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 [1] or means of warfare [2] 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 [3] against the natural environment by way of reprisals [4] are also prohibited.
prohibition of reprisals

PI, 55 [8]

DOCUMENT

ENMOD [11]

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

ICRC, Sixtieth Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions [14]

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The Environment and IHL [15]

ICRC’s Approach to Contemporary Security Challenges [16]

ICRC, The Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts [17]

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

United States, The September 11 2001 Attacks

Iran, Victim of Cyber warfare

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested reading:


Further reading:


BOSTIAN Ida L., “The Environmental Consequences of the Kosovo Conflict and the NATO Bombing of Serbia”, in Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy


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

**Links**