Wars of national liberation were formerly classed by international law as civil wars but are now regarded as international armed conflict and therefore regulated as such by international humanitarian law. They are armed conflicts in which peoples are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist regimes in the exercise of their right to self-determination.

See Non-international armed conflict; International armed conflict;
United Kingdom and Australia, Applicability of Protocol I

United States, President Rejects Protocol I

South Africa, Sagarius and Others

South Africa, S. v. Petane

South Africa, AZAPO v. Republic of South Africa

Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the former Yugoslavia (23 and 24)

Germany, Government Reply on the Kurdistan Conflict

Philippines, Application of IHL by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines

The Netherlands, Public Prosecutor v. Folkerts

The Conflict in Western Sahara

United States, United States v. Marilyn Buck

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES


CASSESE Antonio, Self-Determination of Peoples: a Legal Reappraisal,


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/national-liberation-wars

**Links**

