

THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON MODES OF ENGAGEMENT WITH MILITARY ACTORS: FROM DECONFLICTION TO PROTECTION ADVOCACY

Amman-Dead Sea, Jordan
13-14 November 2019

Agenda

The norms of international humanitarian law (IHL) on the conduct of hostilities regulate how parties to a conflict may use force, in particular when targeting persons and objects, and limit the weapons and methods to be used in warfare. Changes to how both States and non-State armed groups operate in armed conflicts – such as combat increasingly taking place in densely populated urban settings and the use of drones – raise new questions about how the law on the conduct of hostilities is respected and operationalized to enhance the protection of civilians (PoC).

This workshop provides an analysis of IHL norms governing targeting and the means and methods of warfare. It also examines specific contemporary issues such as the legal protection of medical facilities and personnel, the use of highly explosive weapons in urban areas, measures taken to minimize civilian casualties in targeting systems and procedures, and the documentation of alleged violations of the law on the conduct of hostilities. It further explores various examples of engagement with military actors in relation to measures aimed at protecting civilians such as deconfliction mechanisms and their relevance under IHL norms. The workshop is also meant to offer an in-depth understanding of the legal and practical issues related to the conduct of hostilities in order to enhance humanitarian practitioners' and legal professionals' capacity to respond to concerns for the protection of civilians during armed conflict.

WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER

8:30 – 9:00	Welcome coffee & registration
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome, introduction, and overview – Angharad and Theo
9:30 – 10:15	Logic and nature of the obligations under the law on the conduct of hostilities – Nobuo Hayashi
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 11:30	Targeting persons and objects under IHL: Current legal and practical challenges for the protection of civilians – Nobuo
11:30 – 12:30	The obligations to take precautions and the protection of civilians – Theo
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Operationalising the law on targeting: A military perspective – James Chiswell
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 – 16:00	Humanitarian diplomacy – Maryann Horne
16:15 – 17:15	Engaging actors of influence in the context of urban warfare – Frederico Almendra
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up/Q&A
19:30	Group dinner

THURSDAY, 14 NOVEMBER

8:30 – 9:00	Welcome coffee
9:00 – 9:30	Review of previous day
9:30 – 10:15	The protection of medical personnel and facilities during the conduct of hostilities – Theo
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 11:30	Notification as a precautionary measure – Rachel Agelou and Omar Abulhaj
11:30 – 12:45	Protection of medical personnel, facilities and notification mechanisms: An NGO perspective – Antoine Bieler / A practical perspective (Yemen) – Maryann Horne
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Minimizing civilian casualties during military operations – James
14:30 – 15:30	Documenting alleged violations of the law on conduct of hostilities – Theo
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 17:15	Simulation exercise
17:15 – 17:30	Closing remarks