Forum where justice is administered, usually by a panel of judges. The term tribunal is broader than the term “court”, as it may refer to an administrative, rather than a judicial, body. The latter typically afford a greater range of judicial guarantees. “Tribunal” can also be used to designate a specific kind of court which has authority on a special matter. For example: International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) or the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

Art. 5 of the Third Geneva Convention, requires that, in case of doubt, the status of an individual who committed a belligerent act and who is in the hands of the enemy be determined by a tribunal. This does not have to be a court.

See Court;
determination of status of POW in case of doubt

**GCIII, 5** [7]

**Determination of status**

**GC III, Art. 5:** [8] determination by a competent **tribunal** of the status of person who committed a belligerent act and have fallen in the hands of the enemy

**AP 1, Art. 45** [9]: protection of persons who have taken part in hostilities (determination of their status by a competent tribunal)

**Occupation (subheading)**

**GC IV, Art. 64** [10]: “**tribunals of the occupied territory shall continue to function**”

**CASE**


United States, Jurisprudence Related to the Bombing of the U.S.S. Cole [12]

UN/Colombia, Human Rights Committee Clarifications and Concluding Observations (2016) [13]