

**HANDOUT 5: REPORTING ON ARMED CONFLICTS: WHO IS PROTECTED BY IHL?**

<b>CIVILIANS</b>	<b>MILITARY/PARAMILITARY FORCES, ORGANIZED ARMED GROUPS OF A PARTY TO CONFLICT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they cannot be attacked</li> <li>• EVEN in case of doubt, they have to be considered civilians</li> <li>• BUT, if they take direct part in hostilities, they may temporarily lose their protection from being directly targeted and can be prosecuted for doing so.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they are protected from being attacked when they are <i>hors de combat</i>: wounded, sick, shipwrecked, detained or surrendering</li> <li>• they are protected against specific means and methods of warfare even while fighting</li> <li>• in international armed conflicts, members of military/paramilitary forces are called combatants and cannot be prosecuted for lawfully fighting</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DETAINED PERSONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must be treated humanely, and their lives and dignity must be preserved (they are protected in particular against murder and against torture and other cruel, humiliating or degrading treatment)</li> <li>• must be provided with suitable food, shelter and medical care</li> <li>• must be allowed to correspond with their families</li> <li>• must be protected from public curiosity</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">In international armed conflicts, detained combatants are entitled to the PRISONERS OF WAR status.</p>	