A punishable act which although not a grave breach is contrary to international humanitarian law, whether the breach is established because of the direct violation of a rule or because of the failure to fulfill an obligation. Indeed, not every violation of IHL will constitute a war crime or grave breach. Some violations do not involve similarly serious consequences, but they remain contrary to IHL.

See also: Grave breach; Violation; Sanctions; Individual criminal responsibility;

**CASES**

- USA, Al-Shimari v. CACI Premier Technology, Inc. [6]
- Spain, Universal Jurisdiction over Grave Breaches of the Geneva Conventions [7]

*Source URL:* https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/breach

*Links*

[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/grave-breaches