

It makes for comparing often differing and at times even contradictory definitions which are in current use in the Western world and in Socialist countries. This comparison, which is particularly helpful as regards legal terminology, is greatly helped by the fact that the text is laid out in four parallel columns (one for each language) and therefore the reader can see at a glance the equivalent terms in the Manual's four languages. The main terms are printed in bold-faced type in the main body of the text and appear again in the alphabetical indexes at the end. This is the only place where the terms have been placed in alphabetical order and, although it is convenient to find the terms, it is not a suitable place to explain them.

The Manual therefore fulfils two functions: it is an excellent summary of public international law which could even be used as the framework for a course; on the other hand, it serves as a dictionary containing approximately 3,000 specialized terms.

This monumental work, the fruit of considerable and clear-sighted labour, therefore constitutes a valuable working tool which will render great service not only to translators and interpreters but also to professors, civil servants, diplomats and students who directly or indirectly come up against public international law. Any legal library worth its name should possess a copy.

Jean Pictet

LES GARANTIES FONDAMENTALES DE LA PERSONNE EN DROIT HUMANITAIRE ET DROITS DE L'HOMME *

*"The thing is you readily agreed to give up hope,
whereas I never have."*

Albert Camus

This book is a thesis presented at the Faculty of Law of the University of Nice and written under the direction of Prof. Maurice Torelli. It was awarded the Paul Reuter Prize by the ICRC in 1985.¹

The author, Mohammed El Kouhene, a Moroccan jurist, works at present at the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.

* Fundamental guarantees of the individual in humanitarian law and human rights.

¹ Mohammed El Kouhene, *Les garanties fondamentales de la personne en droit humanitaire et droits de l'homme*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht, Boston/Lancaster, 1986 (French only).

Humanitarian law and human rights undoubtedly have something in common, witness their common ethical and spiritual roots. These two branches of international law serve the interests of the individual by defining fundamental guarantees to which he is entitled.

In a brief introduction, the author describes the origin and separate growth of human rights and of humanitarian law, as well as the various factors which in recent times helped bring these two branches of law closer together. Thanks to the Protocols, which provide for better protection in some situations, individuals who were protected under human rights when not covered by the Conventions are now entitled at least to the protection of the "fundamental guarantees". These coincide essentially with those rights which are inalienable under human rights instruments.

The main aim of the study is to show that, while constituting two distinct legal systems, human rights and humanitarian law are complementary and compatible to a marked degree.

The book is divided into three parts: complementarity by reason of the persons protected (Part I), the rights protected (Part II) and the implementing mechanisms (Part III).

In examining the concurrence of the two branches of international law with regard to protected rights, the author makes a detailed analysis of certain rights, most of which are included in both systems of law; these rights are irreducible and make up the «hard core» of the rights of the human person.

In the part dealing with the concurrence of implementing mechanisms, the author demonstrates the importance of knowing international humanitarian law and the vital need to make it known, a task that depends heavily on the goodwill of States which usually show scant enthusiasm for it.

In concluding his study, the author, mindful not to foster illusions, affirms that, fragile as it may be, law remains a weapon for the weak, a means of exploiting the "guilty conscience of the mighty", and that "it is not idealistic to assert the supremacy of a law which has been put into practice by all civilizations and respect for which affects not only wounded or sick soldiers or civilians in any particular conflict but the whole of mankind".

This interesting work is very soundly documented, containing numerous references and an excellent selective bibliography. Through its quality, the depth of its analysis and the fact that it approaches human rights from the point of view of humanitarian law, this book should bring to jurists, students and disseminators alike a wealth of unquestionably useful knowledge.

François Gillioz