

Information pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 73/204 of 20 December 2018 by the Czech Republic

IHL Instruments:

- In 2020, the Czech Republic ratified the three amendments to Article 8 (war crimes) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as adopted at the 16th Session of the Assembly of States Parties in New York in 2017.
- The Czech Republic has adopted the Action Plan of the Czech Republic for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and related resolutions from 2017 - 2020 and prepares regular yearly implementation reports.
- In 2019, the Czech Republic (the Ministry of Justice) reviewed its national law concerning criminalization of sexual and gender-based violence during times of armed conflict or in the aftermath of disasters and other emergencies. The Czech Republic is a contracting party to many international humanitarian law treaties whose provisions prohibit acts of sexual violence. Obligations emerging from such treaties have been fully implemented in the Czech national law. The Czech Criminal Procedure Code also enables effective investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence. Act on Victims of Crimes offers protection and necessary assistance (legal, psychological, financial) to the victims.

IHL dissemination:

- The Czech Republic together with the National Red Cross Society (The Czech Red Cross) has continued to work on promotion of international humanitarian law and dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law in the State administration, in the armed forces, police and in the integrated rescue system, mainly through the National Committee on international humanitarian law which is presided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The National Committee meets regularly, at least three times a year, to discuss the implementation of international humanitarian law obligations of the Czech Republic and to raise awareness of international humanitarian law principles, inter alia by organizing annual events on relevant topics with various speakers from international courts and tribunals and other institutions. The National Committee organized a seminar on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict on June 19, 2018, seminar on the provision of humanitarian assistance and safety of humanitarian personnel on June 17, 2019, and published and disseminated manual on the use of the emblem of the Red Cross in the Czech Republic.
- Concerning practical training, the Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the Czech Red Cross has continued annually to organize military exercise “Jus in Bello” focusing specifically on the practical application of international humanitarian law in the field. During this exercise, the conditions of an armed conflict are simulated and the training units are given various scenarios and tasks in order to practice and further develop their knowledge and practical application of international humanitarian law.

- Since January 2019, the Czech Republic (on the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) has been providing 18 months grant (cca 70 000,- EUR) on the international humanitarian law issues to the Institute of International Relations in Prague (independent public research institution). One of the main aims of this grant is to analyze different national legal frameworks for regulation of the private military and security companies during an armed conflict and prepare a draft Ethical Code of conduct for private military and security companies.

Protection of cultural property during an armed conflict:

- In 2017, the Czech Republic submitted a nomination of Villa Tugendhat for granting enhanced protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. At its 13th session on December 7, 2018, in Paris, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, UNESCO, decided to include Villa Tugendhat on the List of Cultural Property under the Enhanced Protection.
- In November 2019, the Czech Republic was re-elected as a member of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

33rd ICRC conference

- The Czech Republic actively participated on the level of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which took place in Geneva in 2019.