The mortal remains [1] of persons killed in action or who have died of wounds or disease contracted during hostilities must be respected, as must the mortal remains [1] of persons who have died in captivity, internment [2] or detention [3] as a result of occupation [4] of a territory. International law prescribes rules for the respect and marking of graves [5] and the steps to be taken for such purposes at the end of hostilities.

See Missing persons [6];

OUTLINE


LEGAL SOURCE

examination confirming death

GCI, 17/1 [8] (see ICRC updated Commentary [9])

GCII, 20 [10] (see ICRC updated Commentary [11])

GCIII, 120/3 [12]
GCIV, 129/2 [13]

obligation to search and identify dead bodies and notify of deaths

HR, 14 [14], 19 [15]

GCI, 15 [16] (see ICRC updated Commentary [17]), 16 [18] (see ICRC updated Commentary [19]), 17 [8] (see ICRC updated Commentary [9])

GCI, 18/1 [20] (see ICRC updated Commentary [21]), 19 [22] (see ICRC updated Commentary [23])

GCIII, 120/3 [12]

GCIV, 16/2 [24], 129/2 [13]

PI, 33 [25]

PII, 8 [26]

CIHL, 112 [27], 116 [28]

last wills, documents, personal effects and valuables

HR, 19 [15]

GCI, 16/3 [18] (see ICRC updated Commentary [19])
GCII, 19/3 [29] (see ICRC updated Commentary [23])

GCIII, 120/1 [12], 122/9 [30]

GCIV, 113 [31], 129/1 [13], 139 [32]

PI, 34/2(c) [33]

CIHL, 114 [34]

**respect for mortal remains**

GCI, 15/1 [35] (see ICRC updated Commentary [17])

GCII, 18/1 [36] (see ICRC updated Commentary [21])

GCIV, 16/2 [24]

PI, 34/1 [33]

PII, 8 [26]

CIHL, 113 [37]

**decent burial**

GCI, 17 [38] (see ICRC updated Commentary [9])
agreements on the return of remains

PI, 34/1 [33]

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