The environment is considered the physical, chemical and biological conditions that make possible and are propitious to the life of living creatures. It is prohibited to use methods or means of warfare which are intended or may be expected to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment and thereby to prejudice the health or survival of the population. Attacks against the natural environment by way of reprisals are also prohibited.

**OUTLINE**

Chapter 9. II. 9. Protected objects, c) the natural environment

Chapter 9. II. 9. Protected objects

**LEGAL SOURCES**

protection against widespread, long-term and severe

PI, 35/3 and 55
prohibition of reprisals

PI, 55 [8]

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ICRC, Protection of War Victims [12] (Para. 3.1.1 [13])

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ICRC’s Approach to Contemporary Security Challenges [16]

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ICJ, Nuclear Weapons Advisory Opinion [18] (Paras. 30 and 33 [19])


Iran/Iraq, UN Security Council Assessing Violations of International Humanitarian Law
United States, Status and Treatment of Detainees Held in Guantanamo Naval Base [23]


Iran, Victim of Cyber warfare [25]

Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory, Occupation and Natural Resources [26]

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES**

**Suggested reading:**


BOUVIER Antoine, “Protection of the Natural Environment in Time of Armed


**Further reading:**


MARAUHN Thilo, “Environmental Damage in Times of Armed Conflict – Not


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/environment

**Links**
