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definition

Civilian person

“Civilian” means, in an international armed conflict, any person who does not belong to the armed forces ^[1] and does not take part in a “levée en masse ^[2]”.

In case of doubt whether a person is a civilian or not, that person must be considered to be a civilian.

“Civilian ^[3]” means, in a non-international armed conflict, all persons who are neither members of state armed forces nor members of an organized armed group ^[4].

Civilian population

The civilian population is made up of civilian persons. In international armed conflicts, the presence within the civilian population of individuals who do not come within the definition of civilians does not deprive the population of its civilian character. Appropriate rules protect the whole population of a party to a conflict without any adverse distinction. Both in international ^[5] and non-international armed conflicts ^[6], the civilian population enjoys general protection against the dangers of military operations.

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