

*Translated from Russian*

## **Belarus**

### **Paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 73/204 of 20 December 2018 on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts**

Belarus reaffirms the information submitted in 2016 (A/71/183).

Since 2016, the following important events have taken place:

- In November 2017, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Peter Maurer, visited Belarus for the first time. During the visit, he met with the President of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenko, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defence and Minister of Justice.
- In the course of the visit, on 8 November 2017, an agreement between Belarus and ICRC on the status, privileges and immunities of the organization in Belarus was signed.
- In 2018, an ICRC office was opened in Belarus.
- In November 2017 and October 2019, Minsk hosted the sixth and seventh Regional Seminars on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, which were organized jointly by the Ministry of Justice and ICRC.

From 9 to 12 December 2019, delegations from the Government of Belarus and the Belarusian Red Cross Society took part in the thirty-third International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Within the framework of the Conference, the Belarusian side organized two thematic events:

- An event on combating trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict
- A presentation of a book, *Missia miloserdia. Illyustrativnaya istoria Krasnogo Kresta v Belarusi* (Mission of Mercy: an Illustrated History of the Red Cross in Belarus), which recounts the story of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Belarus

The Belarusian delegation presented information on the work of the Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, which reports to the Council of Ministers of

Belarus, at a special session of the Conference devoted to voluntary reporting and sharing of good practices.

The event on combating trafficking in persons took place on 11 December 2019 and took the form of a discussion. The idea of holding the event arose from a proposal put forward by the President of Belarus, at the 2005 World Summit, for the establishment of a global partnership to combat trafficking in persons.

The rapporteurs for the event were the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Oleg Kravchenko, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Shaikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa, and the representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

On 12 December 2019 in Geneva, a presentation of Vladimir Likhodedov's book *Missia miloserdia. Illyustrativnaya istoria Krasnogo Kresta v Belarusi* was organized for Conference participants. The book was written at the initiative of the Belarusian Red Cross Society and published with the support of the ICRC office in Belarus and the Ministry of Information of Belarus. The author has gathered a unique visual record of the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Belarus from the late nineteenth century up to 1939, and this material has been included in the book.

To support global efforts to combat trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict, in 2019 Belarus made a voluntary contribution in the amount of 10,000 Swiss francs to the ICRC Restoring Family Links programme.

In 2017, as part of the "Youth for Peace" International Law Competition, which is intended to educate students about international humanitarian law, the Ministry of Justice of Belarus instituted a certificate of merit for the best legal argument.

In 2019, a peace studies centre was opened at the Belarusian State University in the context of the university's cooperation with the Belarusian Red Cross Society. The work of the centre is aimed at disseminating knowledge about international humanitarian law, promoting peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and mutual understanding, and involving young people in social projects that are of importance for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.