

Translated from Russian

Information from the Russian Federation for the report of the Secretary-General on the agenda item of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly concerning the status of the additional protocols to the 1949 Geneva conventions relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

The Russian Federation is a party to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols of 1977. In 2005, the Russian Federation signed the third Additional Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem.

In accordance with the provisions of these international instruments, the Russian Federation is carrying out work on their implementation and on the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law.

During the period from 2006-2008, methodological recommendations were formulated on the study of the norms of international humanitarian law and started to be applied during combat training. Provisions incorporating norms of international humanitarian law were included in the regulatory and legal instruments (combat and general military statutes) regulating the actions of the military in combat situations.

Work is continuing on the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law among military personnel. In particular, during the period from 2006-2008, 15 two-week *Senezh* courses to upgrade officers' knowledge about the law of armed conflicts were held; over 350 officers from the Russian Federation and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) received this training. In addition, travelling seminars on international humanitarian law were held for officers in Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, Chita, Rostov-on-Don and Saint Petersburg.

During the same period, annual meetings of the heads of the legal services of branches of the military were organized to study the latest experience in the dissemination of knowledge among military personnel in the area of international humanitarian law, to which over 150 people were invited.

Two scientific and practical conferences on the study of the norms of international law were held within the framework of the educational programmes of military higher educational institutions for professorial and teaching staff of military universities.

The traditional annual round table was held with representatives of the military bodies responsible for the organization of combat training of the main headquarters (headquarters) of branches of the military, military districts and fleets to discuss issues of the study of international humanitarian law in the military.

The study of international humanitarian law is also organized through contests. In the "General Skobelev" annual contests on international humanitarian law for student teams from the military universities of the Russian Federation, teams from CIS countries also participated. In addition, two "Commander Suvorov" contests on the laws and customs of war were organized for teams from the Suvorov military academies, the Nakhimovsky naval academy and cadet colleges, as well as the "Marshal Rokossovsky" distance contest for military personnel, consisting of written submissions on international humanitarian law.
