In an international armed conflict, protected civilians may be interned [1], i.e., subjected to non-criminal detention [2] based on the serious threat that their activity poses to the security of the detaining authority [3]. Therefore, internment is a security measure, and cannot be used as a form of punishment. This means that each interned person must be released as soon as the reasons which necessitated his/her internment no longer exist. Furthermore, the decision to intern is to be made on an individual basis, and entire groups of civilians may not be collectively interned.

The Fourth 1949 Geneva Convention provides extensive protection for civilian internees during international armed conflicts.

See Internment [1]; Assigned Residence [4]; Detainees [5]; Detention [2]; Protected Persons [6];
decision of internment: individual administration decision

reasons for internment: imperative security reasons; not punishment

treatment of civil internees
CIHL, 119

CIHL, 120

CIHL, 121

CIHL, 122

CIHL, 123

CIHL, 125

CIHL, 126

CIHL, 127

Women internees

PI, 76

Children internees

PI, 77/4

release of civil internees

GCIV, 132
Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the Former Yugoslavia (18 and 21)

United Kingdom, The Case of Serdar Mohammed (High Court Judgment)

ECHR, Al-Jedda v. UK

ECHR, Hassan v. UK

ECHR, Al-Skeini et al. v. UK

United Kingdom, The Case of Serdar Mohammed (Court of Appeal and Supreme Court Judgments)

USA, Al-Shimari v. CACI Premier Technology, Inc.

USA, Jawad v. Gates

Syria, Syrian rebels treat captured Filipino soldiers as ‘guests’

ECCC, Detention Sites in Cambodia

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/civilian-internees

Links
[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/internment
[8] https://casebook.icrc.org/law/civilian-population#ii_3_b_gg
[10] https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&amp;documentId=CD09FF06E39FC75AC12563CD0051BD1A
[13] https://ihl-