



Non-State Actors in Non-International Armed Conflicts and IHL:
To engage or not to engage?



Abstract

This study is conducted to find out in what ways compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) by non-state actors can best be improved. Therefore the study first looks into the traditional framework of IHL that currently exists. The gaps in the applicable law, implementation mechanisms and enforcement mechanisms will be identified. Consequently a variety of new creative mechanisms that aim to improve compliance with IHL by non-state actors will be described. These mechanisms are different in initiator, the aspect it aims to change and actors involved. For the mechanisms that are not implemented yet the study looks into the advantages and disadvantages these mechanisms could have. For the mechanisms that have already been implemented the study looks into their results. Based on all the gathered information about the (possible) effectiveness of the new mechanisms a conclusion will be drawn as to which type of mechanism is most promising to make non-state actors comply with IHL.

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Table of contents

Introduction	1
1. Situating the problem: Non-State Actors violate IHL	1
2. Research Questions	3
3. Methodology	4
I. Traditional Framework	5
1. Applicable Law in Non-International Armed Conflicts	5
a. Treaty Law	5
▪ Before 1949	5
▪ The distinction of the 1949 Geneva Conventions	6
▪ Article 3 common to all four Geneva Conventions	6
▪ Additional Protocol II	7
▪ Post 1977	8
▪ Problems with the applicable treaty law	9
b. Customary Law	11
▪ Relevance for Non-International Armed Conflicts	11
▪ Content of the ICRC Study on customary IHL	12
▪ Critique on the ICRC Study	14
c. Accountability of Non-State Actors	15
d. Impact of jurisprudence of International Criminal Tribunals	15
2. Implementation of IHL by Non-State Actors	18
a. Legal Tools	18
▪ Domestic Laws	18
▪ Special Agreements	18
▪ Unilateral Declarations	19
▪ Codes of Conduct for Armed Groups	19
▪ Ceasefire or Peace Agreements	20
▪ Grants of Amnesty for mere participation in hostilities	21
▪ Dissemination	21

b. Other Tools	22
▪ Persuasion	22
▪ Pressure	23
3. Enforcing IHL: Non-State Actors in National and International Courts	25
a. Domestic Enforcement – National Courts	25
▪ Principle of Universal Jurisdiction	25
▪ Advantages and Disadvantages	26
b. Interstate Enforcement – International Criminal Law	27
▪ More than just deterrence by trials	27
▪ The way to the International Criminal Court (ICC)	28
▪ The International Criminal Court	29
4. Conclusion	31
II. New Mechanisms	33
1. Changes to the Applicable Treaty Law	33
a. Opportunities in Human Rights Law	33
b. Engaging Non-State Actors in the Creation of IHL	39
2. Implementation Mechanisms	41
a. Geneva Call	41
▪ Description of the organisation	41
▪ Results obtained in the landmine issue	44
▪ Children and Women in Armed Conflict	52
▪ Criteria developed by Geneva Call	54
b. Berghof	55
▪ Description of BCR and its activities	55
▪ Results obtained in the area of Resistance and Liberation Movements in Transition	57
▪ Results obtained in the area of State and Non-State Relations in Transforming Violent Conflicts	61
▪ Berghof Peace Support	62
▪ Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation	64

c. Human Rights Council	65
▪ The Mandate	65
▪ Expanding to IHL and Non-State Actors	66
3. Enforcement Mechanisms	72
a. Individual Complaints Procedure for Violations of IHL	72
b. Courts by Non-State Armed Groups	74
▪ Legitimacy	75
▪ Due Process Guarantees	76
▪ Engagement of the International Community	78
4. State-Legitimacy Concerns with Engaging Non-State Actors	80
III. Conclusion	84
Bibliography	87