

Volume 99 Number 906

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW of the Red Cross

Humanitarian debate: Law, policy, action

**Conflict
in Syria**



ICRC

Aim and scope

Established in 1869, the *International Review of the Red Cross* is a peer-reviewed journal published by the ICRC and Cambridge University Press. Its aim is to promote reflection on humanitarian law, policy and action in armed conflict and other situations of collective armed violence. A specialized journal in humanitarian law, it endeavours to promote knowledge, critical analysis and development of the law, and contribute to the prevention of violations of rules protecting fundamental rights and values. The *Review* offers a forum for discussion on contemporary humanitarian action as well as analysis of the causes and characteristics of conflicts so as to give a clearer insight into the humanitarian problems they generate. Finally, the *Review* informs its readership on questions pertaining to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and in particular on the activities and policies of the ICRC.

International Committee of the Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in armed conflict and other situations of violence. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening international humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Movement.

Members of the Committee

President: Peter Maurer
Vice-President: Christine Beerli

Mauro Arrigoni
Hugo Bänziger
François Bugnion
Gilles Carbonnier
Jacques Chapuis
Melchior de Muralt
Maya Hertig Randall
Alexis Keller
Jürg Kesselring

Thierry Lombard
Laura Sadis
Doris Schopper
Rolf Soiron
Béatrice Speiser
Bruno Staffelbach
Heidi Tagliavini
Barbara Wildhaber

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief: Vincent Bernard
Managing Editor: Ellen Policinski
Editorial Assistant: Jovana Kuzmanovic,
Kvitoslava Krotiuk and Saman Rejali
Book review editor: Jamie A. Williamson
Special thanks: Nicole Martins-Maag,
Marianne Gasser, Rana Kharouf, Pawel
Krysiak and Cynthia Lee

International Review of the Red Cross
19, Avenue de la Paix, CH 1202 Geneva
CH - 1202 Geneva
t +41 22 734 60 01
e-mail: review@icrc.org

Editorial Board

Annette Becker
*Université de Paris-Ouest Nanterre La
Défense, France*

Françoise Bouchet-Saulnier
Médecins sans Frontières, France

Emiliano Buis
University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hilary Charlesworth
Australian National University, Australia

Sarah Cleveland
Columbia Law School, US

Adama Dieng
*UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for
the Prevention of Genocide, Senegal*

Emanuela-Chiara Gillard
*Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed
Conflict (ELAC), University of Oxford, UK*

Fyodor Lukyanov
*Russia in Global Affairs Journal; Council
on Foreign and Defense Policy, Russia*

Tasneem Meenai
Jamia Millia Islamia, India

Sorcha O'Callaghan
British Red Cross, UK

Emre Öktem
Galatasaray University, Turkey

Marco Sassòli,
University of Geneva, Switzerland

Michael N. Schmitt
US Naval War College, US

Sun Shiyao
*Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
(CASS), China*

Andrew Thompson
University of Exeter, UK

Cover Photo: A man walks in front of a burning building after an air strike in Ain Tarma neighbourhood of Damascus. 27 January 2013. Credit: Reuters/Goran Tomasevic.

Volume 99 Number 906

INTERNATIONAL
REVIEW
of the Red Cross

Humanitarian debate: Law, policy, action

Conflict in Syria

CONTENTS

Conflict in Syria

- 865 **Editorial: Conflict in Syria: Finding hope amid the ruins**
Vincent Bernard, Editor-in-Chief
- 875 **Interview with Peter Maurer**
President of the ICRC

Voices and perspectives

- 885 **Photo gallery: The Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross: A true partnership to help the most vulnerable**

Syria: The human cost of war

- 897 **Opinion note: The fragility of community security in Damascus and its environs**
Yassar Abdin
- 927 **Mental health during the Syrian crisis: How Syrians are dealing with the psychological effects**
Mazen Hedar
- 937 **Weaponizing monuments**
Ross Burns

Law and protection

- 959 **Crossing the red line: The use of chemical weapons in Syria and what should happen now**
Yasmin Naqvi
- 995 **Islamic law and international humanitarian law : An introduction to the main principles**
Ahmed Al-Dawoody

Articles published by the Review reflect the views of the author alone and not necessarily those of the ICRC or of the Review. Only texts bearing an ICRC signature may be ascribed to the institution.

The way forward

- 1019 From a model of peace to a model of conflict: The effect of architectural modernization on the Syrian urban and social make-up**
Marwa Al-Sabouni
- 1037 Protecting cultural property in Syria: New opportunities for States to enhance compliance with international law?**
Polina Levina Mahnad

Selected articles

- 1075 “Safe areas”: The international legal framework**
Emanuela-Chiara Gillard
- 1103 A universal treaty for disasters? Remarks on the International Law Commission’s Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters**
Giulio Bartolini
- 1139 Naval robots and rescue**
Robert Sparrow, Rob McLaughlin and Mark Howard

Reports and documents

- 1161 Emerging military technologies applied to urban warfare**
ICRC, Programme on the Regulation of Emerging Military Technologies, Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law, 21–22 March 2018
- 1175 The laws of war are our shield against barbarity**
Speech given by ICRC President Peter Maurer to the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva, 26 February 2018

Articles published by the Review reflect the views of the author alone and not necessarily those of the ICRC or of the Review. Only texts bearing an ICRC signature may be ascribed to the institution.

Books and articles

- 1179** **New publication: The updated Commentaries on the 1949 Geneva Conventions**
- 1181** **The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict**
Edited by Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Naomi Cahn, Dina Francesca Haynes and Nahla Valji
Book review by Gillian Wylie
- 1187** **New publications in international humanitarian law and on the International Committee of the Red Cross**