The term refers not only to criminal punishment, but also to other types of sanctions\footnote{1}, harassment or administrative action taken against a group in retaliation for an act committed by an individual/s who are considered to form part of the group. Such punishment therefore targets persons who bear no responsibility\footnote{2} for having committed the conduct in question. Historically used as a deterrence tool by occupying powers to prevent attacks from resistance movements, collective punishments for acts committed by individuals during an armed conflict are prohibited by IHL against prisoners of war\footnote{3} or other protected persons\footnote{4}.

International humanitarian law prohibits collective punishment of prisoners of war\footnote{3} or other protected persons\footnote{4} for acts committed by individuals during an armed conflict\footnote{5}.

The imposition of collective punishment is a war crime\footnote{6}.

See War crimes\footnote{6}, Sanctions\footnote{1}; Individual criminal responsibility\footnote{7};

**OUTLINE**

Chapter 8, II. 2. b) - prohibition of collective punishment\footnote{8}

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Suggested reading :


Further reading :


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/collective-punishments

Links
[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/sanctions