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Home > Objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population

“Objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population” is not defined in international humanitarian law, instead, the relevant provisions provide a non-exhaustive list of examples such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works.

It is prohibited to attack, destroy or remove such objects or to render them useless for the purpose of denying them, for their sustenance value, to the civilian population ^[1], whatever the motive, whether to starve out civilians ^[2], to cause them to move away, or for any other reason.

These prohibitions do not apply if the objects enumerated are used as sustenance solely for the members of the armed forces ^[3] or for purposes other than sustenance of the civilian population.

They must not be made the object of reprisals ^[4].

In recognition of the vital requirements of any party to the conflict in the defence of its national territory against invasion, derogation ^[5] from the above prohibitions may be made where required by imperative military necessity ^[6].

LEGAL SOURCE

PI, 54 ^[7]

PII, 14 ^[8]

CIHL, 53 ^[9]-54 ^[10]

CASES

ICRC, International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts in 2015 ^[11] (Paras. 205 ^[12])

Yemen: Naval Blockade ^[13]

Yemen, Potential Existence and Effects of Naval Blockade ^[14]

Syria, Report by UN Commission of Inquiry (March 2017) ^[15]

ICRC, Statement - War in Cities ; What is at Stake? ^[16]

Eastern Ukraine, OHCHR Report on the Situation: November 2016 - February 2017 ^[17]

Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory, Occupation and Natural Resources ^[18]

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Links

[1] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/civilian-population>

[2] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/starvation>

[3] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/armed-forces>

[4] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/reprisals>

[5] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/derogations>

[6] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/military-necessity>

[7]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=C5F28CACC22458EAC12563CD>

[8]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=ACF5220D585326BCC12563CD>

[9] https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule53

[10] https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule54

[11] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/icrc-international-humanitarian-law-and-challenges-contemporary-armed-conflicts-2015>

[12] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/icrc-international-humanitarian-law-and-challenges-contemporary-armed-conflicts-2015#challenges-2015-para205>

[13] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/yemen-naval-blockade-0>

[14] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/yemen-potential-existence-and-effects-naval-blockade>

[15] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/syria-report-un-commission-inquiry-march-2017>

[16] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/icrc-statement-war-cities-what-stake>

[17] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/eastern-ukraine-ohchr-report-situation-november-2016-february-2017>

[18] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israeloccupied-palestinian-territory-occupation-and-natural-resources>