Not all violations of the laws of war are sanctioned in the same manner. The Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I identify a limited set of violations – the grave breaches – which are particularly serious violations that give rise to specific obligations of repression for States. Grave breaches must be prosecuted by High Contracting Parties on the basis of the principle of universal jurisdiction. Together with other serious violations of IHL, grave breaches constitute war crimes.

See War Crime, Individual Criminal Responsibility; Universal Jurisdiction; Breach, Violations; Genocide; Crimes Against Humanity; International Criminal Court; ICTY; ICTR; International criminal law; Individual criminal responsibility;

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**Further reading:**


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**Links**

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