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These are particularly serious violations ^[1] of IHL, endangering protected persons ^[2] and/or objects ^[3], or breaching important international values, for which the individual criminal responsibility ^[4] of perpetrators may be engaged. War crimes can be committed in both international and non-international armed conflicts, although the list of possible war crimes is not identical for both types of conflicts.

The Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I establish that certain violations of IHL are to be considered “grave breaches ^[5]”, and they must be prosecuted by High Contracting Parties on the basis of the principle of universal jurisdiction ^[6]. Other serious violations of IHL are established by customary international law and by international criminal law ^[7] treaties. Such serious violations of IHL, together with grave breaches, constitute war crimes.

War crimes constitute one category of “international crimes”, the others being genocide ^[8] and crimes against humanity ^[9].

See Breach ^[10], Violations ^[11]; Individual criminal responsibility ^[4]; Genocide ^[8]; Crimes Against Humanity ^[9]; International Criminal Court ^[11]; ICTY ^[12]; ICTR ^[13]; International criminal law ^[7]; Individual criminal responsibility ^[4];

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