30th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

Geneva, Switzerland,
26-30 November 2007

SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF THE SIDE EVENTS TO BE HELD DURING THE 30th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Outlines prepared by
the organizers of the side events

Geneva, 13 November 2007
30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: IHL and War Reporting / Safety of media Staff

Date and venue: Monday 26 November 2007, 10.00 – 12.00, CCV, Room A

I. Organizer
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference
To inform and discuss with conference participants who are interested in the matter how the international RCRC Movement can contribute to improving media staff's safety and how IHL can become a stronger element of war reporting. Possible topics of discussion will be:
- Safety training of media staff (first aid training and equipment; safety training, risk-awareness, safety rules; etc.)
- Stress and trauma management for media staff (stress and trauma management training for media professionals; support to field staff; etc.)
- IHL provisions and how to improve their implementation in the field (national implementation; ASF training, SOP and best practices; non-state actors; combating impunity; etc.)
- IHL and war reporting (IHL for journalists and editors who cover armed conflicts).

III. Contributors/panellists
Chairman and / or moderator: Yves Daccord, ICRC Director of Communication
Other contributors (experts, panellists):
Knut Doermann, Deputy Head of the ICRC Legal division (presentation on IHL rules on the protection of journalists in armed conflicts)
Eric Bernes, First aid Specialist, ICRC (presentation on RC/RC First Aid training for media staff)
Renée Monin Zellweger, Deputy Head of the ICRC Protection Division (presentation on the ICRC Hotline for media staff on dangerous assignments)
Antonella Notari, Head of Project, ICRC (to help with all of the above; to provide press lines; to work on model pledges for SN and for States; to report on the results of the event)

IV. Languages
English, French
Side Event: Protecting Civilians in Air Warfare: Development of a manual on IHL applicable to air and missile warfare

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 2007 13.00 – 14.30, CCV, Room A

I. Organizers
Government of Switzerland and Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, Harvard University

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference
To be completed

III. Contributors/panellists
To be completed

IV. Language
English
30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: Presentation of the Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts and the New Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.00 – 14:30, CCV, Room B

I. Organizer
The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference
The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (formerly the University Centre for International Humanitarian Law) has launched a Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts Project (RULAC Project) designed to generate an online global database of the implementation of international law in situations of armed conflict. The Academy will put on-line a country by country consideration of the applicable international law. This includes an examination of the implementation of legal obligations during peace-time, during the conflict and following the end of hostilities.

The “proposed side event” would have as a goal to present the new Academy and to inform governments and national societies about the RULAC project, which could be used as a way to compare national legislations on certain topics or to have a rapid access to important legal documents pertaining to a particular country involved in an armed conflict. As a mean to enhance a better knowledge of the law applicable in situation of armed conflicts, the side-event is linked to the objectives of the Conference.

III. Contributors/panellists
Chairman and/or moderator: Prof. Andrew Clapham, Director, Geneva Academy of International humanitarian law and human rights (hereafter Geneva Academy)
Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists):
Dr. Vincent Chetail, Director of research, Geneva Academy
Dr. Annyssa Bellal, Senior researcher, Geneva Academy
Dr. Stuart Maslen, researcher, Geneva Academy
Mrs. Sharon Weill, researcher, Geneva Academy
Mr. Gilles Giacca, researcher, Geneva Academy
Mr. Ernesto Acebal, webmaster, Geneva Academy

IV. Language
English
Side Event: International humanitarian law and gender

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.00 – 14:30, CICG, Room 15

I. Organizer
Government of Sweden

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference
During the last 15 years issues of “women and war” have been addressed by various fora. Less has been done to discuss the issue of a true gender perspective on international humanitarian law. When gender issues are raised or noted, they are most often equalled with women’s perspective. Hence, they often miss the point of the more ‘neutral’ gender perspective.

The crucial issues are:
- Can IHL be interpreted from a true neutral gender perspective?
- What would it mean?
- What can be gained or lost in terms of protection of civilians and combatants?
- Is it achievable?
- Is it desirable?

Addressing IHL from a true gender perspective is not uncontroversial. It could mean that the existing “pattern of protection” will be changed. But it is worth a discussion. Those who are participating in armed conflicts today are not only men, but an increasing number of women also engage themselves in hostilities (incl. in non-international armed conflicts). In parallel, more and more men are carrying and/or taking the responsibility for children and elderly.

The expert meeting had four workshops. These included Participation in international and non-international armed conflict, Methods of warfare, Means of warfare, Special aspects: protected persons, R2P, PoW, detainees, UN res 1325, fact-finding.

This side event will present the finding of an expert meeting on IHL and Gender held in Stockholm 4-5 October 2007.

III. Contributors/panellists
Bosse Hedberg, Deputy Director-General, Head of International Law, Human Rights and Treaty Law Department, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Dr. Marie Jacobsson, Principal Legal Adviser on International Law, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Professor Elzbieta Mikos Skuza, Poland, University of Warsaw, Member International Fact-Finding Commission
Cecilia Hellman, Legal Adviser, Swedish National Defence College

VI. Language
English
30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Side Event: Launching of a book - "Killing civilians, method, madness and morality in war"

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.00 – 14:30, CICG, Room 18

I. Organizers
Permanent Mission of Canada and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference
"Killing civilians" addresses the challenges of preserving human life and dignity in armed conflicts.

The book explores how civilians suffer in war, and why people decide that they should. It analyses the main anti-civilian ideologies and looks deeply into the reasons and arguments for limiting human violence in armed conflict.

IV. Contributors/panellists
Contributors (experts, panellists):
Dr. Hugo Slim, Author;
H.E. Mr Marius Grinius, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations at Geneva

V. Languages
English, French
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Side Event: "Enhancing respect for international humanitarian law: Exploring sanctions and the work of national IHL committees"

Date and venue: Tuesday 27 November 13.00 – 14:30, CICG, Rooms 5 and 6

I. Organizers
International Committee of the Red Cross, in cooperation with chosen national international humanitarian law Committees

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference
There is gathering momentum for States’ to implement their obligations to investigate and prosecute, on the basis of universal jurisdiction, grave crimes committed in connection with armed conflict and to cooperate with international tribunals and the International Criminal Court. The above-mentioned event will be an opportunity to impart information about the degree of universality achieved by international humanitarian law treaties providing for the repression of war crimes and other serious violations of IHL, to share sound practices in matters related to the domestic implementation of these treaties and to discuss trends at national, regional and universal levels, as well as to address persistent obstacles and challenges.

National IHL committees have in previous years made an essential contribution to the reform of national criminal justice systems in order to create the conditions needed to prosecute and punish war crimes and to incorporate in domestic law the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Acting as a catalyst for consultations between concerned authorities at the national level, national committees have often played a central part in providing technical advice and recommendations on draft laws to the ministries.

National committees should be encouraged to pursue their work to promote and incorporate the provisions of international law in this field at the national level and to further develop their cooperation and their exchange of experience regionally and globally. This event will provide an insight into the practical experiences of the national committees in promoting and developing domestic law to implement international law for the repression of war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The event will also provide an opportunity to review issues of joint interest, such as the role of sanctions in achieving greater compliance with international humanitarian law. Both the characteristics of sanctions and the environment in which their application becomes necessary will be presented and discussed. The event will constitute a useful forum in which to share and test with the participants the preliminary conclusions of the interregional ICRC group of experts on sanctions, which will have met a few weeks previously.

III. Programme

13.00-13.15 Welcoming address (Yves Sandoz, member of the Committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Introduction and main issues (María Teresa Dutli, head of the ICRC Advisory Service on IHL)

13.15-14.00 Keynote presentations
Ending impunity: International criminal justice in action (Judge Erkki Kourula, International Criminal Court, The Hague)

Ensuring the involvement of National IHL Committees in the fight against impunity for war crimes: a few proposals (Ambassador Laura Thompson Chacón, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica in Geneva, Representative of the Costa Rican National Commission for international humanitarian law)

Role of sanctions in achieving greater respect for and compliance with IHL (Xavier Philippe, Professor of public law, University of Aix-Marseille III (France))

14.00-14.30 Open forum and discussion

IV. Languages
English, French, Spanish
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Side Event: Engaging armed non-State actors to respect international humanitarian law

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 13.00 – 14.30, CCV, Room A

I. Organizer
Geneva Call

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference
Among the topics of the agenda of the Conference is the issue of humanitarian challenges. The Geneva Call `side event` will focus on the challenge of ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) by armed non-State actors (NSAs) and the ways to address it.
Mr Pascal Bongard, Programme Director, Geneva Call, will outline the experience and achievements of Geneva Call in persuading NSAs to commit to respect humanitarian norms, starting with the ban on anti-personnel mines.
Professor Marco Sassoli will make a presentation on the respect of international humanitarian law by NSAs.
Finally, the chairman will attempt to draw together strands of both approaches before opening the floor for discussion.

III. Contributors/panellists
Chairman and/or moderator: to be completed
Other contributors (experts, panellists):
Pascal Bongard, Geneva Call
Professor Marco Sassoli, University of Geneva
List to be completed

VI. Language
English
Side Event: Assisting survivors of Explosive Remnants of War

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 13.00 – 14.30, CICG, Rooms 5 and 6

I. Organizers
Permanent Missions of Austria and New Zealand

II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference

Over the last years, assisting victims of landmines and other ERW has drawn increasing attention by the international community. In 1997 the Mine Ban Treaty, also known as Ottawa Convention, was adopted; it became the first ever disarmament and arms control treaty to include specific provisions on assistance to victims of this weapon system. Following this example the 2003 Protocol V to the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention on ERW also enshrined a similar provision. The issue of assistance to victims now also plays a prominent role in the process concerning cluster munitions. Most recently, the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities added a new dimension as it further clarifies the legal and policy framework under which victim assistance is being operationalized. Victim Assistance also represents an important element of the work of the ICRC and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Victim Assistance is understood as a wide-ranging phenomenon, which encompasses i.a. emergency medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support, socio-economic reintegration of victims as well as collection of relevant data. Presentations could focus on lessons learned under the framework of the Mine Ban Treaty, the newly adopted Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and provide an outlook on a possible victim assistance component for the upcoming instrument on cluster munitions.

III. Contributors/panelists:
Chairman and/or moderator
Chairman: H.E. Don Mackay, Ambassador of New Zealand
Vice-chair: Markus Reiterer, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Austria
Other contributors (experts, panellists):
List to be completed

VI. Language
English
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**Side Event: Fact-finding as a mean to better implement international humanitarian law – Current Issues**

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 13.00 – 14.30, CICG, Room 15

**I. Organizer**
International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC)

**II. Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference**
This event will consist in a discussion on how to conduct fact-finding missions which are to ascertain facts which may constitute, or alleged to constitute, violations of international humanitarian law. General Satish Nambiar, in the light of his recent experience in the conflict between Israel and Lebanon, will give a talk which will be followed by questions and comments.

**III. Contributors/panellists**
Chairman and / or moderator: Prof. Michael BOTHE, President of the IHFFC and member of the German Red Cross
Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists): Lt Gen. Satish Nambiar (Retd)

**IV. Languages**
English, French
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**Side Event: Red Cross/Red Crescent and Civil Society: Together for Peace Building**

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 13.00 – 14.30, CICG, Room 18

I. **Organizers**
Jordan Red Crescent and McGill University/MMEP (McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building)

II. **Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference**
The side event will review the work of the McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building and its accomplishments in promoting a unique network of Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian and Canadian academic institutions and nongovernmental organizations to promote peace and advance civil society.

Notwithstanding the instability and conflict in the region, this unique network has not only held together over the past decade, but has steadfastly introduced new methods of social advocacy which promote peace and civil society. The program has established 9 communities based, academically linked and volunteer driven centers in the three countries which assist 100,000 people per year to access entitlements, create new organizations, and develop partnerships across borders to advance a regional rights based culture. The program will be reviewed and a film presented.

III. **Contributors/panellists**
Chairman and/or moderator: Prof. Jim Torczyner, McGill University
Other contributor(s) (experts, panellists):
Sami Al-Kilani, Director of the An-Najah Community Development Centre in Nablus
Mr Talal Qdah, Director of the Sweileh Community Development Center
Ms Barbara Epstein, Executive Director of Community Advocacy Israel

IV. **Languages**
English
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**Side Event: "Partnership for health: the role of civil society"**

Date and venue: Wednesday 28 November 18.15 – 20.30, CICG, Room 18

I. **Organizers**
   International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

II. **Short description of the issue(s) to be presented and discussed / links with the objectives of the Conference**
   To be completed

III. **Contributors/panellists**
    To be completed

IV. **Languages**
    English, French, Spanish