The interference by one state in the internal or external affairs of another state. It could refer to interference in a state’s freedom to choose its political, economic, social, or cultural path, or to interference in the formulation of its foreign policy. Intervention may take the form of military action, or it may be undertaken through the exertion of economic or political pressures. However, it will be unlawful under international law if such interference is achieved through the use of force, be it in the direct form of military action or in the indirect form of support for subversive or terrorist armed activities within another state.

If third States and/or international organizations intervene militarily in ongoing non-international armed conflicts in support of the non-State armed group party to the conflict, this internationalizes the conflict.

See Classification of conflicts; Internationalized internal armed conflicts;

**OUTLINE**

Chapter III. 6. c. foreign intervention not directed against governmental forces

**LEGAL SOURCE**

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CASES

Israel, Operation Cast Lead (Part I, Paras. 29-30)

ICRC/Lebanon, Sabra and Chatila

Israel/Lebanon/Hezbollah, Conflict in 2006

Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region (Part III. A.)

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Conflicts in the Kivus (Parts I, II, and III, Paras. 1-12)

Afghanistan, Drug Dealers as Legitimate Targets

Case Study, Armed Conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea (Part 1. B. 4)

Iraq/Syria/UK, Drone Operations against ISIS

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/intervention

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