



International Institute of Humanitarian Law
Institut International de Droit Humanitaire
Istituto Internazionale di Diritto Umanitario

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Institute's "Prize for the Promotion, Dissemination and Teaching of International Humanitarian Law"

Sanremo, 22nd March 2018



Professor Fausto Pocar, President of the Institute, awarded the Institute's "Prize for the Promotion, Dissemination and Teaching of International Humanitarian Law" for the year 2017 to Michael Bothe, Professor Emeritus at the J.W. Goethe Universität in Frankfurt, Germany. Professor Bothe was former President of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission and active participant in the conference which led to the adoption of the Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Professor Bothe was awarded the Prize in recognition of his exceptional contribution to international humanitarian law and its development through his scholarly writings and active teaching as well as his commitment to and leadership of international humanitarian bodies. The award ceremony took place against the backdrop of the 17th Competition on the Law of Armed Conflict for Military Academies, held at Villa Ormond from 19th to 23rd March 2018.

Workshop on "Enhancing Diversity Skills in International Operations"

Sanremo, 12th -16th March 2018

In 2000, the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), recognizing, for the first time ever, that gender inequalities exacerbated in situations of armed conflict hamper the establishment of sustainable peace and development. The UNSCR 1325 acknowledges the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and children, and calls upon international actors to introduce specific measures and actions to tackle this crucial problem. Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325(2000), Italy has strongly supported the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and has attached the utmost importance to women's role in transforming society. In addition, Italy's Third National Action Plan in accordance with UNSCR 1325 (2000) places a specific focus on the condition of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as fragile States, survivors and, overall, "agents of change", with the objective of improving Italian capacity to support affected populations during all stages of peace operations (conflict prevention and mediation; peacekeeping; peace-making; peace-building; recovery and reconstruction).



Within Italy's Third National Action Plan, the Sanremo Institute has designed a specific project "Enhancing training on women, peace and security: integrating gender perspective into international operations". This initiative aims at raising awareness by delivering specific training within the framework of the WPS agenda on gender, diversity and related issues for personnel of armed and security forces as well as civilian personnel engaged in armed conflict scenarios, with the main objective of further integrating the gender perspective into conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace-making and peace-building.

In the context of this project, which is coordinated by Professor Gabriella Venturini, the Sanremo Institute, in collaboration with the Carabinieri Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), organized a workshop - the first of a series of three - on "Enhancing Diversity Skills in International Operations". This workshop, which was held from 12th to 16th March 2018, focused on the integration of the gender perspective into international operations and was attended by military personnel from Italy, Burkina Faso, France, Niger, Senegal, Uganda and the United Kingdom as well as NATO officials and gender advisors.

The workshop was officially opened by Professor Fausto Pocar, President of the IIHL, with the participation of Minister Plenipotentiary, Francesca Tardioli, Deputy Political Director and Principal Director for the United Nations and Human Rights of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Brigadier General Giovanni Pietro Barbano, CoESPU Director.

The Institute's first out-of-area Peace Support Operations course

Jinja (Uganda), 19th -23rd February 2018



The Institute organized its very first Peace Support Operations course in Jinja (Uganda), aimed at

building the capacity of African armed forces in the application of humanitarian law and human rights within the framework of peace support operations carried out by the United Nations and the African Union.

The course took place at the Legal Training Centre in Jinja, Uganda and was attended by a group of 25 officials from the six East African Community member States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), as well as Malawi. Peace support operations have assumed a key role within the international security framework for maintaining, enforcing or setting up stable and peaceful conditions, especially in the African continent where conflicts of different intensity and nature and widespread human rights violations represent the major cause of migratory flows on this continent. By offering a PSO course to regional organisations of the African Union, all contributing nations of this region have received the same training in this subject, which enhances interoperability between the particular nations.

This initiative was possible thanks to the support of the Netherlands Ministry of Defence, USAFRICOM, and the Ugandan Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, the participation of the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom, as well as the logistic support of the Legal Training Centre of the Ugandan Peoples' Defence Force. This course represented a very efficient capacity-building activity in the legal area and the opportunity to organize a similar PSO Course in Africa again will be considered.

International Military Course on the Law of Armed Conflict - UK Rule of Law Project

Sanremo, 19th -23rd February 2018



This International Military Course on LOAC, successfully directed by Colonel André Retief (South Africa), was held in English and Russian. The teaching staff included Major Nathan Bankson who taught the English class and Colonel (Retd.)

Oleg Bondarenko (Russian Federation) who taught the Russian class. The course aimed to provide the participants with a deep knowledge of the principles and rules of LOAC, in order to enable them to apply such rules in different scenarios. During the course, participants coming from 7 different countries, namely Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Serbia, attended plenary presentations and were engaged in class work where fruitful dialogue and discussions gave them the possibility of analysing, from a world-wide range of perspectives, matters related to IHL and other relevant legal issues concerning military operations at various levels of intensity.

17th Competition for Military Academies
Sanremo, 19th -23rd March 2018



The 17th edition of the Institute’s traditional and prestigious IHL Competition for Military Academies was co-ordinated by Brigadier General Karl Edlinger from Austria and by Lieutenant Colonel Shawn McKelvy from the United States of America (USA). This event exposes young military cadets, coming from all over the world and hence possessing different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, to a unique international forum. The Competition gathered the Officer Cadets from 20 top military academies from France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Malawi, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Rwanda, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UK and USA. Participants were encouraged to acquire an early appreciation of the critical importance of IHL in a multinational military operation and its application within the context of a contemporary armed conflict. An initial phase of interactive lectures on various aspects of IHL was followed by practical sessions where the participants were split up into multi-national mixed teams to work on practical cases of relevance to the application of IHL in different operational scenarios. The twenty-three mixed teams, each representing a fictional country involved in an international military operation, provided legal advice to the Joint



Operations Commanders (JOCs): Lt. Colonel Bruce Gray (United Kingdom), Lt. Commander Patricia Verkroost (Netherlands), Major Nathan Bankson (USA) from the Institute, and Colonel André Retief (South Africa). The simulation activities were conducted in the presence of the judges: Major General Salvatore Lato (Italy), Major General Jan Peter Spijk (Netherlands), Major General Jeffrey Rockwell (USA), Lt. General (ret.) Giorgio Battisti (Italy), Colonel Gilles Castel (France) from the Institute, Colonel Oleg Bondarenko (Russian Federation), Colonel Chris De Cock (Belgium) and Mrs Lone Kjelgaard (Denmark).



The judges evaluated the ability of the teams and the individual team members to deal effectively with the reality of complex geopolitical situations



while conducting an efficient military operation in accordance with humanitarian law standards. At this year's Competition the 1st place for the Best Mixed Team was awarded to Kurt Zapeda (US Navy), Hendrik J. Brunner (Germany) and Nelson Ndahiro (Rwanda). The 2nd place was awarded to two teams, namely the one composed of Rachel Kester (USAF) and Anthony Lucchesi (*École des Commissaires des Armées*) and the one of Brendan O'Donoghue (US Navy), Kilian Caillot (*École des Commissaires des Armées*) and Ugochukwu Nwama (Nigeria). The 4th place was awarded to the team composed of Hannah ROSE (US Navy), Donald Simpson (Virginia Military Institute) and Bright Majiga (Malawi). The 5th place was awarded to four teams, namely the one composed of Joshua Ramsdell (Westpoint) and Arielle I. Sekamana (Rwanda), the one composed by Adam Peterson (US Coast Guard) and Clémence Bornet (*École des Commissaires des Armées*), the one composed by Michael Compton (US Coast Guard), Steven Van den Berg (Netherlands) and the one composed by Thomas Weatherhead (Royal Military Academy Sandhurst), Ogechi Ugochukwu (Nigeria) and Thibaud Bricman (*École de Saint-Cyr*). The 1st place for the Best Individual Cadet was awarded to Rachel Kester (USAF) and Arielle Sekamana (Rwanda), who were also the winners of the Martens Prize; the 3rd place went to Clémence Bornet and to Arther Agnus (*École de Saint-Cyr*); the 5th place went to Thomas Weatherhead.

lawyer, Friedrich Martens, who wrote the clause provided in the Hague Convention of 1889 which emphasizes the necessity to honour IHL principles and states that "we all remain under the principles of international law, as they result from the usage established between civilized nations, from the laws of humanity and the requirements of the public conscience". Professor Fausto Pocar, President of the Institute, officially delivered the Prize on behalf of the Estonian Reserve Officers' Association Military Law Department to Rachel Kester (USAF) and Arielle Sekamana (Rwanda).



Meeting of the Council Sanremo, 24th March 2018

The Council of the Institute met in Sanremo on Saturday morning 24th March 2018. The agenda included, among other issues, the presentation of the 2017 Report of Activities; the approval of the 2017 final accounts and the adoption of the draft budget for 2018; the preparation of the 41st Round Table, which will take place in Sanremo from 6th to 8th September 2018; the reports from both the Director of the "Training programme on international humanitarian law" and the Director of the "Training programme on international refugee law and international migration law"; the Annual Report from the Board of the Institute's Foundation for 2017 as well as the recently relocated Geneva liaison office and the Institute's current and future activities. During the meeting Council Members accepted the resignation presented by Judge Hisashi Owada (Japan). Dr. Abdullah F. Ansary (Saudi Arabia), Brig. General (ret.) Giuseppe Morabito (Italy) and Ms Réka VARGA (Hungary) were admitted as full Members of the Institute.



"Martens Prize" Sanremo, 23rd March 2018

During the closing ceremony of the Institute's Competition for Military Academies, the Estonian Reserve Officers' Association Military Law Department, in collaboration with Mr. Tonu Poder Law of War Foundation, awarded the "Martens Prize" to the best-deserving individual Cadet in the Competition.

The Prize takes its name from the Estonian