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];
**DOCUMENTS**

UN, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacements [10]


ICRC, Sixtieth Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions [12]

**CASES**


Sri Lanka, Conflict in the Vanni [14] (Paras 3-9; 29-46 [14])

Case study, Armed conflicts in the Great Lakes Region [15] (2. A. [16])

Case study, Armed conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea [17] (Part 2., C. [17])

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Constitution of Safe Areas in 1992-1993 [18]

Georgia/Russia, Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in South Ossetia [19] (paras 120-125 [20]; 135-139 [21])
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,


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


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

**Links**