Whether from land, sea or air, bombardment is a legitimate method of warfare [1], subject to the general principle that the right of the parties to choose methods of warfare [1] is not unlimited. In accordance with that principle, it is prohibited to employ methods of a nature to cause superfluous injury [2] or unnecessary suffering [3] or destruction [4]. Bombardment is, however, subject to prohibitions and limitations with respect to medical units [5], cultural property [6], non-defended localities [7] and demilitarized zones [8]. Bombardment of the civilian population as such is prohibited, as are indiscriminate bombardments and those whose primary purpose is to spread terror [9]. Precautions [10] in bombardments and against their effects are prescribed.

See also Naval warfare [11]; Aerial warfare [12]; Terror (spreading of) [9]; Indiscriminate attacks [13]; Weapons [14]; Conduct of hostilities [15];

**OUTLINE**

**From air :**

Chapter 11, Introductory text [16]

Chapter 11, III. Applicability of the General Protection of the Civilian Population Against Effects of Hostilities to Aerial Bombardments Against Targets on Land
From sea:

Chapter 10, II. Principles of naval warfare

**LEGAL SOURCE**

HR, 25

HR, 26

HR, 27

PI, 49/3

From air:

GCIII, 23/3

GCIV, 88

From sea:

GCII, 23 (see ICRC updated Commentary)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HPCR, Manual on International Law Applicable to Air and Missile Warfare</strong> [27]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea</strong> [28]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRY, NATO Intervention</strong> [29]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Iran/Iraq, UN Security Council Assessing Violations of International Humanitarian Law</strong> [30]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States/United Kingdom, Conduct of the 2003 War in Iraq</strong> [31]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECHR, Isayeva v. Russia</strong> [32]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Israel/Gaza, Operation Cast Lead</strong> [33]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Gali?</strong> [34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Israel/Lebanon/Hezbollah Conflict in 2006</strong> [35]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eritrea/Ethiopia, Awards on Military Objectives</strong> [36]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Georgia/Russia, Human Rights Watch’s Report on the Conflict in South Ossetia</strong> [37]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Georgia/Russia, Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in South Ossetia</strong> [38]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Israel, Taking Shelter in Ancient Ruins

ECHR, Bankovic and Others v. Belgium and 16 Other States

UN, Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit

Syria, Press conference with French President Francois Hollande and Russian President Vladimir Putin

Libya, NATO Intervention 2011

Yemen, Potential Existence and Effects of Naval Blockade

Sri Lanka, Naval War against Tamil Tigers

Syria, Report by UN Commission of Inquiry (March 2017)

Syria, the Battle for Aleppo

ICRC, Statement - War in Cities ; What is at Stake?

United Kingdom, Arms Trade With Saudi Arabia

Syria: Attacks on Oil Infrastructure

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

Links