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[Home](#) > Unlawful combatants

The term "unlawful combatant" is used to refer to an individual who belongs to an armed group [1], in a context where either the individual or the group do not fulfil the conditions for combatant status [2]. The term was employed by the administration of President George W. Bush of the United States in its "global war on terror [3]" to describe persons who are, in its view, neither combatants [4] nor civilians [5] but belong to a third category of persons who can be attacked at any time and can be detained indefinitely [6] without trial. It is also sometimes used as a synonym for "unprivileged belligerent [7]".

See Unprivileged belligerent [7]; War on terror [3]; Combatants [4]; Civilians [5]; Detention [8]; Internment [6]; Terrorism and terrorists [9];

OUTLINE

Chapter 2, III. 1. e) The global war on terror ? [10]

Chapter 5, VII. 5. Terrorism, the "war on terror", and in particular the status of "unlawful combatants" [11]

DOCUMENT

United States, Closure of Guantanamo Detention Facilities [12]

United States, Treatment and Interrogation in Detention [13]

CASES

ICRC, The Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts (Part B.) [14]

Israel, The Targeted Killings Case (Paras. 24-40) [15]

Israel, Detention of Unlawful Combatants [16]

United States, Status and Treatment of Detainees Held in Guantanamo Naval Base [17]

United States, President's Military Order [18]

United States, Hamdan v. Rumsfeld [19]

United States, Military Commissions [20]

United States, Habeas Corpus for Guantanamo Detainees [21]

United States, The Obama Administration's Internment Standards [22]

General Assembly, The use of drones in counter-terrorism operations [23]

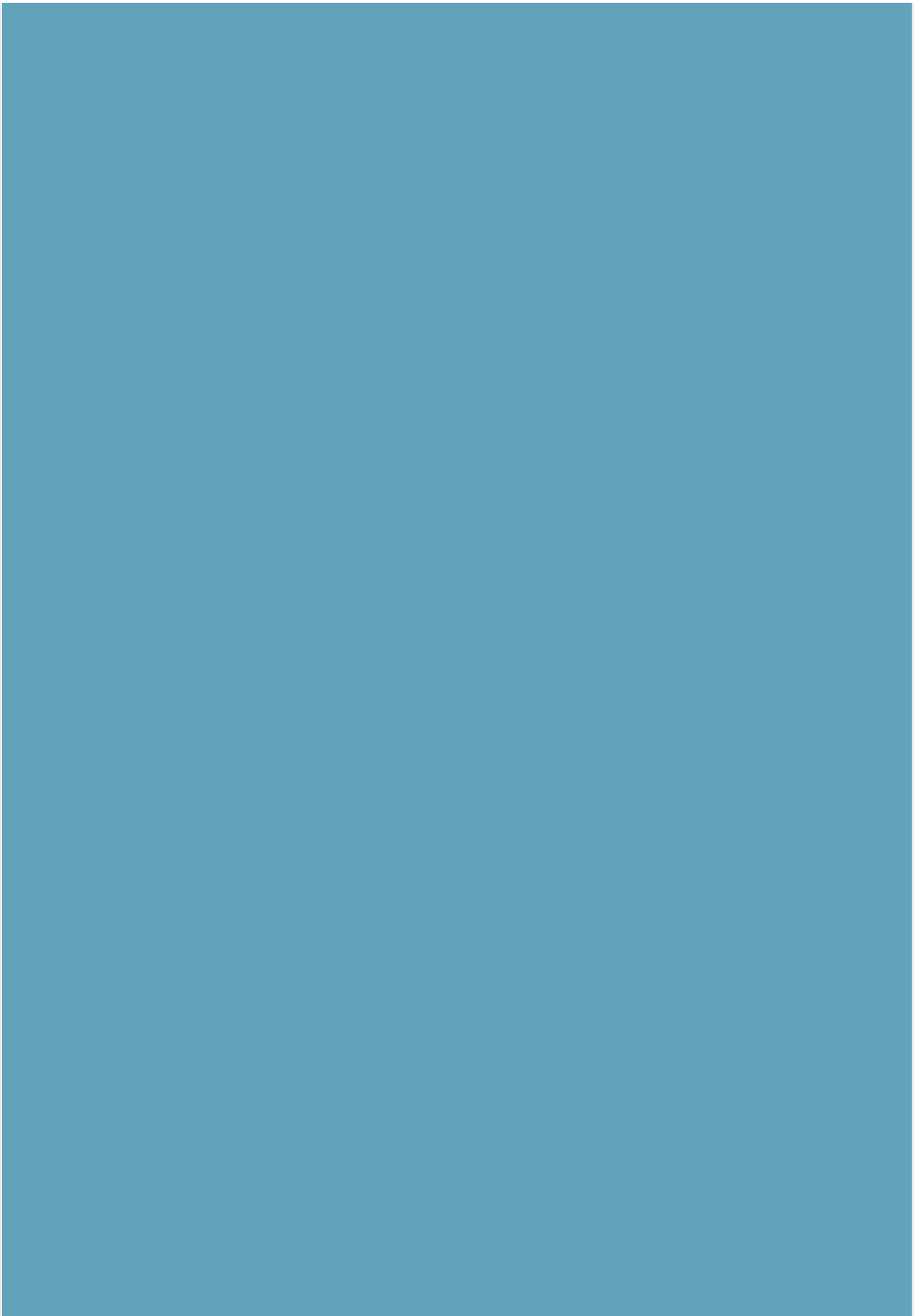
U.S., Lethal Operations against Al-Qa'ida Leaders [24]

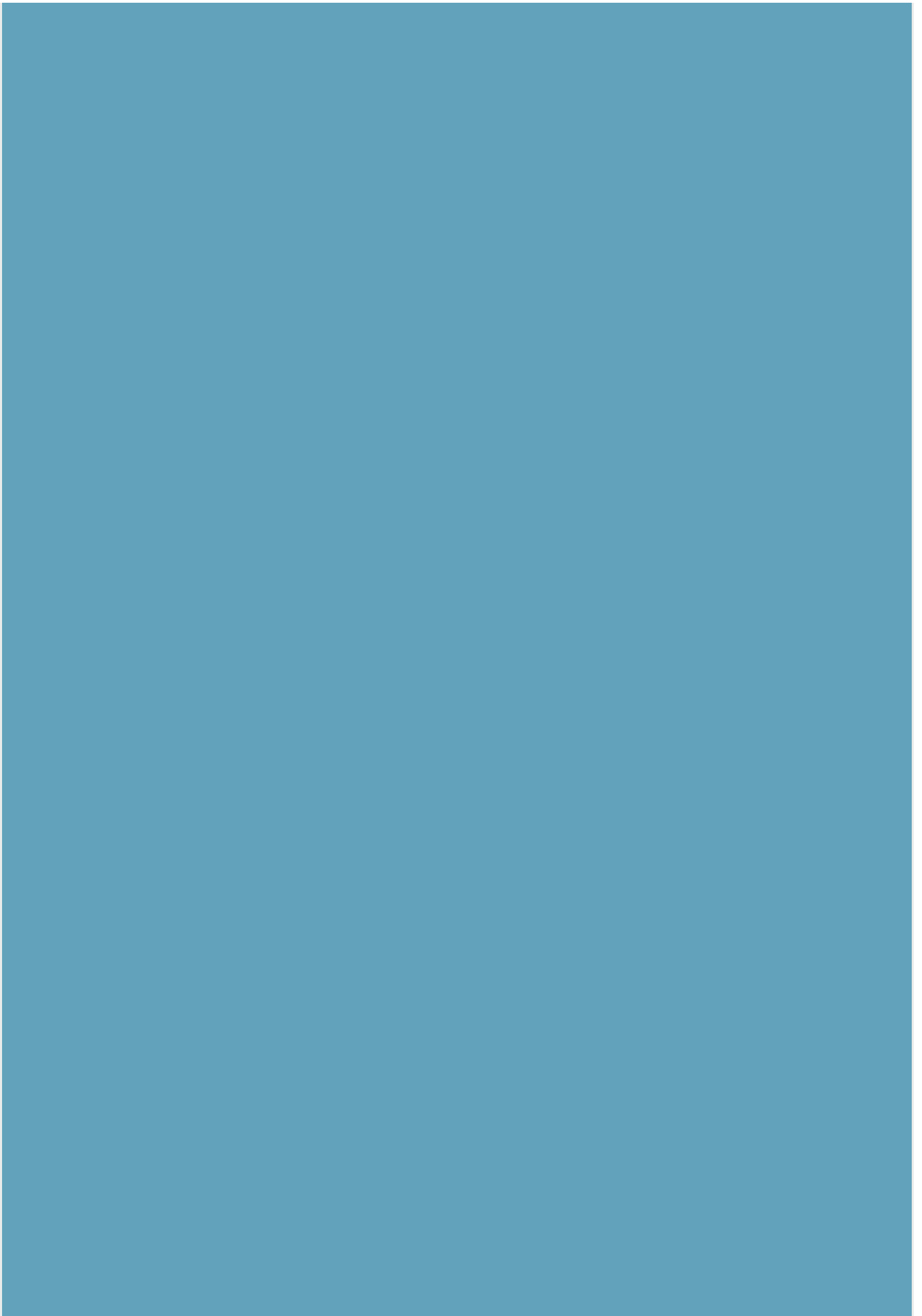
United States, Jurisprudence Related to the Bombing of the U.S.S. Cole [25]

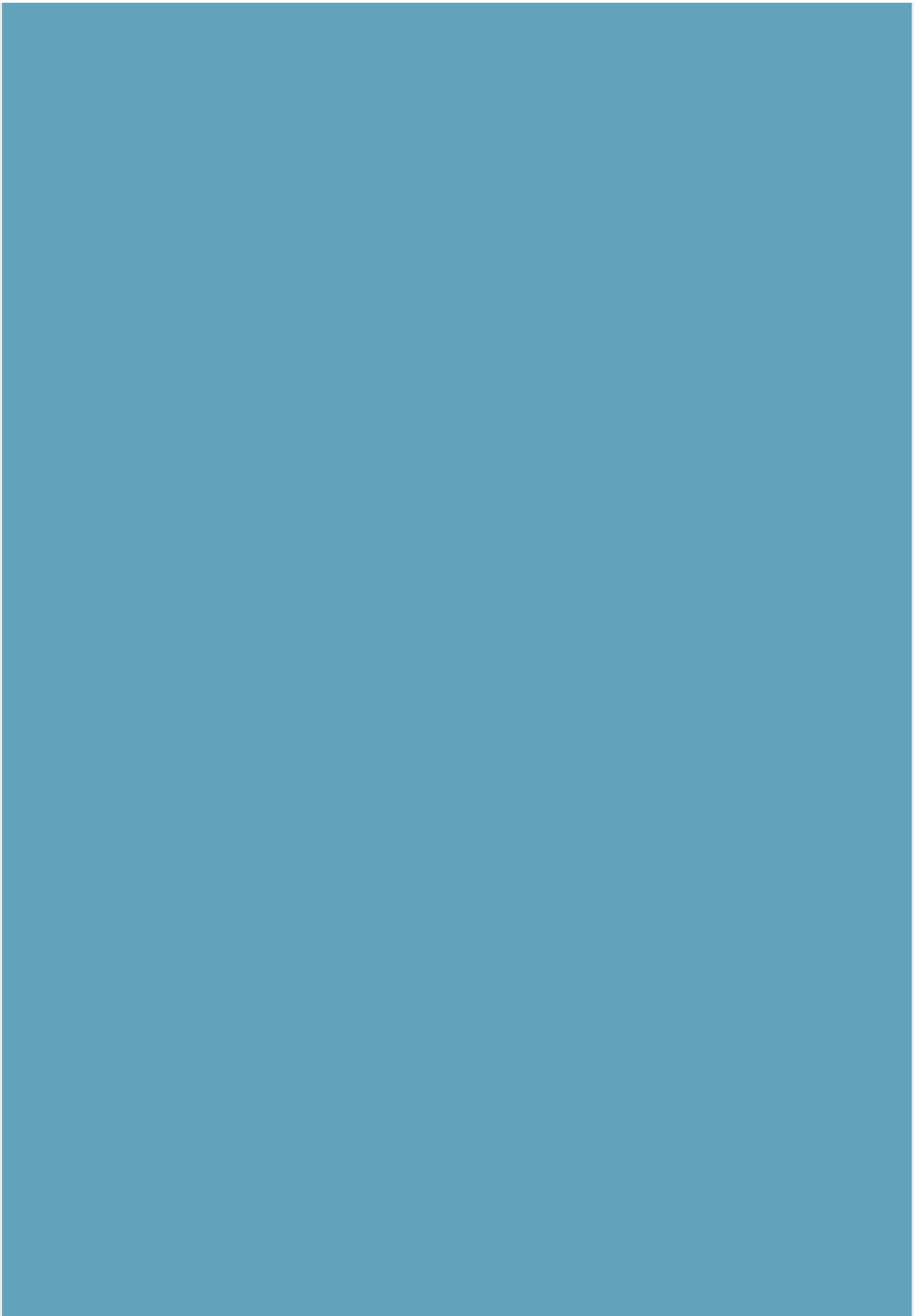
USA, Guantánamo, End of "Active Hostilities" in Afghanistan [26]

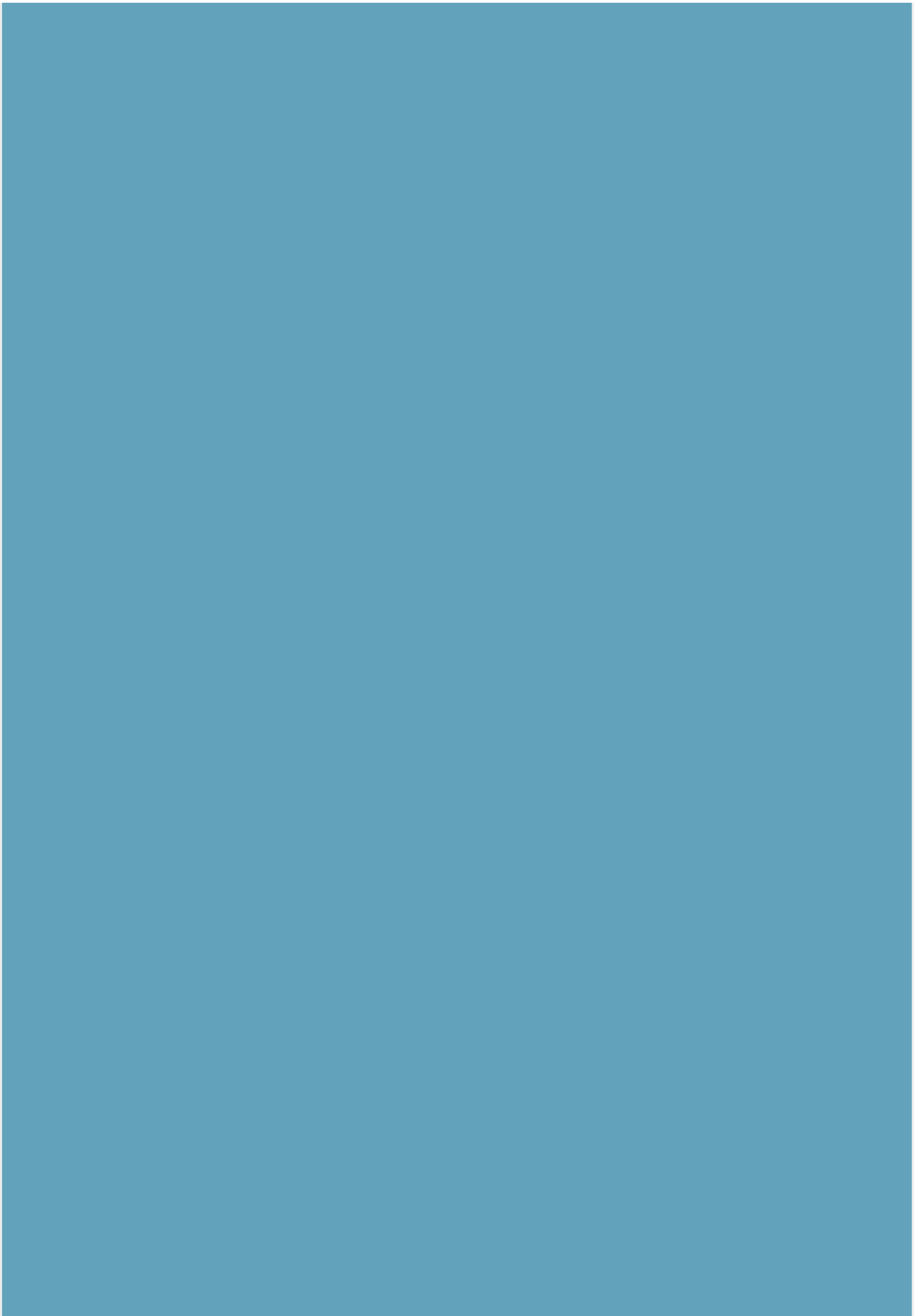
USA, Jawad v. Gates [27]

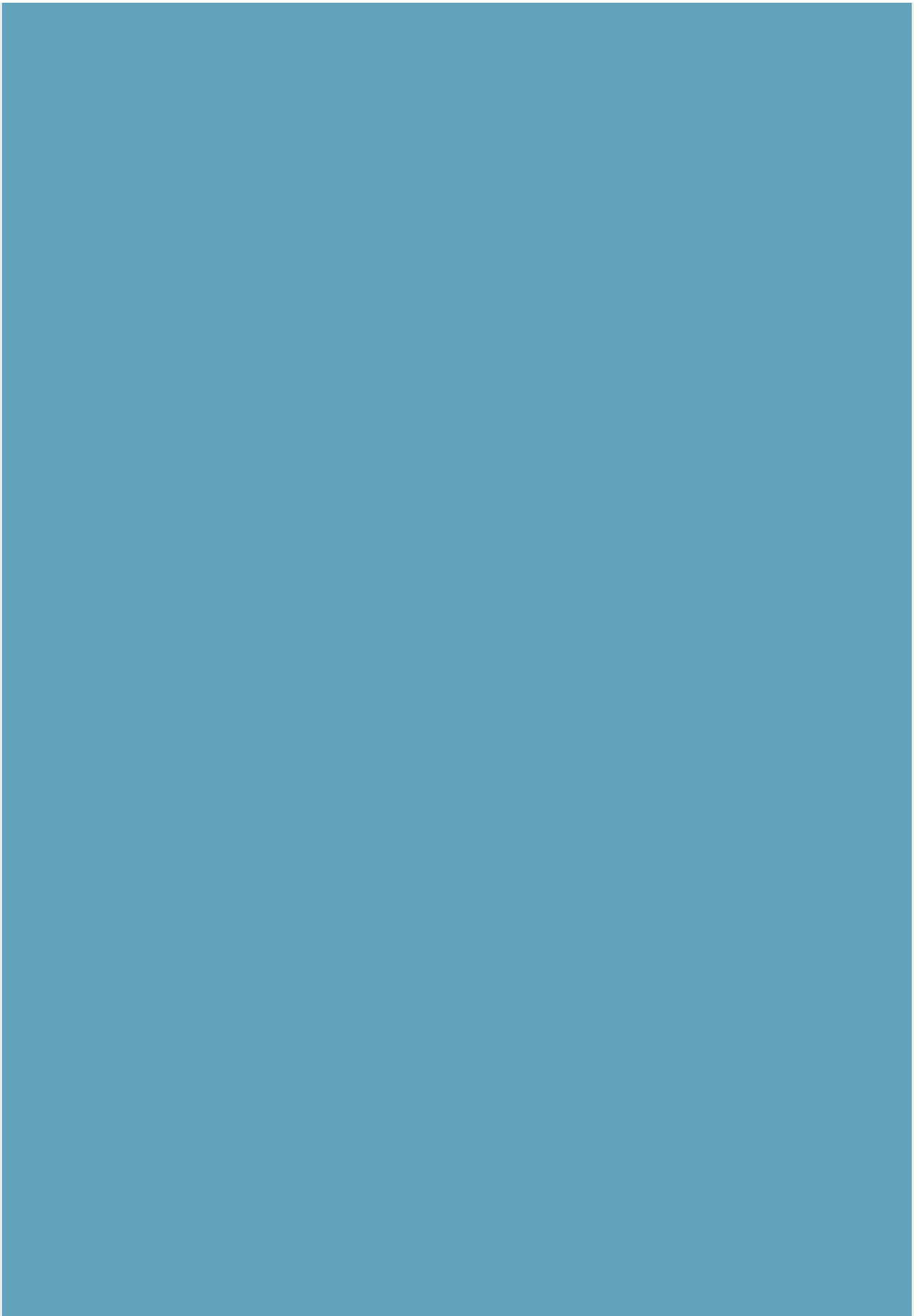
BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES













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Links

- [1] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/armed-groups>
- [2] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/status>
- [3] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/war-terror>
- [4] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/combatants>
- [5] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/civilians>
- [6] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/internment>
- [7] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/unprivileged-belligerent>
- [8] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/detention>
- [9] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/terrorism-and-terrorists>
- [10] https://casebook.icrc.org/law/fundamentals-ihl#b_iii_1_C_e
- [11] https://casebook.icrc.org/law/principle-distinction#vii_5
- [12] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/united-states-closure-guantanamo-detention-facilities>
- [13] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/united-states-treatment-and-interrogation-detention>
- [14] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/icrc-ihl-and-challenges-contemporary-armed-conflicts#chapter2>
- [15] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israel-targeted-killings-case#para_24
- [16] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israel-detention-unlawful-combatants>
- [17] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/united-states-status-and-treatment-detainees-held-guantanamo-naval-base>
- [18] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/united-states-presidents-military-order>
- [19] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/united-states-hamdan-v-rumsfeld>

[20] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/united-states-military-commissions>

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[24] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/us-lethal-operations-against-al-qaida-leaders>

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[26] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/usa-guantanamo-end-active-hostilities-afghanistan>

[27] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/usa-jawad-v-gates>