



## **Status of the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia attaches great importance to international humanitarian law and its implementation at all levels. This includes several efforts at the national level, most notably:

- Developing the legislative environment and aligning national legislation with international conventions, especially those related to international humanitarian law and its customary rules.
- Acceding international treaties and conventions related to international humanitarian law with the aim of strengthening the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and their Additional Protocol of 1977.
- Propagating the provisions of international humanitarian law on a wider scale, and studying its applications, including cooperation with foreign parties responsible for implementing international humanitarian law, in line with Article 83 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.
- In line with its interest in international humanitarian law, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia established in 2007, a standing committee for international humanitarian law within the Saudi Red Crescent Authority by the Cabinet Resolution No. 144 of May 16, 2007. The membership to this committee included many sovereign ministries and relevant government agencies.
- A legal team from the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs as well as the Council of Experts, the Human Rights Commission, and the Saudi Red Crescent Authority are providing seminars and counselling to raise awareness about the international humanitarian law. The legal team also develops programs dedicated to educating the members of the joint forces about the responsibilities of international humanitarian law by providing lectures and workshops at the joint forces' operations centers.
- A list of not-to-be-targeted places is constantly updated, which includes civilian locations, places of worship, the headquarters of international governmental and non-governmental organizations and archaeological sites.





This list is circulated periodically at all levels within the coalition forces to ensure all concerned parties know about it.

- Precision-guided weapons is used to avoid casualties in the war.

The Saudi Government has also civilian's aspect to its Military operations, the following list is an example:

- Receiving and processing requests from countries and international organizations to evacuate their nationals from Yemen, and facilitating the entry of relief materials and humanitarian aid in accordance with the land, sea and air embargo imposed on Yemen and the Security Council Resolution (2216), which includes coordination of relief work and humanitarian operations for the Yemeni people (drugs, medical supplies, foodstuffs, oil derivatives), and the issuance of the necessary permits for countries and international organizations to enter and exit Yemen (air - sea - land).

#### Total permits issued

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Total permits issued | 122119 |
| Sea permits          | 9800   |
| Air permits          | 35696  |
| Land permits         | 2390   |
| Cease fire demands   | 74333  |

- A Coordination Cell works to streamline cooperation between the military's joint forces and King Salman's Center to facilitate aid delivery to Yemenis. The Coordination Cell also supervises the treatment of the wounded in coordination with the King Salman's Center for Relief and Humanitarian Action. The relief and humanitarian projects until May 1, 2022 reached **702 projects** at an estimated cost of **\$4,061,757,549** (detailed data of the center's work can be provided upon request).
- The Coordination Cell along with the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen is also striving to overcome obstacles in the work of the





joint forces and the program while facilitating the implementation of across-the-board programs, including human development, health, infrastructure, energy, water, among others. The number of these programs totaling **207 projects** for **6 million** beneficiaries.

- Child Protection Unit was established to protect civilians and children as part of the coalition forces' commitment to implementing international humanitarian law and its customary rules. The Unit also helps reunite children with their families and reintegrating them into society, while deploying all necessary measures to limit casualties. It strives to minimize damage to children through development programs and rehabilitating those recruited by Houthi militias (medically and psychologically). Once these children are treated they are handed over to the legitimate Yemeni government.

This Child Protection Unit has achieved a number of initiatives:

- Signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Arab Coalition and the United Nations, represented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. The aim is to enhance the protection of children affected by the armed conflict in Yemen.
- Returning 12 groups of children recruited by the Houthi militia to the legitimate Yemeni government, totaling **147 Yemeni children**, after offering them primary medical, psychological and nutritional assistance. This was carried out in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross, in order to expedite their return to their families.
- Establishing a standard operating procedures manual for the Child Protection Unit.
- Raising awareness among members of the coalition forces of the international humanitarian law and the protection of children in particular, in partnership with international and local organizations through holding workshops and training with a total number of 10 programs.

At the same time, the Kingdom notes with concern the increasing use of advanced weapons by the Houthi militia, to attacks civilians and vital facilities in the Kingdom in a way that violates international humanitarian law. The use of children in armed





conflicts is also prohibited by international law, however, Houthi Militia continues disregard for such laws is a matter of concern to the Kingdom. Such aggression, however, does not affect the Kingdom's compliance with the international humanitarian law in its response to the Houthi militia. The Kingdom observes, in particular, the Second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts.