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IHL prohibits the employment of means of warfare <sup>[1]</sup> that result in superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering. This rule reflects an attempt to strike a balance between the competing ends of humanity <sup>[2]</sup> and military necessity <sup>[3]</sup>, and the protection resulting from its application, strictly speaking, focusses on the effect of weapons <sup>[4]</sup> on combatants <sup>[5]</sup> (as, in principle, causing suffering and injury to civilians <sup>[6]</sup> is prohibited). Weapons which would inevitably cause serious permanent disability, as well as those that render death inevitable are affected by the prohibition. Restrictions and prohibitions on the use of specific weapons such as laser weapons <sup>[7]</sup>, incendiary weapons <sup>[8]</sup> and dum-dum bullets <sup>[9]</sup> are a direct result of the application of the rule.

See Means of warfare <sup>[1]</sup>; Weapons <sup>[4]</sup>; Conventional weapons <sup>[10]</sup>; Conduct of hostilities <sup>[11]</sup>; Dum-dum bullets <sup>[9]</sup>; Laser weapons <sup>[7]</sup>; Incendiary weapons <sup>[8]</sup>; Mines <sup>[12]</sup>; Cluster munitions <sup>[13]</sup>; Superfluous injury and Unnecessary Suffering <sup>[14]</sup>;

## CASE

Iran, Victim of Cyber warfare <sup>[15]</sup>

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