

Toolbox for Researching International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

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To learn the classification of a particular armed conflict and see applicable legal norms:

1. ICRC website (press releases, Operational Updates, and Annual Reports)
2. Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts Project, <http://www.geneva-academy.ch/RULAC/index.php>

To see the text of humanitarian law treaties:

1. Most multilateral treaties can be found with a Google search by treaty name
2. ICRC, Treaties and States Parties to Such Treaties, <http://www.icrc.org/ihl>

To see status information for the humanitarian law treaties:

1. ICRC States Party to the Main Treaties, http://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/xsp/.ibmmodres/domino/OpenAttachment/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/6BDD829DF919F7AEC1257BF600278CCD/%24File/IHL_and_other_related_Treaties.pdf?Open

To find statements (rules) of customary international law:

1. *Customary International Humanitarian Law* (Jean-Marie Henckaerts & Louise Doswald-Beck eds. 2005) [paper; free online--Volume 1, Rules <http://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/customary-international-humanitarian-law-i-icrc-eng.pdf>]
2. *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law* [paper; online by subscription]

To find authoritative accounts of treaty and customary law:

1. *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law* [paper; online by subscription]
2. Yoram Dinstein, *The Conduct of Hostilities under the Law of International Armed Conflict* (2d ed. 2010)
3. Yoram Dinstein, *The International Law of Belligerent Occupation* (2009)
4. Yoram Dinstein, *War, Aggression and Self-Defence* (5th ed., 2011)
5. *The Handbook of the International Law of Military Operations* (Terry D. Gill and Dieter Fleck eds., 2010)
6. Frits Kalshoven & Liesbeth Zegveld, *Constraints on the Waging of War: An Introduction To International Humanitarian Law* (4th ed. 2011) [paper; 2001 3d ed. free online http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/pdf/Constraints-waging-war.pdf]
7. Other monographs (books) –refer to bibliographies, or use a library catalog, or Google Book Search

To see commentaries on humanitarian law treaties:

1. *The Geneva conventions of 12 August 1949: Commentary* (Jean S. Pictet ed., 1952-1960) [paper; free online http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/Geneva_conventions-1949.html]
2. *Commentary on the Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949* (Claude Pilloud, Yves Sandoz et al. eds., 1987) [paper; free online http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/pdf/Commentary_GC_Protocols.pdf]

3. *Michael Bothe et al., New Rules for Victims of Armed Conflicts: Commentary on the Two 1977 Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949* (1982) [paper]

To research negotiating history (travaux préparatoires) of the humanitarian law treaties:

1. *Final Record of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva of 1949* [paper; free online at http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/RC-Fin-Rec_Dipl-Conf-1949.html]
2. *Official Records of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, Geneva, 1974-77* [paper; free online at http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/RC-dipl-conference-records.html]

To find examples of state practice in IHL:

1. ICRC's Customary International Law Database, <http://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v2>
2. State yearbooks of international law [paper; HeinOnline]

To find the US position on IHL questions:

1. *Restatement of the Law, Foreign Relations 3d* [paper; Westlaw, Lexis] [very general on IHL]
2. *Digest of US Practice in International Law* [free online 1989-2012; also paper]
3. State Department website and documents
4. Beth Van Schaack, United States Report to the UN Human Rights Committee: Lex Specialis and Extraterritoriality, Just Security, Oct. 16, 2013 [analyzes US position on whether human rights law applies in armed conflict situations]

To find highly-recommended works on IHL:

1. Peace Palace Library, International Humanitarian Law, <http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guides/war-and-peace/international-humanitarian-law>
2. Madeline E. Cohen, International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict, http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2292222 (covers 2001-2012)
3. ICRC, *Bibliography of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts* (2nd ed., 1987)
4. ICRC, *Bibliography of International Humanitarian law (2012)* [covers only 2012] <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p4147.htm>

To get more suggestions for research options in IHL:

1. Joan Policastri & Sergio D. Stone, International Humanitarian Law, ASIL Electronic Research Guide, [http://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/ERG_International%20Humanitarian%20Law%20\(test\).pdf](http://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/ERG_International%20Humanitarian%20Law%20(test).pdf)

To keep track of new developments in IHL:

1. Opinio Juris (<http://opiniojuris.org>)
2. Just Security (<http://justsecurity.org>)
3. Lawfare (<http://www.lawfareblog.com>)
4. Armed Groups and International Law (<http://armedgroups-internationallaw.org>)
5. Intercross (<http://intercrossblog.icrc.org>)