The principle of distinction is a fundamental principle of international humanitarian law[1] which provides that parties to an armed conflict must “at all times distinguish between the civilian population[2] and combatants[3] and between civilian objects[4] and military objectives[5] and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives”. This implies that indiscriminate attacks[6] and the use of indiscriminate means[7] and methods of warfare[8] are prohibited.

See Fundamental principles of IHL[1]; Adverse distinction[9]; Civilian population[2]; Combatants[3]; Civilian objects[4]; Military objectives[5]; Indiscriminate attacks[6]; Means of warfare[7]; Methods of warfare[8];
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