



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

NEWSLETTER N. 80 JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019

Sanremo Round Table on Current Issues of International Humanitarian Law on the 70th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions: “Whither the Human in Armed Conflict? IHL Implications of New Technology in Warfare”

Sanremo, 4th-6th September 2019



The 2019 Round Table on current issues of international humanitarian law, jointly organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law and the International Committee of the Red Cross under the patronage of the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, and Defence, took place from 4 to 6 September 2019. On the 70th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, more than 200 participants joined together in the evocative setting of Sanremo, Italy, to attend this year’s round table. The topic “Whither the human in armed conflict? IHL implications of new technology in warfare” was masterfully addressed by 34 speakers coming from different regions of the world – including military experts, academics and representatives of governments, international organizations and research institutes. Cyber warfare, artificial intelligence and other

contemporary legal challenges deriving from the use of new technologies in military operations constituted the defining issues of this year’s Round Table, but not only. The variety of the eight panels ensured a further and deeper analysis of the new trends in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and warfare digitalization, specifically in the contexts of outer space warfare and urban warfare as well as in the delivery of a more effective humanitarian response.

Election of the new President of Institute

Sanremo – 6th September 2019

The General Assembly of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law met in Sanremo at the end of the Round Table, on Friday 6 September, to elect the new Council. The new Council met on 7 September and Professor Edoardo Greppi, who had served as Vice-President in the Council since 2012, was



unanimously elected as President of the Institute. This election has brought several new members onto the Institute's Council, the body that oversees the management of the Institute and establishes the programme of its activities. Ambassador Marja Letho (Finland); Prof. Chris Jenks (USA); Dr. Nils Melzer (Switzerland); Dr. Heike Spieker (Germany); Brigadier (rtd.) Jan Peter Spjik (The Netherlands); Prof. Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation); and Prof. Gabriella Venturini (Italy) were elected as new members of the Council. The re-elected Members of the Council were Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti (Italy); Brigadier Karl Edlinger (Austria); Colonel Carl Marchand (Switzerland); and Brigadier Darren Stewart (United Kingdom). At its first meeting, held the day after the election, the new Council elected unanimously former President of the Institute, Prof. Fausto Pocar, as Honorary President. General (rtd.) Giorgio Battisti and Dr. Nils Melzer were elected unanimously as Vice-Presidents. Furthermore, Dr Helen Durham, Director of International Law and Policy at the ICRC, and Mr. Johan Rautenbach, Legal Counsel and Director of the Office of Legal Affairs at the IOM, were co-opted as members.

100th International Refugee Law Course Special Edition for trainers and academics

Sanremo, 21st-25th October

On the occasion of the 100th International Refugee Law Course, thanks to the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Institute of Humanitarian Law is launching a special edition of the course with a specific focus on the Global Compact of Refugees (GCR). Calling for a stronger, fairer response to large refugee movements and protracted situations, the GCR highlights the need of a comprehensive



refugee response framework, guided by the principles of international cooperation and responsibility sharing. Through this special edition of the International Refugee Law course, the IIHL wishes to share the agenda and contribute to the collective outcome of the GCR. Twenty-five participants including representatives of national governmental training institutions and academics from the Global South will be attending the course. A number of different topics ranging from the legal framework to refugee participation and solutions to the principles, objectives and programme of action set by the GCR will be dealt with. The Course, fully funded by UNHCR, will be held at Villa Ormond, the headquarters of the Institute in Sanremo, Italy.

19th Summer Course on IHL

Sanremo/Geneva, 1st - 13th July 2019

The 19th edition of the annual Summer Course on International Humanitarian Law gathered together military officers, individual experts, officials from the UN, ICRC, NGOs and various governments as well as students from all over the world. The forty-three participants from thirty-one different countries spent two weeks attending lectures, workshops and exercises. During the first week of the course, presided by Professor Michel Veuthey, Vice-President of the Institute, the participants worked at Villa Ormond, headquarters of the Institute in Sanremo. Instead the second week took place in Geneva, Switzerland. The members of the heterogeneous teaching staff provided a challenging and precious learning opportunity. In Sanremo, the participants were involved in different sessions led by Professor Michel Veuthey; Dr. Stefania Baldini, Secretary-General of the Institute; Colonel Mark Dakers, Director of the Institute's Military Department; Brigadier



General Karl Edlinger, Legal Advisor of the Austrian Armed Forces; Colonel (ret.) William Nott from the Irish Centre for Human Rights; Professor Yoram Dinstein, Emeritus Professor at Tel Aviv University; Ms Maria Teresa Dutli, Former Head of Advisory Services at the ICRC; Professor Charles Garraway, Fellow of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex; Mr. Adama Dieng, Special Adviser of the UN Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide; Mr Jan Hladik, Chief of the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit at UNESCO; Ms Christine Van Den Wyngaert, ICC Judge; Colonel Ben Klappe, Senior Legal Adviser and Visiting Judge; and Alan Werner, Director of Civitas Maximas. In Geneva the lectures took place at Palais des Nations (UNOG's headquarters), at the ICRC's headquarters, at the liaison office of the Institute in Geneva, and at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Lectures were delivered by Ms Annyssa Bellal, Strategic Adviser on IHL at the Geneva Academy on International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights; Dr. Valériane Michel, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Ms Marie Lequin, Geneva Call; Dr. Matthew Pollard, International Commission of Jurists; Dr. Fiona Terry, Head of the Centre for Operational Research and Experience (ICRC); Ms Isabelle Granger, Global Legislative Advocacy Coordinator, Disaster Law Programme (IFRC); Ms Kristina Touzenis, Head of the International Migration Law Unit (IOM); Dr. Gianni Magazzeni, Chief Universal Periodic Review Branch Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division; Mr. Francesco Motta, Chief of Asia and the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa Branch of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC; Ms Grainne O' Hara, Director, UNHCR - Division of International Protection; Mr. Marco Formisano, Senior Policy Advisor, UNHCR Americas Bureau; Ms Melanie Khanna Senior Legal Coordinator and Section Chief (Statelessness), UNHCR; Ms Tamar Joanian, UNHCR Protection Officer; Mr. Daniel MacGuire, UNHCR Protection Officer; and Mr. Markus Schmidt, Senior Legal Adviser at the UN Office in Geneva. On Thursday 11th July, an evening reception for all participants was kindly hosted at the Italian Mission in Geneva. In conclusion, the book on the proceedings of the latest Sanremo Round Table: "Deprivation of liberty and armed conflicts: exploring realities and remedies" was launched on Friday 12 July 2019 at the UN Library in Geneva.

African Military Law Forum

Sanremo, 10th to 12th September

The fifth iteration of the African Military Law Forum on "The Role of the Legal Advisor in Peace Support Operations" took place at Villa Ormond, headquarters of the Institute, from 10 to 12 September 2019. Organized by the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), the Forum gathered more than 50 African military legal professionals from throughout the continent giving them the opportunity to discuss legal topics, confronting current military operational adherence to the law and sharing best practices on the subject.



The Institute in Northampton for the 2nd CHILD-UP project meeting

Northampton, 9th to 11th September

From 9 to 11 September, the Institute joined the second Project Meeting of the CHILD-UP Project, organized by the University of Northampton - UoN at Waterside Campus, Northampton, UK. The working sessions were dedicated both to administrative and to substantial matters, which were addressed by the Communication, Dissemination and Impact Working Group (CDI-WG) together with the research partners in an initial joint session. This occasion represented a crucial step forward for CHILD-UP, as it hosted the very first meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the International Stakeholders' Committee (ISC), the two



fundamental supporting “instruments” to the project’s development and the achievement of its objectives. These two bodies were presented to the whole consortium through two sessions, during which issues related to the implementation and sustainability of the project were extensively discussed. The closing ISC session was held by CDI working group, which collected important suggestions and proposals from the stakeholders’ perspective, with specific focus on the key CHILD-UP concepts and their value in the communication and dissemination processes. The next project meeting will be held in Krakov, Poland, in January 2020 at the Jagiellonian University of Krakow (UJ).

176th International Military Course on IHL (Spanish and Portuguese)

Sanremo, 16th – 27th September 2019

Specifically designed for members of the military forces, military legal advisers and ICRC staff, the course objective is to enable the participants to access knowledge on the basic regulations of IHL, conduct of hostilities, non-international armed conflicts, conduct of peace operations and detention.

Practical exercises helped participants to optimize their skills by enabling them to find, through the implementation of relevant provisions of IHL, concrete, practical and effective solutions to situations arising in different types of conflict. The Course, held in Spanish and Portuguese, was directed by Professor Roberto Augusto Moreno from Argentina assisted by Lieutenant Colonel Mario Lanz Raggio in the role of Deputy Director.

The teaching staff included Lieutenant Miguel F. Lizarraga Fernandez from Mexico; Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Bittencourt Cavalcanti from Brazil, and Commander Juan Francisco Rivera Castro from Chile. Twenty-eight participants from ten different countries attended the course.

Master in “Cultural Property Protection in

Crisis Response” - Second Edition

Online & on campus (Turin)

11th November 2019 – 16th October 2020

For the second year in a row, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law is pleased to renew its partnership with the Interdepartmental University School for Strategic Sciences (SUISS) of the University of Turin and launch the II edition of the Master in “Cultural Property Protection in Crisis Response”. The Master is aimed at strengthening international efforts and enhancing cooperation to face emerging challenges regarding the protection of cultural heritage from conflicts, natural disasters, illicit activities, and the social and economic recovery of affected communities. The Master in Cultural Property Protection in Crisis Response is designed for civilians, military personnel, NGOs, peacekeepers, and all operators intervening in armed conflicts or disaster scenarios in general, as well as those operating in the post-conflict or post-disaster recovery process. The programme, developed both on line and on campus, will be held from November 2019 to October 2020. Lectures during the on campus phases in Turin will be held at the Italian Army Education and Training Command and School of Applied Military Studies. The course is organized in synergy with the Italian Army Education and Training Command and School of Applied Military Studies; the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage; the Conservation and Restoration Centre “La Venaria Reale”; the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development and Territory Management of the University of Turin.

