
[Translated from Chinese]

Recent measures taken by China to disseminate and implement international humanitarian law

[Original: Chinese]

China is a party to the major international humanitarian law treaties, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977. For many years, the Chinese Government has been organizing military and local authorities and academic institutions to undertake a variety of actions aimed at conscientiously fulfilling the obligations of international humanitarian law. Major measures taken by China since 2005 to disseminate and implement international humanitarian law in accordance with paragraph 11 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/30 can be summarized as follows:

1. International cooperation and domestic institution-building

In July 2005, with the approval of the Chinese Government, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) set up an East Asian regional delegation office in Beijing, enabling closer cooperation between China and the ICRC with regard to disseminating and implementing international humanitarian law.

In November 2007, the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law of the People's Republic of China was established, providing an important impetus to the study, dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law. The National Committee held its first working-group meeting in April 2008. In May 2008, the National Committee held its first full meeting of representatives of member organizations and finalized its work plan for the year.

In March 2008, Wuhan University established an international humanitarian law research centre in order to strengthen the study and teaching of international humanitarian law.

In April 2008, the Research Centre for Human Rights at the Peking University Law School changed its name to the Research Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and included international humanitarian law in its research programme.

2. Work centred on related treaties

(1) In December 2007, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict was ratified at the thirty-first meeting of the Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress. On 19 February 2008, the Chinese Government deposited the instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Optional Protocol entered into force in China on 20 March 2008. The ratification of this Optional Protocol further embodies the importance that the Chinese Government attaches to human rights and the protection it extends to the rights of the child.

(2) Work centred on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the development of protocols to it.

The Chinese Government has actively taken measures conscientiously to fulfil the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the protocols to it, working to alleviate humanitarian injuries caused by such weapons. The Chinese Government attaches importance to

publicizing the Amended Protocol II on Mines of the CCW to military personnel and the common people. Using the facilities of China Central Television and the *Liberation Army Daily*, the Chinese military held large-scale contests on knowledge relating to the Mines Protocol in July 2006 and again in May 2007.

The Chinese Government is actively providing all the humanitarian demining assistance it can to developing countries. From 2005 to the first half of 2008, China provided technical training in humanitarian demining to Thailand, Lebanon, Jordan, Angola, Burundi, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and the Sudan, and also donated demining equipment.

The Chinese Government attaches importance to resolving humanitarian concerns related to cluster munitions, and is taking part in related work within the framework of the CCW such as conducting broad discussions regarding the application of current international humanitarian law to cluster munitions.

Moreover, the Chinese Government is actively carrying out the preparatory work for the ratification of Protocol V on the Explosive Remnants of War.

3. Seminars, training courses and moot courts

In April 2004, the Xi'an Political Institute of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), in cooperation with the ICRC, held a study group on the law of armed conflict for legal personnel from throughout the military in order to provide training in international humanitarian law to those responsible for legal services within the PLA.

In October 2006, the Chinese Society of International Law and the ICRC held a regional seminar on customary international humanitarian law, attended by government experts and scholars from the East and Southeast Asian regions as well as from numerous international organizations. Mr. Cao Jianming, head of the Society and Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court, gave an address at the meeting.

From 2006 to 2007, the Red Cross Society of China, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the ICRC, held "Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL)" courses in middle schools in Shanghai and Sichuan to publicize international humanitarian law among middle-school students. Beginning in 2008, the three participating organizations continued this cooperative programme in Tianjin and Jiangxi.

In March 2007, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the ICRC, in cooperation with Hong Kong University and the City University of Hong Kong, held the 5th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot competition in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China. This was the first IHL moot competition to be held in the Asia-Pacific region, with teams from 16 universities throughout the region participating.

In June 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the ICRC, held a regional meeting entitled "Symposium for the 30th Anniversary of the Adoption of the 1977 Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: Principles and Practice", attended by foreign-affairs and national-defence officials from 19 East, Southeast and South Asian countries. Mr. Kong Quan, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, addressed the meeting, and Mr. Duan Jielong, Director-General of the Department of Treaty and Law, spoke on the topic of China and international humanitarian law. Attendees at the meeting confirmed the importance of international humanitarian law, including the two Additional Protocols, for the protection of victims of armed conflict.

In October 2007, the Peking University Law School, in cooperation with the ICRC, held a training course in international humanitarian law for instructors in international law in the law schools of universities in north and north-eastern China.

In November 2007, the Red Cross Society of China, Renmin University of China and the ICRC jointly conducted the first all-China international humanitarian law moot court competition at the university level.

In January 2008, Renmin University of China and the ICRC held a seminar in Beijing on current humanitarian problems in armed conflicts.

In March 2008, the Southwest University of Political Science and Law, in cooperation with the ICRC, held a training course in international humanitarian law for its teaching staff.

4. Academic publications

In September 2007, the Chinese-language edition of *Customary International Humanitarian Law, Vol. I: Rules* was published by the Falü Chubanshe (Publishing House of Law).

In September 2007, the Falü Chubanshe published selected works on international humanitarian law, translated from the 2005 volume of the *International Review of the Red Cross*.

In April 2008, the Falü Chubanshe published selected works on international humanitarian law, translated from the 2006 volume of the *International Review of the Red Cross*.
