



YEREVAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
FOR YOUNG  
RESEARCHERS  
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INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN  
LAW



## “150 years of Codified IHL: Moving Forward, Looking Back”

The Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University (RAU) in cooperation with the International and Comparative Law Center and the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Armenia announce the **7<sup>th</sup> Yerevan International Conference for Young Researchers on International Humanitarian Law**, which will be held from **30 October to 01 November 2014** in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia and will be dedicated to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of adoption of the First Geneva Convention.

Yerevan Conference is a unique international platform for the discussion of contemporary issues and perspectives related to IHL development among the young scholars. Since 2007 the Conference's geography was growing and includes currently representatives of **Belarus, Brazil, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA and Armenia, who attended the event.**

Young researchers in the field of IHL **under the age of 35** are invited to take part in the Conference participants pre-selection process. In order to apply the applicants should submit a research paper **strictly within the scope of the announced conference topics** presented below.

The **APPLICATION PACKAGE** should be sent to [ihlconference@rau.am](mailto:ihlconference@rau.am) and be comprised of:

- 1) The Paper Abstract stating among others author's original thesis, objectives and conclusions (maximum 1000 words, if selected, participant will have to present the full version of the paper (up to 4500 words prior to the Conference according to Annex 2),
- 2) Duly Completed Application Form (according to Annex 1),
- 3) Professional CV, also stating IHL related research (if any) and academic interests.

The deadline for submitting the application package is **September 14, 2014, 22:00, GMT + 4:00**. The applicants will be selected on a competitive basis. The selection results will be announced on September 20, 2014. Selected applicants will receive an official invitation letter, including the program details and the venue.

Organizing Committee will provide the visa support for the participants of the Conference, as well as the accommodation, meals, local transportation and materials during the Conference days. **Please note that round-trip travel expenses are to be covered by the participants of the Conference.**

Shall you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Conference Secretariat via E-mail: [ihlconference@rau.am](mailto:ihlconference@rau.am).

Yours truly,

Secretariat of the Conference

## THE CONFERENCE PANELS AND TOPICS

### PANEL 1. GENERATING RESPECT FOR IHL

The following topics could be analysed:

- 1) Traditional and new mechanisms to implement IHL : where do we stand, where do we go
- 2) Behaviour studies: from past to current conflicts
- 3) From dissemination to engagement: the evolution of IHL violations prevention efforts
- 4) Measuring results: a necessity in the current humanitarian system
- 5) Success stories of implementation of IHL
- 6) Engagement of youth from yesterday to tomorrow: actors of change through the Internet
- 7) Strengthening Respect for the rule of law: towards a weakening or a reinforcement?

### PANEL 2. PRIVATISATION OF WAR

*In recent years, parties to armed conflicts have increasingly recruited private military and security companies to undertake tasks traditionally carried out by the armed forces. The involvement of these companies in or close to military operations has raised questions about the way IHL should be applied.*

The following topics could be analysed:

- 1) Developments in international criminal law and the case of business involvement in international crimes
- 2) Involvement of Private Contractors in Armed Conflict: Implications under International Humanitarian Law
- 3) Human rights obligations of non-state actors in conflict situations
- 4) Promoting compliance of private security and military companies with international humanitarian law
- 5) Developing legal framework: Montreux Document, Montreux + 5

### PANEL 3. NEW TECHNOLOGIES OF WARFARE AND CHALLENGES FOR IHL

*Technological developments have given rise to new methods and means of warfare, such as cyber-attacks, armed drones and robots, autonomous warfare raising novel humanitarian and legal challenges. When developing any new weapon, it is important that a State assess whether it complies with international humanitarian law.*

The following topics could be analysed:

- 1) Cyber warfare (definition of attack)
- 2) Use of drones and robots and challenges to IHL
- 3) Categorization and legality of autonomous and remote weapons systems
- 4) Assessment of the new weapons from IHL standpoint
- 5) Grey areas in IHL coverage of new technologies (nanotechnologies, non-lethal weapons, etc.)

### PANEL 4. HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR, RADIOACTIVE, BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS

*At its 31st International Conference, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopted a resolution highlighting the human costs of nuclear weapons and the difficulty of reconciling their use with international humanitarian law. At the end of 2013, the Council of Delegates will work on a plan of action to implement this resolution. Last March, the government of Norway hosted an international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The meeting was a success, with the participation of 127 governments, UN agencies, international organizations, and civil society. This panel will focus on the particular aspect of humanitarian consequences of nuclear, radioactive, biological and chemical (NRBC) weapons, to highlight the*

*complexity of the issue and explore the ways forward for the international community. It will also reflect this evolution in the debate about such weapons.*

The following topics could be analysed:

- 1) The definition of NRBC weapons
- 2) Medical consequences on soldiers
- 3) Non-state actors' use of NRBC weapons
- 4) Challenges of fact-finding missions
- 5) The law regarding the targeting of stockpiles
- 6) The economy of nuclear weapons
- 7) State perspectives and civil society perspectives on the nuclear weapons
- 8) Who is a victim of NRBC weapons? Delineating the temporal and geographical extent of humanitarian action and scope of protection afforded by IHL
- 9) Implementing prohibitions to use chemical and biological weapons concretely in contemporary armed conflicts in view of the Syrian experience
- 10) Safety obligations of the radiological, biological and chemical industry.

#### **PANEL 5. 1914 - 2014: THE EVOLUTION OF WARFARE AND CRIMINALISATION OF VIOLATIONS OF LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF WAR**

*On the occasion of the Centennial of The Great War, the heritage of the First World War on the law and on humanitarian action can be explored. The panel can also look at the evolution of the battlefields from then until today and will take this opportunity to look at armed violence in the world a hundred years later. Another issue which will be worth raising during the panel is to look at the issue of criminalisation of violations of laws and customs of war.*

The following topics could be analysed:

- 1) Means and methods of warfare then and today
- 2) The consequences of the evolution of war on the law and on humanitarian action
- 3) The ethics of violence
- 4) The emergence of the prisoners-of-war phenomenon
- 5) Civilians in warfare
- 6) The state of conflicts in the world today

#### **PANEL 6: ROAD TO INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE: THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT - FIRST SUCCESSES – FIRST LACUNAE**

*Ever since World War I and , the international community has moved increasingly toward the development of a system of international jurisdictions, complementary to that of domestic courts, to try people accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such system is mainly two-fold: on one hand it relies on the establishment of ad hoc and other internationalized tribunals set up after a conflict; on the other, it counts with the newly created International Criminal Court. From 2002, when it went into operation, the Court has faced its first successes, as well as there were first ambiguities and lacunae identified around its practice. The panel is aimed at reflecting on those.*

The following topics could be analysed:

- 1) Challenges and prospects in defining the crime of aggression: post Kampala views
- 2) ICC: fulfilling the mandate of reconciliation (first case law experience)



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- 3) Security Council and the complementary regime of the ICC
- 4) Emerging enforcement practice of the ICC
- 5) Future of the ICC: Complementarity as a strength or a weakness
- 6) Transitional justice and the ICC: roads in parallel or linked in the interest of the justice?
- 7) Challenges in prosecuting under universal jurisdiction