



Statement

by
Lebanon

Mr. George Jallad

At the

Sixth Committee

Agenda Item 83:

**Status of the Protocols Additional
to the Geneva Conventions of 1949
and relating to the protection of
victims of armed conflict.**

New York, October 16, 2018

Check against Delivery

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Lebanon, as one of the countries that prepared the Declaration of Human Rights, attaches utmost importance to international humanitarian law in general and the protection of civilians in particular. In this regard Lebanon acceded to the four Geneva conventions and its two Additional Protocols and committed itself towards their implementation.

In 2017, Lebanon ratified the *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious* and its three Protocols and took measures to implement their provisions.

International humanitarian law became a basic component of the curricula of military schools and academies at all levels.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Defense established the post of international humanitarian law counsel in 2017 to advise the Minister of Defence and high Commanders on the legal aspects of planning and executing operations. The second step would involve posting international humanitarian law advisers to the leadership of major operational units in 2018.

A constructive dialogue was held with the international Committee of the Red Cross, following which the Lebanese army took actions to ensure compliance by its units especially in its fight against terrorism in eastern Lebanon.

Mr. Chair, our youth in Lebanon is also very well engaged in disseminating the rules of international humanitarian law through the Lebanese Red Cross and other human rights associations. I take this opportunity to recall the sacrifices of the members of the Lebanese Red Cross and the Civil Defense Institute in their rescue missions during the conflicts that rattled Lebanon.

Mr. Chair,

During many years, Lebanon has been a victim of grave breaches of International humanitarian law.

More than 12 years have passed since the 2006 Israeli aggression on Lebanon with no accountability, no responsibility, and no remedies in sight for the crimes committed in Lebanon.

Let me recall here that the Inquiry Commission established by the Human Rights Council at that time, concluded that Israel had violated international humanitarian law when its forces “*simply changed the status of all civilian objects by making them legitimate targets...*”

The Commission also found that the Israeli forces destroyed large parts of the Lebanese civilian infrastructure and that the attacks caused considerable and disproportionate damage to cultural, archaeological and historical property which cannot be justified under military necessity. Even the environment, Mr. Chair, hasn't been spared, with the destruction of the Jiyeh power plant which resulted in a massive oil spill on the Lebanese shores and beyond.

Sadly, flagrant breaches of international humanitarian law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant UN resolutions, continue to be committed against the Palestinians on daily bases. The Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly forbids collective punishment, the occupying power's deportation of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies, and targeting civilians and medical personnel, among others.

The Killings of the Palestinian civilians demonstrating in the last few months and the decision of demolishing of Khan – al Ahmar are part of the latest episodes of Israel's incomppliance with the International Humanitarian law. The Palestinians had no choice but to resort to the General Assembly with the hope of finding a guarantee to their basic right of survival.

Mr. Chair,

Laws and regulations protecting the civilians already exist but lack of compliance remains a challenge.

There is no doubt that accountability remains the most important element to ensure respect for these laws. Dissemination of International humanitarian law, in societies and within the State's relevant institutions, can help in promoting compliance.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has already played a major role in developing these humanitarian principles. It is up for us, the States, to work jointly to give effect to these rules.

A lot needs to be done to protect our present and future generations and to provide them with a more humane world that preserves the sanctity of the human life.

I thank you Mr. Chair.