

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

AGENDA

(Virtual meeting, June 24, 2021)

(Prepared by the Department of International Law, in coordination with the ICRC, at the request of  
the Chair of the CAJP)

## COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

### AGENDA

Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021

Time: 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Place: Virtual

### INTRODUCTION

General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2959 (L-O/20), “Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law,” [section iii,] instructed the General Secretariat to organize, within the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, through the Department of International Law and in coordination with the ICRC, a course for member states, staff of the OAS, and the general public, in order to promote knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law and related regional instruments, including measures for their effective implementation.

### NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The General Assembly resolution requests that this course be organized for member states, staff of the Organization, and the general public. One week before it starts, the Department of International Law will circulate an information bulletin notifying the general public about the course. The permanent missions may use this bulletin to promote the course among institutions and individuals who may be interested.

### AGENDA

1. Opening remarks:
  - Remarks by the Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, Ambassador Josué Fiallo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican the Republic to the OAS
  - Remarks by the Director of the Department of International Law, OAS General Secretariat, Dante Negro
  - Remarks by Romina Morello, Regional Legal Advisor for the Americas, ICRC
    - a. [Biography](#)
    - b. [Introduction](#)
2. Presentation by Jean Franco Olivera, Legal Advisor and Head of the Authorities Program, ICRC Regional Delegation for Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador: “An introduction to international humanitarian law with an emphasis on protection for individuals during armed conflicts”
  - [Biography](#)
  - [PowerPoint presentation](#)

- Suggested reading:
    - What is international humanitarian law?  
<https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/legal-fact-sheet/humanitarian-law-factsheet.htm>
    - ICRC. International humanitarian law: answers to your questions  
<https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/publication/p0703.htm>
    - International humanitarian law and international human rights law  
<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/international-humanitarian-law-and-international-human-rights-law-similarities-and>
    - Legal protection of children in armed conflict  
<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/legal-protection-children-armed-conflict-factsheet>
    - Prevention and criminal repression of rape and other forms of sexual violence during armed conflicts <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/prevention-and-criminal-repression-rape-and-other-forms-sexual-violence-during-armed>
  - Space for questions and answers from member states, Organization staff, and the general public
3. Presentation by Romina Morello, ICRC Regional Legal Advisor for the Americas, and by Zuleyka Piniella, Sexual Violence Operations Coordinator, ICRC Delegation for Colombia: “*Sexual and gender-based violence from an international humanitarian law perspective*” <sup>11</sup>
- [Biography](#)
  - PowerPoint presentations
    - a. [Romina Morello](#)
    - b. [Zuleyka Piniella](#)
  - Reading suggested by Romina Soledad Morello and by Zuleyka Piniella Mencia:
    - Checklist: Domestic implementation of international humanitarian law prohibiting sexual violence <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/checklist-domestic-implementation-international-humanitarian-law-prohibiting-sexual>

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1. Sexual and gender-based violence is, unfortunately, prevalent in many modern-day armed conflicts despite the strict ban on such acts under international humanitarian law. In the vast majority of instances, these acts of violence are underreported and are, furthermore, underestimated in terms of their prevalence and impact on the victims (women, men, girls, and boys) their families and the affected communities. In implementing IHL, states have an obligation to codify these violations as criminal offenses under domestic law, as well as to effectively investigate and prosecute any case of sexual and gender-based violence in the context of an armed conflict.

In covering this issue, the course will explore the definition of these acts of violence, victims’ needs and the care they may require, the legal basis for the prohibition on such acts, and responses in terms of prevention, protection, and assistance.

Among others, the following questions will be considered: What is sexual and gender-based violence? Whom does it affect, and how? What needs do victims have and what obstacles do they face in accessing relevant services? What provision is there in international humanitarian law to cover sexual violence in armed conflict? Do these acts constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and/or torture? What happens to alleged perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence?

- Suggested video:
    - ICRC strategy on sexual violence: [Spanish](#) and in [English](#)
  - Space for questions and answers from member states, Organization staff, and the general public
4. Closing remarks:
- Remarks by the Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, Ambassador Josué Fiallo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican the Republic to the OAS