

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

Future themes of the International Review of the Red Cross

September 2006 – September 2007

Aim and scope of the Review

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The aim of the *International Review of the Red Cross* is to promote reflection on humanitarian law, policy and action in armed conflict and other situations of collective armed violence. A specialized journal on humanitarian law, it endeavours to promote knowledge, critical analysis and development of this law and to contribute to the prevention of violations of rules protecting fundamental rights and values. The *Review* also offers a forum for discussion on contemporary humanitarian action and for analysis of the causes and characteristics of conflicts so as to give a clearer insight into the humanitarian problems they generate.

Structure and composition of the Review

The *Review* is made up of four main sections. The first contains *articles on the theme under discussion* in the respective issue. *Selected articles on international humanitarian law* not related to that theme may be published in the second section, according to their originality, importance and academic standard. The third section, entitled *Notes and comments*, contains shorter contributions and comments on specific events, legislation or judgments. Like the selected articles on humanitarian law, these notes and comments need not necessarily be linked to the particular theme of the *Review* concerned. They are also meant to take up current issues giving rise to debate. Finally, in the *Reports and documents* section, the *Review* publishes official ICRC documents, conference reports, etc.

Future themes

September 2006 – September 2007

The following list of topics indicates areas of reflection, debate and critical analysis for contributions to the *Review*. Within the parameters of the journal's aim, topics

may be examined from a historical, legal, political, military-security, psycho-sociological or humanitarian perspective, taking either a general or a regional approach. The points of interest mentioned below by no means exhaust the various subjects that could be addressed in relation to the future themes.

The dates given below for each theme indicate the planned dates of publication of the respective issue of the *Review*. Articles must be submitted not later than four months ahead of publication (e.g., by the end of August 2006 for the December 2006 issue). Also see information for contributors and the guidelines for referencing on the *Review*'s website: <<http://www.icrc.org/eng/review>>.

Non-state actors (September 2006)

Deadline for submission: end of May 2006

The important role played by non-state actors in armed conflicts today raises a number of challenges for international humanitarian law and action. Phenomena such as globalisation and the privatisation of the prerogatives of states force us to rethink international humanitarian law rules in light of this contemporary context. The questions raised by the emergence of non-state actors in armed conflicts can be analysed from a variety of perspectives, whether political, historical or legal. We particularly welcome articles studying the correlation between the evolution of conflicts and the role of non-state actors; analysis of specific categories of non-state actors and the problems they raise; and articles on the question of failed states.

Possible topics

- The post-Westphalia period? (historical)
- New forms of conflict and the privatization of war (political science)

Humanitarian law

- Private actors in warfare
- Outsourcing of warfare and implications for international humanitarian law
- Proxy wars and outsourcing
- Economic actors in warfare
- Mercenaries
- International humanitarian law and failed states
- Non-state actors and compliance with international humanitarian law

Methods of war (December 2006)

Deadline for submission: end of August 2006

Social developments, shifting political relationships, technological progress and cultural change all contribute to the forever-changing appearance of war. The

question of the methods of war, therefore, is always a topical issue as it forces us to analyse the factors behind the changes in the forms taken by war and also how these changes affect international humanitarian law and humanitarian action. The theme can be approached from a general perspective, such as the asymmetry of modern-day wars, or from a more specific angle, such as the question of targeted killings. Here are some of the possible topics we would like to address in this issue:

Possible topics

- Nihilism, anarchism or a new method of warfare (philosophical)
- Motivation of suicide attackers (historical, sociological and political)

Humanitarian law

- Occupation law and change of regimes
- Neutrality and terrorism
- The notion of protection of civilians in contemporary armed conflicts
- Widening the definition of a “military objective”: consequences for the protection of civilians and civilian objects
- Suicide attacks and the law of war
- The problem of targeted killings and related issues
- Conduct of hostilities in asymmetric conflicts: the impossibility to comply with international humanitarian law?
- Conduct of hostilities in non-international armed conflicts: insufficient rules?
- Urban warfare and the challenges to international humanitarian law
- Covert military operations
- Air warfare

Humanitarian actors (March 2007)

Deadline for submission: end of November 2006

New humanitarian actors are making headlines in the international media. This issue is dedicated to the different humanitarian actors of today, who they are and what they do. This will help to differentiate the skills and capacities of each humanitarian organization and underline the current changes taking place in the humanitarian environment. We welcome articles on the humanitarian role of the following actors, as well as reflections on the principles behind their mandates and their operational theatres:

Possible topics

- Ambassadors of humanitarian action (humanitarian action)
- Governments and military as humanitarian actors (humanitarian action)
- ICRC delegates (humanitarian action)
- Security Council’s role in humanitarian action (legal and political)
- Humanitarian networking (politics of humanitarian action)
- Islamic NGOs (humanitarian action)

- Importance of National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (humanitarian action)

Humanitarian law

- Independence of humanitarian actors
- Accountability of humanitarian actors
- Security of humanitarian actors
- What is meant by neutrality today?

Disasters (June 2007)

Deadline for submission: end of February 2007

Disasters are natural or man-made events that bring permanent change to societies, ecosystems and the environment. Often, disasters are qualified as “natural disasters” owing to their natural causes. But it is the human and social vulnerability of the persons affected by the event that transforms it into a disaster. This issue aims to analyse the links between disasters and armed conflicts on a variety of levels. Articles written from a political or legal perspective and related to state security in these situations are particularly welcome, as are articles dealing with the impact of diseases or pandemics on humanitarian action. The following problems could be analysed:

Possible topics

- Bio-safety and bio-security (political aspects)
- Diseases and war (health and social consequences of diversion of economic resources to war and preparation of war)
- Impact of war on the environment (ecology)
- Prevention and awareness building (humanitarian action)
- AIDS and war (humanitarian action)
- Humanitarian action in apocalyptic situations (humanitarian action)

Humanitarian law

- Potential risks in warfare and disaster law
- Role of medical personnel
- Epidemics and state security

Human rights (September 2007)

Deadline for submission: end of May 2007

Humanitarian actors today, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, work principally in situations that fall below the threshold of armed conflict. It is particularly in these situations, where international humanitarian law is not applicable, that international human rights law can be invoked as the basis

for protecting persons in violent situations. Moreover, international human rights law plays a complementary role to international humanitarian law in armed conflicts. The debate on the relationship between international human rights law and international humanitarian law has therefore shifted from the applicability of human rights law to the question of the extent to which recourse should be had to human rights law and, conversely, on the desirability of invoking international humanitarian law to “grey” situations. We welcome articles dealing with this general problem and articles that explore the links between United Nations’ human rights instruments or regional human rights instruments and international humanitarian law.

Possible topics

- Universality of international humanitarian law and international human rights law (philosophical)
- Obligation or rights-approach? (legal)
- Coordination between human rights organizations and humanitarian actors in the field (humanitarian action)
- Tolerance and respect for the person (philosophical)

Humanitarian law

- Protection under international humanitarian law and protection under international human rights law
- Below the threshold of international humanitarian law
- The Human Rights Council
- Special rapporteurs, thematic rapporteurs and international humanitarian law
- The case law of the European Court of Human Rights and international humanitarian law
- The case law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and international humanitarian law
- Extraterritorial application of the European Convention of Human Rights
- Enforced disappearances