training Diplomats in the Field of International Humanitarian Law	25
Second Section: Regional Plan of action and the National Reports on the implementation of International Humanitarian Law:	
*Regional Plan of Action for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law at the Arab Level for the years 2009 / 2010	29
*Reports of Arab States on National Measures for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law:	
Jordan	31
U.A.E	34
Bahrain	36
Tunisia	38
Algeria	41
Djibouti	43
Saudi Arabia	44
Sudan	46
Syria	49
Somalia	51
Iraq	52

Oman	54
Palestine	56
Qatar	58
Comoros	60
Kuwait	61
Lebanon	63
Libya	65
Egypt	68
Morocco	71
Mauritania	76
Yemen	77

Third Section: Teaching International Humanitarian Law:

***Teaching International Humanitarian Law at the Pre-University Stage**

-Introduction to EHL Report	83
-Report on the Sixth EHL Regional Meeting, Cairo 2009	87

*Teaching International Humanitarian Law at the University Stage	95
--	----


PREFACE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Fifth Annual Report on National Implementation of International Humanitarian Law in the Arab World, covering the years from 2007 to 2009.

This report reflects the remarkable efforts made - and the progress reached – by all stakeholders involved in this important process, namely the States and their National Commissions for IHL, the competent departments within the League of Arab States as well as the National Societies of Red Crescent and Red Cross. I would like to congratulate them all for the extraordinary achievements reached over these past ten years since the establishment in 1999 of the cooperation under the umbrella of the League of Arab States.

Our joint efforts in the field of IHL implementation aim at a better protection of the victims of situations of armed conflict and violence – situations that occur unfortunately in all too many countries in the world and in the Middle East. The integration of International Humanitarian Law provisions into the national legislation of each country contributes to raising awareness and knowledge, and to establish mechanisms of enforcement that will ultimately improve the respect of all the persons, structures and goods protected under IHL.

The ICRC would like to express its appreciation to all the persons, ministries, parliaments and organisations involved in this undertaking, and encourage them to maintain and even reinforce their efforts towards the adaptation of legislation and ratification of international conventions relevant to International Humanitarian Law. On its side, the ICRC will continue to provide its expertise and support in the field of IHL, in the hope to see ever more progress - both at the level of national legislation as well as its practical implementation on the ground.

Klaus Spreyermann

Head of ICRC Delegation in Cairo

INTRODUCTION

Follow-up Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law in the Arab World

The follow-up Commission on the implementation of international humanitarian law in the Arab world is honored to introduce this fifth report on the national implementation in the Arab world, which covers the period until the end of 2009. Undoubtedly, efforts of Arab States in this area, as reflected in the reports submitted by officials in charge of national implementation, reflect a growing interest in all activities of dissemination of and training on provisions of international humanitarian law as well as the desired legislative adaptation between relevant international conventions and national laws.

The Follow-up Commission looks forward to implement the proposed cooperation program with the Arab Parliamentary Union in order to support legislative efforts in the domains of ratification of international conventions and incorporation of their provisions into national legislation. This step comes in response to the recommendations of Arab government experts in their recent meeting held in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the period 11-13 October 2009. Government experts highlighted through such recommendations the need to bolster national efforts in the field of legislation.

By supporting the system of IHL implementation, in spite of gross violations of IHL provisions in the world at large and in the Arab region in particular, Arab States reflect their adherence to international legality, the need to protect and preserve the rights of victims of armed conflicts and the necessity of punishing perpetrators of such serious violations.

This fifth report coincides with the sixtieth anniversary of the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949; efforts carried out by states member of the League of Arab States emphasize the importance and necessity of promoting these conventions in order to support and ensure respect for international legitimacy.

At the end of this introduction, we implore God Almighty to guide Arab States toward the best interests of this nation and concerted efforts to uphold the provisions of IHL.

Counselor Chérif Atlam



Regional Coordinator for ICRC
Advisory Service

Counselor Mohamed Radwan Bin Khadraa



Advisor to the Secretary
General of the League of Arab States
Director of the Legal Division

FIRST SECTION

**Report on the Implementation
of the International Humanitarian Law
in Middle East and North Africa
1999-2009**

REPORT ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA * 1999-2009

Historical Background:

During the period 14 to 16 November 1999, the Arab Regional Conference to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 was held in Cairo, under the patronage of HE Mrs. Suzan Mubarak, President of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. The conference was co-organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, the League of Arab States and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

At the closure of the conference, the “Cairo Declaration” was proclaimed, including recommendations aiming to promote efforts geared toward the implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level. The last recommendation (No14) provided that a follow-up commission incorporating competent authorities shall be established to put this declaration into effect.

On the sidelines of this conference, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the ICRC and the League of Arab States regarding cooperation in all common aspects relevant to IHL.

In order to follow up the implementation of the Cairo Declaration, the First Regional Meeting of Arab Government Experts was held in Cairo on 7-9 May 2001 and was honored by the presence of official delegations from 15 Arab States, in addition to representatives of the League of Arab States and the ICRC. At the closure of the meeting, the first regional plan of action for the implementation of IHL at the level of the Arab World was adopted. Participants to the meeting also recommended the establishment of a follow-up commission on the implementation of this plan of action, composed of representatives of the Legal Division of the LAS and the ICRC Advisory Service for IHL.

After the adoption of the first regional plan of action, a follow-up commission has been established, composed of the Legal Advisor to the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and Head of the Legal Division of the League of Arab States, and the ICRC Regional Coordinator for the Advisory Service in the Middle East and North Africa. This Commission is competent to follow up the implementation of regional plans of action and to publish a report on the implementation of IHL.

In this perspective, the Follow-up Commission embarked on the preparation for and organization of eight regional conferences for Arab government experts, follow-up of dissemination and training programs on IHL provisions, support to Arab States in the creation of national commissions for IHL, in addition to setting up special regional programs within the framework of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice for training on IHL provisions.

* This report was prepared by the ICRC Advisory Service for IHL in the MENA region, and consequently is restricted to the States included in the competence of this division, which does not represent the total number of states member to the League of Arab States.

The Follow-up Commission issued four regional reports prior to the fifth report at hand. The first report was published in 2003, the second in 2004, the third in 2005 and the fourth in 2006.

The date upon which the fifth report is issued coincides with the tenth anniversary of the MoU signed between the LAS and the ICRC. On this occasion, the Advisory Service prepared this report on achievements in the domain of implementation and dissemination of IHL provisions.

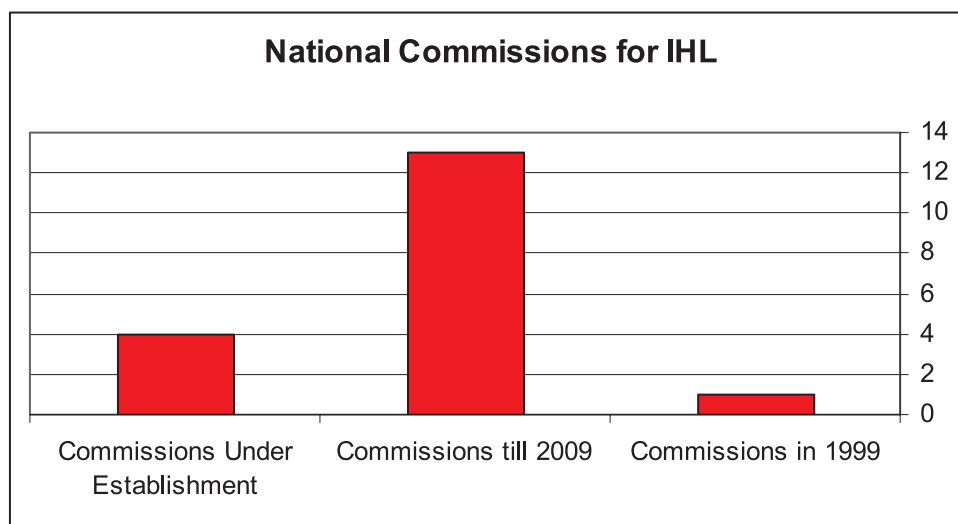
I- In the Domain of Creation of National Commissions for IHL:

Prior to the adoption of the Cairo Declaration of 1999, there was one national commission in the Arab region in the Republic of Yemen.

Then, the number of NC continued to multiply; national commissions have been established in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Sudan, the Kingdom of Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, the Arab Republic of Syria, State of Kuwait, Palestine, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Republic of Tunisia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

According to national report presented by states during the regional meeting convened in Amman, several states are on their way to complete the legislative procedures for the establishment of their national commissions, namely, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Lebanon and the Republic of Iraq.

To conclude, 13 Arab States have established national commissions, and four are on their way to complete the procedures of establishing their NC.



Undoubtedly, such commissions have contributed a great deal in promoting procedures and measures for the implementation of IHL at the national level. At the regional level, eight meetings of Arab government experts for the national implementation of IHL have been organized; six of these meetings were in Cairo in 2001 and from 2003 to 2007 respectively. The seventh meeting was held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in 2008. The most recent eighth meeting was held in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 2009.

II- **In the Domain of Ratification of Conventions relevant to IHL:**

As to activities related to state ratification of international conventions and instrument relevant to IHL, we can monitor the situation according to the methodology of action of the follow-up commission and regional plans of action, by virtue of the following categories:

First Category: Geneva Conventions and Protocols Additional Thereto:

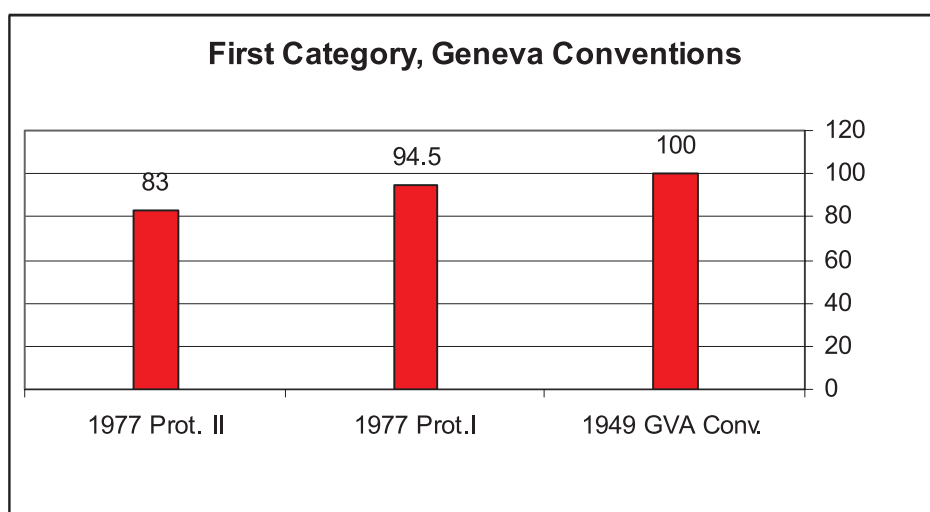
Since the regional plans of action did not address the Third Protocol of 2005, action was restricted to the following:

* Four Geneva Conventions of 1949	18/18
* Additional Protocol I	17/18
* Additional Protocol II	15/18

It is noted that the highest ratification rate among Arab countries is concentrated in this category of conventions. As for the First Additional Protocol, one state has not yet ratified it, namely, the Kingdom of Morocco, even though it has already signed it. The Moroccan National Commission for IHL is currently studying the ratification of provisions of this Protocol.

Regarding Additional Protocol II, we can monitor three States not having ratified so far: the Kingdom of Morocco, which is among the signatory states and is currently studying the possibility of ratification through the NC for IHL, in addition to the Republic of Syria and the Republic of Iraq, which are currently studying the possible ratification of provisions of the Second Additional Protocol.

An overview reveals that the percentage of ratification of this category incorporating the three international instruments is 92.5%

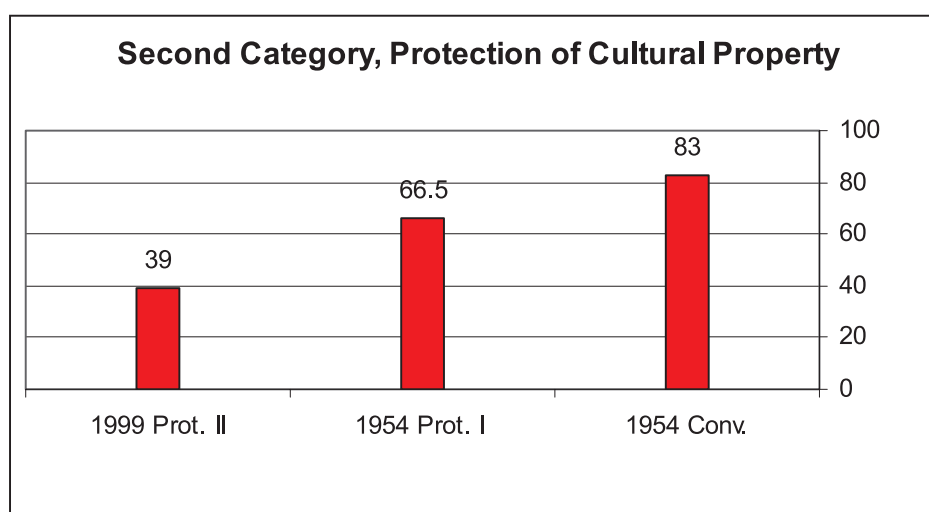


Second Category: Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property:

* Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property of 1954	15/18
* First Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property, 1954	12/18
* Second Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property, 1999	7/18

A large number of Arab States has ratified the 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property and the first Protocol of 1954.

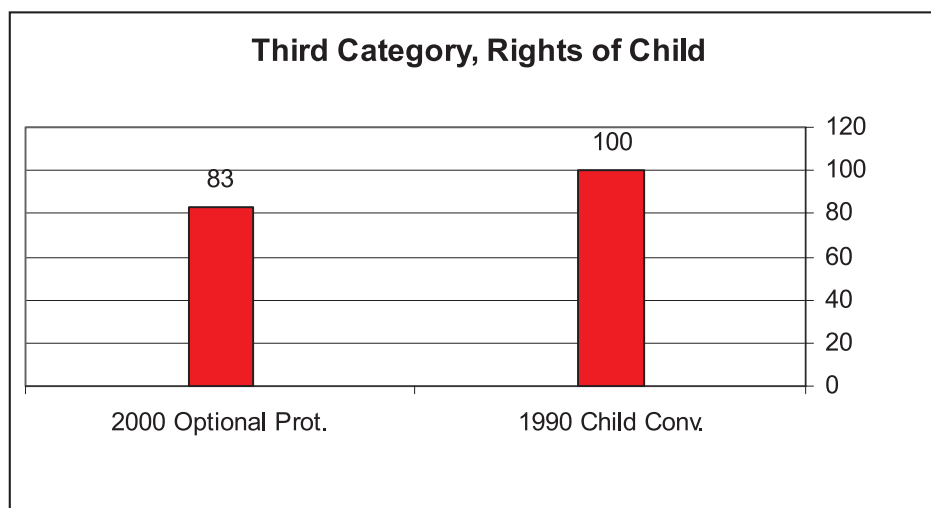
In the aftermath of the regional Arab celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Hague Convention, Arab States not having ratified the 1954 Convention yet have been urged to do so. States have also been encouraged to ratify the second protocol of 1999 to this Convention. It is noteworthy that the number of States ratifying this Second Protocol has been ascending since 2004; we hope that soon the remaining States would fulfill the procedures and either sign or ratify this protocol due to the importance of its provisions in safeguarding the cultural heritage of states.



Third Category: Convention on the Rights of the Child:

* Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1990	18/18
* Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child of they year 2000	15/18

We notice that many Arab States were keen to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1999 and the Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts of the year 2000.



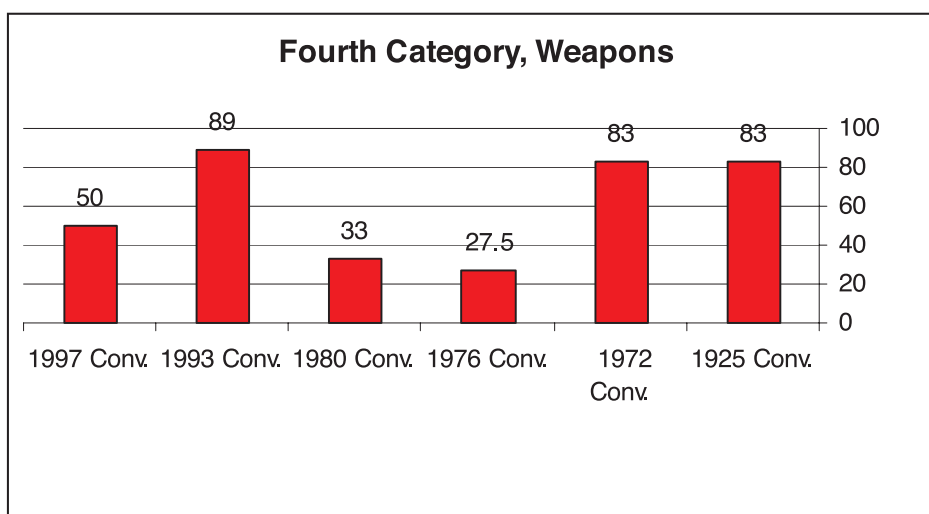
Fourth Category: Conventions on Weapons:

* Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare of 1925	15/18
* Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction , 1972	15/18
* Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, 1976	5/18
* Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, 1980	6/18
* Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction, 1993	16/18
* Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and their Destruction, 1997	9/18
* Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008	0/18

It should be noted in this respect that some conventions have been ratified by the majority of Arab States, namely, the 1925 Convention on Asphyxiating and Poisonous Gases of 1925, the 1972 Convention on Biological Weapons, and the 1993 Convention on Chemical Weapons.

On the other hand, if we look at the 1976 ENMOD, the 1980 CCW and the 1997 Convention on Landmines, we realize that fewer States have ratified them.

As part of the implementation of the regional plan of action adopted in Amman on 13 October 2009, States will carefully study the Convention on Cluster Munitions of 2008.

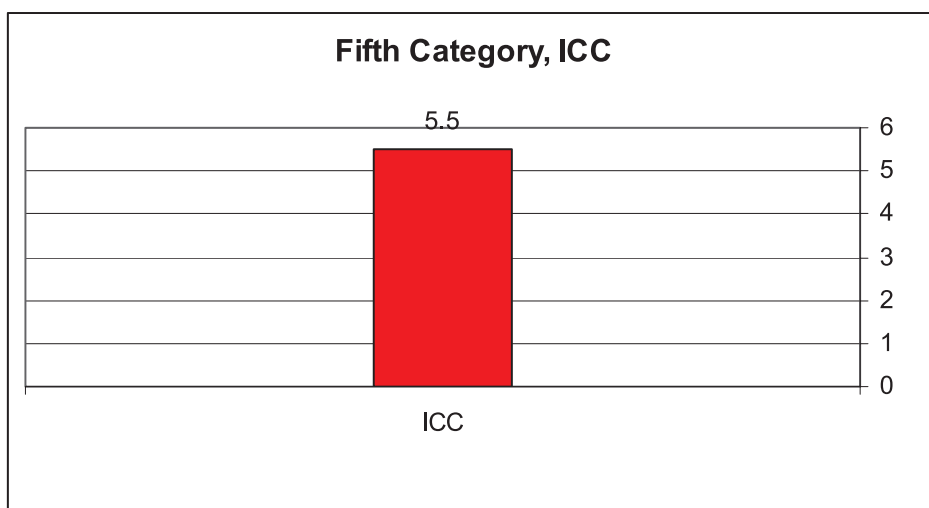


The fifth Category: ICC Statute

* Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998

1/18

We monitored that a single State, namely the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, took the initiative to ratify the Rome Statute. However, we cannot overlook the fact that 10 other Arab States have already signed this instrument and are embarking on a study of the possibility of ratifying it.



III- **In the Domain of National Legislation Relevant to IHL:**

1- **Legislation on the Incorporation of War Crimes:**

At the level of model laws for the implementation of international instruments relevant to IHL, the Advisory Service on IHL took part in the preparation of an Arab model law on crimes under the jurisdiction of international criminal justice. The Advisory Service presented the preliminary draft of the law to the Commission of Arab Experts within the framework of a special committee set up within the Legal Division of the League of Arab States. The UAE delegation must be given credit for having introduced the necessary modifications and for the having prepared the draft that was later presented to the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice on their 21st session held in Algeria in 2005. This draft model law was adopted pursuant to Resolution No 594 and was suggested to States as guidelines to be sought when drafting their national legislation.

We note in this connection that the Republic of Sudan was the first Arab state to use this draft law as guidelines while drawing up the Armed Forces Act of 2007, and that Sudan is in the process of incorporating the same crimes into the penal code.

Apart from Sudan, several states are still studying this model law through their NC for IHL such as the Arab Republic of Egypt, the UAE, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Yemen and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

During the regional meeting held in Amman in 2009, participants decided to convene a special meeting to this draft law, whereas the legislation officials within Arab States would take part together with representatives of NC, in order to study the obstacles impeding the adoption of such legislation and to seek ways to incorporate those crimes into the penal system of each state as quickly as possible.

To conclude, a review of the questionnaires received from Arab States regarding the incorporation of war crimes into national legislation, reveals the following:

Category I: War crimes in international and non-international armed conflicts are incorporated in the same manner as provided for in the draft model Arab law

States: Sudan: Armed Forces Act of 2007

Category II: War crimes in international armed conflicts are incorporated into a special section as per the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I of 1977 within the Military Provisions Code

States: Yemen: Penal and Military Procedures Code No 21 of 1998
 Jordan: Military Penal Code No 58 of 2006

Category III: Some war crimes provided for in the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I of 1977 are incorporated into the Penal Code

States: Bahrain: Decree Law No 15 of 1976 and amendments to the Law of 2005
 enacting the Penal Code
 Egypt: Law No 58 of 1937 enacting the Penal Code and amendments thereto.
 Lebanon: Penal Code No 57 of 4/3/1999 and Law No 553 of 20/10/2003

Yemen: Crimes and Penal Code No 12 of 1994

Qatar: Penal Code No 11 of 2004

Category IV: Some war crimes provided for in the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I of 1977 are incorporated into the Code of Criminal Provisions

States: Algeria: Criminal Justice Code by virtue of Decree No 71 of 26 Safar 1391AH corresponding to 22/4/2004
 Bahrain: Decree Law No 34 of 2002 enacting the Military Penal Code
 Egypt: Code of Military Provisions No 25 of 1966 (amended)
 Lebanon: Military Justice Code No 24/68 issued on 13 April 1968
 Sudan: Armed Forces Act of 2007
 Syria: Military Penal Code issued by virtue of Legislative Decree No 61 of 27/2/1950
 Libya: Law No 37 of 1974 enacting Military Penalties
 Tunisia: Military Penal and Pleading Code issued by virtue of Superior Decree of 10 January 1957 and amendments thereto.

2- Legislation on the Protection of the Emblem:

ICRC prepared a model law for the protection of the emblem. Recommendations of meetings of Arab government experts have been recurrent and called for the enactment of such legislation to ensure protection to the emblem.

An extrapolation of the current situation of legislation on the protection of the emblem leads to the following conclusions:

-Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

Law No 3 of 2009 amending the Jordanian Red crescent Society Law, has been enacted; it incorporated provisions and penalties regarding misuse of the emblem.

-Arab Republic of Syria:

Law No 36 of the year 2005 on the protection of the emblem

-Republic of Yemen:

Law No 43 of 1999 on the regulation and use of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Emblems and Prevention of their Misuse

-The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya:

Decree No 194 of 1981 on the Use of the Red Crescent emblem

-Kingdom of Morocco:

Royal Decree No 256-58-1 of 15 Rabei II 1378AH (29 October 1958) regarding the use of the Red Crescent emblem

* A draft amendment to this Royal Decree is currently being prepared by the Moroccan NC for IHL.

-Arab Republic of Egypt:

Law No 12 of 1940 on the Protection of the Emblem

* A draft law prepared by the Egyptian NC for IHL is currently in the process of enactment by competent legislative authorities.

NC in several Arab states are currently preparing draft laws on the protection of the emblem, including the Republic of Tunisia, the Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria, and the United Arab Emirates.

3- Legislation on Weapons:

The Advisory Service prepared a draft law for the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Landmines in Arabic and it was distributed to Arab States having ratified this treaty. A set of laws has already been enacted and draft laws are currently being completed in other states.

States having adopted special laws on the prohibition of mines:

-Republic of Yemen:

Law No 25 of 2005 on the Prohibition of the Production, Stockpiling, Use, Transfer and Trafficking in anti-Personnel Landmines.

-Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

Law No 10 of 2008 on the Prohibition of anti-Personnel Landmines

-Islamic Republic of Mauritania:

Law No 6 of 2008 on the Prohibition of anti-Personnel Landmines

Sudan is currently working to complete the draft law on the prohibition of landmines.

The Advisory Service has also circulated guidelines prepared in Geneva on laws implementing conventions on chemical and biological weapons.

Several Arab States have enacted laws in this respect, including:

-The Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria:

Law No 09-03 of 19 July 2003 including the suppression of crimes in breach of provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction.

-Republic of Sudan:

Law on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of 2004

-Republic of Yemen:

Law No 17 of 2000 on approval of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction.

-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

The system of implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction, enacted by virtue of the Prime Minister's Decree No 261 of 26 Shawwal 1426AH, corresponding to 28 November 2005.

The Sultanate of Oman:

Royal Decree No 21/97 regarding the system of implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction.

IV- Dissemination of and Training on IHL Provisions:

Since 1999, a great leap has been achieved in IHL dissemination and training programs. The Advisory Service targeted several categories related to the application of IHL at the national level, including magistrates, diplomats, parliament members, national commission members, government sectors concerned with the implementation of IHL in general at the national level.

In the following section we will review regional and national efforts for the dissemination of IHL, though this report cannot encompass all the activities having been carried out; for this reason we will summarize the main features as follows:

A. Dissemination at the Regional Level:**1- Arab Courses on IHL:**

At the regional level, ICRC was able to carry out, in cooperation with the Arab Center for Legal and Judiciary Studies in Beirut, which is one of several organs of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice, a number of regional courses on IHL. These 10-day courses are quite theme-specific and target young competent government officials as well as NC members and law professors in different universities.

The following courses have been implemented from 2004 to 2009:

<i>S</i>	<i>Title of the Course</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>No of Participants</i>	<i>No of States</i>
1	The First Arab Course on IHL	Beirut 31 May to 11 June 2004	53	16
2	The Second Arab Course on IHL	Beirut 30 May to 10 June 2005	51	15
3	The Third Arab Course for Academic Circles on IHL	Beirut 29 August to 4 September 2005	36	18
4	The Third Arab Course on IHL	Beirut 5-16 June 2006	45	19
5	The Fourth Arab Course on IHL	Beirut 23 April to 4 May 2007	46	18

**on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law
at the level of Arab States 2009**

<i>S</i>	<i>Title of the Course</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>No of Participants</i>	<i>No of States</i>
6	The Fourth Arab Course for Academic Circles on IHL	Cairo 18-28 June 2007	35	16
7	The Fifth Arab Course on IHL	Tunis 5-16 May 2008	37	16
8	The Fifth Arab Course for Academic Circles on IHL	Tunis 7-18 July 2008	33	15
9	The Regional Course for Training of Trainers on IHL	Beirut 26 January to 6 February 2009	37	15
10	The Arab Course on IHL	Beirut 23 February to 6 March 2009	59	18
Total Number of Courses 10			Total number of trainees 432	

- It is noted that beginning 2009, participants from both the governmental and academic circles have been combined together in one course named «The Arab Course on IHL». It is expected that in 2010, two courses would be organized as a result of the high motivation and interest exhibited by states and academic circles to participate in such courses.
- In 2009, a special course was organized to train the trainers on IHL. This course was an opportunity for participant Arab states to develop specialized cadres in the domain of IHL dissemination.

2- Regional Course for Magistrates:

In 2003 and 2004, the ICRC organized two courses in collaboration with the National Center for Judiciary Studies affiliated with the Ministry of Justice in the Arab Republic of Egypt. 70 magistrates from 17 Arab States participated in these courses.

As a step toward the implementation of recommendations of regional plans of action, Arab states would host specialized regional centers to train judges and magistrates. Thus, the Kuwait Center for Legal and Judicial Studies negotiated with the ICRC the establishment of a regional division to train judges and public prosecutors on IHL within the Kuwait Center. On 12 October 2004, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the government of the State of Kuwait and the ICRC regarding the establishment of this regional center (enclosed herewith is a copy of the MoU).

Three courses have been organized so far in the Center as follows:

<i>Serial</i>	<i>Date of Course</i>	<i>No of Participants</i>	<i>No of States</i>
1	First Course: 5-9 March 2005	30	10
2	Second Course: 10-14 March 2007	30	11
3	Third Course: 3-6 November 2008	23	10

Since Article three, paragraph two, of the aforementioned MoU * stipulates that “This agreement shall remain valid for five years, automatically renewable for similar period(s) unless either party expresses its wish, through the usual diplomatic channels, to terminate it six months at least before its expiry”;

Consequently, this MoU signed on 12 October 2004 is, by virtue of this provision, valid for a renewed period of five years as of 12 October 2009.

3- Regional Course for Diplomats:

The UAE Diplomatic Institute took the initiative to implement the recommendations of regional plans of action to host regional centers for training diplomats, to negotiate with the ICRC the establishment of a regional division to train diplomats on IHL within the UAE Institute. On 27 November 2005, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the government of the United Arab Emirates and the ICRC regarding the establishment of this regional center (enclosed herewith is a copy of the MoU).

Two courses have been organized so far as follows:

<i>Serial</i>	<i>Date of Course</i>	<i>No of Participants</i>	<i>No of States</i>
1	First Course: 19-22 November 2006	23	19
2	Second Course: 2-6 March 2008	28	18

Since Article Three, paragraph two of the aforementioned MoU ** stipulates that “This agreement shall remain valid for four years, automatically renewable for similar period(s) unless either party expresses its wish, through the usual diplomatic channels, to terminate it six months at least before its expiry”;

Consequently, this MoU signed on 27 November 2007 is, by virtue of this provision, valid for a renewed period of four years as of 27 November 2009.

* Annex No (1) to this report page 23

** Annex No (2) to this report page 25

4- Meetings with Arab Members of Parliament:

Within the context of enhancing the system of application of international humanitarian law, the International Committee of the Red Cross embarked on a process of cooperation with the Arab Parliamentary Union in order to appeal to Arab parliaments and support the adoption of national legislation to enforce provisions of IHL conventions at the national level within each State.

The first regional meeting with distinguished parliament members in the Arab World took place in Damascus, Syria during the period 20-22 November 2005. The Syrian People's Assembly participated in the organization of this meeting alongside the Arab Parliamentary Union and the ICRC.

In early 2010, the second regional meeting of Arab members of parliament will be organized in Cairo, with the concerted efforts of the Arab Parliamentary Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the People's Assembly in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

It should be noted here that until 2001 there was no cooperation between the ICRC and Arab parliaments on a bilateral level. At present, several Arab parliaments have managed in recent years to support this bilateral cooperation through the organization of a number of courses for distinguished members of parliament in the following states:

- | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1- Egypt | 2- Morocco | 3- Sudan |
| 4- Syria | 5- Jordan | 6- Kuwait |
| 7- Yemen | 8- Bahrain | |

5- Participation in Special Meetings of the League of Arab States:

In the light of promoting the memorandum of understanding signed between the League of Arab States and the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1999, the participation of the representative of the ICRC Advisory Service on IHL in special meetings organized by the Arab Center for Legal and Judiciary Research has been coordinated, within the framework of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice. These specialized meetings are held annually for officials responsible for legislation within the Arab world as well as directors of Arab judiciary institutes.

This participation in meetings of legislation officials within the Arab World in 2005 in Cairo, 2006 in Algeria, 2007 in Khartoum and 2009 in Kuwait provided an opportunity to incorporate the issue of the adaptation of national legislation with IHL provisions on the agenda of this important annual meeting. A special course was organized in the Kingdom of Morocco in 2005 and was dedicated entirely to IHL.

Also participation in the special meeting of directors of Arab judiciary institutes, particularly the meeting held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in 2006, had an influential effect on

incorporating IHL as a subject on the training programs for judges in the majority of Arab judiciary institutes.

B. Dissemination at the National Level:

When addressing dissemination at the national level, we refer to national reports enclosed herewith and prepared by Arab States. We can sum up the main features of dissemination programs in that most Arab countries accord special importance to dissemination in judiciary, diplomatic and parliamentary circles.

To conclude, efforts exerted throughout these years are only the beginning of a long path toward the implementation of international humanitarian law, and a necessary prelude to forming specialized cadres and competent personnel who can play a vital role in the national implementation of IHL.

Here, we must commend the increased awareness by all Arab States and their involvement and participation in many procedures as illustrated in the state reports.

Counselor Cherif atlam

ANNEX “1”

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the State of Kuwait and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the creation of the Regional Centre for training magistrates and public prosecutors in the field of International Humanitarian Law

The State of Kuwait, represented by the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, hereinafter referred to as the “Institute”, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, represented by the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kuwait, hereinafter referred to as the “Delegation”, being parties to this MOU,

- desiring to reinforce cooperation between the two parties,
- conscious of the need to train judicial cadres of magistrates and public prosecutors in the field of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at both the national and regional levels,
- emphasizing the support to and implementation of the provisions of IHL in accordance with the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977,
- anxious to ensure the adequate implementation of the regional plan of action for the implementation of IHL, adopted at the meeting of the Arab government experts held in Cairo on 28-30 October 2002, and which included a proposal to create regional institute for magistrates, diplomats, and police officers, in Arab countries,

The discussions took place in a friendly and amicable atmosphere, marked by a spirit of fraternity, sincere cordiality and mutual understanding. It was agreed on the following:

The institute shall strive to create the two aforementioned centres:

First: Consider the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies as the regional centre for training magistrates and public prosecutors in the field of IHL, its main role being to organize one regional course at least once every two years for participants from all over the Arab world.

Second: Develop the library of Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies so as to become a documentation centre for the provisions of IHL, relevant international conventions, all juridical researches and publications, and recommendations issued in this regard, and supply it with all its equipment.

In accordance with the following articles:

Article one

Obligations of the Institute

- 1- Inviting the Ministries of justice, judicial centres or institutes in different Arab countries to participate in the above-mentioned regional course at a date to be determined by the two parties.
- 2- Supervising the holding of this annual course, organizing the procedures for the reception and departure of the participants at the airport, covering the costs of accommodation, living expenses,

and transportation of participants provided that the number of participants does not exceed one person from each participating country.

- 3- Preparing and equipping training halls in accordance with the agenda agreed upon of the course.
- 4- Allocating a suitable place for the IHL documentation centre at the Institute.
- 5- Issuing certificates to be handed over to the participants in coordination with the Delegation.

Article two

Obligations of the Delegation

- 1- Preparing the program of the aforementioned annual course in coordination with the Institute's administration.
- 2- Contracting the necessary experts and lecturers for carrying out the teaching and training during the course, and payment of their remuneration and travel expenses.
- 3- Providing all necessary documents for the course and for the documentation centre, whether international conventions, publications, or researches, both in Arabic and English languages, and regularly updating them,
- 4- Organizing annual courses, in coordination with the Institute at the national level, to train magistrates and public prosecutors on the provisions of IHL, provided that the Delegation covers the expenses and remunerations of experts and the costs of documents.

Article three

Entry into force, Amendment, Termination

- 1- This MOU shall enter into force as soon as the State of Kuwait notifies the Delegation of having fulfilled all the necessary constitutional procedures for the entry into force of this MOU.
- 2- This MOU shall remain valid for five years, automatically renewable for a similar period of time, unless either party expresses its wish, through the usual diplomatic channels, to terminate it. The MOU becomes invalid six (6) months after the date of notification.
- 3- This MOU may be amended upon a written request of either party. No amendment shall be considered unless approved in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Article.
- 4- This MOU shall not prevent any of the two parties from dealing or contracting with any other party on the same aspects set forth in the MOU, when deemed necessary

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in Kuwait on Tuesday 28 Shaaban 1425H, corresponding to 12 October 2004, in two original versions, both Arabic and English, equally authentic.

For the State of Kuwait
Counsellor Mohamed J. Ben Naji
Al Qenaie
Director
Kuwait Institute for Judicial
and Legal Studies

For the International Committee
of The Red Cross
Mr. Michel Meyer
Regional Delegate
International Committee
of the Red Cross in Kuwait

ANNEX “2”

Memorandum of Understanding between The Government of the State of the United Arab Emirates And The International Committee of the Red Cross on the creation of the Regional Centre for training Diplomats in the field of International Humanitarian Law

The State of the United Arab Emirates, represented by the Emirates Institute for Diplomats, hereinafter referred to as the “Institute”, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, represented by the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, hereinafter referred to as the “Delegation”, being parties to the MOU.

- desiring to reinforce cooperation between the two parties,
- conscious of the need to train diplomatic cadres in the field of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at both the national and regional levels,
- emphasizing the support to and implementing of the provisions of IHL in accordance with the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977,
- anxious to ensure the adequate implementation of the regional plan of action for the implementation of IHL, adopted at the meeting of the Arab government experts held in Cairo on 26-28 February 2004, which included a proposal to create regional institutes for magistrates, diplomats, and police officers, in Arab countries.

The discussions took place in a friendly and amicable atmosphere, marked by a spirit of fraternity, sincere cordiality and mutual understanding. It was agreed on the following:

The Institute shall strive to create the regional centre for diplomats:

First: Consider the Emirates Institute of Diplomats as the regional centre for training diplomats in the field of IHL, its main role being to organize one regional course at least once every two years for participants from all over the Arab world.

Second: Develop the library of the Emirates Institute of Diplomats so as to become a documentation centre for the provisions of IHL, relevant international conventions, all legal researches and publications, and recommendations issued in this regard, and supply it with all the necessary equipment.

In accordance with the following articles:

Article One

Obligations of the Institute

- 1- Inviting the Ministries of Foreign Affairs or Diplomatic Institutes in different Arab countries to participate in the above-mentioned regional course at a date to be determined by the two parties.
- 2- Supervising the holding of this annual course, organizing the procedures for the reception and departure of the participants at the airport, covering the costs of accommodation, living expenses, and transportation of participants provided that the number of participants does not exceed one person from each participating country.

- 3- Preparing and equipping training halls in accordance with the course agenda already agreed upon.
- 4- Allocating a suitable place for the IHL documentation centre at the Institute.
- 5- Issuing certificates to be handed over to the participants in coordination with the Delegation.

Article Two

Obligations of the Delegation

- 1- Preparing the program of the aforementioned annual course in coordination with the Institute's administration.
- 2- Outsourcing the necessary experts and lecturers to carry out the teaching and training during the course, and payment of their remuneration and travel expenses.
- 3- Providing all necessary documents for the course and for the documentation centre, whether international conventions, publications, or researches, both in Arabic and English languages, and regularly updating them.
- 4- Organizing annual courses, in coordination with the Institute at the national level, to train diplomats on the provisions of IHL, provided that the Delegation covers the expenses and remunerations of experts and the costs of documents.

Article Three

Entry into force, Amendment, Termination

- 1- This MoU shall enter into force from the date of signature of both Parties.
- 2- This MoU shall remain valid for four years, automatically renewable for a similar period of time, unless either party expresses its wish, through the usual diplomatic channels, to terminate it. The MoU becomes invalid six (6) months after the date of notification.
- 3- This MoU may be amended upon a written request of either party.
- 4- This MoU shall not prevent any of the two parties from dealing or contracting with any other party on the same aspects set forth in the MoU, when deemed necessary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in Abou Dhabi, on Sunday, 27/11/2005, in two original versions, both Arabic and English, equally authentic.

For the Government
of the United Arab Emirates
Abdullah Rashid Al Noaimi
Under-Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
United Arab Emirates

For the International Committee
of the Red Cross
Michel Meyer
Head of the Regional Delegation
International Committee
of the Red Cross

SECOND SECTION

**Regional Plan of action
and the National Reports
on the implementation
of International Humanitarian Law**

**REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN
LAW (IHL) AT THE LEVEL OF ARAB STATES FOR THE
YEARS 2009/2010
(adopted on 13/10/2009)**

Expressing deep concern over the situation of IHL implementation in armed conflicts within the world at large and in the Arab region particularly;

Emphasizing the obligation of respecting and ensuring respect for IHL by all parties concerned and in all circumstances;

Reminding of the recommendations of regional meetings of Arab parliamentarians and legislators regarding the legislative aspects of IHL implementation, which took into consideration that the commitment to respect and ensure respect for IHL cannot be enforced without implementing international obligations at the national level. Hence, reiterating the importance of state adoption of the necessary legislative, regulatory and practical measures at the national level;

Taking into consideration the desired objectives of establishing a regional judiciary center in the State of Kuwait and a regional center for diplomats within the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Resolution of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice to mandate the Center for Legal and Judiciary Studies in Beirut to hold two regional courses a year on IHL, as well as efforts targeting the dissemination of and training on IHL provisions at the national level in different Arab countries;

Conveying the importance of capitalizing on progress in implementing IHL at the national level within the Arab World through the implementation of regional plans of action developed throughout previous years;

Being satisfied with efforts undertaken by the Follow-up Commission on the Implementation of IHL at the level of Arab States, set up by the Legal Department of the Arab League of States and the ICRC Advisory Service to follow up the implementation of regional plans of action, and desiring to emphasize ongoing Arab effort to adhere to IHL provisions;

Taking into consideration developments relevant to the implementation of IHL at the national, regional and international levels;

Participants present in the eighth meeting of Arab government experts and representatives of national commissions for IHL, approve the following plan of action in conformity with the priorities set for 2009/2010:

- 1- Proceed with efforts geared toward the establishment Arab national structures for the implementation of IHL in Arab countries not having done so, which advise and assist national authorities regarding the implementation and dissemination of IHL.
- 2- Enhance coordination and exchange of expertise and visits among existing national commissions and between them and authorities responsible for studying the establishment of national structures within states not having established them yet and; call upon the IHL Follow-up Commission to organize and implement special programs for such exchange and coordination.

- 3- Urge governments to provide all the necessary requirements and resources to implement IHL and to fulfill their role to keep pace with developments at the level of implementation and dissemination of IHL.
- 4- Advance national studies and researches on the track of adherence to IHL conventions that States have not yet ratified in line with each State's perceived interests.
- 5- Continue the process of revising national legislation already in force in Arab countries in order to draw recommendations on their adaptation with international obligations ensuring from IHL conventions States have already ratified, especially in the domain of combating war crimes, protection of the emblem, protection of cultural property, the regulation of means and methods of management of military action, and the protection of the rights of the missing and their families.
- 6- Advise national structures for the implementation of IHL, Arab Parliaments, the Arab Parliamentary Union, and the ICRC, to cooperate in order to support efforts of Arab parliaments geared toward adopting relevant legislation at the national level.
- 7- Proceed with national and regional efforts to disseminate IHL among concerned government circles, especially judges, public prosecutors, members of military justice, diplomatic circles and parliamentarians.
- 8- Promote efforts aiming at the incorporation of IHL in military training programs, and civil education, particularly university curricula of the faculties of law, political science and mass communication; support by National Commissions to Ministries of Education in States concerned with the implementation of "Exploring Humanitarian Law" program in elementary education.
- 9- Support efforts of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the dissemination of IHL provisions within the Arab region.
- 10- Carry on the compilation of data on the implementation of IHL at the regional level, and legislative and practical measures to facilitate the exchange of information and documentation among various Arab countries; publish the Arab Report on the Situation of the Implementation of IHL.
- 11- Request the ICRC Advisory Service to proceed with efforts, national and regional meetings in order to offer technical support and legal advice to government bodies and academic circles concerned with the implementation and dissemination of IHL so as to put this plan of action into effect; encourage the IHL Follow Up Commission to follow up and facilitate IHL implementation.
- 12- Invite the League of Arab States to establish a standing commission for IHL responsible for following up the implementation of this law at the national and regional levels.

**Reports of Arab States on National Measures
for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law**

JORDAN

Ratified Conventions:

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 1980
- Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) 1980
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) 1980.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

The most prominent activities and achievements having been implemented in 2008 and early 2009 can be summarized as follows:

1. Review the Law establishing the National Commission No. (63) for the year 2002, and proposed amendments, and submit them to the Parliament, which is expected to approve them at the upcoming session which will commence in late November 2009. The proposed amendments provides the Commission with further competences to ensure flexibility and autonomy of work, and the expansion of the jurisdictions of the President to appoint experts and professionals in the field of international humanitarian law. At the level of legislative efforts, the Commission contacted official circles in Jordan, including the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice in order to complete the constitutional procedures for the ratification of IHL conventions and publish them in the Official Gazette, as well as coordination with the legislature (Parliament) in order to carry out legislative adaptations between international conventions and national legislation.
2. In terms of dissemination, the Commission issued a semi-annual publication on IHL and all the experts and specialists in this field were sought to contribute to the bulletin. Posters and brochures on IHL have been printed, and the Commission held meetings with media personnel working in the print media the radio and television service for coverage of the Commission news with regard to IHL. A special section of the media has been dedicated to raise public awareness on IHL and to this end, several media personnel have been incorporated into the advisory sub-commissions of the Commission.
3. In the domain of teaching, the Commission carried out the following activities:
 - An academic one-day seminar with the Jordanian University on the International Criminal Court
 - An academic one-day seminar with Aal al- Bayt University on the national implementation of IHL
 - A number of academic meetings with some private universities such as the University of Philadelphia , Jedara, Al-Israa and Jerash on different subjects in the field of international humanitarian law
 - Several meetings with deans and professors of IHL in public universities on means to integrate the subject of IHL as a stand-alone or core subject within university curriculums.
 - Several academic seminars with a number of colleges and junior colleges, such as the Royal Police Academy, the Judicial Institute, and the Diplomatic Institute, on international humanitarian law.
 - Many academic seminars on IHL for administrative governors in all provinces of the Kingdom.
4. In the area of training, the Committee participated in training seminars held annually with the regular judges and military judges, which aims to train judges and prosecutors on how to deal with the international conventions on international humanitarian law, especially the Statute of the International Criminal Court, the fact that Jordan was the first Arab country to ratify the Islamic system Statute of the International Criminal Court.
5. At the level participation in conferences and seminars during the past year, the National Commission participated in several international, regional and national conferences on IHL, including a seminar on the post- armed conflict justice held in Cairo, seminar on the International

Criminal Court held in October 2008, and the regional meeting of national associations held in Damascus earlier this year, as well as the special meeting of National Societies held in Tunis in October 2009, and participation in seminars, conferences and workshops at the local level in Jordan, which were directly or indirectly related to international law humanitarian law. Meetings were also arranged with civil society organizations in the domains of international criminal justice and international humanitarian law.

6. In terms of administrative procedures carried out by the National Commission, the latter established of a permanent and independent headquarters, which was furnished with all managerial staff and equipment needed to ensure institutional action. A specialized library on international humanitarian law has been compiled with the support of the ICRC, and a national database was established in the field of IHL including names of experts. The Commission established a website with the purpose of disseminating IHL, and there is a tendency to establish a documentation center for material on IHL.
7. In terms of regional action, Jordan has hosted the eighth regional meeting of Arab governmental experts, and the Commission worked early on in 2009 to make all the arrangements and carry out all the procedures, in coordination with the ICRC Advisory Service office to ensure success and orderliness to the meeting. Preparation and coordination for this meeting were also carried out with the official authorities in Jordan, particularly the Ministry of Justice.
8. At the beginning of 2009 the Commission established direct communication channels with some parties to promote IHL and its implementation at the national level in Jordan, with for instance the National Center for Human Rights, the Diplomatic Institute, the Judicial Institute, as the National Commission has become an advisory reference in Jordan with regard to IHL.
9. The questionnaire received from the Office of advisory services and the League of Arab States regarding the annual report on the activities of national commissions for IHL in the Arab world, as well as the questionnaire on the database for updating information on international humanitarian law at the level of legislation in Jordan have been received and filled out.
10. The implementation of items contained in the Regional Plan of Action approved at the last meeting of Arab governmental experts.
11. Regarding future ambitions, the Jordanian National Commission for IHL hopes that, within the constraints of its limited financial resources, to be able to carry out all the programs and activities related to IHL, particularly with regard to some programs of the Ministry of Education, including EHL targeting the age group 12-14 years, after the ICRC has handed the program over to the Ministry of Education.
12. At the level of cooperation and exchange of expertise and experiences, despite the recommendation of the Seventh Regional Meeting to promote the principle of the law and communicate with other Arab National Commissions with a view to making use of the experiences of other commissions, this item has not been promoted. We recommend that a specific mechanism would be put forth to promote this item, so that the Commission would work on developing plans to exchange expertise and experiences with other national commissions for IHL on a bilateral level.
13. The Commission is also working on the publication of an annual report on the status of international humanitarian law and its implementation at the national level in Jordan.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ratified Conventions:

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 1980
- Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) 1980
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) 1980.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) 2003

Signed Conventions:

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998

The most important achievements since the beginning of 2008 in the implementation of IHL:

* The Council of Ministers Decree for the year 2008 authorizing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to restructure the National Commission for IHL paved the way for the establishment of the Commission, by virtue of a ministerial decree issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Membership includes previous members in the Commission in addition to three authorities being added, namely, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Education, and Institute for Training and Judicial Studies.

* The Commission is currently preparing a draft plan of action for 2010.

* The second training course for Arab diplomats in the field of IHL has been organized in 2008, pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the ICRC on the establishment of the Regional Training Center for Arab Diplomats on IHL in the United Arab Emirates. The Commission is currently coordinating with the ICRC to prepare for the third training course for Arab Diplomats in the field of IHL, which is expected to be held in the first quarter of 2010.

* A number of courses have been organized for stakeholders within the State, in cooperation with the ICRC, whereas a course was organized at the Institute for Training and Judicial Studies in 2008 to members of the judiciary. Another course has also been organized in coordination with the ICRC in April 2009 to competent state authorities to introduce IHL to them. On the sidelines of courses offered, seminars and lectures have been organized for universities in the country.

BAHRAIN

Ratified Conventions:

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998

1. On 9 September 2009, the Kingdom of Bahrain issued Law No 51 of 2009 regarding the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction. This law provided that a national commission should be set up to prohibit the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. The Law also stipulates, unless otherwise specifically provided for in this Law, that provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, ratified by the Kingdom in 1977, shall be applicable.

2. In the Kingdom of Bahrain, several training courses and symposia for raising awareness have been organized in cooperation with the ICRC in order to disseminate concepts and principles of IHL among both members of the judiciary and of the diplomatic and consular corps, as well as the Institute for Political Development.
3. The Bahrain University, represented by the Faculty of Law, organizes several workshops on the implementation of IHL, where IHL is taught as an elective (optional subject).

TUNISIA

Ratified Conventions:

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity 1968.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 1980
- Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) 1980
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) 1980.
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) 1980.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) 1995
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000
- Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) 2003

Signed Conventions

- Convention on Cluster Munitions 2008

The most important activities implemented for the dissemination of and training on provisions of IHL were as follows:

Tunisia is keen to intensify efforts for the dissemination of IHL among the military through the Ministry of National Defense and also at the civilian level. Such efforts have been reinforced in recent years, as several ministries concerned with the implementation of IHL and also with the dissemination of IHL culture launched initiatives to develop programs and plans to raise awareness of IHL.

1 – At the military level: Ministry of National Defense

The Ministry of National Defense in Tunisia ensured the dissemination of IHL through:

- Teaching IHL in all military colleges and institutes starting with student officers, then officers at different levels and grades
- Incorporation of IHL into training programs and training centers, as well as applied programs at the unit level
- Special courses for officers in the field of IHL.

2 - At the civilian level:

In addition to efforts geared toward training competent personnel in this domain, through participation in training courses organized by the ICRC, whether to magistrates and government experts or to teachers at colleges and universities, the competent ministries, in particular the Ministries of Justice and Human rights, Education and Training, Higher education and scientific research, and Foreign Affairs, launched numerous initiatives to develop programs and plans for raising awareness of IHL.

These ministries are also seeking to integrate IHL into the programs of their education and training institutions through incorporation of IHL into themes of theses and specialization for graduate students and for judicial attachés.

There are also several dissemination programs organized jointly with the Tunisian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC Delegation in Tunis.

At the international level, Tunisia was keen to confirm its involvement in the international system and to keep pace with the most recent developments in the field of IHL and its application, through

participation in key international and regional meetings and courses to which Tunisia was invited. A group of competent personnel and government cadres and judges contributed to both international and regional efforts in the sphere of development of the IHL system and implementation thereof and raising awareness of its provisions, as well as training of a group of national experts to carry out their role in the dissemination of IHL culture and awareness raising at all levels.

- State Plan of Action for the implementation of IHL until the end of 2010:

The Tunisian National Commission for IHL is preparing an annual plan to be discussed in the Commission meeting and be approved by members, and then ensure its implementation.

For the current year 2009-2010, a draft plan is underway and would be approved soon.

ALGERIA

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998

Major activities implemented in the domain of dissemination of and training on IHL provisions

- Training course for judges from 27 November to 1 December 2008
- One-day course for members of the National Commission for IHL on 2 December 2008
- Training course for Algerian journalists in the visual , broadcast and printed mass media on 21 January 2009
- Training course for Algerian doctors (physicians) on 2 May 2009
- One-day informative forum “Al-Mojahed” (the struggler) to introduce the NC for IHL on the occasion of the first anniversary of the commission on 8 June 2009.

Plan of action in the domain of implementation of IHL until the end of 2010

HE Mr. Minister and President of the NC for IHL adopted the following project of action:

- In the sphere of legislation:
 - Prepare a draft law on the use of the Red Crescent emblem as an indicative sign for medical, military and civilian facilities and Algerian Red Crescent Society utilities.
 - Put forth a plan to adapt national legislation with IHL rules.
- In the sphere of the media:
 - Introduce IHL rules through various print, broadcast and visual mass media and also raise awareness regarding NC activities.
- In the sphere of forums:
 - Training courses for various sectors related to IHL, particularly judges, diplomats, journalists, doctors, professors of higher education and scientific research, archeologists etc.
 - Seminars to introduce rules of IHL to civil society.
 - Organizing an international forum for IHL.

DJIBOUTI

Ratified Conventions:

- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 1980
- Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) 1980
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) 1980.
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) 1980.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998

Signed Conventions

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

SAUDI ARABIA

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 1980
- Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) 1980
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) 1980.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) 1995
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999

Most important features of the plan of action on the implementation of international humanitarian law in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until the end of 2010

The Standing Commission on International Humanitarian Law was established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia upon the Council of Ministers Decree No. (144) of 24/4/1428 AH corresponding to (2007) under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al- Saoud and membership of delegates representing competent government agencies in the the field of IHL. Since its inception, the Standing Commission held several meetings through which the Rules of Procedure have been adopted, and the ICRC has received a copy of these rules. Sub-commissions have also been formed and their members designated, such as the Legal Sub-Commission, the Media Sub-Commission, the Publication, Research and Training Sub-Commissions.

Two plans of action have been put forth for the Standing Commission on IHL for the years 2009 and

2010. Both plans aim at achieving the goals of the Commission, seeking to implement and promote the rules of IHL through the adaptation of national legislation with these rules, dissemination and education of these rules.

SUDAN

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions:

- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 1980
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998

- The main activities having been implemented in the sphere of dissemination of and training on IHL provisions:

- 1 - Agreement between the National Commission for IHL and the ICRC to hold a periodic meeting every three months for coordination and cooperation; the first meeting took place on 26 March and the second on 30 June. The upcoming meeting is scheduled on 3 September God willing.
- 2 - A training course for border guards in cooperation with the ICRC on 11-15 January 2009 targeting 30 officers.

- 3 - A workshop on the preventive measures and the protection of civilians in collaboration with ICRC on 24-25 January targeting 40 officers
- 4 – Training course on the applicable adaptation of the principles of IHL with the Armed Forces Act on 24-29 January, targeting 75 persons representing relevant government institutions, civil society organizations and the media
- 5 - Workshop during the period 11-15 May 2009 on the genesis of the ICRC, targeting 60 participants from relevant government institutions
- 6 - Workshop on the use of rules of international law to protect monuments, on 27 May 2009, targeting 100 participants from relevant institutions and civil society organizations
- 7 - Training course for army officers in Nyala on an introduction to the law of armed conflicts on 5-9 April 2009 targeting 37 officers
- 8 - The National Commission for IHL celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions on 19 August, with the participation of the Red Crescent Society, the Civil Aid Organization and the ICRC. The celebration discussed IHL rules for the protection of civilians
- 9 - Training course for the Command and Staff College for 53 officers on an introduction to the Law of Armed Conflict on 27-30 June 2009
- 10 - Forum in West Darfur State as a prologue to the implementation of the Swiss support project including the National Commission Rapporteur and some members on 13 April 2009
- 11 - Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the ICRC on training on the Armed Forces Act and another MOU with UNICEF on the protection of the rights of children
- 12 - Workshop in Darfur to train judges, general prosecutors and police officers in August 2009 on the amendment to the Criminal Act of 2009 for 30 civil society organizations on the basic principles of international law

- **State Plan of Action on the implementation of IHL until the end of 2010**

The plan includes a number of activities carried out by thematic sub-commissions within the National Commission for IHL, established in 2003 by virtue of Republican Decree No. 48. The NC incorporates three sub-commissions: Adaptation, Protection, Publication and Education.

Sub-Commission on Adaptation: is mandated to harmonize national legislation with international conventions which Sudan acceded to, by submitting proposals for drafts of new laws or promoting already existing laws. It also prepares studies for the purpose of ratification of :

- 1 - Protocols additional to the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property
- 2 - Convention on Enforced Disappearance
- 3 - Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
- 4- Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices of 1996

In the framework of legislative adaptation, the Commission aims at:

- 1 - Adapting the Criminal Code of 1991 amended in 2009 with international humanitarian law
- 2 - Submitting the draft law on the emblem
- 3 - Draft law of the Red Crescent Society
- 4 - Draft Law on the Prohibition of Landmines

Sub-Commission on Protection:

- 1 - Study the identification of legal frameworks for the protection of civilian objects, cultural property, and dealing with international mechanisms
- 2- Studies relevant to the identification and restriction of the use of weapons in conflict and the standpoint of international law in this respect
- 3 - Study on continuous consultation with the ICRC regarding protection in relation to prison visits
- 4 - Implementation of the action program with the National Commission for Mine Action to protect victims of armed conflicts
- 5 - Implementation of programs with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society regarding Protection

Publication and Education Sub-commission:

- 1 - Publish an educational manual for training on the rules of IHL
- 2 - Organize a training workshop to disseminate IHL culture
- 3 - Determine periodic national and state TV and radio programs, specialized in the dissemination of IHL
- 4 - Seek to issue a semi-annual journal in the field of IHL in cooperation with competent authorities
- 5 - Enlist specialists in IHL and publish their work in daily newspapers.

SYRIA

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions:

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999

1. The adoption of the Syrian Law No. 36 on the Emblem, dated 21/12/2005, which adopted the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, and assigned the Syrian Red Crescent Organization to control the use of the emblem, and identify the authorities entitled to use those emblems.

Among the most important provisions contained in this law those punishing the crime of perfidy, namely provisional hard labor for a period between 3 and 15 years.

2. Activities carried out by the National Commission for IHL established by virtue of the Prime Minister's Decree No. 2989 of 2004 in the domain of implementation include the following:
 - a) Establishment of a documentation and information center within the Commission, including documents, reports and provisions of IHL.
 - b) Coordination and cooperation with Arab and foreign national commissions to exchange information and experiences.

- c) Sorting out international conventions in the field of IHL that Syria has acceded to, in order to delineate the obligations requiring national action to be applied.
 - d) Follow-up on efforts carried out within the framework of EHL program, in particular the incorporation of principles and provisions of IHL into the curriculums and to inviting a number of experts in the field of the audio-visual and print media to formulate a media plan to reach the best means to promote IHL as widely as possible.
3. Among the activities undertaken by the Syrian National Commission for IHL in the domain of training:
- a) A two-day course for Ministry of Justice magistrates, in cooperation with the National Commission for IHL; and two-day course for Parliament members during December 2009
 - b) Meeting with the National Commission for IHL to determine the priorities and working methods for 2010
 - c) Teaching international humanitarian law in the faculties of Law, Universities of Damascus and Aleppo, whereas the curriculum of IHL has been incorporated into the bylaws of the college for the undergraduate and graduate studies.
- The University of Aleppo has also discussed on 4/10/2009 a PhD thesis on “International Protection of Women during International Armed Conflicts). Quite a large number of MA and PhD students chose topics of relevance to IHL as topics for their theses and dissertation.
- d) Teaching IHL to students of the Faculty of Political Science, the Higher Institute of the Judiciary, the National Institute of Administration, the Police College, military colleges and academies, and in training courses for members of the diplomatic corps.
 - e) Syria hosts courses supervised by university professors, judges, lawyers and constitutional institutions in collaboration with the Red Cross and Red Crescent, some diplomatic missions, the League of Arab States, Arab and foreign research institutions, the most recent of which was a seminar held in Damascus on 13-14 December 2003 on: “The International Criminal Court and Expansion of the Scope of International Humanitarian Law”
- 4 - Finally, within the framework of the adaptation of national legislation with international conventions, the age of criminal responsibility for children has been raised from 7 to 10 years in the Syrian Juvenile Act.

SOMALIA

Ratified Conventions

-The Four Geneva Conventions 1949

Signed Conventions

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000
- Convention on Cluster Munitions 2008

IRAQ

Ratified Conventions

Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions

- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- **Major activities implemented in the domain of dissemination of and training on IHL provisions:**
 1. Activities for the dissemination of IHL provisions (workshops - training)
 2. Provide legal advice to the Iraqi government in the field of international humanitarian law
 3. Participate in programs (conferences, lectures) organized by Iraqi universities to disseminate of international humanitarian law, in cooperation with the ICRC
 4. Organize the training course sponsored by the Institute of International Humanitarian Law in San Remo in Iraq for workers in the field of international humanitarian law
 5. Monitor violations of IHL, especially of the Fourth Geneva Convention in Iraq prior to 2009.

- **Plan of Action for the State regarding the enforcement of IHL until the end of 2010**

The Iraqi government developed a plan after the establishment of the National Commission for IHL for the purpose of:

1. Establishing the National Commission for IHL; prepare the draft law
2. Increasing coordination between institutions working in the field of international humanitarian law in cooperation with Iraqi academic institutions
3. Establishment of task forces within each ministry to cooperate on the file of international humanitarian law
4. Organize training courses (general and specialized) in the domain of international humanitarian law.

OMAN

Ratified Conventions

- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999

The Sultanate is keen to follow up on all the issues relevant to international humanitarian law, particularly the regular regional meetings of the Arab governmental experts in the field of IHL. The Sultanate of Oman has from time to time, in cooperation with the ICRC, organized courses and seminars to raise awareness regarding IHL to several categories of civil servants, the most recent of which was the symposium held in 2009 for judges and public prosecutors (Attorney Generals). On the other hand, efforts have made great strides in establishing a national commission for international humanitarian law which we hope would see the light in the near future, so that we can launch a new phase of action geared toward expanding the knowledge base on provisions of international humanitarian law.

Oman has ratified a number of conventions and agreements related to teaching IHL at the Faculty of Law.

Following the Sultanate's approach and keenness to uphold international standards in all the domains related to the protection of human beings in general, the National Commission for Human Rights and the National Commission for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human beings have been established.

Courses are being organized in succession at the level of the armed forces in cooperation with the Red Cross.

Teaching international humanitarian law in the Faculty of Law has also been approved.

Oman also participated in several training courses organized by the Red Cross to train cadres specialized in international humanitarian law, the most recent of which being a training course for lecturers in the law held in Beirut.

PALESTINE

Signed Conventions

- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.

Achievements in 2008:

1. Prepare a training manual on international humanitarian law to be used in courses in the field of IHL.
2. Continue to work with Exploring Humanitarian Law program with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and ICRC; it should be noted that IHL has become part of the curriculum of some grades in the preparatory phase.
3. Proceed with training workshops for volunteers in the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.
4. Educate hundreds of school students on international humanitarian law through summer camps.
5. Circulate several educational publications in the field of IHL.
6. Participate in all international and Arab meetings / conferences relevant to IHL.
7. Educate employees of the Palestinian security service through tens of educational courses on IHL.
8. Education segments of Palestinian society (journalists, lawyers, staff of civil society institutions).
9. Document Israeli violations of IHL provisions such as:
 - Attacks on medical staff and disruption of their activities;
 - Excessive use of force ;
 - Monitoring of settlement activity in the Palestinian Occupied Territory
 - Monitoring the damage caused by building the annexation and expansion wall.
10. Follow-up the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestinian Red Crescent and Magen David Adom and prepare periodic evaluation reports on that matter.
11. Complete the draft law of the emblem and present it to the Council of Ministers.
12. Issue a number of reports on Israeli violations in the Gaza Strip.
13. Give lectures on IHL at the Palestinian Security Academy and the Police Faculty.

Key features of the plan of action in the State of Palestine on international humanitarian law:

1. Work on the issuance of the law of the emblem
2. Work on a draft comprehensive plan on international humanitarian law to be applied in Palestine
3. Continue the dissemination and education of IHL among sectors of the Palestinian society
4. Strive to incorporate IHL into the teaching at the Palestinian Security Academy, the Police Faculty, and in Palestinian universities.

QATAR

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Qatar made significant steps to make a greater contribution, at the regional and international levels, to enhance the procession of IHL. These practical steps have assumed several facets, summarized as follows:

- I- On 30 September 2009, the State of Qatar issued a ratification document including approval to accede to the Convention on the Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
- II- Qatar issued on 30 September 2009 a ratification document including approval to accede to the Fifth Protocol to the CCW adopted in 2003
- III- On 30 September 2009, Qatar issued a ratification document including approval to accede to the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments, signed in Geneva on 1980
- IV- On 30 September 2009, Qatar issued a ratification document including approval to accede to the

Third Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons.

- V- On 30 September 2009, Qatar issued a ratification document including approval to accede to the Fourth Protocol adopted in Vienna in 1995 on Blinding Laser Weapons.
- VI- The establishment of a national commission for IHL has been approved in principle.
- VII- The State continued cooperation with the ICRC to train trainers in the domain of IHL from both military and civilian circles. This cooperation culminated with the training of a number of trainers from both sexes.
- VIII- IHL has been incorporated into programs of several training courses organized by the Center for Legal and Judiciary Studies affiliated with the Ministry of Justice.
- IX- Realizing the importance of disseminating the culture of IHL, the Ministry of Justice in the State of Qatar has, during the period following our seventh meeting, carried out the following two activities through the Center for Legal and Judiciary Studies:
 - 1. Organization of a training course on IHL in Doha on 13-15 May 2008, in cooperation with the Regional Delegation of the ICRC for GCC States and the Qatari Red Crescent Society; more than one hundred trainees from jurists working in State ministries and institutions, and civil society organizations participated in this course. The course included an introduction to IHL principles, international treaties underlying IHL principles, categories protected by IHL and international criminal justice regarding crimes committed in contravention of IHL provisions.
 - 2. In the wake of the Israeli aggression on Gaza early this year, the Ministry organized, through the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies also, a seminar on February 2nd, 2009 under the title of “Israeli aggression on Gaza in the light of the rules of international humanitarian law” hosting Dr. Abdel-Hussein Shaaban, Director of the Documentation Center of International Humanitarian Law, and member of the Permanent Bureau of the Union of Arab Jurists, who presented a lecture on this subject. Extensive discussion involving a large number of specialists followed the symposium, which has received wide media attention and was transmitted by numerous channels, including Al Jazeera, the Qatari satellite channel, as well as wide press coverage.

COMOROS

Ratified Conventions

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998

Signed Conventions

- Convention on Cluster Munitions 2008

KUWAIT

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity 1968.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998

The most important activities that have been implemented in the domain of dissemination of and training on provisions of international humanitarian law are as follows:

* In the light of Kuwait's keenness to disseminate and raise awareness of provisions of IHL and train stakeholders on said provisions, the National Commission for International Humanitarian Law has been established by virtue of HE Minister of Justice decree No. 244 of 2006. The Commission has been competent to carry out a set of functions, the most important of which is to

«promote the implementation of IHL provisions in Kuwait and coordinate with all relevant actors to implement these provisions at the national level»

* A number of courses and seminars have been organized thanks to cooperation between the National Commission for IHL, the Institute of Judiciary Studies and the International Committee of Red Cross, the most important of which was the symposium held in Kuwait Institute for Judicial Studies under the title of «International Humanitarian Law» during the period 5 to 9 March 2007. Participants included sectors targeted by IHL provisions and concerned actors such as judges, public prosecutors, military personnel and jurists.

- State Plan of Action regarding the implementation of IHL until the end of 2010

The themes of the Plan of Action put forth by the State of Kuwait seek to implement provisions of IHL during the period referred to above, and incorporate the following items:

- 1 - A series of awareness-raising sessions and training in cooperation with the Kuwait Institute for Legal and Judiciary Studies and Kuwait Red Crescent Society
- 2 - The incorporation into the curricula of military colleges and institutes and auxiliary institutes supporting the armed forces, of a variety of subjects relevant to raising awareness of and introduction of provisions of IHL
- 3 - Preparation of draft bills related to IHL for submission to Parliament for adoption
- 4 – Reaching a suitable formula to ensure ratification by the State of Kuwait of the ICC Statute

LEBANON

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993

Signed Conventions

- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000
- Convention on Cluster Munitions 2008

Summary of the measures carried out by Lebanese authorities in the context of dissemination of IHL culture and an examination of the principles and means of adaptation of such provisions with regulations and laws in Lebanon.

- Preparation of a draft decree for the establishment of the National Commission for IHL, which will be mainly composed of representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior as well as a representative of the Lebanese Red Cross and representatives of civil society associations. However, the prevailing political circumstances have delayed to a great extent the issuance of the said decree and thus deferred the appointment of the commission authorized to conduct studies and submit proposals to amend the laws in force or enact new legislation to adapt the Lebanese law with the requirements of international humanitarian law.

- Lebanon organized in 2008 and 2009, in conjunction with the ICRC in Lebanon and the Arab Center for Legal and Judiciary Studies, seminars for judges, military personnel and university professors on IHL within the framework of disseminating such culture among the professional circles.
- On Thursday, corresponding to 15 October 2009, two days from today, the Lebanese Ministry of Justice will organize an open forum with the public in conjunction with the ICRC in Beirut, hosting specialists in the culture established by the Geneva Convention by virtue of the rules prescribed therein regarding respect for humanitarian principles and fundamental human rights, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and the mobilization of public opinion on their principles.
- The Lebanese delegation participating in this meeting would report to the relevant authorities a summary of the discussions coupled with proposals made by participating delegations and the recommendations of this meeting, with an emphasis that competent Lebanese authorities need to submit their comments on the draft Arab Law on International Crimes by virtue of a working paper submitted prior to the end of the current year for presentation to the conference scheduled to be held on the same subject, in the first quarter of 2010.

LIBYA

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity 1968.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

In reference to Resolution No 204 of 2007 regarding the establishment of the National Commission for IHL and the designation of its competences, including the organization of training courses, conferences and workshops at the local level, and participation in external activities to raise awareness regarding IHL, creating specialized competent staff in this domain and establishing an infrastructure of local cadres to bear the responsibility of upgrading IHL;

In the light of the above, the NC held its first meeting on 22 July 2007 to proclaim the activities and actions. The NC identified its main objective as the «dissemination of IHL provisions among the public to raise awareness of rights and legal obligations in the event of armed conflicts and train national personnel to fulfill this aspect; and observing carefully studied steps, the NC followed such steps to implement its objectives as follows:

First Step:

Training specialized staff to be assigned the mission of introducing, teaching and training members of the armed forces to IHL, disseminating this law among army units, incorporating of IHL into the educational and training plan of the operation and training units of the army. For this purpose, and in coordination with the ICRC, four phases have been identified to organize local training courses with the assistance of international experts, as follows:

First Phase: 9-17 June 2007: including:

- Introductory course on IHL
- Basic course on IHL
- Training of trainers course on IHL
- Lectures on IHL in some institutions affiliated with the army, such as the Academy of Maritime Studies, the Academy of Aerial Studies and Sciences, the Faculty of Military Engineering, and the Permanent Military Court of Tripoli.

Second Phase: 2-10 December 2007, including:

- Training of legal trainers course on IHL
- Basic joint course for air and maritime forces
- Training of trainers course for peacekeeping and maintenance of order in the domain of IHL
- Lecture on IHL to students of the Girls' Military College

Third Phase: 8-18 June 2008, including:

- Basic course for jurists on IHL
- Basic course for observer officers on IHL
- Introduction to IHL for officers
- Basic course on IHL for duty staff officers
- Basic course on IHL for peacekeepers

Fourth Phase: 21-25 December 2008, including:

- Training of trainers course on IHL for distinguished participants in previous courses
- Course on the rules of using arms in IHL
- Introductory course on IHL for staff teaching law in educational institutions and army units

The total number of trainees on IHL reached 268. Nearly 50 trainees have been selected and focused upon to teach IHL in army units. The remaining trainees received courses within the framework of

introduction, dissemination and raising awareness of the law at the local level.

As for participation in external events, it was regulated by specific criteria. Nomination took place in accordance with the following criteria:

- The nominee should be a legally authorized army officer
- The nominee should be a legal officer or civilian jurist having participated in a local course on IHL
- The nominee should be a member of the NC for IHL

The most of participants were from the national commission, in regional and international events was 15 participants and 7 nominees. Thus, the presence of the Libyan Jamahiriya in this field has been taken into consideration by pioneering organizations and states in the field of IHL

Second Step:

Preparing programs and references in the domain of IHL to make use of and teach in army units. A special program has been already prepared and would be further revised and scrutinized by the NC and then presented for adoption in the near future.

Third Step:

The Secretary of State for Defense issued a Decree on the incorporation of IHL into educational and training programs in order to uphold its provisions during actual operations.

Our Suggestions regarding IHL

In implementation of the Libyan Jamahiriya's obligations vis-à-vis IHL provisions, and in view of the fact that the army is in charge of the implementation of most of these provisions, We propose the following national program for the dissemination and implementation of IHL provisions:

- The order: an order from the Secretary of State for Defense regarding the incorporation of IHL into educational and training programs for all ranks and levels, and obligation to observe this law during actual operations each in the scope of his responsibility provided for in the law
- Curricula: put forth a curriculum for IHL at all levels and ranks
- Provide references on IHL to all army libraries and offices
- Set a perception to adapt military legislation with international treaties the Jamahiriya has ratified in the domain of IHL.

EGYPT

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 1980
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998

Egypt has carried out a diversified and numerous efforts recently in the domain of implementation of international humanitarian law on several levels. It is noteworthy in this regard that the presence of the necessary mechanism, represented in the Egyptian National Commission for IHL had a profound impact on what we have reached Egypt in this area.

I- At the Level of Legislation:

1. Completion of the draft bill to amend the provisions of Law No. 12 of 1940 on the protection of the Red Crescent and the Red Cross emblem. The new draft law is intended to ensure greater respect and protection necessary for the international emblems and signs set forth in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols I and II of 1977, through a more accurate regulation of the use of international emblems and insignia, their protection and the incrimination of their misuse, including the Red Crescent and the Red Cross emblems, as well as works and installations containing dangerous forces, civil defense and any other internationally recognized emblem. All parties concerned in Egypt approved the draft bill, and it is part of the laws to be discussed during the upcoming parliamentary session.
2. Preparation of a draft law on punishing international crimes: the Egyptian National Commission for IHL prepared a draft bill including precise legislative regulation of international crimes as genocide and war crimes, in line with Egypt's national and international obligations in this regard and with the international trend, based on respect to and support of the application of rules of international humanitarian law. The draft has identified the types and elements of these crimes and the temporal and spatial scope of their application, and penalties for each crime. This draft bill will be presented to stakeholders for approval as a prelude to its entry into the stages of legislation necessary for its issuance.
3. Beginning to take executive measures to ratify the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects concluded in 1980. Egypt signed the Convention referred to and remain the measures of ratification, which will be approved as soon as two of its additional protocols would be approved. Opinion has tended to approve Protocol I on the Prohibition of the Use of Fragments Undetectable by X-ray and Protocol IV on the Prohibition of the Use of Blinding Laser Weapons which cause permanent blindness.
4. A legislative committee composed of members of the Egyptian National Commission for IHL and the legislation sector of the Ministry of Justice, has been set up to prepare a draft law on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which would include provisions consistent with the legislative and administrative measures in force in this area at the national and international levels and within the scope of application of the rule of law international humanitarian law.

II- At the level of Dissemination and Education:

1. Coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education to incorporate international humanitarian law within the curriculum for university students, in particular, law schools and law, Shari'a, political science, mass communication, military colleges and the Police College, in addition to training of trainers by the Ministry of Education on the application of international humanitarian law at the level of schools.
2. Incorporate topics of international humanitarian law among the subjects and activities carried out by the Ministries of Culture and of Information through conferences, symposia and scientific seminars.

3. Training on the application of international humanitarian law to the diplomatic and consular corps at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, judges, public prosecutors, army and police officers, and members of parliament, by organizing training courses through training authorities at each of these levels, such as in the case of the Diplomatic Institute, the National Center for Judicial Studies (CNEJ), military colleges, and the Graduate School for police officers.
4. Cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in organizing training courses on the implementation of IHL for army and police officers, members of the diplomatic and consular corps, judges and public prosecutors.
5. Promotion of research and studies in the field of international humanitarian law; assignment of scholarships to interns in this area, while providing scientific libraries of the concerned institutions with literature and recent studies.

III- At the level of the Media:

1. Multiply efforts geared toward the dissemination of IHL principles through the print media, broadcast and television services inside Egypt and disseminate knowledge of the international movement of Red Crescent and Red Cross and the activities of the Egyptian National Commission.
2. Organize training courses for journalists and media personnel to raise awareness of international humanitarian law in cooperation with the Radio and Television Union.
3. Take the necessary measures in cooperation with the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority and firms operating in this field to create a website for the Egyptian National Commission in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross with the intent of disseminating IHL provisions.

MOROCCO

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 1980
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) 1980.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) 1995
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions

- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999

- **Conventions Relevant to IHL having been ratified by the State during this period:**
 - The most recent instrument having been ratified was the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the Participation of Children in Armed Conflicts, of the year 2000. Morocco ratified this Protocol on 22 May 2005;
 - It is noteworthy that efforts to ratify other international conventions relevant to IHL are still underway within a project for completing the engagement into the IHL system that the NC for IHL is working to implement. The Commission is currently embarking on a study of the possible ratification of the Two Protocols of 1977 Additional to the Four Geneva Conventions, within the scope of presenting an advisory opinion on the matter to the Prime Minister.
- **National Legislation enacted during this period in the domain of IHL**
 - Following the national symposium on criminal policy organized in the city of Meekness in December 2005, a technical team has been set up to review the body of the Criminal Code, in the light of recommendations of the a/m symposium, and to adapt this code with international conventions that the Kingdom of Morocco had ratified, including IHL instruments.
 - The NC for IHL has embarked since 30 June 2009 on studying a draft amendment to Decree No 256-58-1 of 15 Rabei II 1378 AH, corresponding to 29 October 1958 regarding the use of the Red Crescent emblem. The NC studied the draft during its meetings dated 5 June and 8 September 2009 respectively.
- **Main activities implemented in the domain of dissemination of and training on IHL provisions:**
 - During the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2009, the Kingdom of Morocco accomplished several activities under the rubric of disseminating IHL provisions, including mainly the following:

Universities:

- 10 to 11 April 2007: organizing the second meeting of the network of IHL professors in Moroccan universities and institutes;
- 30 April 2008: organizing the third meeting of the network of IHL professors in Moroccan universities and institutes (Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the ICRC);
- 04 June 2009: organizing the fourth meeting of the network of professors in Moroccan universities and institutes on IHL;

Parliaments:

- 16 April 2007: organizing a seminar on IHL for members of Parliament, particularly members of the justice, legislation and human rights commissions in the houses of representatives and advisors;
- 29 April 2008: organizing the second symposium on IHL for members of parliament, members of the Justice, legislation and human rights commissions in the houses of representatives and advisors;

Diplomats:

- 28 April 2008: organizing a seminar on “IHL and humanitarian action in the world today” for diplomats;

Civil Society:

- 20–21 May 2008: organizing the first seminar for raising awareness on IHL for civil society;
- Course for civil society organizations with the National Commission for IHL, the Advisory Council for Human Rights and the ICRC, with the participation of 50 representatives from 30 civil society associations.

Ministry of Justice:

- 05– 06 March 2009: organizing the second training course on IHL for prison commissioners (Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the General Commissariat for the management of prisons and reintegration)
- 07–08 June 2009: organizing the second training course on IHL for judges (Ministry of Justice);

National Commission:

- 31 March – 01 April 2009: organizing a training course to raise the awareness of NC members regarding IHL instruments, mechanisms and implementation at the national level (NC for IHL in cooperation with the ICRC);
- 19–22 May 2009: organizing a training course for regional educational teams within the framework of EHL program (State Secretariat for school education in cooperation with the ICRC and the NC for IHL);
- 2007/2008: accomplishing a study on the situation of teaching and research on IHL in Moroccan universities and academic institutions (Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the ICRC);
- 2007/2009: launching a website for IHL (Ministry of Justice, National Commission for IHL in cooperation with the ICRC);

• **If the state has not yet created a NC, what are the suggested measures for creating a NC for IHL:**

- The Kingdom of Morocco established the National Commission for IHL on 6th of October 2003, by virtue of the Prime Minister Decree, mandating the ministerial committee in charge of public freedoms and human rights law with the promotion of international humanitarian law. This committee was known as the Ministerial Committee in charge of public freedoms, human rights and international humanitarian law, “in the prospect of upgrading it to the level of an independent national mechanism concerned with mobilizing all efforts to disseminate and promote the principles of international humanitarian law and raise awareness of its rules”;

- In 2006 a working team was set up, the coordination of which was assigned to the Ministry of Justice, and was in charge of evaluating the experience and preparing a draft text for the regulation of the NC for IHL;
- On 10/07/2008, the Official Gazette, issue No 5646, published Decree No 231-07-2 of 5 Rajab 1429 AH (9 July 2008) for the creation of the national commission for IHL;
- On 31 October 2008: the president and members of the NC for IHL were nominated in a ceremony presided by the prime minister and in presence of some ministers and key national and foreign figures.

• **Plan of Action for the implementation of IHL until the end of 2010:**

We can summarize the main features of the NC plan of action for the year 2010 as follows:

Activity to be accomplished	Authority in charge of the activity	Authority funding the Activity
First Thesis: Studying International Instruments and National Legislation		
1- Conducting a study to assess the situation of IHL regarding national legislation and relevant international instruments, and elucidating the Kingdom's standpoint vis-à-vis each instrument	Activities to be accomplished by the National Commission	
2- Accomplishing a study to assess the situation regarding the dissemination of IHL at the national level		
3- Completing the draft law modifying the Decree on the use of the Red Crescent emblem		
4- Proceeding with studies to present an advisory opinion on Morocco's ratification of the Two Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions		
Second Thesis: Dissemination of IHL at the level of education, formation, training and raising awareness		
5- Organizing a training course for staff of the General commissariat for the Management of Prisons and Reintegration	General Commissariat for the Management of Prisons and Reintegration	
6- Organizing an awareness-raising session with civil society organizations	National Commission for IHL in cooperation with the ICRC	
7- Organizing an awareness-raising session with the press	National Commission for IHL in cooperation with the ICRC	

**on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law
at the level of Arab States 2009**

Activity to be accomplished	Authority in charge of the activity	Authority funding the Activity
8- Organizing the (fifth) annual meeting of university professors (around 40 participants)	National Commission for IHL in cooperation with the ICRC	
9- Organizing a symposium with members of parliament on IHL	National Commission for IHL in cooperation with the ICRC	
10- Organizing a symposium within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, under the patronage of the NC	
11- Organizing a course to raise the awareness of judges (around 30 judges from the public prosecution and court administration)	Ministry of Justice under the patronage of the NC	
12- Organizing a course to raise the awareness of professors and students of the senior year, Al Quraouine University, Fes	Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs under the patronage of the NC	
13- Organizing a course to raise the awareness of professors and students of the senior year, Al Hassan II University, Casablanca)		
14- Organizing a course to raise the awareness of judicial attaches	Ministry of Justice under the patronage of the NC	
15- Organizing a one-day seminar for raising awareness within the Royal Institute for Territorial Management	Ministry of Interior under the patronage of the NC	
16- Organizing a one-day seminar for raising awareness among civil defense		
17- Organizing a one-day seminar for raising awareness within the Royal Police Institute	The Department of National Security under the patronage of the NC	
18- Organizing a one-day seminar to raise awareness at the School for training members of auxiliary forces	General Inspectorate of Auxiliary Forces under the patronage of the NC	
19- Organizing a one-day seminar for Royal gendarmerie	Royal Gendarmerie Command under the patronage of the NC	
Third Thesis: Communication and Information		
20- Set up a database and website for the NC for IHL	National Commission	
21- Publications and brochures	National Commission	
22- Devise a logo for the NC	National Commission	
23- an ad link to introduce IHL	National Commission	
Fourth Thesis: Cooperation and Exchange of Experiences		
24- Participation in international forums and events	Allocate funds to NC participation in international events and for hosting such events	

MAURITANIA

Ratified Conventions

- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997

YEMEN

Ratified Conventions

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare 1925
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948
- The Four Geneva Conventions 1949
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954.
- Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity 1968.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction 1972.
- Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques 1976
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) 1977
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) 1977.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction 1997
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000

Signed Conventions

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999

The Plan of Action of the Yemeni National Commission for IHL focused on the dissemination of the principles and concepts of IHL through the following:

1. Development of the reference library for universities and persons concerned
2. Preparation of educational programs and broadcasting them on the audio-visual media
3. Development of awareness-raising programs on IHL by the Department of Moral Guidance in the armed forces and dissemination on units (seminars, lectures, articles in the Journal of The Soldier, on special radio and television programs addressed to the Armed Forces)
4. Organization of a number of educational courses for ambassadors, envoys and members of missions abroad, as well as to returnees in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs President of the National Commission for IHL
5. Offering a number of courses for Ministry of Justice staff, public prosecutors and a number of judges
6. Offering several courses to members of Parliament
7. Proceeding with the publication of *Al Ithar* (Altruism) Magazine with the generous support of the ICRC
8. The National Commission has exerted efforts to enlarge close coordination with relevant authorities through the expansion of the membership of the National Commission for IHL. At the beginning of the current year, Republican Decree No. (36) on the Restructuring of the National Commission has been issued, which included the incorporation of the Prime Minister's Office, the Presidency, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Human Rights to the Commission membership

THIRD SECTION

Teaching International Humanitarian Law

Teaching International Humanitarian Law at the Pre-University Stage

LANDMARKS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF EHL IN THE ARAB WORLD

Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) is a valuable educational program prepared in a pedagogic framework and addressing the youth, giving them a rare opportunity to learn the principles of humanity and the limits in armed conflicts, the law in application, and the difficulties of achieving justice. EHL also introduces them to the duties imposed on them to tackle the consequences of armed conflicts.

Today, the distance is not very far from the moments of the first launch of “Exploring Humanitarian Law” program, and we are about to hand over responsibility for the program to our partners in the respective Ministries of Education. Since the onset, the relationship with our partners was clear and transparent; the International Committee of the Red Cross will escort them through all stations until they reach the full transfer of competence to the Ministries of Education, namely the competence of implementation, evaluation, and integration of the concepts of the law into school curricula. Perhaps this headline will raise concerns that ICRC is withdrawing, and we are saying that ICRC will continue to support and enhance aspects of knowledge, to provide upgrading materials to install EHL concepts and values into the Arab educational/pedagogic system.

Throughout seven years of resourceful partnership, we have accomplished many objectives on different levels, particularly those related to the population directly targeted by the program, namely, the youth aging 13-18 years, compared with previous generations which have gained in-depth knowledge of humanitarian laws and global values, are deliberating on the subject-matter of the law which were previously the exclusive realm of a particular intellectual stratum. Now it ‘s time for them to carry the torch of humanitarian action and the banner of defending human dignity, to volunteer for the service of victims and be the avant-garde of the most intricate and severe circumstances.

While carrying out EHL curricular and extra-curricular activities, schools have become bee-hives into the halls trying aberrant behavior violated the law during armed conflicts, wherever they are, and are now classrooms thought forums and forums to discuss the humanitarian act of the High admirable picture and put a bouquet of flowers promote a more splendid tomorrow of hope and less bloody. The experience of “Exploring Humanitarian Law”, by the recent past, absent from the workshop themes of education, now decorate the place back icon and link the rest of the distinguished panel of education strongly humanity and composure sector teachers who have contributed their time and effort free of charge in most cases was at First and foremost, an Arab generation can carry the banner science and logic to the prospects would have been impossible and has become thanks to the “Exploring Humanitarian Law” at hand.

While we are about to accomplish our basic mission within the framework of EHL, and that Ministries of Education assuming the responsibility for the program and their natural lead role, we in the ICRC need to review the most important landmarks that EHL had attained until it has finally reached the stage of conferring ownership and responsibility to the competent Arab Ministries of Education.

The Rabat Phase: The First Regional Forum 2002:

Each idea has a start and our starting point was Rabat. Initially, seventeen Arab countries represented by their Ministries of Education met for two weeks during which they explored the content of the EHL educational kit. The Moroccan trainers were the best teachers and most profound pedagogic experts in conveying knowledge to their Arab educator peers. They have reached that magnitude of depth and expertise in EHL through the knowledge they acquired regarding the theory included in the educational kit and from field experience with students in “Khrebka” and other schools in regions of the Kingdom in dire need to learning humanitarian values, as students have emotional and fraternal relationships with victims of the conflict in Palestine, and also with victims of the earthquake that hit their area a few years prior to EHL implementation in their schools.

The first nucleus of EHL training teams was formed in Morocco; herein the chain began to expand until we started counting trained experts on EHL in the thousands within the greater Arab world.

The Amman Phase: the Second Regional Forum 2003:

One year after the meeting in Rabat, another meeting took place in Amman. Persuasion with the program was enhanced and participant Arab pedagogic experts pledged that everyone would volunteer to disseminate the culture of international humanitarian law and deepen humanitarian and legal value in Arab societies through the school as the first launching point. In Amman also Arab countries had already accomplished the drafting of EHL training material. Some States had actually begun training very carefully selected teachers and supervisors in terms of distinguishing personal features and the link between their work and the carrying subjects (subjects which are best suited to assimilate the concepts of humanitarian law compared to other subjects, such as Arabic language, religious education and social studies).

The Cairo Phase: The Third Regional Forum 2004:

I can argue that this milestone in the life of the program aimed at identifying the responsibilities of the contracting parties to implement the program. The Cairo meeting was characterized by the participation of Arab National Societies side by side with the Ministries of Education. Thanks to this meeting also, the objectives of the program were identified, on top of which integration. Workshops began and defined integration and the carrying subjects to be the educational vessels capable of highlighting the humanitarian concepts and the framework through which action would be enhanced regarding EHL teaching strategies. In each and every meeting, relations between the participants were highly bolstered, friendships intensified and experiences exchanged. In Cairo, and in this particular forum, some Arab countries have presented their pioneering experiences in applying lessons on humanitarian law to their students in their respective schools. The dream began to be realized, and the small ideas turned into great realities on the ground. In Cairo, the real launching of “Exploring Humanitarian Law” commenced; from this milestone work flowed like a water spring bestowing hope in the future, despite all the obstacles, some of which posing a serious challenge to the program, and to prospects for its sustainability and promotion. The power of the positive current was more robust than all the challenges. Difficulties have been dealt with without resorting to intercession. The spirit of the program was strengthened and it was believed that evolution requires persuasion, a will and desire to change, and that change was an urgent need within a region that was and still is one of the most vulnerable regions of the world in terms of violation of humanitarian law.

The Tunis Phase: The Fourth Regional Forum 2006:

The slogan of the meeting in Tunis was “Reality and Perspectives”. It was imperative to evaluate the reality few years after the launching of the program and identify the prospects we are seeking to reach. Practically speaking, evaluation began with exposure to the points of strength and weakness; a desire prevailed among the participants to reach solutions to problems and enhance points of strength. In Tunis also, participant National Societies met in the framework of a workshop, where the responsibilities of National Societies have been identified, and the vulnerability ensuing from the obscurity in determining the responsibilities of ministries and societies. Ministries were assigned the lead while National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies pledged to deliver support based on the need for the ministry. The main role of National Societies was specified within the framework of EHL implementation with the youth in extra-curricular activities; we mention for example, including but not restricted to, summer camps organized by National Societies in the overwhelming majority of Arab countries.

In Tunis we also began addressing the most pressing and most difficult to answer questions that teachers encounter in classrooms. The relationship between international humanitarian law and Islam was the headline especially that a debate was raised regarding the controversy between some aspects of the law and Islamic Shari’a. For this purpose we hosted in this regional meeting a professor from *Al-Azhar* University who summarized a lecture on the similarities and differences between the two sets of law; the audience at large and the lecturer agreed that there are no differences but rather a significant correlation between humanitarian law and Islamic Shari’a, which is relegated to serving humanity as a whole and non-discrimination between people regardless of their differences, wherever they exist on the planet.

The Sanaa Phase: The Fifth Regional Forum 2008:

The meetings of Arab educational experts culminated with the meeting in Sanaa, where the preparation and evaluation phase was completed, and a new phase of the program was launched, where the work was focused on integration, completion and sustainability. To achieve this objective, different workshops on the sidelines of the Sanaa meeting discussed the means of integration. The idea of conveying the responsibility for the program to the respective Ministries of Education was presented for the first time, and a timeframe was set to achieve this objective, namely three years from that date.

Add to this the fact that the meeting in Sanaa, which was the most successful in terms of organization, witnessed important media mobilization and coverage of the various sessions of the Conference, especially the opening session. The latter included keynotes delivered by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Education and the Minister of Human Rights, as well as representatives of the League of Arab States, the ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent.

For the first time since the launching of the program, work on the “Virtual Campus” has been completed and announced. The EHL Virtual Campus seeks to expand the outreach of teachers in their diaries to identify the challenges they face in classrooms. The Campus aims, through the exchange of electronic messages between teachers and the facilitator, for the integration of knowledge, application and exchange of expertise among its members in the same country and also in different Arab countries. After two years of work with the Virtual Campus, we can safely say that it was a guarantee of sustainability and continuous evaluation of the program, and communication and networking between its members.

Perhaps the ICRC will remain, by virtue of this electronic medium, at a reasonable distance to provide room for ministries of education to work freely on the adaptation and implementation of the program in accordance with the existing reality. However, the need to maintain the global human dimension of the program remains a red line that should not be trespassed regardless of the justifications. We mention here the need to move away from over-localization by repeatedly using examples from the reality of student life exclusively, which actually attracts them emotionally yet deprives them from judging mock situations objectively and impartially.

The Cairo milestone of October 2009 was the peak of success of Arab Ministries of Education in terms of implementation and achievements of the program and conveying implementation power to these ministries. As each beautiful thing must come to an end, Cairo “the center of the world” will be the spot where the International Committee of the Red Cross will end its daily close follow-up of the program and the executive steering committees, originally established to take the lead of the program, would assume this task, as was the case at the onset. The National Commissions for IHL, which exist in almost all Arab countries, would assume their effective role in guiding action through the effective membership of ministries of education in their bodies to follow up, evaluate and define the responsibilities.

Through knowledge and awareness we can effect change and get rid of the negative traditionalism and ignorance. Thus, when law becomes an integral part of the educational system, right becomes unequivocal and abuse pariah of all generations, including youth, the strongest link in the chain of transformation, and the upgrading of reality.

REPORT ON THE SIXTH EHL REGIONAL MEETING

Under the patronage of the Egyptian Minister of Education, the sixth EHL regional meeting was held in Cairo in the period from 25-27 October 2009. Five Ministries of education from the Middle East and North Africa participated in the proceedings of the meeting as they accepted to finalize, take over the ownership and guarantee the sustainability of the EHL program in their educational system in a cooperative manner with ICRC. The ICRC EHL program managers in the evolved delegations have attended as well and gave an ICRC perspective of the implementation process vis a vis the insight that was given by the MoEs

Opening Session

Three speeches were addressed in the opening session, the first by the Egyptian vice Minister of Education, head of the EHL steering committee in Egypt, the second by the head of the legal division within the League of Arab States and the third was given by the ICRC head of delegation in Cairo. The three speeches focused on the importance to conclude the completion strategy, which is aiming at finalizing the experimentation and integration phase of EHL program. The three speakers consequently called on the participating countries to move on towards the hand over and to enroot the program in their curricula and hence promote the culture of humanitarian spirit within their schoolchildren and educators.

Lectures Given by ICRC

Cherif Atlam, the regional coordinator of ICRC advisory service (MEON) gave a presentation on the eventual role that the IHL national commissions can play in monitoring and supervising the EHL implementation after the ICRC official withdrawal. He proposed to include the EHL steering committee members in the membership of the National commission for IHL in their respective countries as introduction for more engagement of the said commission in the EHL implementation. Nicole Matins Maag, the head of the youth sector in COM_CS, presented a broader image about the EHL implementation in other countries outside the MENA zone and she tackled the issues of other programs for the benefit of youngsters outside the EHL program. Amani Salah, the moderator of the EHL Virtual campus Arab Forum Support presented the objectives of the project and its prospective, the challenges and the achievements of the project through out the last two years. On a more ICRC mission optic, Hicham Hassan the head of CSC in Cairo addressed to the participants the obstacles facing conducting the humanitarian mission and the he presented the challenges raised opposing the humanitarian organizations in general and the ICRC in particular in the field during the last decade.

Lectures Given by the Egyptian MoE

Tow lectures were presented to the participants by the Egyptian MoE officials during the three-day meeting, one of them tackled EHL post hand over strategies and the second put the program sustainability in the scope of the commitments of the MoE in the upcoming phase of the EHL ownership.

The first lecture provoked a debate, which obliged the intervention of the regional advisor to answer on the questions and in order to detail some of flagged issues, will shed the light on the most important participants' questions and interventions:

A Yemeni participant asked: as the EHL is an ICRC program until the end of the integration process, why it would not stay with the MoE for a longer without putting bottom lines and timeframes. Another from Palestine wondered about the financial support to the program's extra curricular activities after the ICRC withdrawal and suggested that the ICRC should continue this financial support, otherwise the EHL program will become unexciting alike the other features of the current educational process. The Jordanians intervention in this regard was very significant since they spread out a positive impression among the participants particularly as they come to this meeting after they have finalized the hand over and thus their experience encouraged other countries to imitate them and move on toward the take over of the EHL ownership without reluctance

Open Discussion

Ziad Abu Laban facilitated an open discussion on the hand over of the EHL program to the MoEs; he flagged the elements guaranteeing the sustainability of the EHL program such as integration of the EHL concepts and methodologies in the curricula, and thus instigating monitoring and evaluation tools and applicable within the educational system. During the EHL advisor's presentation, the discussions also dealt with the responsibilities and duties of the ICRC in the last seven years. Ziad demonstrated the huge involvement of the ICRC in the previous phases in all aspects of the program implementation and called on the participants to foster the sense of ownership in the way they manage the educational and budget aspects of the EHL program. At the end of this dialogue, the EHL advisor tried to calm the worries among the MoEs' representatives caused by the expected efforts they should devote to guarantee the high quality of the EHL education and called on them to take over their responsibilities in terms of EHL ownership

The MoEs presentations on the state of progress

The five participating countries in the EHL sixth regional meeting presented the state of progress, the history of the implementation, the achievements in terms of integration of EHL in the curricula and the method adopted by the MoEs to finalize the integration. Moreover, the completion and the post hand over strategies together with the strong and negative points of the implementation were tackled in the presentations. Hereunder we will highlight the main point of each of the participating countries presentations:

Palestine

The EHL in Palestine has been integrated in the curricula of the twelfth grade (the contemporary issues textbook of general secondary certificate), in addition many IHL\EHL concepts were incorporated in the Arabic language and history textbooks of the preparatory stage. Last year, the Palestinian MoE signed an MoU approving in coordination with the ICRC delegation to proceed in the completion phase and thus take fully over the ownership of EHL program as of the 2011-2012 scholastic year.

As for the extra-curricular activities, the PAL MoE published a magazine on the EHL activities, teachers, students, officials and external people wrote articles and researches on the promotion of IHL culture. The students' projects on IHL issues were also published in the a\m review

The recommendations of evaluation process that has been conducted by the ICRC on the EHL implementation was endorsed and taken into consideration, according the MoE presentation, in the current implementation process. Statistics and figures were revealed to elaborate on the big number of students teachers and supervisors who passed through the EHL experience and thus were subject to its contents and methodologies

Jordan

The Jordanian MoE demonstrated a higher level of commitment regarding the EHL hand over and respect of the fixed timeframe in the MoU as Jordan was the first among the participating countries in the regional meeting to end up the completion phase and thus to take fully over the ownership of the EHL program.

The Jordanian presentation successfully focused on the integration process that has been accomplished in last September after a second time the MoE has conducted a revision on the EHL integrated materials. The Jordanian experience remains is a pioneer in the domain of political acceptance and implementation of the EHL according to universal standards that have been applied during the different phases of the EHL implementation

Furthermore, the EHL methodologies were endorsed together with the EHL concepts that were integrated in three hosting subjects, the Arabic language, social studies and in the religious education for the preparatory and secondary stages,

Morocco

To implement the cooperation program between the State Secretariat for School Education and the ICRC, which comes in the context of promoting the MOU

The presentation included first the determinants of the context and the new variables that characterized the program's continuation in the reform method, samples and reference documents.

Then the presentation broached the mechanisms and methodological approaches adopted to continue the implementation of the program and even the training, integration, synthesis, evaluation and interaction with other programs and with civil society institutions.

At a third phase, the presentation addressed the achievements between 2007 and 2009, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, including also some reference to difficulties and challenges facing the field implementation of EHL.

Since the thesis of the meeting was completion and sustainability, the presentation dealt with this point through the identification of the abridged version of the educational material first, and then the presentation of the plan of action for completion, which included the processes, procedures, completion dates, the target groups and stakeholders.

Finally, the presentation concluded with some recommendations to ensure sustainability at different levels (institutionalization, training, documentation, administrative and pedagogic measures, mobilization and communication)

Yemen

In their presentation, the Yemeni speaker highlighted on the two-year MoU that has been recently signed by the MoE and the ICRC. It also focused on tow main issues relevant to the EHL integration:

Drafting and endorsing of the EHL student and teacher's manuals. The first contains study cases, lessons and true stories that will worked out with the students within the school schedule according to the participatory learning approach. The second will elaborate and point out to the concerned teacher how to go about the lesson and which methodology to apply while facilitating the said lesson. The

second point that was emphasize in the Yemeni presentation was about the extra-curricular activities that are taking place in several Yemeni provinces and witness a huge involvement by the targeted student

According to the Yemeni representatives, the ongoing armed conflict in Sa'da in the north of Yemen will not at any price hamper the EHL, on the contrary this war showed to which point it is important to promote the IHL education among the new generation who might be involved in the current or in a potential future conflict

Egypt

The Egyptian presentation focused on three EHL features:

The signing of the agreement on the completion strategy with the ICRC and the work of the steering committee of the EHL program in Egypt to initiate a post- hand over strategy which is composed of procedures and activities that the MoE will undertake after the hand-over to guarantee the program's sustainability and good quality of education

In there presentation, the Egyptians also tackled the production of the nationally adopted EHL material such as the evaluation tools, the guidelines for teacher to earmark the sufficient hours for the EHL education in school schedule and the teachers' thematic guides as a national method to integrate the EHL in the educational system rather than merely in the schools curricula. Theses thematic guides specialized in the three hosting materials (Religious education, Arabic language and social studies) will facilitate the work of hosting subject teachers to teach the EHL concepts according to the participatory learning approach

A panorama of the history of the EHL program implementation over the five past years together with an insight on the extra-curricular activities were also presented to show the level of engagement and furthermore the cooperative relation between the ICRC and the MoE. Besides, the MoE dedicated an important part in their presentation to the efforts to carry out the extra curricular activities in the different governorates as the EHL program attracts a wider number of students in schools stages that are not targeted by the program

Recommendations and Conclusions

At the end of the meeting and after examining the experience of the participating delegations in this conference together with the workshops held, all participants appreciated Egyptian MoE and the ICRC efforts to organize this meeting. In the light of what has been discussed and presented during the three days meeting the participants agreed on the following recommendations and committed themselves and their Ministries to fulfill them:

1. In cooperation with the ICRC, the MoEs will develop a clear plan of action for the sustainability of the EHL program in their respective educational systems
2. Activating the role of the MoEs in Arab countries to better participate in printing the EHL educational materials and conducting training of trainers and teachers then make the necessary adjustments to the teachers training programs if necessary. MoEs are solicited to improve the EHL nationally adopted educational materials and put in place a pertaining monitoring and comprehensive evaluation system

3. ICRC should continue supporting and following-up the EHL experimentation and integration processes and allow the gradual supervision of National Commission for IHL to monitor the program and earmark the needed funds for its implementation.
4. Integration of EHL parts in the “continuous teachers training” programs and determine the adequate time for the EHL education in the school schedules.
5. MoEs should focus on the EHL evaluation, and then study the impact of the program on the targeted populations.
6. Activate the ministries websites and video conference in communicating EHL\IHL to a larger group of students and teachers.
7. Organizing an annual competition on the EHL program at a local, Arab and international levels that will be sponsored by the Ministries of Education and the ICRC.
8. Invite civil society organizations and relevant NGOs to contribute to promote the program spirit.
9. Continuing to hold the regional meetings and exchange to enhance the exchange EHL good practice and experiences

Teaching International Humanitarian Law at the University Stage

I- **Historical Background:**

The ICRC organized a meeting in Beirut in September 2005 in coordination with the Arab Center for Legal and Judiciary Studies, with the participation of the Secretary General of the Union of Arab Universities, the Secretary General of the Academic Association for Arab Faculties of Law, and the contribution of 28 participants from 11 Arab States. The nomination of participants representing respective Arab States took place through the ministries of higher education having received invitation from ICRC to send officials responsible for the development of curricula of law.

The main conclusions of this meeting were as follows:

Why should IHL be taught?

- Contractual obligation on all States Party to the Geneva Convention.
- In addition to this general obligation, since the end of World War II, the Arab world has been witnessing a series of struggles and armed conflicts, which highlights the necessity of attributing special importance to IHL provisions in our Arab region.
- The necessity of developing special curricula on this aspect, while underscoring the particularity of the Arab society, and that several provisions of the Geneva Conventions are derived from Islamic Shari'a.
- In support of the contractual obligation stipulated in the Geneva Convention, IHL is there to protect the weak. Due to the nature of conflicts currently taking place in the Arab World, at least part of the general culture of Arab jurists should focus on protection provided by IHL.

To Whom should IHL be Taught?

After long and multi-faceted discussions, participants concluded that the following faculties should incorporate IHL respectively:

- Faculties of Law and Shari'a
- Faculties of Political Science
- Faculties of Mass Communication

Participants viewed that this is the minimum level that should be targeted in teaching IHL provisions, since it reflects the link between theoretical study and practice.

Where should it be taught?

Participants reviewed issues related to this question in their respective universities. Some dedicated full course to this subject (both elective and compulsory) as an independent subject, while others incorporated some of its major concepts into public international law. A third group thought that this subject should be taught in graduate studies.

After deliberations and discussions, participants agreed to take into consideration the situation of university curricula and the difficulty of introducing new subjects, in addition to the scarcity of specialized university staff to teach this subject. Therefore, they suggested the following:

- In the Undergraduate Stage:

- Participants unanimously thought it would be necessary that public international law curriculum includes fundamental provisions and concepts of IHL.
- Many participants suggested that this subject be incorporated as an elective course in the third year (junior) of the faculties of law, bearing in mind that many of the compulsory courses started as electives. Some participants expressed reservations that the elective course might be limited and that this should not undermine the first trend, namely, ensuring that all graduates of the faculty of law grasped the fundamental concepts of this law.

- Graduate Stage:

- In this framework, there was a unanimity over the dedication of an independent subject, within the international or public law diplomas, and that it should be compulsory.
- During the discussion, some participants tended to express the option of instituting a special diploma on IHL, as a stage to follow.
- All participants recommended that professors of international law guide graduate and post-graduate (Ph.D.) students to select different IHL-related subjects.

II- ICRC Efforts in the domain of Training:

Since 2003, the ICRC has made efforts to prepare and carry out special courses for staff members of faculties teaching IHL, particularly faculties of law, political science and mass communication according to the following statistics:

<i>No of annual courses</i>	<i>No of participants</i>
6	216

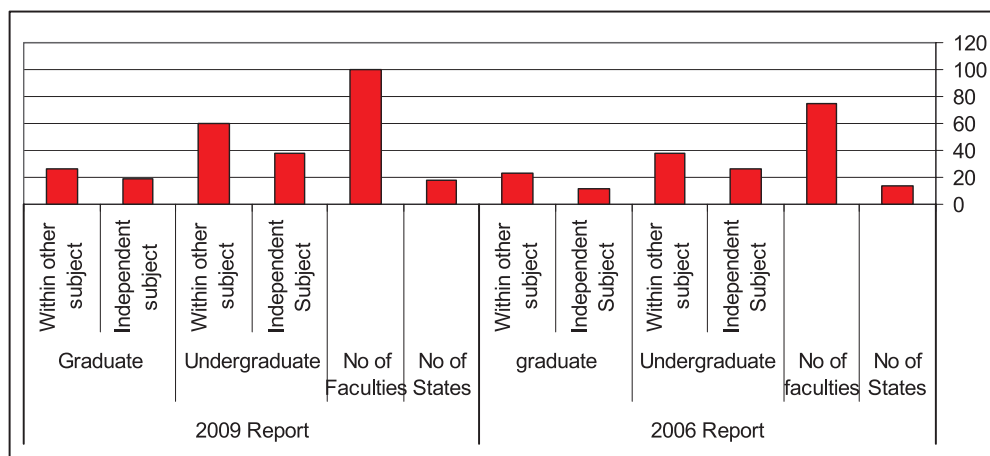
III- Efforts to Incorporate IHL into University Curricula:

While preparing the fourth regional report in 2006, the issue of incorporating IHL had already made great strides. The number of colleagues teaching IHL had already increased remarkably when we were in the process of preparing this report at the end of 2009.

<i>2006 Report</i>						<i>2009 Report</i>					
No of States	No of faculties	Undergraduate		graduate		No of States	No of Faculties	Undergraduate		Graduate	
		Independent Subject	Within other subject	Independent Subject	Within other subject			Independent Subject	Within other subject	Independent subject	Within other subject
14	75	26	38	12	23	18	100	38	60	19	26

on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law at the level of Arab States 2009

A comparison between the situation in 2006 and its counterpart today reveals that the rate of increase was 33% according to the following chart:



Enclosed with this report is a database compiled from universities. All the results in this report are drawn from this database.

Database

The Situation of Teaching IHL in Arab Universities

JORDAN

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Philadelphia	Law	X			
2	Jordanian University	Law	X			
3	Mouṭah	Law	X			
4	Jarash National University	Law	X			
5	Amman Arab University for Higher Studies	Higher Legal Studies			X	
6	Al-Zarqaā	Law	X			
7	Irbid National University	Law		X		
8	Yarmouk	Law		X		
9	Al-Ṣraa (private)	Law	X		X	
10	Al Beit	Jurisprudence and Legal Studies		X		X
11	Applied Sciences (Private)	Law	X			
12	Amman National University	Law		X		
13	Zaytouneh	Law	X			
14	Jedara	Law		X		
15	Middle East	Law			X	

EMIRATES

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Emirates	Shari'a and Law		X		

_____ on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law _____
at the level of Arab States 2009

BAHRAIN

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Bahrain	Law	X			

TUNISIA

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Safaques	Law		X		X
2	7 th of November - Carthage	Legal, Economic and Social Sciences		X		X

ALGERIA

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Batna	Law			X	
2	Annaba	Law			X	
3	Alger	Law				X
4	Blida	Law				X
5	Tiaret	Law			X	
6	Tlemcen	Law			X	
7	Chelf	Law			X	
8	Constantine	Sciences Islamiques				X
9	Alger	Sciences Islamiques				X
10	Oum El Bouagui	Law			X	

SAUDI ARABIA

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Imam Mohamed Bin Saud University	Higher Institute for Justice		X		X
2	King Saud	Management		X		X
3	King Bin Abdul Aziz, Jeddah	Economics and Management, Systems Department (Law)	Proposed in the new section			
4	Institute of Diplomatic Studies	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	X			

SUDAN

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Oum Dorman Islamic Univ.	Faculty of Shari'a and Law	X			
2	National Bond	Police Sciences and Law	X			
3	Al-Nileen	Law		X		
4	Shindi	Law	X		X	
5	Munificent Qur'an and Islamic Sciences	Shari'a	X		X	
6	Legal Training and Reform Institute	International Law Department		X		
7	The Azharite Leader	Shari'a and Law	X			

SYRIA

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Al-Qalmoun-Private	International and Diplomatic Relations	X			
2	Aleppo	Law				X
3	Damascus	Law		X		X

IRAQ

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Baghdad	Law		X		
2	Suleymania	Law, Political Science		X		
3	Dohuk	Law, Political Science	X	X		
4	Basra	Law		X		
5	Salah Al Deen in Erbil	Law, Political Science	X	X		X
6	Kufa in Najaf	Law		X		
7	Qadisia	Law		X		
8	Karbala	Law	X			X
9	Babel	Law		X		X
10	Al Mustansiris In Baghdad	Law		X		
11	Al Nahrain In Baghdad	Law		X		

SULTANATE OF OMAN

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Muscat	Shari'a and Law		X		

PALESTINE

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
			<i>Elective</i>	<i>Compulsory</i>	<i>Elective</i>	<i>Compulsory</i>
1	An-Najah-Nablus	Law	X	X		X
		Sharia		X		
2	Birzeit-Ramallah	Law and Public Administration	X	X	X	X
		Cultural Studies		X		
3	Bethlehem	Cultural Studies		X		
4	Arab American-Jenin	Law	X	X		
5	Al-Quds	Law	X	X	X	X
		Quran, Da'wa and principles of Religion		X		
6	Hebron	Fiqh and Law		X		
7	Palestine Ahliya University-Bethlehem	Law	X			
8	Da'wa Islamic college	Sharia		X		
9	Azhar university\Gaza	All faculties+ Law faculty	X	X		
10	Islamic University\Gaza	All faculties		X		

**_____ on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law _____
at the level of Arab States 2009**

QATAR

	University	Faculty	Senior Year		Graduate Studies	
			As independent subject	As part of another subject	As independent subject	As part of another subject
1	qatar	Law	X			

KUWAIT

	University	Faculty	Senior Year		Graduate Studies	
			As independent subject	As part of another subject	As independent subject	As part of another subject
1	Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies		X			
2	Kuwait	Law		X		

LEBANON

	University	Faculty	Senior Year		Graduate Studies	
			As independent subject	As part of another subject	As independent subject	As part of another subject
1	Holy Spirit-Catholic	Law/IHL/ Public International Law		X		
2	Saint Joseph	Law and Political Science		X		
3	Al-Imam Al Hadi Center					X
4	Beirut Arab University	Law		X	X	
5	Islamic University	Law		X		X
6	Lebanese University	Law, Political Science and Management		X		

EGYPT

	University	Faculty	Senior Year		Graduate Studies	
			As independent subject	As part of another subject	As independent subject	As part of another subject
1	Faculty of Police	Is Taught in Senior (fourth) Year		X		X
2	Ain Shams	Law		X	X	
3	Zagazig	Law		X	X	
4	Helwan	Law		X		
5	Assiout	Law		X		X
6	Beni Soueif	Law		X		
7	Tanta	Law		X		X
8	Cairo	Law		X	X	
9	National Center for Judiciary Studies	The subject was incorporated into the training program of public prosecutors, magistrates, and officers of the general administration for military justice	X			

MOROCCO

	University	Faculty	Senior Year		Graduate Studies	
			As independent subject	As part of another subject	As independent subject	As part of another subject
1	Agadir	Legal, Economic and Social Sciences	X			
2	al-Qadi 'Ayyadh	Faculty of Law, Marrakech	X	X	X	
3	Moulai Ismail -Meknes	Law	X			
4	Mohamed V-Al- Sweissi	Law		X		X
5	Abdul Malek Al-Saadi	Multi-disciplinary		X		
6	Abdul Malek Al-Saadi	Law- Tangiers		X	X	
7	Mohamed I	Legal, Economic and Social Sciences	X			X
8	Sidi Mohamed Abdallah	Faculty of Law, Fes	X	X		
9	Al-Hassan II	Law- al Muhammadiyah		X		

MAURITANIA

	University	Faculty	Senior Year		Graduate Studies	
			As independent subject	As part of another subject	As independent subject	As part of another subject
1	Nouakchott	Legal Sciences and Humanities	There is a proposal for teaching IHL			

YEMEN

	<i>University</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>		<i>Graduate Studies</i>	
			<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>	<i>As independent subject</i>	<i>As part of another subject</i>
1	Ta'izz	Law	X			
2	Aden	Law	X	X		
3	al-Hudaydah	Shari'a and Law	X	X		X
4	Sanaa	Shari'a and Law		X		X
5	Applied and Social Sciences, Aden	Law		X		