
Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations

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New York, 4 August 2011.

The Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, in reply to his note verbale LA/COD/2, has the honour to transmit herewith the information provided concerning General Assembly resolution 65/29 of 6 December 2010 ("Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts").

The Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations

New York

Report on potential intervention by the Guardia Civil with respect to protection of victims of armed conflicts

The Guardia Civil already has broad experience gained from several decades of involvement in peacekeeping operations and civilian crisis management missions conducted under the mandate of the principal international organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations and the European Union.

These peacekeeping operations usually have a clear humanitarian character and focus on protecting civilians; thus, the specific characteristics of the Guardia Civil, as a military police body, allow it both to intervene alongside the armed forces during the initial phases of a conflict and, later, to ensure stability, security and development as a civilian police force.

Potential actions that the Guardia Civil could take in order to protect victims of armed conflict include:

- Monitoring and verification of, inter alia, international agreements for ceasefires, prisoner exchanges and retrieval of the dead;

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- Providing policing and human rights instruction and technical training to local security forces;
 - Investigating war crimes;
 - Providing security and protection: escort and care of victims;
 - Maintaining security and public order; and
 - Providing assistance to victims and civil defence in disaster situations.

Examples of such humanitarian interventions include the Guardia Civil's work with refugees in Hamallaj, Albania, in 1999, when 35 Guardia Civil officers were deployed for the primary purpose of maintaining order and security in Hamallaj, controlling access and preventing incursions by mafia groups seeking to interfere with the delivery of humanitarian assistance. More recently, in January 2010, a Guardia Civil Flying Squad unit was involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims of the earthquake in Haiti as part of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Lately, there has been a growing focus on training missions for local police. This training includes matters related to, inter alia, policing techniques, security and self-protection, criminal investigation, human and material resource management and use, human rights and professional ethics. The NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan

and MINUSTAH are current examples of Guardia Civil involvement in such local police training, mentoring and monitoring missions.

Lastly, with respect to police investigations aimed at securing evidence and taking war criminals into custody, the Guardia Civil has a successful record of investigation during missions of the International Police Task Force (IPTF), the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia, the International Community against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and of cooperation with the International Criminal Court (in connection with Kosovo), the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

Madrid, 12 July 2011

Brigadier-General Antonio Barragán Gutiérrez