



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

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### SAVE THE DATE

#### 43<sup>rd</sup> ROUND TABLE ON CURRENT ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

“New Dimensions and Challenges of Urban Warfare” - Webinar Series

*9<sup>th</sup> september - 7<sup>th</sup> october 2020*

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the Institute and the International Committee of the Red Cross are pleased to invite you to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Sanremo Round Table on “New Dimensions and Challenges of Urban Warfare”.

The Round Table, with the participation of high-level international experts and practitioners, will investigate some of the crucial issues regarding the application of IHL in urban military operations, by examining the lessons learned from recent operations, the humanitarian consequences of urban warfare, the choice of means and methods in urban context and if a change of approach from the different actors, concerning the protection of civilians, is required in the urban environment.

Due to the exceptional situation, the Sanremo Round Table will be held this year in form of a series of Webinars, every Wednesday at 3 pm from 9 September to 7 October 2020. The Webinars will take place as follows:

- **Wednesday, 9 September 15h00-17h00:**  
Opening Session followed by a panel discussion on “The evolution of urban warfare over the past 50 years and its impact on civilians”.  
*Please note that this event will take place partially in person at the Humanitarium in Geneva (Avenue de la Paix 19, 1202 Genève). Because of restrictions due to the COVID-19, attendance at the Humanitarium will be upon invitation only, and the event will be broadcasted as an online Webinar.*
- **Wednesday, 16 September 15h00-16h15:**  
Panel discussion on “Protecting civilians during urban warfare - lessons learned from recent operations”.
- **Wednesday, 23 September 15h00-16h15:**  
Panel discussion on “Addressing the humanitarian consequences of urban warfare in the midst of the hostilities”.
- **Wednesday, 30 September 15h00-16h15:**  
Panel discussion on “The choice of means and methods in urban warfare”.
- **Wednesday, 7 October 15h00-16h30:**  
Panel discussion on “Is a change of approach required to better protect civilians in the urban environment?”.

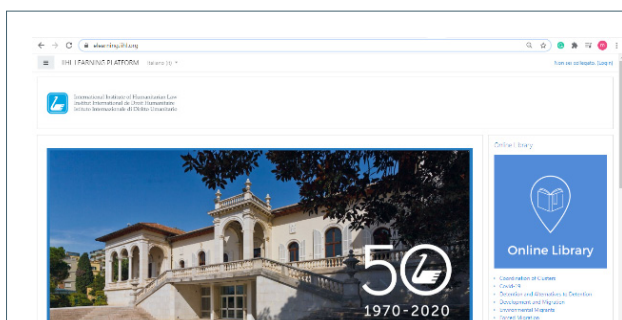
More information with regard to the agenda, speakers, registration, etc. will be made available on the IIHL website.

## Tribute to Colonel Andre Retief



On the 13 July one of the Institute's stalwarts and a true member of the Sanremo family passed away. Col Andre Retief, from South Africa, had been a regular member of the teaching staff for over two decades in various roles. His knowledge and enthusiasm combined with a mischievous sense of humour and great zest for life embodied the Spirit of Sanremo. His contribution over the years has been central to the success of so many courses and he touched the lives of people from all corners of the world. Hundreds, if not thousands, of participants in courses, and his favourite event the Academies Competition, have received their introduction to the law as it affects military operations from him. We will remember him and the joy he brought to life. Our thoughts are with his family. Rest in peace dear friend.

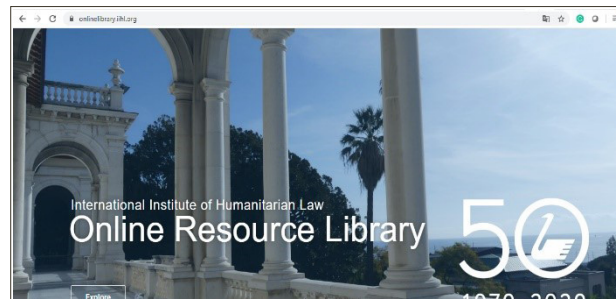
## The Institute's Online Learning Platform and Library



The Institute has recently developed its own online learning platform to face the lockdown prompted by governments all over the world to tackle the Covid-19 outbreak.

While the Sanremo Institute remains a unique neutral location which allows the free, frank and fruitful exchange of views on international humanitarian law, refugee law and human

rights, the current dramatic situation required impactful actions to provide online learning courses on the main training topics of the Institute, with a view to continuing its overall training programme during the hiatus in the Institute's face-to-face training.



The platform will offer several online courses, workshops and other online initiatives, providing participants with the opportunity to attend live sessions, pre-recorded lectures and webinars, supported by exercises and case studies delivered by high-level international experts who regularly contribute to the training programmes of the Institute. In order to maintain the high-level of interaction between facilitators and participants – the very well-known distinctive marks of the Sanremo training programmes – the platform will also offer participants many opportunities to interact with trainers, particularly through dynamic Q&A slots, dedicated chats and thematic forums. A final certificate of attendance will be virtually awarded by the Institute at the end of each online activity.

An online resources library has also been designed and is progressively being implemented and enriched, providing participants a virtual space where they can consult and download a wide collection of specialised international legal documents, treaties, guidelines, and other technical materials. All library documents are freely available to everyone whether they are participating in an IIHL course or not.

## Participation in the UN Global Compact's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Leaders' Summit online



The International Institute of Humanitarian Law was honoured to be invited to take part in the UN Global Compact's 20th anniversary Leaders' Summit, virtually held on 16 June.

Under the theme of "*Recover Better, Recover Stronger, Recover Together*," the event marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Global Compact, providing a platform of platforms where leaders from business, civil society, governments, and the UN were challenged to reflect on the importance of collaboration and public-private partnerships and increase their ambition to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

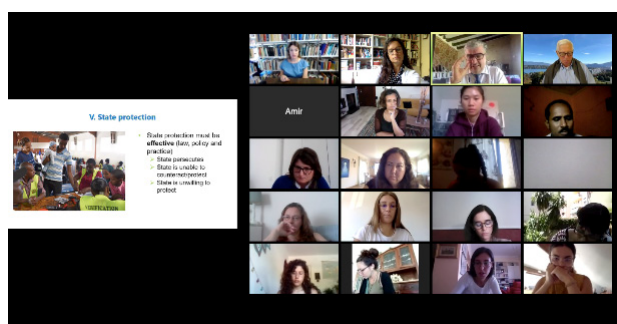
With over 26 hours of continuous virtual programming, the Summit was the UN's largest, most inclusive and most sustainable convening of purpose-driven business leaders committed to tackling societal challenges and advancing the SDGs. More than 20,000 business and sustainability leaders from over 180 countries participated in their local time zones and languages.

The Institute was represented by the Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, Mr Claudio Delfabro.

At the event, the UN Global Compact released the *UN Global Compact 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Progress Report: Uniting Business in the Decade of Action* — an analysis of the progress made by businesses in embedding the Ten Principles in their strategies and operations to align with the universal values of the UN, and in contributing to the 17 SDGs. Together with Russell Reynolds Associates, the UN Global Compact also launched *Leadership for the Decade of Action* and released *Introducing Business Benchmarks for the Decade of Action*, featuring an initial set of best practices of business benchmarks.

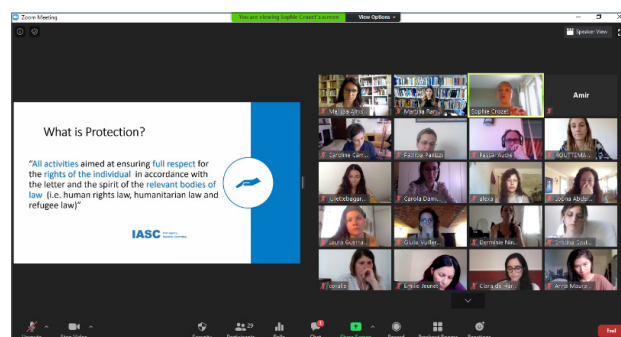
## 1<sup>st</sup> Online Course on International Refugee Law (English)

22 May – 12 June 2020



To respond to the mobility restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus outbreak, the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law has updated and reconceived its training offer.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Online Course on International Refugee Law, organized through the newly developed Online Learning Platform of the Institute, was delivered in English from 22 May to 12 June 2020. Twenty-one participants, from 11 different countries, attended this first online edition. Among them there were: post-graduate students and Ph.D. candidates; lawyers; members of non-governmental organizations (e.g. Doctors Without Borders); and international consultants.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Online Course dealt with key aspects of the international protection of refugees. The topics covered ranged from the analysis of International Refugee Law and its complementarity with other bodies of law to the different displacement phases, which were examined by outlining the causes that force people to flee, the protection risks encountered throughout the displacement cycle, and the search and implementation of durable and sustainable solutions. A cross-cutting approach was adopted to analyse refugee-related issues, such as sexual and gender-based violence, detention and alternatives to detention and the protection of stateless and internally displaced persons.

To accommodate different needs and ensure thorough completion of the different modules of the Online Course, participants were invited to undertake live and self-paced sessions and submit individual assignments. The training also allowed the audience to interact with international experts and to implement the gained knowledge through different learning methodologies, such as case studies, quizzes and group debriefings and discussions.



The Online Course was directed and facilitated by the Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, Mr Claudio J. Delfabro D., supported by Ms Melissa Amisano, Coordinator of the Department and Ms Martina Ranieli, Assistant Coordinator of the Department. The training also benefitted from the presence of the following speakers: Ms Sofie Crozet, International Consultant on Refugee and IDP issues; Ms Lobna Abdel Hadi, International Consultant on refugee protection; Ms Cecilia Jumenez-Damary, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; and Mr Gábor Gyulai, Director of the Refugee Programme at the Hungarian Helsinki Committee.

### Council meetings



Due to the COVID-19 outbreak emergency, two extraordinary Council meetings, following the virtual meeting of March, were held on 16 May and 17 June 2020. The meetings aimed to address the most urgent issues related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Institute activities and its financial capacity, and to identify possible solutions to the difficult situation. Since the activities of the Institute were greatly affected by the lockdown and the closure of borders prompted by most of the governments, the meetings focused primarily on the Institute's financial sustainability for this year and the forthcoming one and welcomed the effort of providing part of the training offer through the use of online teaching methodologies.

### European Project Proposals presented by the Institute



Despite being forced to substantially review its 2020 programme of activities due to the restrictions imposed by most of the world governments to face the COVID-19 outbreak, over the last three months the Institute has

been able to look beyond the short-term difficulties, conversely focusing on the future.

Thanks to its unique staff, who tirelessly worked from home on enhancing the medium and long-term working perspectives of the Institute, IIHL has managed to develop new ideas, training programmes, initiatives and innovative projects, trying to maximize the period of imposed suspension of its standard activities.

In fact, besides enriching its core training offer by developing a functional online learning platform aimed at delivering virtual courses and supporting the face-to-face ones, the Institute positively fostered its European "dimension" by designing 6 new projects. Such projects particularly concerned migrant children's social and juridical integration in host countries, citizenship education and conflict transformation. More precisely, IIHL took the lead in 2 project proposals developed within the EU Erasmus+ funding programme, namely **CITIZED - Policy implementation support and teacher empowerment for CITIZENSHIP Education** and **PEACEGAMES HUB - Transnational Game-Based Learning Platform for Inspired Peace Players**, while it supported the preparation of the other 4 proposals by cooperating with international institutions, universities, foundations and NGOs as

a non-leading partner. **ECHOES - Enhance migrant Children integration through the co-creation of Education Solutions and training paths** (Horizon 2020 funding programme), **LaS - Psychopedagogical Methods to help children (2-18) learn from arguing, PERFECT - Perform and share local histories** (Erasmus+ programme) and **ROCK ME - Right of Citizenship for Kids - Migrant and Europeans** (EU Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme), therefore, closed the circle of the European “campaign” of the Sanremo Institute, mainly focused on continuing its work on the key issues already assessed by the ongoing UPPER and CHILD-UP projects.

### The Institute’s new Calendars of Activities

After having to postpone courses during the pandemic restrictions from late February to June, the Institute and all its staff, is pleased to announce that full programmes of courses will be run by the Military Department and the Refugee Law and Migration Law Department. Besides having the chance to virtually attend the Online Courses of the Institute, from September onwards it will be possible to attend again the Sanremo courses in the beautiful premises of Villa Ormond. The trainings, delivered in different languages, will mainly examine the following topics and related issues: (among others) International Humanitarian Law, Targeting, Rules of Engagement, Naval Operations and Law of the Sea, Refugee Law, Migration Law and Internal Displacement .

The Calendars, available on the Institute’s website, are reported hereafter.



## 2020 Calendar Military Department

**Targeting course** (English) | Sanremo, 28 September - 2 October 2020

**Rules of Engagement course** (English) | Sanremo, 5-9 October 2020

**Naval Operations and the Law course** (English) | Sanremo, 12-16 October 2020

**Detention and Captured Persons (CPERS) Course** (English) | Sanremo, 19-23 October 2020

**178th International Military Course on IHL** (English, Chinese) | Sanremo, 2-13 November 2020

**44th Advanced Course on IHL** (English) | Sanremo, 16-20 November 2020

**45th Advanced Course on IHL** (French) | Sanremo, 16-20 November 2020

**179th International Military Course on IHL** (Spanish) | Sanremo, 23 November - 4 December 2020

**55th Course for Directors and Instructors of Training Programmes in LOAC** (English) | Sanremo, 1-4 December 2020

**Peace Support Operations Course** (English) | Sanremo, 7-11 December 2020

### Online Courses

**Curso de Extensión en DIH** (Spanish) | Online, 14 September - 23 October 2020

**Curso de Formación de Instructores en DIH** (Spanish) | Online, 2-20 November 2020





## 2020 Calendar

Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law  
International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Sanremo-Italy

1st ONLINE Refugee Law Course (English): *22 May - 12 June*

2nd ONLINE Refugee Law Course (English): *29 June - 24 July*

3rd ONLINE Refugee Law Course (English): *29 June - 24 July*

1st ONLINE Internal Displacement Course (English): *31 August - 24 September*

2nd ONLINE Internal Displacement Course (French): *31 August - 24 September*

4th ONLINE Refugee Law Course (French): *28 September - 23 October*

5th ONLINE Refugee Law Course (English): *28 September - 23 October*

3rd ONLINE Internal Displacement Course (English): *26 October - 20 November*

1st ONLINE Migration Law Course (English): *02 November - 27 November*

2nd ONLINE Migration Law Course (French): *02 November - 27 November*

2nd Course for Training Institutions and Academia

(Global Compact on Refugees) (English): *23 November - 27 November*

105th Refugee Law Course (English): *30 November - 4 December*

9th Statelessness Course (Arabic): *7 December - 10 December*

10th Statelessness Course (English): *7 December - 11 December*



More information and registration forms at <http://iihl.org/refugee-migration-department/>  
Contact us at: [refugee.department@iihl.org](mailto:refugee.department@iihl.org)