The term “human shields” describes a method of warfare prohibited by IHL where the presence of civilians or the movement of the civilian population, whether voluntary or involuntary, is used in order to shield military objectives from attack, or to shield, favor or impede military operations.

See Methods of warfare; Civilians, Civilian population, Military objectives; Attacks;


Israel, Human Rights Committee’s Report on Beit Hanoun (Para. 34) [12]

Israel/Lebanon/Hezbollah, Conflict in 2006 [13] (Part II [14], Paras. 6-11 [15])

Iran/Iraq, UN Security Council Assessing Violations of International Humanitarian Law [16] (Parts C. and D. [16])

United States/United Kingdom, Report on the Conduct of the Persian Gulf War [17]

Sri Lanka, Conflict in the Vanni [18] (Paras. 3-9 [18])

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Conflict in the Kivus [19] (Part III, paras 24-26 [19])

ECHR, Isayeva v. Russia [20] (Paras. 15 [21], 23 [22], 25-26 [23], 69-70 [24])


Somalia, the fate of Children in the conflict [26]

Israel/Palestine, Operation Protective Edge [27] (Gaza, 13 June - 26 August 2014 [27])
ICRC, Statement - War in Cities; What is at Stake? [28]

Iraq, The Battle for Mosul [29]

“Great March of Return” Demonstrations and Israel’s Military Response [30]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:


SASSÒLI Marco, “Human Shields and International Humanitarian Law”, in Frieden in Freiheit = Peace in Liberty = Paix en liberté, Festschrift für Michael Bothe zum 70 Geburtstag


Further readings:


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/human-shields

**Links**
[8] https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule97
[22] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/echr-isayeva-v-russia#para_23