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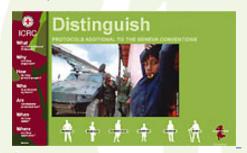
30th Anniversary of Additional Protocols I and II



Adopted on 8 June 1977, Protocols I and II are international treaties that supplement the Geneva Conventions of 1949. They significantly improve the legal protection covering civilians and the wounded, and – for the first time – lay down detailed humanitarian rules that apply in civil wars.

Why were the Protocols adopted?

They were adopted by States to make international humanitarian law more complete and more universal, and to adapt it better to modern conflicts.



Presentation on AP I & II

The <u>Geneva Conventions of 1949</u> afforded major improvements in the legal protection of victims of conflict. However, they apply essentially to international conflicts – wars between states. Only Article 3, common to all four Conventions, refers to internal conflicts; its adoption was itself a great step forward but the rules contained in the Article are mainly of a general nature.

In addition, most of the countries that became independent after 1945 "inherited" the Geneva Conventions from the former colonial powers – the adoption of the Protocols was also an occasion for them to contribute to developing the law.

Why two Protocols?

Protocol I deals with international armed conflicts,Protocol II with non-international ones, a term that includes

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More about the Protocols

The rules in pictures



- Press release
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Protocols I and II

Additional Protocols I & II

civil wars.

It was necessary to differentiate between the two situations, as States were not prepared to grant the same degree of legal protection in both cases.

The third Protocol

A third Additional Protocol was adopted in 2005. This treaty established an additional emblem, the red crystal, having the same status as the existing red cross and red crescent emblems.

Which countries have agreed to Additional Protocols I and 11?



Protocol I has been ratified by 167 states, Protocol II by 163 states.

- **Commentary on the Additional Protocols**
- Poster and leaflet
- Basic rules of the Geneva Conventions and their **Additional Protocols**
- More publications on IHL Further reading

More information on some of the major advances introduced by Additional Protocols I & II. Related sections

- **Conduct of hostilities**
- **Customary law study**

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