In its Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement [1], the United Nations defines internally displaced persons (IDPs) as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts [2], situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.”

See Displaced persons [3]; Deportation (Forced Movement) [4]; Refugees [5];

**OUTLINE**

Chapter 8, Refugees and Displaced persons [6]

**LEGAL SOURCES**

Protection by IHL: prohibition of population displacements

GCIV, 49 [7]

PII, 17 [8]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOCUMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UN, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Union, Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRC, Sixtieth Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel/Lebanon/Hezbollah, Conflict in 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka, Conflict in the Vanni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case study, Armed conflicts in the Great Lakes Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case study, Armed conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina, Constitution of Safe Areas in 1992-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia/Russia, Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in South Ossetia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The armed conflict in Syria [22]

Libya, Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2014/15) [23]

Myanmar, Forced Population Movements [24]

Iraq, Forced displacement and deliberate destruction [25]

Iraq: Situation of Internally Displaced Persons [26]

Syria, Report by UN Commission of Inquiry (March 2017) [27]

Syria, the Battle for Aleppo [28]

ECJ, Aboubacar Diakité v. Commissaire général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides [29]

South Sudan, Attack in Malakal UN Protection Site [30]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:


COLLINSON Sarah (ed.), Realising Protection: the Uncertain Benefits of Civilian, Refugee and IDP Status, London, Overseas Development Institute,
CONTAT HICKEL Marguerite, “The Challenge Posed by Displaced Persons”, in

DAVIES Sara E. & GLANVILLE Luke, Protecting the Displaced: Deepening the

GOLDMAN Robert, “Codification of International Rules on Internally Displaced

ICRC, Internally Displaced People: Humanitarian Response to Internally

ISLAM Rafiqul, “The Sudanese Darfur Crisis and Internally Displaced Persons
in International Law: the Least Protection for the Most Vulnerable”, in

KAELIN Walter, The Brookings Institution-University of Bern Project on Internal
Displacement, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: Annotations,

KELLENBERGER Jakob, “The ICRC’s Response to Internal Displacement:
Strengths, Challenges and Constraints”, in IRRC, Vol. 91, No. 875, September

LAVOYER Jean-Philippe, “Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons:


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/internally-displaced-persons-idps

Links