Under certain circumstances, persons and objects that are protected under international humanitarian law lose the protection conferred upon them. In such cases, they may become lawful military objectives [1].

Such a loss of protection can occur when persons protected against attack directly participate in hostilities [2], or when civilian objects [3] are used for military purposes. In addition, if medical personnel commit or medical objects are used to commit acts harmful to the enemy, outside their humanitarian function, lose their special protection and may even be attacked if they directly participate in hostilities (persons) or turn into military objectives (objects).

See Status [4]; Military objectives [1]; Direct participation in hostilities [2]; Loss of Status [5]; Protected Persons [6];

**LEGAL SOURCE**

for wounded, sick and shipwrecked or persons otherwise hors de combat,
parachuting airmen in distress

for act of hostilities
for civilians

When DPH: See Direct participation in hostilities [2]

PI, 51/3 [10]

PII, 13/3 [11]

CIHL, 6 [12]

for civilian objects

if military contribution

PI, 52/2 [13]

for civil defence objects

PI, 67/1 [14]

for cultural, spiritual objects

HR, 27 [15]

Hague Convention on Cultural Property, Arts. 4/2 [16], 11 [17] and 19 [18]
for medical objects

for acts harmful to the enemy

HR, 27 [15]

GCI, 21 [19] (see ICRC updated Commentary [20]) and 35 [21] (see ICRC updated Commentary [22])

GCII, 34 [23] (see ICRC updated Commentary [24])

GCIV, 19 [25]

PI, 13 [26]

PII, 11/2 [27]

CIHL, 28 [28]

other specially protected objects

PI, 54/3 [29], 56/2 [30], 59/7 [31], 60/7 [32]

CASE

Afghanistan, Attack on Kunduz Trauma Centre [33]
Afghanistan, Bombing of a Civilian Truck

Iraq/Syria/UK, Drone Operations against ISIS

Israel/Palestine, Accountability for the Use of Lethal Force

Eastern Ukraine, Attacks Against and Military Use of Schools

Eastern Ukraine, OHCHR Report on the Situation: November 2016 - February 2017

Central African Republic, No Class: When Armed Groups Use Schools

Georgia: Attacks against peacekeepers

South Sudan, The Nuer “White Armies”

South Sudan, Activities of Oil Companies

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Links
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