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An attack of a nature to strike military objectives ^[1] and civilians ^[2] or civilian objects ^[3] without discrimination, i.e. an attack which

- a. is not directed at a specific military objective (or person);
- b. employs a method ^[4] or means of warfare ^[5] which cannot be directed at a specific military objective (or person); or
- c. employs a method or means of combat the effects of which cannot be limited as required by international humanitarian law.

Indiscriminate attacks are prohibited and include:

- a. an attack by bombardment ^[6], by any means or method which treats as a single military objective a number of clearly separated and distinct military objectives located in a city, town, village or other area containing similar concentration of civilians ^[2] or civilian objects;
- b. an attack which may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the tangible and direct military advantage ^[7] anticipated.

OUTLINE

Chapter 9, II. 6. c) indiscriminate attacks ^[8]

LEGAL SOURCE

General prohibition

CIHL, 11 ^[9]

attacks not directed at a specific military objective

PI, 51/4(a) ^[10]

CIHL, 12a ^[11]

use of weapons which cannot be directed at a specific military objective

PI, 51/4(b) ^[10]

CIHL, 12b ^[11]

treating different military objectives as a single military objective

PI, 51/5(a) ^[10]

CIHL, 13 ^[12]

principle of proportionality (See also Proportionality ^[13])

PI, 51/5(b) ^[10]

CIHL, 14 ^[14]

CASES

ICRC, The Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts ^[15]

ICJ, Nuclear Weapons Advisory Opinion ^[16] (Para. 43 ^[16])

Israel, Operation Cast Lead ^[17] (Part II, paras 120-126 ^[18], 230-232 ^[19], 365-392 ^[20])

Israel, The Targeted Killings Case ^[21] (Paras 40-46 ^[21])

Israel, Human Rights Committee's Report on Beit Hanoun ^[22] (Para. 34, 38-42 ^[22])

Israel/Lebanon/Hezbollah, Conflict in 2006 ^[23] (Part I, ^[24] Paras. 116-117 ^[25], 140-148 ^[26])

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Iraq, Use of Force by United States Forces in Occupied Iraq ^[32]

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ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Kupreskić et al. ^[38] (Para. 526 ^[38])

ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Galić ^[39] (Part A, paras 57-61 ^[40] and 372-387 ^[41])

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, NATO Intervention ^[42] (Part A., paras 4, 18-19 ^[43] and Part B., paras 75-78 ^[44])

Afghanistan, Drug Dealers as Legitimate Targets ^[45]

Afghanistan, Goatherd Saved from Attack ^[46]

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ECHR, Isayeva v. Russia ^[49]

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Iran, Victim of Cyber warfare ^[56]

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Autonomous Weapon Systems ^[59]

Libya, NATO Intervention 2011 ^[60]

ICRC, International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts in 2015 ^[61] (paras 245 ^[62], 255 ^[63], 256 ^[64], 261 ^[65], 291-292 ^[66])

Israel/Palestine, Operation Protective Edge (Gaza, 13 June - 26 August 2014) ^[67]

Syria, Report by UN Commission of Inquiry (March 2017) ^[68]

Syria, the Battle for Aleppo ^[69]

ICRC, Statement - War in Cities ; What is at Stake? ^[70]

Eastern Ukraine, OHCHR Report on the Situation: November 2016 - February 2017 ^[71]

Libya, Use of cluster bombs ^[72]

Kenya, Civilian Carnage ^[73]

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[8] https://casebook.icrc.org/law/conduct-hostilities#ii_6_c

[9] https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule11

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