

Translated from Arabic

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Lebanon attaches great importance to strengthening the application of the provisions of international humanitarian law conventions. It has therefore taken a range of steps to publicize and implement them at the national level, as follows:

- The Directorate of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights of the Lebanese Army is being developed and enhanced. Its tasks include the dissemination of international humanitarian law in the ranks of the Army through training and by incorporating such law into instructions, operational orders and training programmes. It also oversees its application by military units, and monitors and documents violations.
- Army units receive ongoing mandatory training on international humanitarian law in the form of annual programmes, periodic briefings and unannounced inspections, all of which is closely monitored to ensure its effectiveness.
- A training manual on international humanitarian law has been put together in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and circulated, in accordance with obligations under the Geneva Conventions and the additional protocols to them.
- International humanitarian law has been added to the military training curriculum for all ranks as a basic, standalone subject. It is taught at all levels in all Lebanese military institutes and colleges.
- Publications on emblems that must be respected have been distributed to units on active duty and a handbook on the principles of military conduct in the field, which includes the key principles and rules of international humanitarian law, has been issued to every member of the Lebanese Armed Forces.
- A number of training courses on international humanitarian law (foundation, trainer and consultant-level courses and specialized courses on specific aspects such as targeting from the air, rules of engagement and the International Criminal Court) have been organized for officers and other ranks in cooperation with ICRC and other international and local governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Training activities (lectures and courses) are held for students of private and national universities in order to broaden understanding of international humanitarian law outside the military.
- The post of international humanitarian law advisor has been created at all levels (army command, units on active duty and so on), in accordance with article 82 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) of 1977. They have been assigned the task of providing legal advice during the planning and execution of military operations.

- A constructive dialogue was held in Beirut with ICRC on events in the Aarsal area and measures taken by the Lebanese Army to ensure that the units that participated in operations there abided by the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law.
 - A regional workshop on the theme of protecting cultural property in times of armed conflict was held for female military personnel from Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. It was organized in conjunction with the regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Beirut in order to foster respect for people's culture and heritage among members of the armed forces.
 - With a view to enhancing decision-makers' grasp of international humanitarian law, a number of military officers have sat on judges' panels for mock trials on international humanitarian law organized by ICRC, including an Arab regional mock trial at the country level, one held at Lawyer's House, and the final round of a mock trial competition for law students.
 - Some articles of the general military code relating to respect for international humanitarian law have been amended with a view to boosting protection for groups, such as children, women and prisoners, covered by such law.
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