



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



ICRC

43rd Sanremo Round Table on current issues of IHL

V Webinar of the series

Is a change of approach required to better protect civilians in the urban environment?

Dr Cordula Droege is the chief legal officer and head of the legal division of the ICRC, where she leads the ICRC's efforts to uphold, implement and develop international humanitarian law. She joined the ICRC in 2005 and has held a number of positions in the field and at headquarter, including as head of the legal advisers to operations, and most recently as chief of staff to the President of the ICRC. She has some twenty years of experience in the field of international law, and in her earlier career worked for the International Commission of Jurists, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Max Planck Institute for International Law. She holds a law degree and a PhD from the University of Heidelberg and an LL.M from the London School of Economics.



Sahr Muhammedally is a Director for MENA & South Asia at the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC). She leads advocacy and strategy on civilian protection and engages governments and armed actors on civilian harm mitigation policies and practices during all phases of operations. Sahr has worked for over 18 years in the area of armed conflict, human rights, and counterterrorism and undertaken field work in Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan, Syria, and Yemen. Prior to joining CIVIC, Sahr was with Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, and practiced law in New York



John W. Spencer serves as the Chair of Urban Warfare Studies, Co-Director of the Urban Warfare Project, and host of the Urban Warfare Project podcast with the Modern War Institute at the United States Military Academy. He served over twenty-five years in the Army as an infantry soldier to include two combat deployments to Iraq. His research focuses on military operations in dense urban areas, megacities, urban and subterranean warfare. He is an international recognized subject matter expert in urban warfare that regularly consults for United States Army Forces Command units, Training and Doctrine Command, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), United Nations, and other military and national security organizations. His writing has appeared in New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Foreign Policy Magazine, Army Magazine, and many other publications.



Annyssa Bellal is a Senior Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at the Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights and a Senior Lecturer in international law at Sciences Po, Paris, the University of Bern and the Geneva Academy. She also worked as a legal adviser for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Geneva Call. Her area of expertise includes international criminal law, IHL and human rights law, with a focus on the issue of armed non-state actors. She recently briefed the UN Security Council on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions on these different issues.

