The Detaining Power [1] may require prisoners of war [2] to work, subject to certain conditions and guarantees. Existing rules regulate authorized work, the duration of labour, the prohibition of dangerous or humiliating labour, working pay, labour detachments and the treatment of prisoners working for private employers.

It is also permitted to employ civilian internees [3] as workers, but only if they so desire and subject to certain prohibitions (e.g. of degrading or humiliating work) and conditions, and for a fair wage.


**OUTLINE**

Chapter 8, II. 3. b) dd) forced labour [5]

**LEGAL SOURCE**

of medical and religious personnel; prisoners engaged on medical duties or who are ministries of religion; persons in hospital or safety zone

GCI, 28/2(c) [6] (see ICRC updated Commentary [7])
GCIII, 32 [8], 33/2(c) [9] and 36 [10]

GCIV, Annex 1, Art. 2 [11]

PII, 10/2 [12]

of POWs

GCIII, 49 [13]–57 [14], 62 [15]

of civil internees and protected persons

GCIV, 39 [16], 40 [17], 51 [18]–52 [19], 89/4 [20], 90/3 [21], 95 [22], 143/1 [23] and 5 [23]

CIHL, 95 [24]

prohibition of forced labour

GCIV, 40 [17], 51 [18] and 95 [22]

CIHL, 95 [24]

of civil defence

PI, 63/1 [25]

in NIAC
**PII, 5/1(e)** [26]

### CASES

**Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the former Yugoslavia (9)** [27]

**Democratic Republic of the Congo, Conflicts in the Kivus (Part III, Paras. 51-53)** [28]

**ICC, Confirmation of Charges against LRA Leaders** [29]

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**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/labour

**Links**

[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/detaining-power