The States party to instruments of international humanitarian law are under the obligation to respect and ensure respect for the said law in all circumstances, and accordingly to disseminate [1] knowledge and repress breaches [2] and grave breaches [3] of it.

OUTLINE

Chapter 13, V. The obligation to ensure respect [4]

LEGAL SOURCE

respect and ensure respect

common 1 [5] (see ICRC updated Commentary [6])

DOCUMENTS

European Union Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law [7]

ICRC, Protection of War Victims [8]

UN, Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Violations of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law
### CASES

- **UN, Resolutions and Conference on Respect for the Fourth Convention** [12]
- **ICRC/Lebanon, Sabra and Chatila** [13]
- **ICRC, Iran/Iraq Memoranda** [14]
- **United States, The Schlesinger Report** [15]
- **ICJ, Democratic Republic of the Congo/Uganda, Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Paras. 246-250)** [16]
- **UN, Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit** [17]
- **ICRC, International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts in 2015** (Paras. 122-124, 274, 276, 278, 285) [18]
- **Syria, Report by UN Commission of Inquiry (March 2017)** [24]
- **Colombia Peace Agreement** [25]
- **United Kingdom, Arms Trade With Saudi Arabia** [26]
Eastern Ukraine, OHCHR Report on the Situation: November 2016 - February 2017 [27]

United States of America, Military Commissions Trial Judiciary, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba: United States of America v. Khalid Shaikh Mohammad et al. [28]

Central African Republic/Democratic Republic of Congo/Uganda, LRA attacks [29]

Central African Republic, Coup d'Etat [30]

South Sudan, Activities of Oil Companies [31]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:


LEVRAT Nicolas, “Les conséquences de l’engagement pris par les Hautes Parties contractantes de ‘faire respecter’ les conventions humanitaires”, in KALSHOVEN Frits & SANDOZ Yves (eds), Implementation of International Humanitarian Law


**Further readings:**


GASSER Hans-Peter, “Ensuring Respect for the Geneva Conventions and


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/respect-and-ensure-respect

**Links**

[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/dissemination


