An “organized armed group” is the armed wing of a non-state party to a non-international armed conflict, and may be comprised of either:

a. dissident armed forces (for example, breakaway parts of state armed forces); or
b. other organized armed groups which recruit their members primarily from the civilian population but have developed a sufficient degree of military organization to conduct hostilities on behalf of a party to the conflict.

The term organized armed group refers exclusively to the armed or military wing of a non-state party to a non-international armed conflict. It does not include those segments of the civilian population that are supportive of the non-state party such as its political wing.

See also Non-international armed conflict [1]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel/Lebanon/Hezbollah Conflict in 2006 [5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the former Yugoslavia [7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Yugoslavia, Special Agreements between the Parties to the Conflicts [8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States, Kadic et al. v. Karadzic [10]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICTR, The Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu [12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland, The Niyonteze Case [13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia, Constitutional Conformity of Protocol II [14]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany, Government Reply on the Kurdistan Conflict [15]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines, Application of IHL by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines [16]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Security Council Resolution on the Conflict in Syria [17]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yemen, Obstructing Medical Care [18]

UN, Secretary-General’s Reports on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict [19]

Geneva Call, Puntland State of Somalia adhering to a total ban on anti-personnel mines [20]


Health Care in Pakistan’s Tribal Areas [25]

Turkey/Iraq, Turkish Military Operations in Northern Iraq [26]

Engaging Non-state Armed Groups on the Protection of Children [27]

Central African Republic, Coup d’Etat [28]

United States, Use of Armed Drones for Extraterritorial Targeted Killings [29]

The armed conflict in Syria [30]

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health [31]

United States of America, Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project [32]
Philippines, Armed Group Undertakes to Respect Children [33]

Somalia, the fate of Children in the conflict [34]

Syria, Code of Conduct of the Free Syrian Army [35]

General Assembly, The use of drones in counter-terrorism operations [36]

U.S., Lethal Operations against Al-Qa’ida Leaders [37]

Syria, Press conference with French President Francois Hollande and Russian President Vladimir Putin [38]

ICRC, International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts in 2015 [39] (Paras. 70 [40], 71 [41], 82 [42])

ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Radovan Karadzic [43]

Libya, Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2014/15) [44]

South Sudan: Medical Care Under Fire

Health Care in Pakistan’s Tribal Areas [25]

Syria, Press conference with French President Francois Hollande and Russian President Vladimir Putin [38]
Israel/Palestine, Operation Protective Edge (Gaza, 13 June - 26 August 2014)

Mali, Accountability for the Destruction of Cultural Heritage

Sweden/Syria, Can Armed Groups Issue Judgments?

Yemen, Potential Existence and Effects of Naval Blockade

United Kingdom, The Case of Serdar Mohammed (Court of Appeal and Supreme Court Judgments)

El Salvador, Supreme Court Judgment on the Unconstitutionality of the Amnesty Law

United States, Jurisprudence Related to the Bombing of the U.S.S. Cole


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

Afghanistan, Bombing of a Civilian Truck

Syria, the Battle for Aleppo
ICC, Confirmation of Charges against LRA Leader

Colombia Peace Agreement

UN/Colombia, Human Rights Committee Clarifications and Concluding Observations (2016)

International Criminal Court, Trial Judgment in the Case of the Prosecutor V. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

Belgium, Prosecution of Terrorist Crimes in the context of Armed Conflict

Iraq, The Battle for Mosul

Germany, Aerial Drone Attack in Mir Ali/Pakistan

Eastern Ukraine, Attacks Against and Military Use of Schools

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

Syria, Syrian rebels treat captured Filipino soldiers as 'guests'

Mexico, The "War on Drugs"

Central African Republic/Democratic Republic of Congo/Uganda, LRA attacks
Iraq, Crimes by Militia Groups

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

South Sudan, AU Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan

Lake Chad Basin, Multinational Joint Task Force and Boko Haram

Cameroon, Dead and Missing Persons

Syria: Attacks on Oil Infrastructure

Eastern Ukraine: Detention And Death Sentences By Armed Groups

South Sudan, The Nuer “White Armies”

South Sudan, Activities of Oil Companies

Somalia/Kenya, Al-Shabab Attacks

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES**

Suggested readings:


SASSÓLI Marco, “Possible Legal Mechanisms to Improve Compliance by
Armed Groups with International Humanitarian Law and International Human
Rights Law”, 2003, Armed Groups Project, online:


SIVAKUMARAN Sandesh, “Courts of Armed Opposition Groups: Fair Trials

SOMER Jonathan, “Jungle Justice: Passing Sentence on the Equality of
Belligerents in Non-International Armed Conflict”, in IRRC, Vol. 89, No. 867,
September 2007, pp. 655-690.

SZABLEWSKA Natalia, “Non-State Actors and Human Rights in Non-
International Armed Conflicts”, in South African Yearbook of International Law

VEUTHEY Michel, “Le rôle des acteurs non étatiques dans le respect du droit
international humanitaire”, in Annuaire français de relations internationales,

ZEGVELD Liesbeth, Accountability of Armed Opposition Groups in

Further readings:


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/armed-groups

Links
[74] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/syria-attacks-oil-infrastructure
[76] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/south-sudan-nuer-white-armies
[77] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/south-sudan-activities-oil-companies