

Translated from Arabic

Subject: Resolution No. 63/125, adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2008

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

1. The Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies plays an important role in raising awareness of international humanitarian law through its training, awareness-raising and research activities for all law enforcement staff.
2. In this context, it should be mentioned that a key lecture on international humanitarian law was included in each of the following: a workshop on international standards for the rights of prisoners and detainees, organized for officers by the Ministry of the Interior's Human Rights Department in conjunction with the Qatar Red Crescent and held from 3 to 7 June 2007; a workshop for law enforcement officials, including officers, prosecutors, investigators and doctors, on international and domestic legislation to combat torture, organized by the Human Rights Department and the Bureau of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and held from 12 to 16 April 2009; and the first thematic human rights workshop for security service officers, held from 21 to 25 March 2010.
3. The first workshop for officers on the culture of international human rights law is to be held some time before October 2010.
4. Qatar would like to underline its support for the United Nations General Assembly resolution in question, which calls for States to become parties to the Conventions and Protocols, which form part of international humanitarian law. Those Conventions and Protocols comprise principles which have been accepted globally because of their humanitarian nature, and the fact that their aims are to safeguard human life and dignity, alleviate suffering in armed conflict and, to the extent possible, make war more humane.

Legislation

- (a) Legislation and Qatar Armed Forces orders include the legal provisions that are necessary for the application of the Conventions and two Additional Protocols. Qatar is bound, inter alia, by the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding children's participation in armed conflicts, and the Qatar Armed Forces do not recruit, train or employ children.
- (b) A draft military code contains provisions which criminalize conduct prohibited under the Conventions and the Additional Protocols, in particular with regard to the treatment of prisoners of war. The draft code sets forth severe penalties for those found guilty of such offences by an impartial, legitimate, authoritative and independent judicial mechanism.
- (c) Studies are being conducted with a view to ensuring that domestic legislation on criminal acts perpetrated during armed conflicts is in line with the international instruments which Qatar has signed and with international humanitarian law in general.

Activities and implementation of the provisions of international humanitarian law

Qatar endeavours to respect and implement the provisions of the Conventions and the principles of international humanitarian law in all relevant fields.

(a) With a view to strengthening the implementation of international humanitarian law, an international humanitarian law committee has been established within the Qatar Armed Forces. It comprises representatives of all services of the armed forces and aims, through its local branches, and in coordination with relevant associations and organizations, to disseminate a culture of international humanitarian law among all members of the armed forces.

(b) To that end, numerous Qatar Armed Forces officers have, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Arab League, and specialized international organizations, been sent to Arab and other countries in order to participate in advanced specialized courses in international humanitarian law. Certain officers from the Qatar Armed Forces have obtained qualifications to teach the principles of humanitarian law and the relevant international instruments.

(c) The Qatar Armed Forces, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Regional Delegation Kuwait, have established programmes and workshops in Qatar which bring together the relevant military and civilian authorities with a view to disseminating a culture of international human rights law and the relevant Conventions.

Academic and training curriculums and publications

(a) The Qatar Armed Forces, through the Ahmad Bin Mohammed Military College, teach international humanitarian law, including the Conventions, to military college students as part of the academic programme.

(b) The Armed Forces international humanitarian law committee prepares programmes and training curriculums on the issue that are taught to military officers and other ranks in mandatory courses at Qatar Armed Forces training institutes.

(c) As an academic guide, the Qatar Armed Forces legal affairs division has issued a specialist publication containing the key provisions of international humanitarian law. This publication includes the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols.

(d) Publications on international humanitarian law are also being prepared for distribution to Qatar Armed Forces officers and soldiers, with a view to disseminating a culture of the Geneva Conventions and domestic and international legislation and ensuring that the Conventions are applied.
