Any object which is not a military objective\footnote{1}.

A civilian object must not be attacked unless it is used in a way that renders it a military objective\footnote{1}. It may not be the target of reprisals\footnote{2}.

In case of doubt whether an object which is normally a civilian object (e.g., a place of worship, a house or other dwellings, a school) is a military objective\footnote{1}, it must be considered as a civilian object.

See Property\footnote{3}; Cultural property\footnote{4}; Environment\footnote{5}; Water\footnote{6};
Protection: general (+ principle of distinction)

HR, 23(g) [10], 25 [11], 26 [12], 27 [13], 28 [14], 46 [15], 47 [16], 52 [17], 53 [18], 54 [19]

GCIV, 33 [20], 46 [21], 53 [22]

PI, 48 [23], 51 [24], 52 [8], 57 [25]

CIHL, 7 [26], 8 [27], 9 [9], 10 [28]

Protection: precautionary measures (See also Precautions against the effects of attacks [29]; Precautions in attack [30])

HR, 26 [12]-27 [13]

PI, 48 [31], 51 [24], 56-58 [32]

Protection: prohibition of confiscation

HR, 46/2 [15]

CIHL, 51(a) and (c) [33]

Protection: prohibition of destruction and seizure unless required by military necessity (See also Property [3]; Seizure [34])

HR, 23(g) [10]
Protection: against direct attack

HR, 25 [37], 27 [38]

PI, 52/1 [39], 56 [32], 59-60 [40]

CIHL, 7 [26] and 10 [28]

Protection: prohibition of indiscriminate attacks (See also Indiscriminate attacks [41])

PI, 52/4-5 [39]

Protection: prohibition of pillage (See also Pillage [42])

HR, 28 [43]

GCI, 15/1 [44] (see ICRC updated Commentary [45])

GCII, 18/1 [46] (see ICRC updated Commentary [47])
Protection: presumption of civilian character

PI, 52/3 [39]

Protection: prohibition of reprisals (See also Reprisals [2])

GCIV, 33 [20]

PI, 52/1 [8]

Grave breach (See also Grave breaches [51])

GCIV, 147 [52]

PI, 85 [53]

specially protected objects

   cultural objects (See Cultural objects [4])

   indispensable for the survival of the civilian population (See Objects indispensable for the survival of the civilian population [54])
works and installations containing dangerous forces (See Works and installations containing dangerous forces [55])

CASES

Israel, House Demolitions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory [56] [Parts D [57] and E [58]]

Iran/Iraq, UN Security Council Assessing Violations of International Humanitarian Law [59]

ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Rajic [Part A., paras 39 and 42] [60]

ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Strugar [Part B., para. 282] [61]

Croatia, Prosecutor v. Rajko Radulovic and Others [62]

Afghanistan, Operation “Enduring Freedom” [Part B.] [63]

Afghanistan, Code of Conduct for the Mujahideen [64] [Arts 19-21, [65] 23-25 [66], 52-53-58 [67]]

Georgia/Russia, Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in South Ossetia [68] [Paras 37-47 [69], 94-109 [70]]

Cambodia/Thailand, Border Conflict around the Temple of Preah Vihear [71]
Mali, Destruction of World Cultural Heritage [72]

Iran, Victim of Cyber warfare [73]

The armed conflict in Syria [74]

Libya, NATO Intervention 2011 [75]

Libya, Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2014/15) [76]

Mali, Accountability for the Destruction of Cultural Heritage [77]

Iraq, Forced displacement and deliberate destruction [78]

Iraq: Situation of Internally Displaced Persons [79]

Syria, Report by UN Commission of Inquiry (March 2017) [80]

Afghanistan, Bombing of a Civilian Truck [81]

Syria, the Battle for Aleppo [82]

ICRC, Statement - War in Cities ; What is at Stake? [83]

Iraq, The Battle for Mosul [84]
Eastern Ukraine, Attacks Against and Military Use of Schools [85]

Eastern Ukraine, OHCHR Report on the Situation: November 2016 - February 2017 [86]

South Sudan, Attack in Malakal UN Protection Site [87]

Central African Republic/Democratic Republic of Congo/Uganda, LRA attacks [88]

Central African Republic, Coup d'Etat [89]

Central African Republic, No Class: When Armed Groups Use Schools [90]

Somalia, IHL violations in Somalia's long-running armed conflict [91]

South Sudan, Activities of Oil Companies [92]

Somalia/Kenya, Al-Shabab Attacks [93]

Somalia/US, Airstrikes in Somalia [94]

Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory, Occupation and Natural Resources [95]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:

GEHRING Robert W., “Protection of Civilian Infrastructures”, in Law and Contemporary Problems


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

Links