



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

NEWSLETTER N. 82 JANUARY - MARCH 2020

**Message from President Edoardo Greppi on
the COVID-19 emergency**
Sanremo, 21st March 2020



These are difficult and uncertain times. The current health crisis we are facing is attacking all the spheres of our lives, starting from a personal level, and extending to our family, community and professional circles. We are suddenly submerged by a scenario made up of constant information, statistics, bad news. We are encountering confinements and restrictions, which we don't usually find easy to cope with and yes, also fear. This is also true in our work. In difficult and uncertain times like these, we must look back at the foundations of our identity, and search for the assets,

resources and strengths, which have made us successful throughout the years.

We evoke the foundation of our Institute, 50 years ago. We recall a group of committed professionals who, in 1970, decided to create an international forum dedicated to humanitarian issues, a space to promote dialogue for better respect and implementation of International Law. Since then, this original mandate has continued to guide our work in the promotion of International Humanitarian Law and related fields, such as International Refugee Law and Human Rights Law.

Today, we are proud to reaffirm our commitment to our mission, to our identity. Now, more than ever, we must contribute to the promotion of rights that ensure that we remain humane, fair and solidary, by upholding principles of Law.

When we reflect on our strengths, it is simple to quantify some of them. From the organization of one single event in 1970, dedicated to a handful of participants, we have grown to organising more than 40 courses last year alone, for hundreds of attendees from all around the world. More than 20,000 persons from almost every single country have come to Sanremo since the foundation of the Institute to benefit from an ever-growing programme of training courses, expert meetings and round tables.

Our Institute can proudly count on the support of more than 300 members dedicated to the promotion and

advancement of International Law. This number includes the representatives of our governing Council, comprised of reputable and committed professionals from different regions of the globe.

The work of the Institute is also embraced and carried on by the attentiveness and diligence of our Team, our regular staff, always eager to do more, and do it better.

These are our strengths. Our capacity to grow into an institution with a worldwide reputation of excellence is possible because of the commitment to our mission of our members, team, governments and donors, which have allowed us to successfully undertake our initiatives and strengthen the knowledge and skills in International Law of persons from all over the world.

We know we are on the right track. We know we are on the right track when we receive encouraging messages of support from former participants who wish us the best and look forward to returning to Sanremo for more courses and events. We know we are on the right track when governments, donors, and partner institutions reconfirm the secondment of experts and financial support to our programmes. We know we are on the right track when our team of colleagues continue to work tirelessly from their homes, liaising with participants to provide them with online support, preparing new curricula for the courses, updating the existing sessions with the most recent developments and continuing to study to build their own expertise to then teach at the workshops.

These are difficult and uncertain times for all. Let our commitment, resolve and determination to fulfil our mission, together with our work and strengths, be our contribution to help the International Institute of Humanitarian Law to overcome this challenging period.

Postponement of training courses

Sanremo, 21st March 2020

In early March, as a response to the continuous spreading of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Italian Government imposed a total lockdown across the whole national territory placing strict restrictions on public and private activities, limiting them to the

essential public services, such as food and health.

Now, with new cases being detected every day all over Europe and the world, the same restrictive measures are being taken by an ever-increasing number of governments.

In this crucial moment, the Institute places the well-being and safety of its staff, collaborators and participants in its activities as top priority.

These reasons, together with the unpredictability of the situation and the length of the crisis, have led the International Institute of Humanitarian Law to postpone its training activities planned from March to July 2020. **Please visit the Institute's website to check the updated calendar of activities.**

From 1970 to 2020: fifty years of humanitarian commitment in conflict and emergencies

In September 2020, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1970, the Institute has shown a constant commitment and growing enthusiasm in spreading fundamental humanitarian principles to all corners of the earth with the mission to promote dissemination, application and the development of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Refugee Law, Migration Law and Human Rights Law.

Over the years, thanks to its commitment and to the eagerness of all the persons engaged in its activities, the Institute has earned the international reputation of being a centre of excellence in the field of research and dissemination, regularly organizing training activities and international meetings of experts.



Over the years, the Institute has always paid meticulous attention to the arising/current trends and developments in humanitarian law and related subjects, by organizing an annual international gathering which takes place every September in Sanremo. This event has now become known in the world as the “Sanremo Round Table”.



Since 1976, the Institute, in collaboration with the ICRC, several governments and other relevant international organizations, has designed and offered specific training programmes to both military and civilians, with the aim of fostering the development of knowledge of IHL and related issues. Furthermore, in 1982 the Institute started working in close co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, offering high-level training on refugee and migration law to government and civil society officials and so fostering a greater level of awareness of the needs of uprooted people.

The courses today are delivered in six different languages and allow the participant to learn in an interactive environment enhanced by the global experience of the teaching staff and participants.

During these 50 years of very intense activity the Institute has also provided an undoubted contribution to the field of research by publishing different texts, essays, as well as the proceedings of its Round Tables, and by drafting a number of handbooks and manuals which have become works of reference on a global scale.

Fifty years of international meetings and intense training activities have created what has universally become known as the “humanitarian dialogue in the spirit of Sanremo”, attracting around 20.000 participants, representing nearly all the nations in the world.

Meeting of the Council of the Institute

27th March 2020

Due to the emergency related to the spreading of the COVID-19, the Council of the Institute was convened in telematic mode on Friday 27 March 2020, with an agenda limited to several items for which the approval was possible without discussion. Ms Claire LEGRAS, Director for Legal Affairs at the General Secretariat of the French Ministry of Defence, was appointed Vice-Presidents of the Institute and Ms Shoko SHIMOZAWA, Head of the Global Service Centre and Global Learning and Development Centre of UNHCR was co-opted as Council member. Furthermore, the Council approved the admission of Col. (ret'd) Faouzi ALOUI (Tunisia); Maj. Gen. Salvatore CUOCI (Italy); Mr. Antonello DE OTO (Italy); Col. Gianluca FEROCCE (Italy); Prof. John R.C. HURSH (USA) and Lt. Col. Justin MARCHESI (USA) as full members and of Mr. Muteab ALOTABI (Saudi Arabia) as associate member.

The Annual Report of Activities of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law

Sanremo, February 2020



Since 1982, the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law has delivered courses on International Refugee Law, which reached their 100th edition in October 2019. During the last 15 years, the Department has also expanded its offers to include training on Internal Displacement, Statelessness and Migration, aimed at building the capacity of government and

civil society officials engaged in work with people in need of protection. Over the years, the Department has reached out to over 6,000 persons from more than 180 countries. These figures, together with the quality of the courses, have contributed to position the Institute as a reliable, neutral and independent institution supported by several donors.

In February 2020 the Department released its 2019 Annual Report of Activities, outlining the key achievements, figures and trends of the year, and defining the way forward for the years to come. The key highlights of the Report are presented below.



In 2019 the Department registered record numbers, including an increase of applicants and participants, delivered courses, and a wider geographical and professional diversity of its audience.

A total of 16 courses were organized in Sanremo on: International Refugee Law (English, French, Arabic and Spanish); Internal Displacement (English and French); Statelessness (English and Arabic); and Migration (English and French). In addition, tailored courses were implemented for government officials in Jordan (at the Dead Sea), Egypt (in Sharm el Sheik), and for representatives of the League of Arab States (in Tunis). The Department also undertook ad hoc initiatives hosted in Sanremo, such as the Round Table for Lebanese officials on the Lebanon experience.

A total of 617 participants from 124 countries attended the above-mentioned workshops, representing the highest achieved number since the first course held in 1982. Government officials from the Global South still represented the most common profile of participants of the

Department's workshops. However, new trends emerged, such as the increased interest in the courses by: grassroots non-governmental organizations; Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva and foreign affairs departments/ministries; and academics, in particular professors of Law faculties. This diverse attendance was successfully achieved through the contribution of the Institute's donors, which allowed the granting of 246 scholarships to participants from the Global South (213 full and 33 half scholarships, as well as 40 fee exemptions).

Among the 16 above-mentioned workshops, four newly designed courses were delivered in Sanremo for the first time in 2019:

- 1st Post-Graduate Programme Course on International Refugee Law (English), conceived for the students of the University of Nice, to build their knowledge on Refugee and Human Rights Law.
- Course on Refugee Law - Special edition for Latin America (Spanish), organized to meet the capacity building needs of government officials and members of the civil society in light of the forced displacement crisis in Latin America.
- 100th Course on International Refugee Law - Special edition on the Global Compact on Refugees (English), dedicated to representatives of the academia and national training institutions, government officials, and practitioners of international organizations and the civil society.
- 18th Course on Internal Displacement (French), delivered for Francophone participants, including government officials, members of national commissions of human rights, judges and lawyers.

In the final evaluations of each course held in 2019, participants were asked to express their satisfaction with the workshops using a 1-10 scale. This resulted in an average grade of 9/10. The majority of attendees also emphasized the applicability of the acquired knowledge and skills to their professional roles.

Conforming with the framework of action set by the New York Declaration, in 2019 the Department not only increased its course offers, but also engaged in global initiatives and processes. The Department

had the honour to represent the Institute at the 1st Global Refugee Forum and at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Annual Consultations with non-governmental organizations. In addition, it participated in the creation of an Academic Network on the Global Compact on Refugees.

As part of the 2020/2021 strategy, the Department aims at implementing its pledges presented at the Global Refugee Forum to: i) develop courses in line with the objectives, principles and areas in need of support of the Global Compact on Refugees, and provide scholarship opportunities to candidates from the Global South; ii) develop courses on refugee protection dedicated to government training institutions and the academia, supporting the latter in the realization of sound and sustainable teaching programme on displacement, pursuant to the Global Compact on Refugees.

In addition, the Department will continue to regularly update its course programmes and sessions, through dedicated curriculum mapping exercises with other specialized organizations and donor partners. As part of this, the Department commits to ensure that its workshops are delivered through an interactive and participatory methodology, able to transfer to and develop the skills and knowledge of a diversified audience.

In order to achieve equitable and sustainable training, the Department will endure to promote gender equality and enhance its follow-up with participants after the workshops, in order to maximise impact and positive influence on the protection of refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless people and migrants.

“Quo Vadis? Protection and solutions for IDPs in the context of migration”

Geneva - 11th March 2020

Organized by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the conference “Quo Vadis? Protection and solutions for IDPs in the context of migration” explored the current issues related to the lack of international engagement and political attention in many countries in tackling internal displacement. On this occasion, the Special Rapporteur on

the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Ms Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, reflected on different ways forward to attain durable solutions such as improving development issues and moving away from mere humanitarian emergency responses to genuine sustainable resettlement programmes.

The Institute participated in this event through its representative in Geneva, Michel Veuthey, and his Assistant, Camille Houtteman. Both the Special Rapporteur and Professor Vincent Chetail, moderator of the conference, welcomed the participation of the Institute and the positive collaboration of the Rapporteur with the Sanremo Courses.

The Institute at the International Peacebuilding Forum

Belfast, February 27th 2020



Within the framework of the EU-funded project “UPPER” which promotes the issue of peace education, the Institute was invited to attend the International Peacebuilding Forum, organised in Belfast, Northern Ireland, by the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) – an American based international non-governmental organization, that promotes innovative values-based approach to peacebuilding – and Co-operation Ireland. The forum focused on “Values-Based Peacebuilding: Practical and Evidence-Based”. Mr. James Flynn, President of GPF, introduced the forum by presenting the key factors of building peace in the vision of shared values among different cultures and groups of people. Later in the day, the Junior Minister of the Northern Ireland Executive Office, Declan Kearney, expressed his gratitude to the delegates for

their presence in Belfast, outlining how the Irish Peace Process could represent a model for many other current crises in the world. Throughout the forum, speakers shared an enlightening series of presentations and discussions, highlighting, among other key aspects, the necessity of building youth resilience to support peacebuilding processes. The initiative was also the occasion to meet with Mr. Tony Devine, GPF Vice-President, and discuss potential co-operation in the field of peace education between GPF and the Education Inspiring Peace Lab, a spin-off of the EU-funded UPPER project.

Second edition of the “G-5 Sahel Course” on IHL and Human Rights

Nice 24th – 28th February 2020

The second edition of this specialized course, organized in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), was initially scheduled to take place in Sanremo from February 24th to March 4th 2020. Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus in Northern Italy and the decision of the Italian authorities to place restrictions on private and public activities on the national territory, the Institute, on the initiative of the OHCHR, decided to relocate the training in Nice (France).



The course programme was shortened and reshaped to last only four days with the objective of ensuring, as far as possible, a high standard training on IHL and human rights to the 23 military officers from the G-5 countries without exposing them unnecessarily to the risk of infection of the Covid-19. The course was organized with the participation of the ICRC, the G-5 Sahel, the French Ministry of Armed Forces and Civilians in Conflicts (CIVIC), a non-governmental organisation working in situations of armed conflict which aim is the promotion of solutions for the prevention and mitigation of damages to the civilian population. Despite the short duration of the training all the main topics included in the initial version of the programme were addressed, such as conflicts categorization, legal framework applicable to the conflict in the Sahel region, ROE, principles of distinction, precaution and proportionality, as well as CIMIC. The High Commissioner of Human Rights delivered presentations on the issue of human rights and terrorism and the human rights policy in the framework of the G-5 Sahel joint force. Detention issues were dealt by an ICRC delegate.

The teaching staff included: Navy Captain Jean Emmanuel Perrin, Deputy Director of the Institute’s Military Department and co-ordinator of the course; Lt. Col. Philippe Lejeune; Mr Eric Mongelard, OHCHR; Mrs Kinga Janik, OHCHR; Mr Sébastien Hounhouedo, OHCHR; Mr Chistian MUKOSA, OHCHR; Mr Bationo, G5 -JF Sahel Legal Advisor; Mr Kavoksou Silagam Fikaoussou Gaston, G5-JF Shael Police Advisor; Mr Donatien Nkurunziza, ICRC; Maritime Gendarmerie Captain Audrey Boulon; Cadet Amadou Hassane, J3 of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and OHCHR; Mr Augustin Hodali, OHCHR; Vianney Bisimwa, CIVIC; Mrs Semra Asea, OHCHR; Mrs Marie-Josée Laflamme-Marsan, OHCHR; Lieutenant Colonel Kadoatou Sanogo, Deputy J9 of the G5 Sahel JF.