A punishable act which although not a grave breach [1] is contrary to international humanitarian law, whether the breach is established because of the direct violation [2] of a rule or because of the failure to fulfill an obligation. Indeed, not every violation of IHL will constitute a war crime [3] or grave breach. Some violations do not involve similarly serious consequences, but they remain contrary to IHL.

See also: Grave breach [1]; Violation [2]; Sanctions [4]; Individual criminal responsibility [5];

**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