

Translated from Arabic

Information provided by the Republic of Yemen on the measures taken to strengthen international humanitarian law and fully disseminate and apply it at the national level, in accordance with the country's international obligations

I. The agreements relating to international humanitarian law which the Republic of Yemen has ratified

1. Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, Geneva, 17 June 1925.
2. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948.
3. Fourth Geneva Convention, 12 August 1949.
4. First Optional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts.
5. Second Optional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts.
6. Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague, 14 May 1954.
7. Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague, 14 May 1954.
8. Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, 1968.
9. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, 10 April 1972.
10. Convention on the prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques, 10 December 1976.
11. Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990.
12. Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction, Paris, 13 January 1993.
13. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer or Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Ottawa, 1997.
14. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2000.

Agreements signed by the Republic of Yemen:

- Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague, 26 March 1999.
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998.

II. National legislation

1. Concerning the struggle against war crimes

The Military Penal Code, Law No. 21 of 1998, contains provisions on war crimes in articles 18 to 20. That law provides for the non-applicability to war crimes of statutory limitations. Article 22 states that the right to hear cases concerning the crimes detailed in that section is not subject to statutory limitations. The section referred to is section IV of the above-mentioned law.

2. Concerning the protection of emblems

Law No. 43 of 1999 concerns the regulation and use of the emblems of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and the prevention of their misuse.

3. Concerning the establishment of national committees for international humanitarian law

The national committee for international humanitarian law was established pursuant to Republican Decree No. 408 of 1999.

4. Concerning support for national Red Cross and Red Crescent associations

Republican Decree No. 15 of 1970 concerned the establishment of the Red Crescent association.

III. Introduction of international humanitarian law and dissemination of its provisions

- Several meetings have been held with many prominent Yemeni persons with a view to introducing the goals of international humanitarian law.
- International humanitarian law is taught in faculties of sharia and law in the governorates of Aden, Hodeida, Sana'a and Taizz. Special lectures on international humanitarian law and its provisions are given to fifth-year medical students at Sana'a University.
- The provisions and concepts of international humanitarian law have been included in educational curricula.
- In coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Yemeni Red Crescent has organized in Sana'a a number of courses, of which the most significant were the following:
 1. The children's festival that was held in Ibb with a view to giving lectures on international humanitarian law.
 2. A course on international humanitarian law that was held for prosecutors and judges, which was attended by the advisor and the regional coordinator.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross organized a workshop for Yemeni parliamentary deputies on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- A course on international humanitarian law was held for professors of sharia and law in the faculties of sharia and law in Sana'a University.

- A discussion on the teaching of international humanitarian law in Yemeni universities was organized in accordance with the recommendations made at the Beirut meeting on curriculum development.
- The third meeting on the teaching of international humanitarian law in Yemeni universities, which was held in the University of Sana'a on 6 April 2005, made the following recommendations:

1. The Yemeni national committee should be urged to hold a meeting of officials from the Ministry of Higher Education in order to formulate a feasible vision for all the relevant Yemeni faculties and broadcast the outcome to all parties concerned.

2. International humanitarian law should be taught as a contractual obligation binding on all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions. The fact that, since the end of the Second World War, the Arab region has undergone a series of armed conflicts highlights the need to give special importance in that region to the provisions of international humanitarian law.

3. The relevant curricula must be developed, with the focus on the particularities of Arab society. It must be made clear that many of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions are drawn from the provisions of the Islamic sharia.

4. Contractual obligations under the Geneva Conventions must be upheld: international humanitarian law is designed to protect vulnerable parties. Given the nature of the current conflicts in the Arab region, Arab legislators must have the protective provisions provided by international humanitarian law as part of their general culture.

5. International humanitarian law must be included as a subject in the following faculties: law and sharia, political science and media.

- From 19 to 22 November 2006, a seminar on international humanitarian law was held in the Diplomatic Institute for Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff.
- A seminar on humanitarian protection in legislation and the law was held in Sana'a on 21 and 22 November 2006.
- From 10 to 17 December 2006, a course was held in the Ministry of the Interior for officers responsible for maintaining security and order on the issue of international measures relating to the use of firepower in time of war and peace.
- A training course on international humanitarian law and the International Criminal Court was held for 30 judges and several members of the public prosecutor's office at the Higher Judicial Institute in Sana'a on 18 and 19 December 2006.
- A seminar on international humanitarian law was held on 16 and 17 December 2006 and attended by 25 participants from civil society organizations and Ministry of Human Rights staff.
- A Yemeni delegation attended the First Regional Seminar of Arab Diplomats on International Humanitarian Law that was held in Abu Dhabi from 19 to 22 November 2006.

- A delegation from the Republic of Yemen attended the Seventh Asia and Pacific Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies that was held in Singapore on 23 November 2006.

IV. Implementation of the “Discover International Humanitarian Law” programme in the Republic of Yemen

Because of the interest of the Government of Yemen in creating a generation that is aware of and educated in the principles of international humanitarian law, work to implement the Discover International Humanitarian Law programme in Yemen began on a trial basis in 2003. The Government, represented by the Ministry of Education, signed a memorandum of understanding concerning implementation of that programme with a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross. A technical committee was established forthwith for that purpose and during academic year 2003-2004, 32 male and female teachers in eight Yemeni governorates were trained in the presentation of the programme. In the same academic year, a team consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Education and the International Committee of the Red Cross undertook field visits to selected schools in order to follow up implementation of the programme.

Discussions were held with a view to evaluating that implementation between representatives of the Ministry of Education and the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation. It was agreed that the programme issues would continue to be taught in the same governorates, that the field trial would be expanded in four of them and extended to a further eight. It should be noted that 73 per cent of all Yemeni governorates are involved in the implementation of the programme.
