In international law, “attacks” are acts of violence against the adversary, whether in offence or defence and in whatever territory conducted.

This definition applies to

a. any act of land, air or sea warfare which may affect the civilian population or civilian objects on land;
   b. all attacks from the sea or the air against objectives on land.

Attacks on the civilian population as such, acts of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population, and indiscriminate attacks on specified categories of places and civilian objects are prohibited. Precautions must be taken in preparing and carrying out attacks and against the effects of attacks.

**LEGAL SOURCE**

PI, 49/1

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Belgium, Prosecution of Terrorist Crimes in the context of Armed Conflict [19]

Iraq, The Battle for Mosul [20]

Eastern Ukraine, Attacks Against and Military Use of Schools [21]

Eastern Ukraine, OHCHR Report on the Situation: November 2016 - February 2017 [22]

Central African Republic, No Class: When Armed Groups Use Schools [23]

Kenya, Civilian Carnage [24]
Precautions against the effect of attacks

See Precautions in attack [7];

Prohibited attacks against the civilian population or intended to spread terror among the civilian population

See also Civilian population [3]; Terror [5];
PI, 51/2 [26]

CIHL, 2 [27]

**DOCUMENT**

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ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Galic [36] (Paras. 16-137 [37] and 561 [38])


Iran, Victim of Cyber warfare [43]

**Against civilian objects**

See also Civilian objects [4];
Chapter 9, b) attacks against civilian objects

LEGAL SOURCE

PI, 52/1

CIHL, 10

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Against the civilian population by way of reprisals

See Reprisals;

Indiscriminate attacks
See Indiscriminate attack [6];

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CIHL, 11 [53]

CASE

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Iran, Victim of Cyber warfare [43]

Against non defended localities

See Non-defended localities [55];

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