

His fervent idealism and generosity and his vast experience in relief assistance were of invaluable service to the ICRC and will always be remembered by the Committee with profound gratitude.

Ratification of the Protocols by the Kingdom of Belgium

The Kingdom of Belgium, on 20 May 1986, ratified the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

This ratification was accompanied by interpretative statements, the translation of which is reproduced hereafter.

Pursuant to their provisions, the Protocols will enter into force for the Kingdom of Belgium on 20 November 1986.

The Kingdom of Belgium is the 58th State to become party to Protocol I and the 51st to Protocol II.

Declarations of interpretation

On depositing the instrument of ratification by Belgium of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), done at Geneva on 8 June 1977, the Belgian Government makes the following declarations of interpretation:

1. The Belgian Government, in view of the travaux préparatoires for the international instrument herewith ratified, wishes to emphasize that the Protocol was established to broaden the protection conferred by humanitarian law solely when conventional weapons are used in armed conflicts, without prejudice to the provisions of international law relating to the use of other types of weapons.

2. The Belgian Government, in view of paragraph 3 of Article 43 (Armed forces) and the special status of the Belgian Gendarmerie (constabulary), has decided to notify the High Contracting Parties as follows of the duties assigned to the Belgian Gendarmerie in time of armed conflict. It considers that this notification fully satisfies any and all requirements of Article 43 pertaining to the Gendarmerie.