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The term “human shields” describes a method of warfare ^[1] prohibited by IHL where the presence of civilians ^[2] or the movement of the civilian population ^[3], whether voluntary or involuntary, is used in order to shield military objectives ^[4] from attack ^[5], or to shield, favor or impede military operations.

See **Methods of warfare** ^[1]; **Civilians** ^[2], **Civilian population** ^[3], **Military objectives** ^[4]; **Attacks** ^[5];

OUTLINE

Chapter 9, II. 8. The civilian population is not to be used to shield military objectives ^[6]

LEGAL SOURCES

PI, 51/7 ^[7]

CIHL, 97 ^[8]

CASES

Israel/Gaza, Operation Cast Lead ^[9] (Part I, ^[9] Paras. 151-169 ^[9]; Part II, Paras. 439-498 ^[10])

Israel, The Targeted Killings case ^[11]

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])

Georgia/Russia, Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in South Ossetia ^[25] (Paras. 79-82 ^[25])

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]

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, Baden-Baden, Nomos, 2008, pp. 567-578.

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SCHMITT Michael N., "Human Shields in International Humanitarian Law", *IYHR*, Vol. 38, 2008, pp. 17-58.

Further readings:

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[6] https://casebook.icrc.org/law/conduct-hostilities#ii_8

[7]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=CC531267D4833340C12563CD0>

[8] https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule97

[9] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israelgaza-operation-cast-lead#part_i_para_151

[10] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israelgaza-operation-cast-lead#part_ii_para_439

[11] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israel-targeted-killings-case>

[12] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israel-human-rights-committees-report-beit-hanoun#para_34

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[16] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/iraniraq-un-security-council-assessing-violations-international-humanitarian-law#part_c

[17] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/united-statesunited-kingdom-report-conduct-persian-gulf-war>

[18] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/sri-lanka-conflict-vanni#para_3

[19] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/democratic-republic-congo-conflict-kivus#part_iii_para_24

[20] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/echr-isayeva-v-russia>

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[24] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/echr-isayeva-v-russia#para_69

[25] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/georgiarussia-independent-international-fact-finding-mission-conflict-south-ossetia#para_79

[26] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/somalia-fate-children-conflict>

[27] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israelpalestine-operation-protective-edge-gaza-13-june-26-august-2014>

[28] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/icrc-statement-war-cities-what-stake>

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