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Under IHL, water is considered as an object indispensable for the survival of the civilian population.

See also [Civilian objects](#) <sup>[1]</sup>; [Environment](#) <sup>[2]</sup>;

## OUTLINE

[Chapter 9, II. 9. b\) bb\) objects – water](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

## LEGAL SOURCE

### prohibited to poison

HR, 23/a <sup>[4]</sup>

### for POWs, internees and civilian population

GCIII, 20 <sup>[5]</sup>, 26/3 <sup>[6]</sup>, 29 <sup>[7]</sup> and 46/3 <sup>[8]</sup>

GCIV, 85 <sup>[9]</sup>, 89/3 <sup>[10]</sup>, 127/2 <sup>[11]</sup>

PI, 54 <sup>[12]</sup>

PII, 5/1(b) <sup>[13]</sup> and 14 <sup>[14]</sup>

CIHL, 118 <sup>[15]</sup>

## CASES

ICRC, Water in Armed Conflicts <sup>[16]</sup>

Israel, Operation Cast Lead [Part II, paras 913-989] <sup>[17]</sup>

Libya, Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2014/15) <sup>[18]</sup>

Yemen: Naval Blockade <sup>[19]</sup>

Yemen, Potential Existence and Effects of Naval Blockade <sup>[20]</sup>

Syria, Report by UN Commission of Inquiry (March 2017) <sup>[21]</sup>

ICRC, Statement - War in Cities ; What is at Stake? <sup>[22]</sup>

Eastern Ukraine, OHCHR Report on the Situation: November 2016 - February 2017 <sup>[23]</sup>

Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory, Occupation and Natural Resources <sup>[24]</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

### Suggested readings:

ABOUALI Gamal, “Natural Resources under Occupation: The Status of Palestinian Water under International Law”, in *Pace International Law Review*, Vol. 10/2, 1998, pp. 411-574.

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BOUTRUCHE Théo, “Le statut de l’eau en droit international humanitaire”, in *IRRC*, No. 840, December 2000, pp. 887-916.

ICRC, *Water and War: ICRC Response*, Geneva, ICRC, July 2009, 21 pp.

JORGENSEN Nikolai, “The Protection of Freshwater in Armed Conflict”, in *Journal of International Law and International Relations*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2007, pp. 57-96.

*Water and War: Symposium on Water in Armed Conflicts (Montreux, 21-23 November 1994)*, Geneva, ICRC, 1995, 168 pp.

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ZEMMALI Ameer, “The Right to Water in Times of Armed Conflict”, in LIJNZAAD Liesbeth, VAN SAMBEEK Johanna & TAHZIBLIE Bahia (eds), *Making the Voice of Humanity Heard*

, Leiden/Boston, M. Nijhoff, 2004, pp. 307-318.

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**Links**

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[4]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=61CDD9E446504870C12563CD0>

[5]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=51C79FEC0CFBEFA1C12563CD0>

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[14]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=ACF5220D585326BCC12563CD0>

[15] [https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1\\_rul\\_rule118](https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule118)

[16] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/water-and-armed-conflicts>

[17] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israelgaza-operation-cast-lead>

[18] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/libya-report-office-un-high-commissioner-human-rights-201415>

[19] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/yemen-naval-blockade-0>

[20] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/yemen-potential-existence-and-effects-naval-blockade>

[21] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/syria-report-un-commission-inquiry-march-2017>

[22] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/icrc-statement-war-cities-what-stake>

[23] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/eastern-ukraine-ohchr-report-situation-november-2016-february-2017>

[24] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israeloccupied-palestinian-territory-occupation-and-natural-resources>