Dr Helen Durham is Director of International Law and Policy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) headquarters in Geneva. She oversees a large global network of international experts who work towards the respect of international humanitarian law (IHL). She is widely published on IHL topics, having been involved in ICRC operational work in the field and part of negotiations for international treaties in New York, Geneva and Rome.
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.
Benedetto Della Vedova graduated in economics and social sciences from L. Bocconi University in Milan (1988). He became a researcher at IEFE (Institute for the Economics of Energy Sources, 1987-1990) and later a researcher at IRER (Research Institute of the Lombardy Region, 1990-1996). He has written for a number of daily newspapers, such as Il Sole24Ore, Corriere Economia and Il Foglio; he has also created and presented columns on economic issues for Radio Radicale. He served as national Secretary (1994-1997) and Treasurer (1994-1996) of the Club Pannella-Reformers movement, and an executive of Lista Pannella (1997-1999). In October 2005 he founded the “Riformatori Liberali” party, of which he became Chair. Elected to the European Parliament between 1999 and 2004, he served as a Member of the Italian Parliament between 2006 and 2013 and Senator between 2013 and 2018. A member of the Radical Party for 30 years, from January 2019 to March 2021 he served as Secretary of Più Europa, the movement he helped found together with Emma Bonino. He previously held the position of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2014 to 2018.
Lieutenant General Dennis Gyllensporre serves as the Force Commander for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) since 2018. His previous appointment was as the Chief of Defence Staff and Head of Special Forces. Subsequently, Gyllensporre has held several positions in the Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters including Chief of Staff of the Supreme Commanders staff and Head of Policy and Plans department. He holds several academic degrees including Master of Science in Computer Science (Royal National Institute of Technology, Sweden), Master of Business Administration (Warwick University, United Kingdom), Master of Military Arts and Science (US Army Command and General Staff College), as well as a PhD in Policy Analysis and Governance (Maastricht University, the Netherlands). He is an author of several books and academic articles on military strategy and security studies.
Fausto Pocar is Professor Emeritus of International Law, former Dean and Vice-Rector at the University of Milan, Italy. He served two terms as President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law from 2012 to 2019. On 7 September 2019 the new Council unanimously elected Prof. Pocar as Honorary President of the Institute. Prof. Pocar has more than 30 years of association with the United Nations. In 2000 he was appointed as Appeal Judge to the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and for Rwanda (ICTR). He served as Vice-President and subsequently as President (2005–2008) of the ICTY, and presided over many Yugoslavian and Rwandan cases, both at The Hague and Arusha. He served for sixteen years, also as Rapporteur and Chairman, in the UN Human Rights Committee as well as Legal Adviser of the Italian delegation to the UN General Assembly. He is a member of the Bureau of the “Institut de Droit International” and of other scientific associations.
Prof. Greppi is Full Professor of International Law at the Department of Law, University of Torino (Italy), where he also teaches International Humanitarian Law and International Institutional Law. He is President of the School of Strategic Sciences (of the University of Torino and the Italian Army) and Director of the Master in “Cultural Property Protection in Crisis Response”. He is also the Director of the Master in “International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts” at the Istituto Superiore di Stato Maggiore Interforze (ISSMI) of the Centro Alti Studi per la Difesa (C ASD) of the Defense General Staff in Rome, and Senior Associate Research Fellow at the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) in Milan. In 2013 he was awarded the Gold Medal by the Italian Red Cross for the teaching and dissemination of international humanitarian law. From 2012 to 2019 Prof. Greppi was Vice-President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, where he was also member of the Council from 2006 to 2012. He was elected as President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Sanremo, on September 7, 2019.
Dr Esperanza Martinez currently leads the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) COVID-19 crisis response. Prior to that, she was ICRC’s Head of Health, managing the provision of essential health care services to people affected by armed conflict and violence in more than 80 countries. She is a medical doctor and general surgeon, trained in Colombia, and specialized in International Public Health and Health Management in Australia. Her experience includes over ten years of fieldwork in conflict-affected countries as well as work with UN agencies, government bodies and the private sector.
Dr Mike Ryan has been at the forefront of managing acute risks to global health for nearly 25 years. He served as Assistant Director-General for Emergency Preparedness and Response in WHO's Health Emergencies Programme from 2017 to 2019. Dr Ryan first joined WHO in 1996, with the newly established unit to respond to emerging and epidemic disease threats. He has worked in conflict affected countries and led many responses to high impact epidemics. He is a founding member of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), which has aided the response to hundreds of disease outbreaks around the world. He served as Coordinator of Epidemic Response (2000–2003), Operational Coordinator of WHO's response to the SARS outbreak (2003), and as WHO’s Director of Global Alert and Response (2005–2011). He was a Senior Advisor on Polio Eradication for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative from 2013 to 2017, deploying to countries in the Middle East.