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The principle of humane treatment requires that the wounded and sick, prisoners of war, civilians and other persons protected by IHL are treated humanely at all times.

The principle of humane treatment in IHL requires that those who fall into the hands of the enemy be treated with respect for their dignity ^[1] as human beings. The principle seeks to ensure that the physical integrity of captured/detained persons is not violated, that they are not subjected to any form of torture ^[2] or ill treatment. In IACs, the principle gives rise to a number of explicit rules, such as those prohibiting torture, rape and sexual violence ^[3] and exposure of prisoners of war to public curiosity ^[4]. In NIACs, the requirement of humane treatment for civilians and persons *hors de combat* ^[5] is set out in common Article 3, which prohibits violence to life and person (including cruel treatment and torture), the taking of hostages ^[6], humiliating and degrading treatment, and execution ^[7] without regular trial. Civilians and detained combatants or fighters are entitled to respect for their physical and mental integrity, their honour, family rights, religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. The requirement to accord humane treatment is recognized as a fundamental guarantee by both Additional Protocols I and II.

See Treatment ^[8]; Torture ^[2];

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