



College of Europe  
Collège d'Europe



Natolin



CICR

## Introduction to International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts

Natolin, 18<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Seminar organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the  
College of Europe Natolin Campus (Warsaw) with the support of the  
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

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**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**8h30 - 9h00 Registration of participants**

**9h00 - 9h15 Welcome**

**9h15 - 10h45 Mr. Toni Pfanner**

### **I. Introduction to International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts (IHL)**

1. Notion of IHL
2. Sources and principles of IHL
3. Evolution of the relationship between the legality of the use of force (*jus ad bellum*) and the rules to be respected in warfare (*jus in bello*)
4. Material scope of application of IHL (international armed conflicts, non-international armed conflicts, internationalized non-international armed conflicts, difference between non-international armed conflicts and internal disturbances and tensions, etc.) with special emphasis on the situation in Eastern Ukraine, Syria and other recent examples of the use of armed force

**10h45 – 11h00 Coffee break**

**11h00 – 12h30 Mr. Toni Pfanner**

### **II. Personal scope of application of IHL**

1. Notions of: combatant, civilian and protected person
2. Status of combatant
3. Status of other persons directly participating in hostilities
  - a) spies
  - b) mercenaries
  - c) private military companies
  - d) civilians occasionally participating in hostilities
  - e) governmental and dissident armed forces in non-international armed conflicts

**12h30 – 14h00 Lunch break**

**14h00 – 15h45 Ms. Elzbieta Mikos-Skuza**

### **III. Categories of protected persons**

1. General remarks
2. Civilians on the territory of the enemy state
3. Civilians on occupied territory
4. Civilian internees
5. Special protection of some categories of civilians
  - a) women
  - b) children
  - c) journalists
6. Prisoners of war
7. Wounded, sick and shipwrecked

**15h45 – 16h00 Coffee break**

**16h00 – 17h30 Ms. Elzbieta Mikos-Skuza**

### **IV. Conduct of hostilities – protection of civilians against the effects of hostilities**

1. Generalities
2. Definition of civilians
3. Definition of civilian objects vs. military objectives; problem of dual use objects
4. Prohibited attacks – principles of distinction and proportionality
5. Precautionary measures
6. Special measures of protection

### **V. Implementation of International Humanitarian Law**

1. Preventive measures
2. Means of control during an armed conflict
3. Repression of violations and development of international justice

**17h30 End of the session**

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

*9h00 – 10h45 Mr. Stéphane Kolanowski*

**VI. International Committee of the Red Cross operations and the challenges to humanitarian action**

*10h45 - 11h00 Coffee break*

*11h00 – 12h30 Mr. Toni Pfanner*

**VII. International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights institutions**

*12h30 - 14h00 Lunch break*

*14h00 – 15h00 Mr. Paul Berman*

**VIII. The European Union and International Humanitarian Law**

1. EU and IHL - what's the connection ?
2. The EU framework - supranational & intergovernmental action
3. The promotion and implementation of IHL: the EU as political, economic, developmental, legislative and military actor
4. The EU Guidelines on IHL

*15h00 – 16h00 Mr. Stéphane Kolanowski*

**IX. Relations between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Union**

*16h00 – 16h15 Coffee break*

*16h15 – 17h30 Mr. Paul Berman*

**X. The European Union and crisis management**

1. The Common Security and Defence Policy
2. The crisis management operations
3. IHL in EU crisis management operations

*17h30 End of the session*

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**9h00 - 11h00      Mr. Rafał Kostrzyński and Mr. Maged Tinawi**

## **XI. Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Migrants**

**11h00 - 11h15   Coffee break**

**11h15– 12h30 Open questions session, Closure of the seminar, Distribution of certificates**

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