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To have access to civilians ^[1] in need, humanitarian organizations ^[2] must deliver humanitarian assistance ^[3] with the consent of the belligerent parties concerned. Such consent cannot be arbitrarily withheld. In cases where a party imposes a siege, blockade ^[4] or embargo which has the effect of starving ^[5] the civilian population, the party is obliged to give its consent.

In international armed conflicts, the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross ^[6] and Protecting Powers ^[7] must have access to prisoners of war ^[8] or protected persons ^[9]. In non-international armed conflicts ^[10], the consent of the belligerent parties is required for these representatives to have access to persons deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the conflict.

See Humanitarian assistance ^[3]; Civilians ^[1]; Civilian population ^[11]; International Committee of the Red Cross ^[6]; Protecting Powers ^[7]; Humanitarian organizations ^[2];

OUTLINE

Chapter 9, IV. IHL and Humanitarian Assistance, Introductory text ^[12]

Chapter 9, IV. IHL and Humanitarian Assistance, c) a broad right to assistance:
Art. 70 of Protocol I and Art. 18 (2) of Protocol II ^[13]

LEGAL SOURCES

for delegates of Protecting Powers

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CIHL, 55-56 ^[32]

CASES

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ICJ, Nicaragua v. US (Paras. 242 and 243) ^[34]

UN Security Council, Sanctions Imposed upon Iraq ^[35]

Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the former Yugoslavia ^[36] (Paras. 13 ^[37] and 36 ^[38])

Israel, Blockade of Gaza and the Flotilla Incident ^[39]

Syria, Press conference with French President Francois Hollande and Russian President Vladimir Putin

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Yemen: Naval Blockade [41]

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[32] https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule55

[33] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/un-security-council-resolution-688-northern-iraq>

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