



Global Coalition to **Protect**
Education from Attack



Protecting Schools from Military Use: 2021

LAW, POLICY, AND MILITARY DOCTRINE

October 2021



Global Coalition to **Protect** **Education from Attack**

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INTRODUCTION

This report collects recent and historic examples of laws, court decisions, military orders, policies, and practice by governments, armed forces, non-state armed groups, and courts aimed at protecting schools and universities from use for military purposes.

The examples in this report should encourage more governments and non-state groups to adopt their own concrete measures to protect students, educators, and the institutions in which they study.

Since 2014, the military use of schools or universities has been documented in at least 30 countries with armed conflict or insecurity, according to our research. That number represents the majority of countries experiencing armed conflict during the past decade. Examples can be found in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. The military use of schools is therefore a global problem, needing international attention and response. Schools and universities have been taken over either partially or entirely to be converted into military bases and barracks; used as detention and interrogation facilities; for training fighters; and to store or hide weapons and ammunition.

Our research has documented how the use of schools for military purposes endangers students' and teachers' safety, and can interfere with students' right to education.

Protections for education from military interference date back at least to Roman times when Emperor Constantine proclaimed that all professors of literature must be free from the obligation to accommodate or quarter soldiers in order that “they may more easily train many persons in the liberal arts.” For more on historical protections, see chapter 3.

1935: The Roerich Pact between various countries in the Americas states that educational institutions “shall be considered as neutral and as such respected and protected by belligerents.”

1948: The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, consisting of 30 articles, including that “everyone has the right to an education.” In the following decades, various international and regional treaties and declarations repeat and elaborate on this core right.

1949: The Fourth Geneva Convention lays out protections for civilians during armed conflict, including that an occupying power—a military force controlling the territory of another country—“shall, with the cooperation of the national and local authorities, facilitate the proper working of all institutions devoted to the care and education of children.” The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which promotes respect for international humanitarian law and its implementation in national law, has elaborated that this requirement is “very general in scope,” and that occupying authorities “are bound not only to avoid interfering with [the] activities [of schools], but also to support them actively... The Occupying Power must therefore refrain from requisitioning staff, premises or equipment which are being used by such establishments.”

1977: The two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions outline further protections for children, schools, and education, including recognizing that receiving an education is a “fundamental guarantee” for children, even in situations of non-international armed conflict.

In 2009, the issue of the military use of schools began to garner international attention. Early that year, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child—the international body of experts that oversees implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child—recommended that parties to the treaty “fulfill their obligation therein to ensure schools as zones of peace and places where intellectual curiosity and respect for universal human rights is fostered; and to ensure that schools are protected from military attacks or seizure by militants; or used as centres for recruitment.”

Later in that year, Mexico, acting as president of the UN Security Council, noted the council “urges parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children’s access to education, in particular ... the use of schools for military operations.”

Since then, both the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Security Council, increasingly joined by other international and regional bodies, have continued to elaborate protections that should be provided to protect children’s safety and students’ right to education from the potential negative consequences of military use of schools.

In 2012, in response to this increased interest, a coalition of UN agencies and civil society organizations initiated consultations with experts from the ministries of foreign affairs, education, defense, as well as the armed forces of countries from various world regions, to develop guidelines directed at both government armed forces and non-state armed groups on how to avoid using schools and mitigate the negative consequences of such use. In 2014, the government of Norway took over the global consultation on these guidelines, and in December 2014 oversaw the release of the finalized *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*.

In early 2015, the governments of Norway and Argentina led a consultative process that resulted in the Safe Schools Declaration, a political commitment by countries to do more to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities during armed conflict, including through use of the *Guidelines* to refrain from using schools and universities for military purposes. As of October 1, 2021, 112 countries had endorsed the declaration.

In June 2015, the month following the launch of the Safe Schools Declaration, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2225, which expressed “deep concern that the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering the safety of children.” The Security Council encouraged all member states “to take concrete measures to deter such use of schools by armed forces and armed groups.”

See chapter 1 for more information on international law and standards protecting schools from military use.

In addition to laws and standards at the international level, many individual countries have also adopted their own laws and policies to protect schools and universities from military use. Indeed, protections for schools are likely to be most effectively guaranteed when they are explicitly enumerated domestically. Chapter 2 contains examples of legislation, military orders, jurisprudence, municipal ordinances, and other statements of doctrine and policy from around the world, including from armed non-state actors.

Most of these examples of domestic laws and policies fall within five linking themes, although some countries fall into multiple categories:

- 1 Many countries that have experienced the military use of schools, or countries that have deployed their armed forces to conflict zones, have created new policies in response to these experiences.
- 2 At least eight countries—Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, and Sudan—have included commitments to refrain from all military use of schools as part of ceasefire or peace agreements between parties to armed conflict.
- 3 A number of countries, particularly in Latin America, have laws making university campuses immune from action by government security forces: national police and military units cannot enter the grounds without the university rector’s authorization. Such laws draw from traditions to value universities’ autonomy or independence from the state.

- 4 At least seven countries—Bangladesh, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, and Sri Lanka—have laws modeled on the Manoeuvres Act enacted by the British parliament in 1897 regulating the conducting of military manoeuvres and excluding certain areas, such as schools, from encampments or other related interferences. The UK law (and its subsequent updates) did not define what constitutes a military manoeuvre. In 1991, during the Gulf War, the then-UK minister of state for the armed forces broadly defined the term as “the strategic or tactical movement of a military force.” A fair reading of the term might also suggest that it refers to military training exercises, involving a degree of simulation, sometimes popularly referred to as “war games.” Even with this limited definition, such laws are still relevant to protecting schools from military use in light of the adage that soldiers should “fight like they train.”
- 5 Since 2009, and hand-in-hand with increased international awareness of the problems created by the military use of schools and universities, and the drafting of the Safe Schools Declaration in 2015, there has been more consideration of the issue of protecting schools from military use in some domestic contexts. States have begun to incorporate the Safe Schools Declaration’s guidance into their trainings, military manuals, orders, and legislation. For example, in 2020, the Central African Republic made the occupation of schools a criminal offense on the same terms as an attack on a school. Further domestic examples are expected in the coming years.

Disclaimer: The inclusion of a law or policy in this collection does not reflect any assessment by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack as to whether the relevant country or entity has adhered to its own doctrine. Instead, the examples aim to encourage greater awareness that alternatives to military use of schools have been considered both feasible and necessary, and to ease greater monitoring for their enforcement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All Countries Should:

Endorse the Safe Schools Declaration, and thereby endorse and commit to use and bring into their domestic policy and operational frameworks the *Guidelines on Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*.

Take concrete measures to deter the use of schools by armed forces and non-state armed groups, including through the explicit regulation of military use of schools, using the *Guidelines on Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict* as a minimum standard.

I. INTERNATIONAL

Abidjan Principles

Guiding Principles on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education and to regulate private involvement in education, 2019

...Obligations Imposed by the Right to Education...

12. The right to education must be guaranteed even in times of public emergency and armed conflict...

14. Education, in all its forms and at all levels, must exhibit the following interrelated and essential features, which are all attributes of quality education:

- a. Availability. This requires inter alia:...
 - vi. safe, adequate, and maintained infrastructure;
 - vii. safe and protective learning environments...

Abidjan Principles on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education and to regulate private involvement in education, February 13, 2019, arts. 12 & 14.

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

General Comment, 2020

State Parties shall ensure that every child must have the right to an education. It is required of State Parties to ensure that they fulfil the obligation to provide for the right to education even in times of armed conflict or crisis situations. Article 22 of the [African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)] also refers to rules of IHL, and IHL contains a family of rules which aim to ensure that in situations of conflict, education can continue and students, educational personnel and educational facilities are protected. These include rules protecting education from attack, as well as rules requiring parties to the conflict to take steps to facilitate access to education...

The protection against the violation of this right extends against attacks on education institutions because schools and other educational facilities are presumed to be civilian objects and are thus protected against attack; like for all other civilian objects, protection may cease when educational institutions are turned into military objectives. Even in such case, all feasible precautions would have to be taken when attacking such military objective to avoid or at least minimize incidental harm to civilian students and educational personnel, facilities, and attacks expected to cause excessive incidental harm are prohibited...

The African Union's Peace and Security Council has urged all Member States to endorse the Safe Schools Declara-

tion, an inter-governmental political commitment aimed at strengthening the prevention of, and response to, attacks on education during armed conflict, including by: ... restricting the use of schools and universities for military purposes...

The use of schools and other education institutions by peacekeeping forces can be equally negative for children's right to education. For this reason, the African Union and other relevant African inter-governmental organizations that authorize peace support operations should adopt an explicit ban on the use of schools in their operations.

Attacks on education institutions has a disproportionately negative effect on girls, for example, if they are specifically targeted for sexual violence or abduction if they are displaced to a more distant school, if infrastructure such as toilets is destroyed or occupied or isn't appropriate to cater for their needs, or if they are perceived to be at risk of sexual and gender based violence or harassment from occupiers.

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, General Comment on Article 22 of the ACRWC, "Children in Situations of Armed Conflict," September 2020, paras. 72-78.

African Union

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981

Every individual shall have the right to education.

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (also known as the Banjul Charter), adopted by the eighteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity, June 1981, article 17(1).

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990

- 1) Every child shall have the right to an education...
- 3) States Parties to the present Charter shall take all appropriate measures with a view to achieving the full realisation of this right and shall in particular:
 - a provide free and compulsory basic education;
 - b encourage the development of secondary education in its different forms and to progressively make it free and accessible to all;
 - c make the higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity and ability by every appropriate means;
 - d take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates;
 - e take special measures in respect of female, gifted and disadvantaged children, to ensure equal access to education for all sections of the community.

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, adopted by the Organisation of African Unity in 1990, article 11.

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003

Article 12 - Right to Education and Training

- 1 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:
 - c) protect women, especially the girl-child from all forms of abuse, including sexual harassment in schools and other educational institutions and provide for sanctions against the perpetrators of such practices.

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003.

Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) 597th meeting, 2016

Council expressed deep concern over the continuing violations of children’s rights and violence perpetrated against children, including sexual violence, attacks against schools, as well as wanton destruction of educational infrastructure, not only during situations of armed conflicts, but also during times of peace...

Council noted with serious concern that despite African and global engagements towards the protection of children affected by armed conflict and the progress achieved to strengthen the existing legal frameworks, grave violations of children’s rights still continue in most African countries affected by conflicts. Council also noted with concern, the weak and slow implementation of existing AU and international legal instruments relating to protection of children’s rights. In this regard, Council underscored the need for all Member States to mainstream the protection of children, educational infrastructure and personnel in their public administration and management systems...

Council called on all Member States in conflict situations to comply with International Humanitarian law and to ensure that schools are not used for military purposes. In this context, Council welcomed the initiatives taken by some Member States to promote and protect the right of children to education and to facilitate the continuation of education in situations of armed conflicts. In this respect, Council commended the fifteen (15) AU Members States, namely, the Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and Zambia, which have already endorsed the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use During Armed Conflicts, also popularly known as the “Safe Schools Guidelines” and urged all the other AU Member States, which have not yet done so, to also endorse these Guidelines. In the same context, Council underscored the need to further strengthen the Guidelines in order to ensure that they are applicable to all situations and circumstances...

Press Statement on the Peace and Security Council of the African Union’s 597th meeting on May 10, 2016: “Children in Armed Conflicts in Africa with particular focus on protecting schools from attacks during armed conflict.”

Peace and Security Council of the African Union 615th meeting, 2016

Council, once again, called on all Member States in conflict situations to comply with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and to ensure that schools are not attacked and used for military purposes. In this context, Council welcomed the initiatives taken by some Member States to promote and protect the right of children to education and to facilitate the continuation of education even in situations of armed conflicts. Council further encouraged all Member States that have not yet done so, to sign the Safe Schools’ Declaration...

Press Statement on the Peace and Security Council of the African Union’s 615th meeting on August 9, 2016: “Education of Refugees and Displaced Children in Africa.”

Peace and Security Council of the African Union 692nd meeting, 2017

Council and participants stressed that keeping girls in schools is one of the most effective instruments to end child marriages. In this regard, they urged Member States to endorse and implement the Safe Schools Declaration...

Press Statement on the Peace and Security Council of the African Union’s 692nd meeting on June 13, 2017, dedicated to an Open Session on the theme: “Ending Child Marriages.”

Peace and Security Council of the African Union 706th meeting, 2017

Council and participants expressed their deep concern at the high number of out-of-school children in Africa, particularly in countries affected by armed conflict... In this respect they welcomed the number of initiatives that have been launched during the past decades to curb the trend, although challenges are still impeding efforts to fight against out of school children and the use of child soldiers in armed conflict in Africa, in line with the Safe Schools Declaration adopted at the Oslo Conference on Safe Schools that defined guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

Press Statement on the Peace and Security Council of the African Union's 706th meeting on July 26, 2017, on the theme: "Child Soldiers/Out of School Children in Armed Conflict in Africa."

Peace and Security Council of the African Union 859th meeting, 2019

Council welcomed multilateral efforts to enhance the protection of civilians and mitigate the impact of armed conflict on civilians and civilian objects in compliance with international humanitarian law, particularly through the development of voluntary guidelines and best practices, including, but not limited to ... the Safe Schools Declaration.

Press Statement on the Peace and Security Council of the African Union's 706th meeting on July 17, 2019, dedicated to an open session on the theme: "Protection of Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)."

Peace and Security Council of the African Union 965th meeting, 2020

The Peace and Security Council... Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council... strongly condemns the attacks on civilian populations and properties, particularly schools and health facilities which hinders the access of children to education and healthcare services; further strongly condemns the unlawful occupation of schools by armed actors and use of these school facilities for military purposes infringing on the provision of social needs and a healthy environment for children and the broader society...

Communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union's 965th meeting on November 19, 2020, on the "Protection of Children in Conflict Situations in Africa."

Doctrine on Peace Support Operations, 2021

The [African Union ("AU")] notes that children make up a sizeable majority of the population in conflict affected countries in Africa and that children face serious abuses and violations of their rights or international humanitarian law protecting them in the context of armed conflict... In this regard, AU [Peace Support Operations ("PSO")] must continuously take the necessary steps to protect children in the implementation of their mandates with a view to ensure full compliance with IHL, in particular to ensure that schools are not attacked and used for military purposes. Additionally, AU PSO are expected to guarantee the social and cultural rights of children refugees or IDPs, according to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

African Union Doctrine on Peace Support Operations, January 30, 2021, para. 74.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, 2012

Every person has the right to education.

ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, adopted November 2012, article 31(1).

Commission of Inquiry on Syria

Seventh Report, 2014

Children's right to education has been denied by the use of schools as military bases and training camps...

The commission of inquiry recommends that all parties... Respect and protect schools and hospitals, and maintain their civilian character.

Report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, Human Rights Council, February 12, 2014, A/HRC/25/65, para. 78 & 157.

Fifteenth Report, 2017

Education

13. As defined by General Comment No. 13 of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights. As an empowerment right, education is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and obtain the means to participate fully in their communities.”
14. The legal obligations of Governments concerning the right to education consist of: (i) the duties found in article 2.1 of the ICESCR; and (ii) the more specific obligations to recognise, respect, protect and fulfil this and other rights. The obligation to fulfil incorporates both an obligation to facilitate and an obligation to provide.
15. Moreover, under IHL, schools may only be the object of attack by warring parties when used for military purposes, and such attacks require prior warning when the school is located in a densely populated civilian area. [Citation to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Customary International Humanitarian Law, 2005, Volume I: Rules, at Rule 20.]

Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, “Special inquiry into the events in Aleppo,” A/HRC/34/64, March 1, 2017, annex I, paras. 13-15.

Conference Room Paper, 2020

71. Children’s access to education has been blatantly denied by parties to the conflict. In addition to schools being repeatedly damaged and destroyed, education facilities have been used for military purposes, including as depots, barracks or launching sites...

81. In numerous aerial and ground attacks, Government forces targeted schools and caused widespread destruction of educational establishments. While schools can lawfully be targeted when used for military purposes, any attack in densely populated civilian areas requires effective advance warning, unless the circumstances do not permit. As previously documented by the Commission, Government forces often failed to provide such warnings prior to conducting attacks...

95. In relation to attacks on education, the Commission recommends that:

- (a) all parties to the conflict immediately halt the targeting schools and educational facilities, and enforce special protection regulations granted to schools, education personnel and students. Moreover, the Commission urges the Government of Syria to endorse and implement the Safe School Declaration;
- (b) all parties to the conflict should immediately put an end to the military use of schools and return the infrastructure to educational authorities in place with the aim of assigning the infrastructure to the original purpose...

Conference Room Paper of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, “They have erased the dreams of my children”: children’s rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/43/CRP.6, January 13, 2020.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

General Comment 13: The Right to Education, 1999

There is a strong presumption of impermissibility of any retrogressive measures taken in relation to the right to education... If any deliberately retrogressive measures are taken, the State party has the burden of proving that they have been introduced after the most careful consideration of all alternatives and that they are fully justified by reference to the totality of the rights provided for in the Covenant and in the context of the full use of the State party’s maximum available resources.

The right to education, like all human rights, imposes three types or levels of obligations on States parties: the obligations to respect, protect and fulfill... The obligation to respect requires States parties to avoid measures

that hinder or prevent the enjoyment of the right to education. The obligation to protect requires States parties to take measures that prevent third parties from interfering with the enjoyment of the right to education. The obligation to fulfill (facilitate) requires States to take positive measures that enable and assist individuals and communities to enjoy the right to education. Finally, States parties have an obligation to fulfill (provide) the right to education...

States have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill each of the ‘essential features’ (availability, accessibility, acceptability, adaptability) of the right to education. By way of illustration, a State must respect the availability of education by not closing private schools; protect the accessibility of education by ensuring that third parties ... do not stop girls from going to school; [and] fulfill (facilitate) the acceptability of education by taking positive measures to ensure that education is ... of good quality for all...

General Comment No. 13: The right to education, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/1999/10, December 8, 1999, paras. 45-46, & 50.

Concluding Observations: Thailand, 2015

The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to ensure that the situation in the southern border provinces has no adverse effects on the enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Covenant. In particular, it should ensure that schools, teachers and medical personnel are adequately protected from attacks and that everyone has access to education...

Concluding observations on the combined initial and second periodic reports of Thailand, E/C.12/THA/CO/1-2, June 19, 2015, para. 34.

Concluding Observations: Pakistan, 2017

The Committee welcomes the inclusion of the right to education in Chapter 1 (fundamental rights) of the Constitution and notes the internal security challenges facing the State party, which has a significant adverse impact on children’s right to education. The Committee, is, however, concerned at ... the continuing terrorist attacks on students, teachers and schools and the use of schools by the military...

The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure that all children enjoy, without discrimination, the right to education, which will empower children, particularly those disadvantaged and marginalized, to lift themselves out of poverty and obtain the means to participate fully in their communities and national life. It also recommends that State party take all measures necessary to ... enhance security at schools; provide an alternative space for education in case of an attack; and immediately and completely ban the use of schools by military forces. The Committee invites the State to endorse the “Safe School Declaration”, and commit to using the “Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use in Armed Conflict.”

Concluding observations on the initial report of Pakistan, E/C.12/PAK/CO/1, June 23, 2017, paras. 79-80.

Concluding Observations: Central African Republic, 2018

The Committee welcomes the signing by the Central African Republic, on 23 July 2015, of the Safe Schools Declaration, which has acted as a strong incentive for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to safeguard access to schools by protecting them from armed groups...

While noting that the conflict has seriously affected the education system in the State party, the Committee is concerned at ... the looting, attacks and occupation of several schools and the murders of teachers by armed groups, which have led to the closure of schools for security reasons...

The Committee recommends that the State party give priority to education and the rehabilitation of the educational system in its peace and reconciliation initiatives. It recommends in particular that the State party take the necessary measures to ... Protect schools against looting and occupation by armed groups, rehabilitate them, and investigate, prosecute and, where necessary, convict those responsible.

Concluding observations concerning the initial report of the Central African Republic, E/C.12/CAF/CO/1, May 4, 2018, paras. 5 & 39-40.

Concluding Observations: Israel, 2019

The Committee recommends that the State party: ... (b) Place limits on Israeli security forces entering school facilities and carrying out searches to the extent strictly required, paying particular attention to the need to ensure a safe and protected learning environment for Palestinian students; (c) Take effective measures to ensure the unhindered and safe access of students and teachers to schools without harassment or threats, investigate and punish acts of harassment and intimidation by Israeli settlers and security forces, and prosecute those responsible; (d) Endorse the Safe Schools Declaration and take concrete measures to deter the military use of schools, including by integrating the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict into domestic military policies and operational frameworks.

Concluding observations concerning the fourth periodic report of Israel, E/C.12/ISR/CO/4, November 12, 2019, para. 65.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Concluding Observations: India, 2014

The Committee is equally concerned that girls are subjected to sexual harassment and violence including in conflict-affected regions where the reported occupations of schools by the security forces contributes to school dropout.

The Committee ... calls upon the State party ... to take measures to... Prohibit the occupation of schools by security forces in conflict-affected regions in compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law standards...

Concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of India, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW/C/IND/CO/4-5, July 18, 2014, paras. 26-27.

Concluding Observations: Nepal, 2018

The Committee, taking note of target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for the elimination of gender disparities in education, recommends that the State party, in line with its General Recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education ... endorse the Safe Schools Declaration.

Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Nepal, CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/6, November 9, 2018, para. 33.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Day of General Discussion on “The Right of the Child to Education in Emergency Situations”: Recommendations, 2009

With reference to the obligation under international law for States to protect civil institutions, including schools, the Committee urges States parties to fulfill their obligation therein to ensure schools as zones of peace and places where intellectual curiosity and respect for universal human rights is fostered; and to ensure that schools are protected from military attacks or seizure by militants; or use as centres for recruitment. The Committee urges States parties to criminalize attacks on schools as war crimes in accordance with article 8(2)(b) (ix) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to prevent and combat impunity.

Day of General Discussion on “the Right of the Child to Education in Emergency Situations”: Recommendations, Committee on the Rights of the Child, 49th Session, October 3, 2008, para. 35.

OP-CAC Concluding Observations: Colombia, 2010

The Committee is ... concerned over continued reports indicating the occupation of schools by the armed forces and over military operations in the vicinity of schools. The Committee recognizes the State party’s duty

to guarantee the right to education throughout the territory, however underlines that military presence in the vicinity of schools significantly increases the risk of exposing school children to hostilities and retaliations by illegal armed groups.

The Committee urges the State party to immediately discontinue the occupation of schools by the armed forces and strictly ensure compliance with humanitarian law and the principle of distinction. The Committee urges the State party to conduct prompt and impartial investigations of reports indicating the occupation of schools by the armed forces and ensure that those responsible within the armed forces are duly suspended, prosecuted and sanctioned with appropriate penalties.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, Concluding observations: Colombia, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/OPAC/COL/CO/1 (2010), paras. 39-40.

OP-CAC Concluding Observations: Sri Lanka, 2010

The Committee ... calls upon the State party to: (a) Immediately discontinue military occupation and use of the schools and strictly ensure compliance with humanitarian law and the principle of distinction and to cease utilizing the primary section of V/Tamil MV school and the Omanthai Central College in Vavuniya to host separatists; and (b) Ensure that school infrastructures damaged as a result of military occupation are promptly and fully restored.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, Concluding observations: Sri Lanka, CRC/C/OPAC/LKA/CO/1 (2010), para. 25.

Concluding Observations: Afghanistan, 2011

The Committee is particularly concerned that, in the prevailing conditions of conflict, schools have been used as polling stations during elections and occupied by international and national military forces.

The Committee recommends that the State party ... (i) Use all means to protect schools, teachers and children from attacks, and include communities, in particular parents and children, in the development of measures to better protect schools against attacks and violence...

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention
Concluding observations: Afghanistan, CRC/C/AFG/CO/1 (2011), paras. 61-62.

Concluding Observations: Syria, 2012

The Committee also expresses serious concern about consistent reports that some schools have been used by the State party's security forces as detention centres.

The Committee strongly urges the State party ... to stop using schools as detention centres, and to strictly ensure compliance with humanitarian law and the principle of distinction...

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention
Concluding observations: Syria, CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4 (2012), paras.51-52.

Concluding Observations: Thailand, 2012

[T]he Committee remains concerned that in the context of the ongoing armed violence:...

Access to education has been disrupted by the targeting of government schools and teachers by non-State armed groups and by the presence of government military and paramilitary units near the schools.

The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a Take immediate measures to ensure that the situation in the southern border provinces has no adverse effects directly and indirectly on children...

- b Ensure that schools are not disrupted by State military and paramilitary units and are protected from attacks by non-state armed groups...

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention
Concluding observations: Thailand, CRC/C/THA/CO/3-4 (2012), paras.84-85.

Concluding Observations: Israel, 2013

The Committee urges the State party to: Cease attacks against schools and use of schools as outposts and detention centres in the OPT...

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention
Concluding observations: Israel, CRC/C/ISR/CO/2-4 (2013), paras. 63-64

OP-CAC Concluding Observations: Yemen, 2014

The Committee is concerned at the deliberate attacks on and occupation of schools and hospitals by all parties to the conflict and the denial of humanitarian access, all of which have a negative impact on the survival and development of children.

The Committee urges the State party to: ensure that the relevant domestic legislation explicitly prohibits the occupation and use of, and attacks on, schools and hospitals, in line with international humanitarian law; expedite the reconstruction of these facilities as appropriate; and take practical measures to ensure that cases of unlawful attacks on and/or occupation of schools and hospitals are promptly investigated and that the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished.

Concluding observations on the report submitted by Yemen under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, CRC/C/OPAC/YEM/CO/1, February 26, 2014, paras. 29-30.

Concluding Observations: India, 2014

The Committee expresses its serious concern about attacks on school facilities by non-State armed groups and the occupation of schools by the security forces.

The Committee urges the State party to use all means to protect schools, teachers and children from attacks, and include communities in the development of measures to better protect schools against attacks and violence. It also urges the State party to prohibit the occupation of schools by its security forces and to urgently rehabilitate and repair damaged schools as necessary.

Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of India, CRC/C/IND/CO/3-4, July 7, 2014, paras. 73-74.

OP-CAC Concluding Observations: India, 2014

The Committee is concerned at the deliberate attacks on schools by non-State armed groups, as well as the occupation of schools by State armed forces in north-eastern India and in areas where Maoist armed groups are operating.

The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to prevent the occupation and use of as well as attacks on places with a significant presence of children, such as schools, in line with international humanitarian law. It also urges the State party to ensure that schools are vacated expeditiously, as appropriate, and to take concrete measures to ensure that cases of unlawful attacks on and/or occupation of schools are promptly investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished.

Concluding observations on the report submitted by India under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, CRC/C/OPAC/IND/CO/1, July 7, 2014, paras. 28-29.

Concluding Observations: Zimbabwe, 2016

The Committee remains concerned ... about: ... The reported use of some schools by militia groups as bases and for political purposes, as well as cases of harassment, expulsion and unlawful arrests and detention of teachers and students during and after the last parliamentary and presidential elections.... The Committee urges the State party to: ... Take appropriate measures to deter the military or political use of schools and establish mechanisms to monitor and investigate allegations of attacks on education facilities.

Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Zimbabwe, CRC/C/ZWE/CO/2, March 7, 2016, paras. 68-69.

Concluding Observations: Kenya, 2016

Implement the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, as the State party pledged under the Safe Schools Declaration (2015).

Concluding observations on the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Kenya, CRC/C/KEN/CO/3-5, March 21, 2016, para. 66(c).

Concluding Observations: Pakistan, 2016

In the light of its general comment No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education and taking note of Sustainable Development Goal 4, the Committee recommends that the State party ... take measures to protect schools, in particular secular and girls' schools, and prevent possible attacks, including those targeted at teachers, and the occupation of schools by armed groups...

It also urges the State party to monitor non-State armed Groups and prohibit them from accessing educational facilities and to protect children from being exposed to recruitment and given military training by armed groups.

Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Pakistan, CRC/C/PAK/CO/5, July 11, 2016, paras. 62 & 64.

Concluding Observations: Democratic Republic of Congo, 2017

The Committee notes the initiatives taken by the Government to improve access of children to schools, including ... to prohibit the occupation of schools by the military back in 2013. However, it regrets that the efforts are not sufficient and a large number of school age children in the country remain out of school. In particular, the Committee expresses its serious concern that: ... Armed groups continue to attack schools, student and teachers in conflict affected areas putting children at risk of abduction and recruitment and use schools for military purposes...

In the light of its general comment No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education and taking note of Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party: ... Implement its laws and regulations that prohibit attacks and occupation of schools by the military and take measures to bring those responsible to justice...

Concluding observations on the combined third to fifth periodic report of the Democratic Republic of Congo, CRC/C/COD/CO/3-5, February 28, 2017, paras. 39-40.

Concluding Observations: Central African Republic, 2017

While welcoming the State party's endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration, in June 2015, to protect education during armed conflict, the Committee is deeply concerned about attacks against students, teachers and schools as well as the military use of schools by parties to the conflict.

The Committee urges the State party to take the measures necessary to deter the use of schools by parties to the conflict, including by bringing the "Guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict" into military policy and operational frameworks; and investigate and prosecute attacks against education and bring perpetrators to justice. It should further ensure that children affected by the conflict can be reintegrated into the education system, including through non-formal education programmes.

Concluding observations on the second periodic report of the Central African Republic, CRC/C/CAF/CO/2, March 8, 2017, paras. 62-63.

OP-CAC Concluding Observations: Bhutan, 2017

The Committee welcomes the State party's participation in the first international conference on the Safe Schools Declaration in Oslo in 2015 and recommends that it endorses the Declaration as a commitment to protect students, educational staff and infrastructure during armed conflict, particularly relevant in the context of the State party's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Concluding observations on the report submitted by the Kingdom of Bhutan under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, CRC/C/OPAC/BTN/CO/1, June 2, 2017, para. 11.

OP-CAC Concluding Observations: Cyprus, 2017

The Committee ... welcomes the State party's decision to join the Safe Schools Declaration in July 2017.

Concluding observations on the report submitted by Cyprus under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, CRC/C/OPAC/CYP/CO/1, September 27, 2017, para. 5.

OP-CAC Concluding Observations: Georgia, 2019

The Committee ... welcomes the various positive measures taken in areas relevant to the implementation of the Optional Protocol, in particular:... Endorsing the Safe School Declaration and thereby committing itself to using the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

Concluding observations on the report submitted by Georgia under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, CRC/C/OPAC/GEO/CO/1, September 30, 2019, para. 5(b).

OP-CAC Concluding Observations: Panama, 2019

The Committee ... welcomes the various positive measures taken in areas relevant to the implementation of the Optional Protocol, in particular:... The endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration in 2015.

Concluding observations on the report submitted by Panama under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, CRC/C/OPAC/PAN/CO/1, September 30, 2019, para. 5(a).

Concluding Observations: Palestine, 2020

The Committee is extremely concerned about challenges faced in the realisation of the right to education... In particular, the Committee is concerned about:... The prevalent attacks on school facilities and personnel by Israeli forces and non-State armed groups operating from the Gaza Strip, the use of schools for military or other purposes by Israeli forces and the disruption of education through law enforcement operations by the Palestinian security forces, resulting in children and teachers being killed or injured and school facilities being damaged, which leads to the overcrowding of the remaining schools and the absence of children from school...

The Committee urges the State party:... Take all possible measures to protect students and teachers from the negative impact of the armed conflict on education, including preventive measures by the Palestinian security forces when undertaking law enforcement operations around schools, and by implementing its pledges under the Safe Schools Declaration, and ensure that non-State armed groups operating in the State party respect international humanitarian and human rights law and respect schools as protected objects...

Concluding observations on the initial report of the State of Palestine, CRC/C/PSE/CO/1, February 10, 2020, paras. 54-55.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

- 1 States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:
 - a Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;
 - b Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, ... make them available and accessible to every child...;
 - c Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means; ...
 - d Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of dropout rates.

Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of November 20, 1989, entry into force September 2, 1990, article 28.

Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000

Reaffirming that the rights of children require special protection, and calling for continuous improvement of the situation of children without distinction, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Disturbed by the harmful and widespread impact of armed conflict on children and the long-term consequences it has for durable peace, security and development,

Condemning the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict and direct attacks on objects protected under international law, including places that generally have a significant presence of children, such as schools...

Recalling the obligation of each party to an armed conflict to abide by the provisions of international humanitarian law...

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, adopted by General Assembly resolution A/RES/54/263 of May 25, 2000, preamble.

Council of Europe

Protocol 1 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1952

No person shall be denied the right to education.

Protocol 1 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1952, article 2.

Revised European Social Charter, 1996

Part I

The Parties accept as the aim of their policy, to be pursued by all appropriate means both national and international in character, the attainment of conditions in which the following rights and principles may be effectively realised:...

9. Everyone has the right to appropriate facilities for vocational guidance with a view to helping him choose an occupation suited to his personal aptitude and interests.
10. Everyone has the right to appropriate facilities for vocational training...

Article 17 – The Right of Children and young persons to social, legal and economic protection

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of children and young persons to grow up in an environ-

ment which encourages the full development of their personality and of their physical and mental capacities, the Parties undertake, either directly or in co-operation with public and private organisations, to take all appropriate and necessary measures designed:

1. (a) to ensure that children and young persons, taking account of the rights and duties of their parents, have the care, the assistance, the education and the training they need, in particular by providing for the establishment or maintenance of institutions and services sufficient and adequate for this purpose; ...
2. to provide to children and young persons a free primary and secondary education as well as to encourage regular attendance at schools.

Revised European Social Charter, 1996.

European Union

Charter of Fundamental Rights, 2000

Article 13 – Freedom of the arts and sciences

The arts and scientific research shall be free of constraint. Academic freedom shall be respected.

Article 14 – Right to education

1. Everyone has the right to education and to have access to vocational and continuing training.
2. This right includes the possibility to receive free compulsory education.

Charter of Fundamental Rights, 2000.

European Parliament recommendation to the Council of 12 March 2014 on humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection

The European Parliament ... Addresses the following recommendations to the Commissioner for Development and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy: ... call on the Member States to join international efforts to prevent attacks against and the military use of schools by armed actors through endorsing the draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict...

European Parliament recommendation to the Council on humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection, 2014/2012(INI), March 12, 2014.

Council of the European Union Conclusions on Education in Emergencies, 2018

The Council strongly condemns all forms of attacks on schools and universities; [and] military use of schools... The Council urges Commission services, the EEAS and Member States to use political, policy and operational dialogues with parties to a conflict to call for compliance with obligations under international law. The Council asks all Member States to support initiatives to protect education in conflicts, including the Safe Schools Declaration and to promote its implementation at the Third International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration, to be hosted by Spain in 2019.

Council of the European Union, Conclusions on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises, doc. 12817/18, November 26, 2018.

Geneva Conventions

Fourth Geneva Convention, 1949

Art. 50.

The Occupying Power shall, with the cooperation of the national and local authorities, facilitate the proper working of all institutions devoted to the care and education of children...

Should the local institutions be inadequate for the purpose, the Occupying Power shall make arrangements for the maintenance and education, if possible by persons of their own nationality, language and religion, of children who are orphaned or separated from their parents as a result of the war and who cannot be adequately cared for by a near relative or friend.

Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, August 12, 1949.

Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions, 1977

Art 52. General protection of civilian objects

- (3) In case of doubt whether an object which is normally dedicated to civilian purposes, such as a place of worship, a house or other dwelling or a school, is being used to make an effective contribution to military action, it shall be presumed not to be so used...

Art 58. Precautions against the effects of attacks

The Parties to the conflict shall, to the maximum extent feasible:

- a without prejudice to Article 49 of the Fourth Convention, endeavor to remove the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects under their control from the vicinity of military objectives;
- b avoid locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas;
- c take the other necessary precautions to protect the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects under their control against the dangers resulting from military operations.

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), June 8, 1977.

Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions, 1977

Art 4. Fundamental guarantees

- 3) Children shall be provided with the care and aid they require, and in particular:
 - a they shall receive an education, including religious and moral education, in keeping with the wishes of their parents, or in the absence of parents, of those responsible for their care...

Art 13. Protection of the civilian population

- 1) The civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against the dangers arising from military operations.

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), June 8, 1977.

Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen

Report of the detailed findings of the Group of Eminent Experts, 2019

185. With regard to schools and other education facilities, the Group of Experts has reasonable grounds to be-

lieve that the parties to the conflict have violated the principle of precautions against the effects of attack in using schools for military operations. They may also have violated the principle of distinction, in blurring the distinction between civilian and military objects in using schools for military operations. In using schools for military purposes, including in occupying them, parties to the conflict may have further prevented the realisation of the right to education, as guaranteed by both international humanitarian law and human rights law....

Violations of the right to education

715. Children affected by armed conflict must be provided with the care and aid they require, in particular education. The right to education is understood in a broad sense, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights..., the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights..., the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ... and the [Convention on the Rights of the Child]. Parties to the conflict have failed to uphold their obligations as relates to the right to education, in preventing schools from being available and accessible to children, including through attacks on schools, often triggered by their use for military purposes....

Military use of schools

720. Among the several documented strikes on schools since 2015, the Group has found that some of those schools became military objectives as a result of their illegal use by parties to the conflict. Therefore, these strikes might have been lawful....

722. In Ta'izz city, sources reported that the Yemeni armed forces have commenced to withdraw from some schools as per the commitments taken under the Safe Schools Declaration...

723. Education during armed conflict provides both social and physical protection for children and also lessens the psychosocial impacts of war on children. The Group of Experts has concerns that the parties to the conflict have failed to take all feasible precautions to avoid locating military objects near civilians and they have blurred the distinction between civilian and military objects in using schools for military operations, both in violation of the principle of distinction. Parties to the conflict have further prevented children realizing their fundamental right to education, as guaranteed by both international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Access to education

724. The violations documented above have resulted in a growing fear: among children of attending school; among teachers of holding classes; and among parents of sending their children, especially girls, to school, thus undermining the education system in Yemen as a whole....

“Situation of human rights in Yemen, including violations and abuses since September 2014: Report of the detailed findings of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen,” Human Rights Council, A/HRC/42/CRP.1, September 3, 2019.

Inter-American Framework

Charter of the Organization of American States, 1967

The Member States will exert the greatest efforts, in accordance with their constitutional processes, to ensure the effective exercise of the right to education...

Charter of the Organization of American States, 1967, article 49.

Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights, 1988

Everyone has the right to education.

Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights, Protocol of San Salvador, 1988, article 13.

Inter-American Democratic Charter, 2001

Education is key to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the development of human potential, and alleviating poverty and fostering greater understanding among our peoples. To achieve these ends, it is essential that a quality education be available to all, including girls and women, rural inhabitants, and minorities.

Inter-American Democratic Charter, 2001, article 16.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Fourth report on human rights situation in Colombia, 2013

In addition to poverty, a number of conflict-related factors have undermined the right of children and adolescents to education: the destruction, the occupation and the forced closure of schools; the scarcity of teachers because of the threats and attacks made against them; the anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance in and around the schools and school sidewalks; the abusive use of school areas for military propaganda and recruitment activities; and forced displacement. Added to the aforementioned there is a high level of violence, including student harassment. The IACHR observes that Colombian boys and girls have, as well as all the boys and girls of the hemisphere, the right to access an education. The schools, within the framework of an armed conflict, are also established as instruments to prevent forced recruitment and other serious violations of children’s and adolescents’ human rights. In this regard, the Commission reiterates that schools should serve as shelter for children and provide them protection. Therefore, their use for military purposes places children in a situation of risk of attacks and impedes the exercise of their right to education.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Truth, Justice, and reparation: Fourth report on [the] human rights situation in Colombia, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 49/13, December 31, 2013, para. 732.

International Committee of the Red Cross

Commentary on the Geneva Conventions, Volume IV, 1958

The obligation of the Occupying Power to facilitate the proper working of institutions for children is very general in scope. The provision applies to a wide variety of institutions and establishments of a social, educational or medical character, etc., which exist under a great variety of names in all modern States (e.g. child welfare centres, orphanages, children’s camps, childrens’ homes and day nurseries, “medico-social” reception centres, social welfare services, reception centres, canteens, etc.). All these organizations and institutions, which play a most valuable social role even in normal times, become of increased importance in wartime when innumerable children are without their natural protectors, who have fallen on the battlefield, or have been victims of bombing, conscripted to do forced labour, interned or deported...

The Occupying Powers must, with the co-operation of the national and local authorities, facilitate the proper working of children’s institutions. That means that the occupying authorities are bound not only to avoid interfering with their activities, but also to support them actively and even encourage them if the responsible authorities of the country fail in their duty. The Occupying Power must therefore refrain from requisitioning staff, premises or equipment which are being used by such establishments and must give people who are responsible for children facilities for communicating freely with the occupation authorities; when their resources are inadequate, the Occupying Power must ensure by mutual agreement with the local authorities that the persons concerned receive food, medical supplies and anything else necessary to enable them to carry out their task. It is in that sense that the expression “the proper working” of children’s institutions should be understood.

This provision assures continuity in the educational and charitable work of the establishments referred to and is of the first importance, since it takes effect at a point in children’s lives when the general disorganization consequent upon war might otherwise do irreparable harm to their physical and mental development.

Commentary on the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, 1958, Volume IV, pp. 286-287.

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Social Rights

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education ...
2. ... [W]ith a view to achieving the full realization of this right:

- a Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all;
- b Secondary education in its different forms, ... shall be made generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;
- c Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, ...;
- d Fundamental education shall be encouraged or intensified as far as possible for those persons who have not received or completed the whole period of their primary education;
- e The development of a system of schools at all levels shall be actively pursued ... and the material conditions of teaching staff shall be continuously improved.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of December 16, 1966, entry into force January 3, 1976, article 13.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent

Resolution 2 of 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, 2011

[Annex 1]

Objective 2.1: To enhance the protection of children in armed conflict...

(c) Protection of education in armed conflict

States take all feasible measures to prevent civilian buildings dedicated to education from being used for purposes that could cause them to lose their protection under international humanitarian law.

Resolutions of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Resolution 2, “4-year action plan for the implementation of international humanitarian law,” Annex 1, 2011.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Doha Declaration, 2019

We are committed to:

- Urging governments to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration which gives States the opportunity to express broad political support for the protection and continuation of education in armed conflict...
- Raising awareness of education-related violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) by including IHL principles and the Safe Schools Declaration in the education of children and adults, and by emphasizing the protection of education in the training of national armed forces and associated state and non-state actors;...
- Ensuring that state security forces and non-traditional armed actors do not place checkpoints and military facilities close to schools and educational facilities;
- Engaging in dialogue with state security forces and other armed actors so that they do not use schools and educational facilities for military purposes, including the storage, possession and use of weapons in those facilities.

Inter-Parliamentary Union, Doha Declaration: Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law, endorsed by the 140th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, April 10, 2019.

League of Arab States

Arab Charter on Human Rights, 2004

1. The eradication of illiteracy is a binding obligation upon the State and everyone has the right to education...

4. The States parties shall guarantee to provide education directed to the full development of the human person and to strengthening respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Arab Charter on Human Rights, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States, May 22, 2004, article 41.

Non-State Armed Groups

Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict, 2010

[We] solemnly commit ourselves to the following terms: ...

To further endeavor to provide children in areas where we exercise authority with the aid and care they require, in cooperation with humanitarian or development organizations where appropriate. Towards these ends, and among other things, we will: ... v) avoid using for military purposes schools or premises primarily used by children.

Geneva Call, Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call for the Protection of Children from the Effects of the Armed Conflict (2010), art. 7. As of May 1, 2019, 26 armed non-state actors have signed this deed of commitment.

Safe Schools Declaration

For more information on the process behind the drafting of the Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, see Annex I.

Safe Schools Declaration, 2015

The impact of armed conflict on education presents urgent humanitarian, development and wider social challenges. Worldwide, schools and universities have been bombed, shelled and burned, and children, students, teachers and academics have been killed, maimed, abducted or arbitrarily detained. Educational facilities have been used by parties to armed conflict as, inter alia, bases, barracks or detention centres. Such actions expose students and education personnel to harm, deny large numbers of children and students their right to education and so deprive communities of the foundations on which to build their future. In many countries, armed conflict continues to destroy not just school infrastructure, but the hopes and ambitions of a whole generation of children...

Where educational facilities are used for military purposes it can increase the risk of the recruitment and use of children by armed actors or may leave children and youth vulnerable to sexual abuse or exploitation. In particular, it may increase the likelihood that education institutions are attacked...

We emphasize the importance of Security Council resolution 1998 (2011), and 2143 (2014) which, inter alia, urges all parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education and encourages Member States to consider concrete measures to deter the use of schools by armed forces and armed non-State groups in contravention of applicable international law.

We welcome the development of the *Guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict*. The Guidelines are non-legally binding, voluntary guidelines that do not affect existing international law. They draw on existing good practice and aim to provide guidance that will further reduce the impact of armed conflict on education. We welcome efforts to disseminate these guidelines and to promote their implementation among armed forces, armed groups and other relevant actors.

We stress the importance, in all circumstances, of full respect for applicable international law, including the need to comply with the relevant obligations to end impunity.

Recognizing the right to education and the role of education in promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations; determined progressively to strengthen in practice the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and of children and youth in particular; committed to working together towards safe schools for all; we endorse the *Guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed*

conflict, and will:

- Use the Guidelines, and bring them into domestic policy and operational frameworks as far as possible and appropriate;
- Make every effort at a national level to collect reliable relevant data on attacks on educational facilities, on the victims of attacks, and on military use of schools and universities during armed conflict, including through existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms; to facilitate such data collection; and to provide assistance to victims, in a non-discriminatory manner;...
- Meet on a regular basis, inviting relevant international organisation and civil society, so as to review the implementation of this declaration and the use of the guidelines.

Safe Schools Declaration, opened for state endorsement May 29, 2015 in Oslo, Norway. As of October 1, 2021, 112 countries had endorsed the declaration.

Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, 2014

Parties to armed conflict are urged not to use schools and universities for any purpose in support of their military effort. While it is acknowledged that certain uses would not be contrary to the law of armed conflict, all parties should endeavor to avoid impinging on students' safety and education, using the following as a guide to responsible practice:

Guideline 1: Functioning schools and universities should not be used by the fighting forces of parties to armed conflict in any way in support of the military effort.

- (a) This principle extends to schools and universities that are temporarily closed outside normal class hours, during weekends and holidays, and during vacation periods.
- (b) Parties to armed conflict should neither use force nor offer incentives to education administrators to evacuate schools and universities in order that they can be made available for use in support of the military effort.

Guideline 2: Schools and universities that have been abandoned or evacuated because of the dangers presented by armed conflict should not be used by the fighting forces of parties to armed conflict for any purpose in support of their military effort, except in extenuating circumstances when they are presented with no viable alternative, and only for as long as no choice is possible between such use of the school or university and another feasible method for obtaining a similar military advantage. Other buildings should be regarded as better options and used in preference to school and university buildings, even if they are not so conveniently placed or configured, except when such buildings are specially protected under International Humanitarian Law (e.g. hospitals), and keeping in mind that parties to armed conflict must always take all feasible precautions to protect all civilian objects from attack.

- (a) Any such use of abandoned or evacuated schools and universities should be for the minimum time necessary.
- (b) Abandoned or evacuated schools and universities that are used by the fighting forces of parties to armed conflict in support of the military effort should remain available to allow educational authorities to reopen them as soon as practicable after fighting forces have withdrawn from them, provided this would not risk endangering the security of students and staff.
- (c) Any traces or indication of militarisation or fortification should be completely removed following the withdrawal of fighting forces, with every effort made to put right as soon as possible any damage caused to the infrastructure of the institution. In particular, all weapons, munitions and unexploded ordnance or remnants of war should be cleared from the site.

Guideline 3: Schools and universities must never be destroyed as a measure intended to deprive the opposing parties to the armed conflict of the ability to use them in the future. Schools and universities—be they in session, closed for the day or for holidays, evacuated or abandoned—are ordinarily civilian objects.

Guideline 4: While the use of a school or university by the fighting forces of parties to armed conflict in support of their military effort may, depending on the circumstances, have the effect of turning it into a military objective subject to attack, parties to armed conflict should consider all feasible alternative measures before attacking them, including, unless circumstances do not permit, warning the enemy in advance that an attack will be forthcoming unless it ceases its use.

- (a) Prior to any attack on a school that has become a military objective, the parties to armed conflict should take into consideration the fact that children are entitled to special respect and protection. An additional important consideration is the potential long-term negative effect on a community's access to education posed by damage to or the destruction of a school.
- (b) The use of a school or university by the fighting forces of one party to a conflict in support of the military effort should not serve as justification for an opposing party that captures it to continue to use it in support of the military effort. As soon as feasible, any evidence or indication of militarisation or fortification should be removed and the facility returned to civilian authorities for the purpose of its educational function.

Guideline 5: The fighting forces of parties to armed conflict should not be employed to provide security for schools and universities, except when alternative means of providing essential security are not available. If possible, appropriately trained civilian personnel should be used to provide security for schools and universities. If necessary, consideration should also be given to evacuating children, students and staff to a safer location.

- (a) If fighting forces are engaged in security tasks related to schools and universities, their presence within the grounds or buildings should be avoided if at all possible in order to avoid compromising the establishment's civilian status and disrupting the learning environment.

Guideline 6: All parties to armed conflict should, as far as possible and as appropriate, incorporate these Guidelines into, for example, their doctrine, military manuals, rules of engagement, operational orders, and other means of dissemination, to encourage appropriate practice throughout the chain of command. Parties to armed conflict should determine the most appropriate method of doing this.

Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, finalized December, 2014. As of October 1, 2021, through the Safe Schools Declaration, 112 countries had endorsed the guidelines.

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

Report to the Commission on Human Rights, 2004

Security and the Right to Education in Emergency Situations

- 119. The Special Rapporteur also believes that security in schools forms part of the human right to education. Security means not only physical, psychological and moral safety but also a right to be educated without interruption in conditions conducive to the formation of knowledge and character development.
- 120. It is for this reason that emergencies are threats, embracing as they do a wide range of possibilities such as natural disasters, armed conflicts and situations of occupation...

The Right to Education, Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr. Vernor Muñoz Villalobos, Economic and Social Council, Commission on Human Rights, December 17, 2004, E/CN.4/2005/50, paras. 119-120.

Communication with the government of India, 2009-2010

Communication sent

- 84. On 28 December 2009, the Special Rapporteur sent a communication regarding the conflict in India's Bihar and Jharkhand States between the Maoist rebels (Naxalites) and government security forces.

85. According to information received, it was alleged that education of tens of thousands of India's most disadvantaged and marginalized children was being disrupted by the ongoing conflict between Naxalite insurgents and police and other security forces in the eastern states of Bihar and Jharkhand. Security forces are allegedly occupying government school buildings as bases for anti-Naxalite operations, sometimes only for few days but often for periods lasting years. Meanwhile, it was reported that the Naxalites are directly targeting and blowing up government schools, including those not used or occupied by security forces.
86. It was reported that police and paramilitary forces were occupying school buildings either temporarily or for extended periods, as part of their counter-insurgency operations. Security forces had been known to take over entire school facilities and campuses, completely shutting down the school, or occupy part of school buildings, forcing classes to continue in the reduced space and alongside the armed men. While some of these occupations had lasted only days at a time and coincide with extra protection to schools and remote locations during times such as an election, many other police occupations had been reported to last for many months and even for several years.
87. It was further alleged that the presence of heavily armed police and paramilitaries living and working in the same buildings where children were studying has detrimental impacts on children's studies and frequently puts the authorities in breach of their obligations to realize children's right to education.
88. It was reported that school principals, teachers, parents, and students have not received prior notification regarding the police occupying their schools. Concern had been expressed that this lack of notification to school authorities deprived the community of the opportunity to prepare better alternatives for continuing studies and eliminates the opportunity for local residents and their children to propose alternative locations for the police presence. Moreover, lack of notification and explanation to the students left the children confused and uncertain. Moreover, it was also reported that representatives from the Bihar and Jharkhand Departments responsible for education and schools had opposed and objected to the use of their schools by security forces, yet their objections had not been considered by the security units carrying out the school occupations.
89. It was further alleged that the generalized fear and disruption that results from attacks by the Naxalite rebels had led to some students dropping out from school or experiencing interruptions to their studies. Concern had been expressed that girls especially appear likely to drop out following a partial occupation of a school. Although some students may transfer to other schools in the area if their parents can cover the related costs, many students simply drop out of education all together. The increased rate of girl students dropping out was linked to either perceived or experienced instances of harassment by the security forces of girl students. As well as leading to increased rates of students dropping out of school, long-term occupation of schools had been reported to also decrease the enrollment rate and the rate of students continuing to higher years of study.

Communication received

90. On 7 April 2010, the Government responded to the communication sent by the Special Rapporteur on 28 December 2009 and informed that the Government had examined this communication and, according to the concerned State authorities, no breach of the right to education of children had been reported in Bihar. However, the concerned authorities had been sensitized to provide adequate protection in this regard, so as to enable prompt and suitable action in the event of an instance of such a breach.

Observations

91. The Special Rapporteur thanks the Government for its reply, but nevertheless would like to express concern regarding the conflict in India's Bihar and Jharkhand States between the Maoist rebels (Naxalites) and government security forces and its effects in the realization of the right to education.

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Vernor Muñoz, Addendum, Communications sent to and replies received from Governments, May 17, 2010, A/HRC/14/25/Add.1, paras. 84-91.

Treaty on the Protection of Artistic and Scientific Institutions and Historic Monuments (Roerich Pact)

The historic monuments, museums, scientific, artistic, educational and cultural institutions shall be considered as neutral and as such respected and protected by belligerents ...

The same respect and protection shall be accorded to the historic monuments, museums, scientific, artistic, educational and cultural institutions in time of peace as well as in war.

Treaty on the Protection of Artistic and Scientific Institutions and Historic Monuments (Roerich Pact), Apr. 15, 1935, 49 Stat. 3267, 167 L.N.T.S. 289, art. 1.

United Nations Small Arms Control Mechanism

Module on Children, Adolescents, Youth and Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2018

Education:

Reduced access to education is one of the pervasive impacts of armed violence on children, adolescents and youth. Schools can be forced to close due to rampant instability, especially in situations where armed groups and fighting forces view schools and educators as strategic targets for attack or use schools as barracks to hide and protect themselves and their weaponry. The quality of education can be affected if qualified teachers are not available due to displacement or fear. As places where children and adolescents are concentrated, schools can become targets for child recruitment into gangs or other armed groups, selling drugs, kidnapping for ransom or attacks against children on their way to or from school, or even at school. Girls' schools and female students can be

particularly vulnerable to such attacks, especially in areas where opposition to the education of girls exists. Gang-related violence can spill over into schools, especially when students are also gang members who bring small arms into schools.

Schools that are used as polling-stations in politically contested, conflict-affected areas can become targets for opposition groups that wish to disrupt elections...

For further guidance, see the "Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use During Armed Conflict"...

Schools:

In contexts where the education and safety of children, adolescents and youth is threatened or disrupted by the presence of small arms in schools, and in support of Target 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals to "provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all",

- a) laws, regulations and administrative procedures to address the problem shall be put in place and enforced, including the designation of schools as gun-free zones as well as preventive, disciplinary and rehabilitative measures targeted at those who bring small arms to school;
- b) mechanisms shall be put in place to identify early warning signs in children, adolescents and youth that could indicate a risk of bringing a small arm to school;
- c) information systems (e.g. registry of incidents, student surveys, etc.) shall be established in order better to understand the context of small arms presence in schools, taking into account the different motivations that children may have to bring small arms to school, the profiles of perpetrators and victims of small arms-related incidents in schools, and students' access to small arms; and
- d) communication and awareness-raising campaigns shall be organised among school communities (school staff, parents and students) and small arms-specific components shall be incorporated into school violence prevention programmes.

In implementing the above measures, school authorities shall take special care to respect the human rights of children, adolescents and youth and to avoid stigmatising or criminalising them.

International Small Arms Control Standard, “Children, Adolescents, Youth and Small Arms and Light Weapons,” Reference number ISACS o6.20:2018(E)V1.0, 2018, secs. 6.3.4.3 & 9.5.3.

United Nations Department of Peace Operations

United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual, 2012

[Section] 2.13

...

The military has a special role to play in promoting the protection of children in their areas of operation and in preventing violations, exploitation and abuse. Relevant issues that need to be considered by unit commanders include, but are not limited to, grave violations committed against children such as recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, rape and grave sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access as well as child sensitive Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), and detention of children.

Therefore, special attention must be paid to the protection needs of girls and boys who are extremely vulnerable in conflict. Important issues that require compliance by infantry battalions are:

Children should not be put in the direct line of danger...

Schools shall not be used by the military in their operations.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Field Support, United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual, 2012, sec. 2.13.

Protection of Civilians: Implementing Guidelines for Military Components, 2015

Children should not be put in the direct line of danger... Schools are not to be used for any military/UN operation.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Protection of Civilians: Implementing Guidelines for Military Components of United Nations Peacekeeping Missions, February 2015, p. 43.

Policy on Child Protection, 2017

Children in situations of armed conflict are protected by a comprehensive body of international norms and standards. This normative framework creates an obligation for United Nations peace operations to both promote and adhere to these standards, which include inter alia ... the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict (2014)...

Child Protection Advisers are deployed to peace operations in accordance with the Security Council Resolutions on children and armed conflict and recommendations of the Secretary-General to the Security Council. CPAs fulfil a crucial role in implementing the child protection mandate of United Nations peace operations in specific mission settings, including by... advocating for protective, preventive and remedial measures in relation to other violations of children’s rights identified as key child protection concerns by the mission, including for instance ... the use of schools for military purposes...

Use of schools by peace operations

In line with Security Council resolutions 1998(2011) and 2143(2014), United Nations peace operations should refrain from all actions that impede children’s access to education, including the use of school premises. This applies particularly to uniformed personnel. Furthermore, recognizing the adverse impact of the use of schools for military purposes, in particular its effects on the safety of children and education personnel, the civilian nature of

schools, and the right to education, United Nations peace operations personnel shall at no time and for no amount of time use schools for military purposes, in compliance with the prohibition included in the United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual (2012).

Senior mission leadership shall ensure that all components are aware of the above. They shall put in place precautionary, protective and remedial measures to ensure that schools remain civilian safe havens for children. This includes the development, adoption and dissemination of mission-specific directives and standard operating procedures to protect schools, complemented by awareness raising and training on their implementation.

If United Nations peace operations occupy school premises, all steps shall be taken to ensure that such premises are vacated at the earliest possible time to allow for the resumption of educational activities. When schools are vacated by United Nations uniformed peacekeepers, all efforts shall be made to demilitarize those schools without delay, including by clearing all weapons, munitions and unexploded ordnance from the schools and the surrounding areas.

United Nations military peace operations personnel shall avoid to the extent possible any presence at or in close proximity to schools, shall refrain from direct interactions with school children, and shall consider civilian unarmed protection strategies where safety concerns exist.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Field Support, Department of Political Affairs Policy on Child Protection, June 16, 2017, paras. 9, 16, & 34-37.

United Nations Economic and Social Council

Resolution on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, 2018

[The Economic and Social Council] reaffirms the right to education for all, and also reaffirms the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies ... and in this regard reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law and strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes in contravention of international humanitarian law.

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, E/RES/2018/11, July 16, 2018, para. 31.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Global Education Meeting: Brussels Declaration, 2018

Attacks on education and training have damaging impact – with the potential to increase student dropout and teacher attrition, lead to extended school and university closures, diminish the quality of education and cause physical and psychological harm. In this regard, we reaffirm that education and all its facilities and institutions should be protected from attacks and military use, and urge parties to armed conflict not to use schools and universities for military efforts.

Global Education Meeting, Brussels Declaration, December 5, 2010, para. 10.

United Nations General Assembly

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

- (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made

generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

- (2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
- (3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly December 10, 1948, article 26.

The Right to Education in Emergency Situations, 2010

The General Assembly... reminding all parties to armed conflict of their obligations under international law to refrain from the use of civilian objects, including educational institutions, for military purposes and child recruitment... Urges all parties to armed conflict to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular their applicable obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including to respect civilians, including students and educational personnel, to respect civilian objects such as educational institutions and to refrain from the recruitment of children into armed forces or groups, in accordance with their applicable obligations under international law, urges Member States to fulfil their applicable obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, related to the protection and respect of civilians and civilian objects...

The right to education in emergency situations, A/64/L.58, June 30, 2010.

Rights of the Child Resolution, 2015

The General Assembly...

48. Expresses its deep concern about the growing number of attacks in contravention of international humanitarian law, as well as threats of attacks against schools, recognizes the grave impact of such attacks on children's and teachers' safety, as well as on the full realization of the right to education, further expresses its concern that the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international humanitarian law may also affect the safety of children and teachers and the right of the child to education, and encourages all States to strengthen efforts in order to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international humanitarian law;
49. Calls upon all States to give full effect to the right to education for all children and in particular:...
 - To take all appropriate measures to eliminate obstacles to effectively accessing and completing education, such as ... armed conflicts...
 - To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against girls in the field of education and to ensure equal access for all girls to all levels of education, including through ... improving the safety of girls on the way to and from school, taking steps to ensure that all schools are accessible, safe, secure and free from violence ...
 - To take necessary measures to protect schools from attacks and protected persons in relation to them in situations of armed conflict and to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education...

Rights of the Child, Resolution 70/137, A/RES/70/137, December 17, 2015.

Resolution on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, 2017

[The General Assembly] reaffirms the right to education for all and the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels, including for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities, where possible, including through adequate funding

and infrastructural investments, for the well-being of all, in this regard recognizes that access to quality education in humanitarian emergencies can contribute to long-term development goals and reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law, strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes, when in contravention of international humanitarian law, and encourages efforts to promote safe and protective school environments in humanitarian emergencies.

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, A/RES/72/133, December 11, 2017, para. 38.

Resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, 2018

[The General Assembly] condemns the failure to take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population and civilian objects against the effects of attacks when using civilian objects, in particular schools and hospitals, for military purposes such as launching attacks and storing weapons, and strongly condemns the use of civilians to shield military objectives from attacks.

United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, A/RES/72/284, July 2, 2018, para. 33.

Rights of the Child Resolution, 2019

[The General Assembly] Encouraging all States to strengthen efforts to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of international law and to promote and protect the right to education, to make it accessible, inclusive, quality and non-discriminatory and to facilitate the continuation of education in situations of armed conflict, and encouraging all States to strengthen efforts to protect children affected by armed conflict...

Rights of the Child, Resolution 74/133, A/RES/74/133, December 18, 2019.

Resolution Proclaiming International Day to Protect Education from Attack, 2020

[The General Assembly] Emphasizing the need to take steps to achieve the full realization of the right to education for all children and, in particular, to take all feasible measures to protect schools from attacks, as well as persons entitled to protection in relation to them in situations of armed conflict, to refrain from actions that impede children's access to

education, and to facilitate access to education in armed conflict...

Noting efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the right to education and facilitating continuation of education in armed conflict, including the efforts of Member States that are signatories to the Safe Schools Declaration...

[E]xpressing its concern also that the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law may also affect the safety of children and teachers and the right of the child to education, and encouraging all States to strengthen efforts to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of international law...

Reaffirms the right to education for all and the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels, including for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities... strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes, when in contravention of international humanitarian law, and encourages efforts to promote safe and protective school environments in humanitarian emergencies...

International Day to Protect Education from Attack, Resolution 74/275, A/RES/74/275, May 29, 2020.

United Nations Human Rights Council

Resolution on the Protection of the Rights of the Child in Humanitarian Situations, 2018

[The Human Rights Council] strongly condemns all attacks directed against civilian objects dedicated to educational purposes and on their students and staff, including attacks the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population, calls upon States to continue to make efforts to strengthen the protection of

preschools, schools and universities against attacks, including by taking measures to deter the military use of schools in violation of applicable international law, recognizes the negative impact that such attacks have on the progressive realization of the right to education, and encourages efforts to provide an inclusive, enabling and secure environment to ensure the safety of schools.

Protection of the Rights of the Child in Humanitarian Situations, A/HRC/37/L.33, March 20, 2018, para. 22.

Resolution on the Right to Education, 2018

[The Human Rights Council] calls upon States to continue to make efforts to strengthen the protection of preschools, schools and universities against attacks, including by taking measures to deter the military use of schools, and encourages efforts to provide safe, inclusive and enabling learning environments and quality education for all within an appropriate time frame, including all levels of education in the context of humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations

The right to education: follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution 8/4, A/HRC/38/L.13, July 3, 2018, para. 11.

Social Forum, 2019

The following conclusions and recommendations emerged from the 2019 Social Forum:...

Conflict and emergencies significantly affect education... The Safe Schools Declaration has positively influenced the protection of education during conflict...

States should ensure that education is upheld in conflict and emergency settings, and that safe spaces are provided for children and youth to access critical services and learning, including psychosocial support. States should endorse the Safe Schools Declaration, and fully implement the Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict...

Report of the 2019 Social Forum, A/HRC/43/63, January 10, 2020, paras. 62, 68 & 77.

Resolution on Syria, 2020

The Human Rights Council ... strongly condemns the use of schools for military purposes...

Resolution on the Situation of human rights in the Syria Arab Republic, June 22, 2020, para. 22.

Resolution on the Right to Education, 2021

Noting also the efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the right to education and facilitating continuation of education in armed conflict, including the efforts of States that are signatories to the Safe Schools Declaration, [the Human Rights Council]... Further calls upon States to continue to strengthen the protection of preschools, schools and universities against attacks, making them free from all forms of violence, including by taking measures to deter the military use of schools, such as by considering implementing the Guidelines for Protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict, and encourages efforts to provide safe, non-violent inclusive, effective and enabling learning environments and quality education for all within an appropriate time frame, including all levels of education in the context of humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations.

The right to education, resolution, A/HRC/47/L.4/Rev.1, July 8, 2021.

United Nations Security Council

Presidential Statement, April 29, 2009

The Security Council ... urges parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education, in particular ... the use of schools for military operations.

Statement by the President of the Security Council, 6114th meeting of the Security Council, April 29, 2009, S/PRST/2009/9.

Resolution 1998, 2011

[The Security Council] Urges parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education and to health services and requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report, inter alia, on the military use of schools and hospitals in contravention of international humanitarian law, as well as on attacks against, and/or kidnapping of teachers and medical personnel...

Security Council Resolution 1998, July 12, 2011, S/Res/1998 (2011), para. 4.

Presidential Statement, February 12, 2013

[The Security Council] expresses deep concern about the severity and frequency of attacks against schools, threats and attacks against teachers and other protected persons in relation to schools, and the use of schools for military purposes, and significant implications of such attacks on the safety of students and their access to education. The Council calls upon all parties to armed conflict to put an end to such practice and to refrain from attacks against teachers and other protected persons in relation to schools, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status of civilians.

Statement by the President of the Security Council, 6917th meeting of the Security Council, February 12, 2013, S/PRST/2013/2.

Resolution 2143, 2014

[The Security Council] expresses deep concern at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law, recognizing that such use may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering children's and teachers' safety as well as children's education and in this regard:

- (a) Urges all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools in accordance with international humanitarian law;
- (b) Encourages Member States to consider concrete measures to deter the use of schools by armed forces and armed non-State groups in contravention of applicable international law;
- (c) Urges Member States to ensure that attacks on schools in contravention of international humanitarian law are investigated and those responsible duly prosecuted;
- (d) Calls upon United Nations country-level task forces to enhance the monitoring and reporting on the military use of schools...

Security Council Resolution 2143, March 7, 2014, S/Res/2143 (2014), para. 18.

Resolution 2225, 2015

[The Security Council] expresses deep concern that the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering the safety of children and in this regard encourages Member States to take concrete measures to deter such use of schools by armed forces and armed groups...

Security Council Resolution 2225, June 18, 2015, S/Res/2225 (2015), para. 7.

Resolution 2401, 2018

[The Security Council] reiterates its demand that all parties demilitarize ... schools ... and avoid establishing military positions in populated areas.

Security Council Resolution 2401, February 24, 2018, S/Res/2401 (2018), para. 8.

Resolution 2419, 2018

[The Security Council] calls upon Member States, to protect educational institutions as spaces free from all forms of violence, and to ensure that they are accessible to all youth, including marginalized youth, and take steps to address young women's equal enjoyment of their right to education.

Security Council Resolution 2419, June 6, 2018, S/Res/2419 (2018), para. 12.

Resolution 2427, 2018

[The Security Council] urges all parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education...; [and]

Expresses deep concern at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law, recognizing that such use may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering children's and teachers' safety as well as children's education and in this regard:

- a Urges all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools in accordance with international humanitarian law;
- b Encourages Member States to take concrete measures to deter the use of schools by armed forces and non-State armed groups in contravention of applicable international law;
- c Urges Member States to ensure that attacks on schools in contravention of international humanitarian law are investigated and those responsible duly prosecuted;
- d Calls upon United Nations country-level task forces to enhance the monitoring and reporting on the military use of schools...

Security Council Resolution 2427, July 9, 2018, S/Res/2427 (2018), paras. 15-16.

Resolution 2451, 2018

[The Security Council] Calls on all parties to the conflict to comply with applicable international law and to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law including ... to protect civilian objects including schools and ... to withdraw any military personnel from civilian infrastructure...

Security Council Resolution 2451, December 12, 2018, S/Res/2451 (2018), para. 10.

Resolution 2459, 2019

[The Security Council] demands that all parties ... end use of ... schools and other civilian premises for purposes that could make them subject to attack...

Security Council Resolution 2459, March 15, 2019, S/Res/2459 (2019), para. 25.

Resolution 2480, 2019

[The Security Council] notes the endorsement by the Government of Mali of the Safe Schools Declaration and encourages a mapping of schools that have been closed, targeted or threatened...

Security Council Resolution 2480, June 28, 2019, S/Res/2480 (2019), para. 57.

Resolution 2514, 2020

[The Security Council] demands that all parties ... end use of ... schools and other civilian premises for purposes that could make them subject to attack...

Security Council Resolution 2514, March 12, 2020, S/Res/2514 (2020), para. 27.

Resolution 2531, 2020

[The Security Council] notes the endorsement by the Government of Mali of the Safe Schools Declaration and encourages a mapping of schools that have been closed, targeted or threatened...

Security Council Resolution 2531, June 29, 2020, S/Res/2531 (2020), para. 55.

Resolution 2535, 2020

[The Security Council] Calls upon Member States to protect educational institutions as spaces free from all forms of violence, and to ensure that they are accessible to all youth, including marginalized youth, and take steps to address young women's equal enjoyment of their right to education.

Security Council Resolution 2535, July 14, 2020, S/Res/2535 (2020), para. 12.

Presidential Statement, September 10, 2020

The Security Council ... expresses grave concern about ... the use of schools for military purposes, as well as the significant implications of such attacks on the safety of students and their ability to enjoy their right to education...

The Security Council ... urges all parties to armed conflict ... to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education...

The Security Council expresses deep concern at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international humanitarian law, recognizing that such use may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering children's and teachers' safety as well as children's education, and in this regard, encourages Member States to take concrete measures to deter the use of schools in contravention of applicable international law by armed forces and non-State armed groups, and to facilitate the continuation of education in situations of armed conflict and urges all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools in accordance with international humanitarian law...

The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report, inter alia, on the military use of schools in contravention of international humanitarian law... and calls upon United Nations country-level task forces to enhance the monitoring and reporting on the military use of schools.

The Security Council encourages the Secretary General, together with his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and relevant UN bodies and child protection actors, to carry out and include in his relevant reporting lessons learned and best practices on the children and armed conflict mandate, including the protection of schools from attacks in armed conflict in contravention of international humanitarian law...

The Security Council urges Member States to develop effective measures to prevent and address attacks and threats of attacks against schools, including, as appropriate, through the development of domestic legal frameworks to ensure respect for their relevant international legal obligations as applicable to them, and encourages Member States to ensure that national strategic frameworks include, as appropriate, comprehensive measures to prevent attacks against schools in contravention of international humanitarian law, children, teachers and other persons entitled to protection who are connected to schools during armed conflict as well as in post-conflict phases, with the support of relevant United Nations entities.

The Security Council calls upon Members States to ensure that their armed forces and security forces, within their respective competencies under domestic law, integrate or continue to integrate practical measures for the protection of schools, children, teachers and other persons entitled to protection who are connected to schools into the planning and conduct of their operations, including through refraining from using schools for military purposes in contravention of international humanitarian law.

The Security Council underlines the importance of providing military, police and civilian peacekeepers with adequate pre-deployment and in-mission training on mission specific child protection issues, including on attacks on schools, and on appropriate comprehensive prevention and protection responses.

The Security Council encourages Member States affected by armed conflict that have not already done so to conduct a mapping of schools that have been subject to attacks and of schools where children, teachers and other

persons entitled to protection who are connected to schools have been subject to threats of attacks...

The Security Council ... notes efforts aimed at facilitating continuation of education in armed conflict, including the efforts of Member States that are signatories to the Safe Schools Declaration.

The Security Council notes General Assembly Resolution 74/275, which established the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, emphasizes the importance of access to quality education for all girls and boys in armed conflict, including those undergoing reintegration programmes, noting that schools can provide life-saving safe spaces, psychosocial and other support services, skills development, a foundation for lifelong learning and can contribute to stability and poverty reduction, and in this regard acknowledges the importance of education in preventing violent conflict and sustaining peace.

The Security Council calls upon Member States to protect schools as spaces free from all forms of violence, and to ensure that they are accessible to all children, including children in vulnerable situations, and take steps to address girls' and boys' equal enjoyment of their right to education.

Statement by the President of the Security Council, September 10, 2020, S/PRST/2020/8 (2020).

Resolution 2573, 2021

[The Security Council] Gravely concerned about the level of violence against civilians in situations of armed conflicts, including indiscriminate attacks and establishment of military positions in densely populated areas, and their devastating impacts upon civilians... Recognizing the interconnectedness of certain essential services, as well as the vulnerabilities of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population that can be damaged in situations of armed conflict... [and] Recalling its deep concern at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law, recognising that such use may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering children's and teachers' safety as well as children's education...

Security Council Resolution 2573, April 27, 2021, S/Res/2573 (2021), preamble.

Resolution 2584, 2021

[The Security Council] encourages the Government of Mali to continue its efforts to strengthen the legal framework on child protection, including through ... the implementation of commitments it made in endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration and a mapping of schools that have been closed, targeted or threatened...

Security Council Resolution 2584, June 29, 2021, S/Res/2584 (2021), para. 54.

DOMESTIC

Afghanistan

Ministry of Education Memo to Ministry of Interior Affairs, 2016

To the Ministry of Interior Affairs...

[W]e are seeking the ministry's support to follow up on the military use of schools and educational centres, and evacuation of schools and education centres of military checkpoints and military bases.

The military use of schools and educational centres, can put these premises at high risks of vulnerability. The military checkpoints/bases currently located in many schools in provinces, can convert schools into military targets of education enemies. Given the budget limitation of this ministry for reconstruction of these premises as a result of military use, please direct the concerned authorities to immediately vacate the schools from the military use in different provinces of the country.

Letter from Dr. Asadullah Hanif Balkhi, Minister of Education, to Ministry of Interior Affairs, number 311, April 2016.

Ministry of Education Memo to National Security Council, 2016

To the National Security Council:

In pursuit of the previous letters regarding security threats to [Ministry of Education] related installations/institutions as a result of military use of schools by the Afghan National Security Forces or the enemies of Education in different provinces of Afghanistan which prevents children's access to education or may cause damages to school buildings. Attached to this letter, there is a list of at high risks schools currently used for military purposes. For your consideration, we request those responsible to take immediate and necessary actions for the release of the schools, and to facilitate the resumption of education services and children's access to education in these schools mentioned in the list.

Letter from Dr. Asadullah Hanif Balkhi, Minister of Education, to National Security Council, number 194-196, July 2016.

Memorandum of Understanding between Helmand Education Department and Taliban, 2018

The representatives of Islamic Emirate Education Commission and the representative of Helmand Education Directorate agreed on following conditions to be respected by both parties:

- 1: Schools, learning centers, [and] education buildings ... are national assets, It is the duty of the Emirate to protect them...
- 4: [The Ministry of Education] and its provincial directorates can continue building learning centers and school buildings and no military or civilian authorities of the Emirate will cause any trouble.
- 5: The Provincial Directorate of Education has to take concrete actions starting from today to open all schools, and to identify any military or civilian authority who makes troubles, to be punished according to Shariah...
- 7: The Emirate will ensure acquisition of usurped lands belonging to education and they will be delivered ... on the condition that certified documents and maps of the lands are provided...

After a long discussion, above conditions are approved and are irrevocable. Both parties will fulfil them with complete honesty.

Memorandum of Understanding between Helmand Provincial Education Department and the Taliban, February 3, 2018.

Statement by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 2018

Our National Policy on Prevention and Mitigation of Civilian Harm, endorsed by the National Security Council, provides specific guidelines to be undertaken by our security forces in three phases – pre-operation, during-operation, and post-operation – to prevent and mitigate harm to civilian persons and properties. Fully in line with

UNAMA's recommendations, the Policy strictly prohibits ... the utilization of civilian facilities, including schools, hospitals, and clinics, for military purposes. It also obliges government agencies to promptly and thoroughly investigate any possible violations of the provisions of the Policy by any government official or agency, and take appropriate corrective measures.

Statement by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan Protection of Civilians Annual Report, February 12, 2018.

Resolution of the Intra-Afghan Peace Conference, 2019

The following steps will be taken to create trustable environment for peace and in order to have our nation safe from the war and its consequences, violence, and devastation shall be decreased: the conflict parties shall consider these measures... (b) ensuring the security of public institutions, such as schools... (c) In particular, respect educational institutions, like schools, universities, and other educational institutions...

Resolution of Intra Afghan Peace Conference in Doha, Qatar (Doha Roadmap for Peace). July 8, 2019.

Albania

Law on Higher Education, 2015

The state, through its responsible bodies and structures, has the following responsibilities and obligations: ... guarantees the inviolability of higher education institutions and of their territory. The intervention of the public order bodies in the academic environment shall be done with the request or permission of the head of the higher education institution. Only in cases of commission of a flagrant criminal offense, in cases of natural disasters and force majeure, the public order bodies shall have the right to interfere without the permission of the head of the higher education institution. The violation of the inviolability of higher education institutions shall be punished in accordance to the legislation in force.

Law on Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania, Law No. 80/2015, July 22, 2015, art. 5(2)(dh).

Algeria

Statement during Committee on the Rights of the Child review, 2018

I would like to take this opportunity to state that schools are never used for military purposes. The National People's Army has its own infrastructure for military purposes. Schools are only used for education.

Statement by M. Toufik Djouama, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, during consideration of Algeria on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict before the Committee on the Rights of the Child, May 17, 2018.

Argentina

Higher Education Act, 1995

Article 31

Public forces cannot enter the national universities without prior written order from a competent court or a request from the lawfully constituted university authority.

Ley de Educacion Superior, Ley 24,521, July 20, 1995, article 31.

Manual of International Law of Armed Conflict, 2010

The occupying power will ... facilitate, with the support of national and local authorities, the good operation of establishments dedicated to ... the education of [children].

Ministry of Defence, Manual of International Law of Armed Conflict, 2010, sec. 10, para. 6.35.

Bangladesh***The Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, 1938***

Article 3

- (1) Where a notification ... has been issued, such persons as are included in the military forces engaged in the Manoeuvres may, within the specified limits and during the specified periods,-
 - pass over, or encamp, construct military works of a temporary character, or execute military Manoeuvres on, the area specified in the notification ...
- (2) The provisions of sub-section (1) shall not authorise entry on or interference with any ... educational institution...

The Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, Act No. 5 of 1938, March 12, 1938, art. 3.

Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Ordinance, 1982

When any property is required temporarily for a public purpose or in the public interest, the Deputy Commissioner may, with the prior approval of the Government, by order in writing, requisition it:

Provided that no such approval shall be necessary in the case of emergency requirement of any property:

Provided further that, save in the case of emergency requirement for the purpose of maintenance of transport or communication system, no property which is bona fide used by the owner thereof as the residence of himself or his family or which is used either for religious worship by the public or as an educational institution or orphanage or as a hospital, public library, graveyard or cremation ground shall be requisitioned.

Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Ordinance, April 13, 1982, art. 18(1).

Burkina Faso***Minister of Education Letter, 2020***

In general, schools occupied by the military are schools [that were] closed due to the security crisis.

As part of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Education of Students in Areas with High Security Challenges, there are plans for inter-departmental collaboration frameworks that can be used to disseminate the Safe Schools Declaration and the “Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.”

In addition, with the support of partners, there are plans to raise awareness during 2020 among the stakeholders involved in ensuring the safety of schools.

In the medium and short term, [the Ministry of National Education, Literacy, and the Promotion of National Languages] will contact the relevant ministries for the establishment of a specific committee for ensuring the safety of schools.

Letter from Stanislas Ouaroy, Minister of National Education, Literacy, and the Promotion of National Languages, to Human Rights Watch, May 18, 2020.

Cameroon

Minister of Education Letter to the Governor of the Far North, 2017

Subject: Respect for Safe School Declaration

It comes to my attention that in some public primary schools in the departments of Mayo-Sava and Logone-et-Chari, soldiers provide lessons to students in uniform.

I appreciate the initiative of local administrative and military authorities to come to the aid of the education of children affected by the armed conflict imposed by the Boko Haram sect in this area of the country, I have the honor to ask kindly to convey to the military teachers concerned my encouragement and the gratitude of the Republic.

However, I urge them to carry out their educational actions in school buildings in civilian clothes and without weapons to comply with the provisions of the Safe School Declaration.

[List of nine schools “of concern” listed in attachment.]

Letter from Youssouf Hadidja Alim, Minister of Basic Education, to Governor of the Far North Region, November 30, 2017.

Canada

Policy Statement on the Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use During Armed Conflict, 2017

Canada strongly believes that education is a right that must be upheld, including in conflict situations. We believe that all students, girls and boys, must be able to attend school or university without fear of being targeted. Schools should be places where students come together in peace to learn about the world and their contribution to it; education can be a remedy for conflict and should never be a target of it. Protecting children and youth from all forms of violence and harmful practices is critical to upholding their rights, ensuring that they thrive, and helping them grow into engaged and productive members of society.

The Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use During Armed Conflict recognize the importance of education and its role in promoting understanding, tolerance and respect for all. Canada joins other countries in endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration and, in doing so, reaffirms its commitment the protection of persons affected by armed conflict, including children.

We are concerned with the use of schools by parties to armed conflict for military purposes such as bases, barracks, weapons caches and detention centers, where such use is in contravention of international humanitarian law and we welcome efforts to address this. Eliminating all violations against children in all settings, including in situations of armed conflict, is a priority and we recognize and firmly support the need to prevent the unlawful recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, as well as for the rehabilitation and reintegration of children who have been recruited and involved in hostilities.

Compliance with international humanitarian law remains the best means to protect schools and other civilian objects from unlawful attack and we call on all parties to armed conflicts, including non-state actors, to adhere to these established international legal obligations. While not legally binding, the Declaration and associated Guidelines will inform the planning and conduct of Canadian Armed Forces operations during armed conflict, which are always carried out in full compliance with Canada’s obligations under international humanitarian law.

Canada shares the strong desire to minimize the adverse effects of armed conflict on children and we strongly agree with the importance of adhering to the protections that international humanitarian law affords to civilians and civilian objects, including schools and the students who attend them. Our endorsement of the Declaration gives us an important opportunity to reiterate our call for compliance with international humanitarian law.

Policy Statement on the Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use

During Armed Conflict, Global Affairs Canada, February 20, 2017.

Central African Republic

MINUSCA directive on the protection of schools and universities against military use, 2015

Purpose:

These guidelines aim at preventing the use of schools and universities by MINUSCA Force and Police and to minimize the impact of armed conflict on the security and education of children.

General principles:

Schools have to be havens of peace, where children are protected even in times of armed conflict. They are, however, often attacked or used for military purposes by parties to the conflict in the Central African Republic, to the detriment of children.

3. MINUSCA Force and Police are requested not to use schools for any purpose. All MINUSCA military and police personnel should avoid encroaching on the security and education of children by using the following guidelines as good practice.
4. Schools and universities that are operational should never be used in any way. This applies to schools and universities that are closed after school hours, during weekends and holidays and during vacation periods.
5. Abandoned schools and university buildings which are occupied or used by MINUSCA Force and Police should be liberated without delay in order to allow educational authorities to reopen them as soon as possible. All signs of militarisation or fortification of such buildings or structures should be completely removed after the withdrawal and any damage caused to the institution should be repaired quickly before hand-over to the authorities, to allow the return to educational use.
6. All ammunitions, unexploded ordinance or war debris should be cleared from the site.
7. The use of a school or university by a party to a conflict is not permitted, and cannot provide grounds for continuation of such use.
8. Military and police personnel tasked to secure schools or universities should avoid wherever possible entering into the school premises or buildings in order not to compromise their civilian status.
9. The Force Commander and the Police Commissioner are requested to ensure the implementation and wide dissemination of this directive.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) directive on the protection of schools and universities against military use, from Special Representative to the Secretary General Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, MINUSCA/OSRSG/046/2015, December 24, 2015.

Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, 2019

Article 5: For their part, the armed groups undertake: ... (c) To refrain from engaging in any act of destruction or illegal occupation of public buildings and sites, such as ... schools...

Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic (Khartoum Accord), S/2019/145, February 6, 2019.

Child Protection Code, 2020

Article 180: Any attack, occupation of schools, of hospitals or obstruction of humanitarian aid to the detriment of the best interests of the child is prohibited. Anyone who has attacked or occupied a school, hospital, or ob-

structed humanitarian aid is punishable with imprisonment for ten (10) to twenty (20) years and/or a fine of 5,000,000 to 20,000,000 francs.

Child Protection Code for the Central African Republic, Law Number 20,016, June 15, 2020.

Communication from the Ministry of Education, 2021

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education was seized on April 30, 2021 by the Resident Representative of UNICEF in Bangui, reporting on the occupation of certain schools in some of our provinces by our defense forces and the allied forces.

To this end, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, while expressing its concern about the facts mentioned, would like to point out that the situation of our schools has evolved very favorably to the great satisfaction of our populations compared to the height of the crisis when the negative forces of the Convention Patriotique pour le Changements (CPC) had literally moved into our educational structures.

However, in view of the seriousness of the facts alleged, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education cannot be indifferent.

Therefore, the Minister instructs all Academic Inspectors from the indicated areas, to kindly send him without delay, an analysis of the current situation in order to allow him to organize an enlarged meeting with the Group of Partners of the educational system of which UNICEF is the leader, in order to verify the allegations and provide appropriate solutions if necessary.

Communication from the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Dr. Aboubakar Moukadas Noure, May 1, 2021.

Chile

World Humanitarian Summit Commitment, 2016

Chile will promote and disseminate in the formation of its Armed Forces the Guidelines to Prevent Military Use of Schools and Universities during Armed Conflict.

Advocacy Commitment 139015, World Humanitarian Summit, 2016.

Colombia

Yenys Osuna Montes v. the Mayor of Zambrano Municipality, Constitutional Court, 1999

Yenys Maria Osuna Montes, a student at the educational institution “*Escuela Oficial Mixta María Inmaculada*,” filed an action for injunctive relief against Alejandro Lopez Franco, mayor of the municipality of Zambrano (Bolívar), arguing that her rights to life and education were being threatened.

The petitioner was elected student representative by her peers at the above-mentioned school and, in such capacity, she sees to it that the rights and duties of her fellow students and teachers are respected and observed. Petitioner claimed in her complaint:

...I consider that our dignity as humans and the integrity of the institution I belong to, and which together with all members of the educational community we have strived to preserve, have been stepped on. We do not feel safe, and we live under the constant strain of knowing that we are serving as human shields for the police headquarters which are located right behind our building, and my friends and I often worry that a confrontation could break out during school hours. If this happened, what would we do?

Therefore, Osuna Montes requested that the judge order the municipal government to move the Police Headquarters to a new site.

The evidence contained in the case file includes:

A document ... indicating that:

It is hereby noted that in the toilets and the school playground the windows have no protection. The classrooms used by the 1st and 4th grade of the primary level, as well as the school's playground, are situated immediately adjacent to the street where the police headquarters are located. There is a street separating the wall at the rear end of the school compound from the Police Station and the Police Inspectorate by 6.50 meters. The School occupies a full block. Three barricades have been set up in the street leading to the Police Headquarters using bags and barrels filled with sand. The first barricade, which was built at the corner, is at a distance of 3.71 meters from the School wall. The other one is in the middle of the street, in front of the Police Inspectorate, while the third barricade is located on the other corner, on a diagonal line from the School, at approximately 3.10 meters.

- Documents signed by the [Commander of the Police Station of Zambrano]..., which state that:
 - 1) "Reports by the 3rd Naval Infantry Battalion indicate that approximately 300 FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrillas were stationed in farms in the area surrounding the municipality of Córdoba Tetón, and that one of their main objectives is to take over the Zambrano municipality."
 - 2) "According to intelligence reports, the Zambrano Police Station is one of the military objectives pursued by the Caribbean Block of the FARC, made up of fronts 35 and 37 of that guerrilla group."

Statement by the acting Headmistress of "Escuela María Inmaculada" ... in which she states the following:

We, the teachers and parents of the students at 'Escuela María Inmaculada,' have met with previous city mayors to discuss the fact that school premises were often used to accommodate members of the Army when they were sent to our city. During the periods when the school was used to house these officers, children would not attend classes. In early August this year, after the guerrilla took over Córdoba, the day after that (...) It is really dangerous that the school is at such short distance from the Police Headquarters. Given the current state of public order, children, teachers and the institution are at risk, because in case—God forbid—of a takeover by the guerrilla they would be affected in the first place, because we are 4 or 5 meters away from the Police Headquarters. QUESTION: Could you specify how you think public order has been disturbed in the municipality of Zambrano Bolívar? ANSWER: The day after the guerrilla took over the municipality of Córdoba, Ms. Maida, one of the teachers, was at a meeting with the Secretary of Education and other school headmasters. They wanted to suspend classes on August 5 and 6 due to the state of public order. While they were at this meeting, rumors spread that Zambrano had been taken over and this created a climate of chaos: some mothers rushed to the school to fetch their children, and others were upset because their children had been allowed to go home just a moment before. The truth is that the teachers in the morning shift got too scared and desperate when they heard the rumors about the attack in Zambrano. QUESTION: Is there anything else you would like to add, correct or change in this statement? ANSWER: At present, we are finishing the afternoon shift earlier than usual, before 6 p.m., because we are a bit scared, and we are always the last to hear about the status of public order.

Statement by the minor who brought the action for injunctive relief...:

I feel that teachers rush the classes and finish earlier than planned, because they say that the guerrilla will come to the school. I think that both students and teachers are worried because the school is right next to the Zambrano Police Station. QUESTION: Tell us if any event lately has made you feel unsafe or worried as a result of your proximity to the Police Headquarters. AN-

SWER: The school has always been right next to the Police Station and we did not have any problems before. But now we are constantly scared because the guerrilla took over Córdoba Bolívar and there were confrontations with the Police. The following day, we saw police officers, from here, from Zambrano, running and riding their motorbikes around the school. They were carrying guns and they said that members of the guerrilla were going to enter the school, and suddenly all the mothers came to fetch their children in tears, frightened by the rumors that the guerrilla would storm the building. The streets were full of people and we feared for our lives....

Statement by the Head of the educational center, who claimed that classes had been disrupted due to the status of public order. She said that she had repeatedly requested the city's mayor to stop using the school building to accommodate members of the Army, but that the mayor had dismissed her requests....

3. *The rights of children to life, personal integrity and to a full and adequate physical and psychological development and education. The State's role in preserving those rights. The prevalence of the rights of minors. Constitutional protections and enforcement of International Humanitarian Law to cope with actual threats to prevailing rights. Reasonable restrictions on the duty of solidarity. The protection of rights requires an enforceable court order.*

This time the Court has been asked to establish whether the fundamental rights of these children—in particular the rights to life, personal integrity, to a full and adequate physical and psychological development and the right to education—have been violated or threatened by the municipal government's response to repeated requests to move to a new site the Police Headquarters adjacent to the school that is home to the petitioning minor and her classmates and teachers...

There is, in principle, an apparent tension between the fundamental rights of children (Articles 11, 12, 44 and 67 of the Political Constitution of Colombia), which under the Constitution should prevail over the rights of others, on the one hand; and people's duty to act in accordance with the principle of social solidarity, to respect the legitimately constituted authorities in their efforts to maintain national independence and integrity, and to strive toward the achievement and maintenance of peace, on the other (art. 95 of the P.C.).

The undoubted, visible and demonstrated presence of an armed conflict in the area, recent events proving that there are constant guerrilla attacks directed primarily against police stations and headquarters, other evidence presented by the State's security forces and the testimony to that effect indicate that there is not just a theoretical possibility of risk or fear, but an actual and serious threat to the 264 children who every day attend this school, which is not just near the Police Station, but right next to it...

In the case of children, even though in principle they must act with solidarity or, better still, should be educated in the principles of solidarity and the demands of social coexistence, it must be established on a case-by-case basis if, given their position of unique vulnerability and defenselessness, they have the capacity and the obligation to tolerate all situations or perform all actions that are required from them, regardless of their present circumstances and the dangers to their fundamental rights, in particular their right to life.

Therefore, if we take into account that, due to their physical and psychological conditions and their total lack of experience they cannot defend themselves from attacks in the same way as an adult—especially attacks as serious as those discussed here—one cannot reasonably expect a minor to run the risk of losing his or her life, even more so when the risk can be avoided or reduced. This is one of the most important responsibilities of society as provided, inter alia, by Article 44 of the Constitution.

The duty of solidarity of minors cannot be interpreted to imply that they should tolerate that the environment where they receive education becomes a battle field and that they get caught in the crossfire, if we understand that infants, because of their defenseless state, are mere victims and cannot be expected to become heroes in the context of armed combat.

However, in this decision, and in line with its previous rulings, the Court has examined in particular the actual, evident and undeniable risk faced by the children in this case and has assessed the need to provide effective protection to them, based on factual considerations rather than theoretical classifications of what constitutes or not a military target. In light of the Political Constitution, 264 children are clearly at a grave risk of death or injury

that could be prevented; and the existing dangers which have been proven to this Court emanate from the guerrilla's unilateral decision—not always consistent with academic classifications—which may consider, as they have done in the past, that the Police forces—a civilian armed body—are a military target. This factual situation cannot be ignored by the judge hearing the constitutional protection action or by government and police authorities.

Past experiences clearly indicate, and this is undeniable, that when guerrilla groups launch attacks against municipalities, they often—and almost invariably—target police stations and other public buildings in the first place. Hence, the risk posed by the specific circumstances of this case—particularly taking into account many official reports that speak categorically about the possibility of a “guerrilla takeover,” the peculiarity that the school was built immediately next to the police premises, and the fact that the school has been used as barracks to house military and police personnel—is so serious that it amounts to a threat, as defined in Article 86 of the Constitution, and which has been previously examined by this Court:

A threat to a fundamental constitutional right can take many forms: it may relate to the specific circumstances in which an individual exercises such right; to the existence of positive and unmistakable signs indicating an individual's intention to act in a way that violates the right in question; or to a challenge (attempted crime) that affects the right at issue directly; it may also consist of unintentional acts whose characteristics persuade the judge before whom an action for relief has been brought that, should he fail to issue an order to enjoin such conduct, the right in question would be violated; it may likewise be caused by an authority's failure to act which, over time, could give rise to or enhance a risk; and it may also result from the existence of an unconstitutional rule—an authorization or an order—which, if applied, would constitute per se a violation or denial of fundamental rights. In the latter case, Article 86 of the Constitution mandates that such unconstitutional order or authorization should not apply to the case at issue, in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution, provided that the principle of incompatibility between the two provisions is met. (Constitutional Court. Fifth Constitutional Review Chamber. [Corte Constitucional. Sala Quinta de Revisión]. Decision T-349 of August 27, 1993).

In the instant case, it should be underscored that, on certain occasions, Police and Army officers have stayed overnight in the School premises, aggravating in this way the risk to children's health, life, and integrity. As a result, an order will be issued to enjoin them from doing so in the future.

Having analyzed all the evidence submitted in the course of the proceedings, the Court understands that there is a high probability that the Zambrano municipality will be taken over by the guerrilla group that operates in that part of the country's territory, as can be inferred from intelligence reports. Therefore, there is a real and impending threat to the lives of the local residents, particularly those in the proximity of the police station. And there is no justification for the fact that those who are closest to the police station are no other than the students of the above-mentioned school.

This is further aggravated by the disruption of the educational process which has caused fear among children and has resulted in high drop-out rates, as demonstrated by the evidence provided.

In this respect, the Court finds that an unreasonable burden has been placed on the students of the school in the municipality of Zambrano and that the duty of solidarity—which also falls on minors—is limited by their capacity to assume such obligation. Forcing children to occupy a facility which is in immediate proximity to the police station and, as a result, is highly exposed to attacks that fall under the guerrilla's classification of armed conflict would be a manifestly disproportionate measure which violates the right to equality and threatens the right to life and education.

Also, this openly contradicts Article 44 of the Political Constitution, which provides that the rights of children have priority over the rights of others. It must be emphasized that international humanitarian law requires that children be protected from the horrors of the war.

It should be recalled that Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, with a view to protecting civilians and children from attacks, encourages the temporary evacuation of children from an area in which hostilities are taking place

to a safer area.

Taking into account the special relevance of the fundamental rights of children; that the duty of solidarity should reasonably and proportionally meet the limits imposed by prevailing fundamental rights; that there are constitutional provisions which expressly protect minors in areas of armed conflict; and that it must not be overlooked that one of the main goals of the State is precisely to protect the lives of its members—and this is also the paramount and necessary purpose of political organization; this Court considers it appropriate to require the municipal mayor, in collaboration and coordination with the relevant authorities at the departmental and national levels, especially the Ministries of Finance and Public Credit, Education, and National Defense, to adopt all necessary budgetary and administrative measures to transfer without delay the educational institution “Escuela Oficial Mixta María Inmaculada” in the Zambrano municipality to an area where the risk is lower, or otherwise to move the Police Headquarters to a different site that is still within the territory of the municipality but where a potential guerrilla attack would not likely result in the horrendous killing of children.

And given that for practical reasons this judgment may not be executed immediately, the Court understands that, in view of the circumstances of the case and in order to ensure the observance of the fundamental rights at issue, it is both viable and necessary to grant temporary injunctive relief to reduce the risk that threatens the lives of these children.

Therefore, the Court understands that the city’s mayor should prevent members of the State security forces from entering the school premises to conduct practices, trainings or to mount weapons, ammunition or deploy armed personnel, as this would increase the danger to the student community. Also, the educational community should be instructed on how to manage an emergency evacuation situation and on the mechanisms to protect the lives of its members.

In addition, this Court finds striking that the appellate court has only formally safeguarded the petitioner’s rights and has failed to issue a specific order for their protection. In this regard, it is worth noting that the action for injunctive relief (*acción de tutela*) is a protection established to safeguard rights that have been threatened and to guarantee their effectiveness (art. 2), and that the Constitution explicitly states that (art. 86) “the protection will consist of an order enjoining others to act or refrain from acting.”...

The lower court’s decision is hereby SUPPLEMENTED and the municipal mayor is ordered, in collaboration and coordination with the relevant authorities at the departmental and national levels, especially the Ministries of Finance and Public Credit, Education, and National Defense, to adopt without delay all necessary budgetary and administrative measures to transfer as soon as possible the educational institution “*Escuela Oficial Mixta María Inmaculada*” in the Zambrano municipality to an area where the risk is lower, or otherwise to move the Police Headquarters to a different site that is still within the territory of the municipality but where the minors attending the school could be effectively protected.

In the meantime, before the execution of this judgment is completed, the mayor shall prevent members of the State’s security forces from occupying the premises of the educational institution “*Escuela Oficial Mixta María Inmaculada*” and conducting shooting practices or training in the use of firearms, ammunition and explosives. Likewise, the educational community shall be instructed on how to manage an emergency evacuation situation as well as on the mechanisms to protect the lives of its members...

Yenys Osuna Montes v. the Mayor of Zambrano Municipality, SU-256/99, Constitutional Court, April 21, 1999.

Wilson Pinzón v. the Mayor of La Calera, Constitutional Court, 2001

...Petitioner files a writ of protection on behalf of his minor son, who attends the nursery school Jardín Infantil Departamental La Calera. He states that this educational institution is situated one block from a police station and a military base of the Colombian Army. The police station is opposite the military base...

Petitioner says that the municipality was taken over by guerrillas on July 19th, 1994, when the police station was completely destroyed by an attack with firearms... On July 27th, 1999, a second guerrilla attack was launched, and residents fled with their children to more remote locations in order to avoid danger.

The following day, the petitioner requested the mayor of the municipality to move the police station “to a more

appropriate and less-residential location outside the urban zone...” The mayor responded to those requests stating that this issue was not under his purview and that “securing the lives of individuals was not a responsibility of the Municipal Government but of the military forces,” that the property which housed the police station did not belong to the municipality and that no objections had been raised when the police station was relocated.

In response, the petitioner pointed out that public deed No. 182 dated March 8th, 1996 proved that the police station is located in a property owned by the municipality. He added that while residents did not object when the police station was inaugurated in a residential area, their opinion was never sought.

The petitioner also expressed concern over the statements made on television by the FARC spokesman, Raúl Reyes, who recommended Colombian authorities to locate police stations outside the urban areas of municipalities, as the members of such organization had been instructed to attack police stations...

FINDINGS OF THE CHAMBER

...

2.1 The State has an obligation under the Constitution to protect the rights and the lives of individuals - Description of duties of the police forces:

Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Constitution establishes that the essential purpose of the State is to guarantee the effective enjoyment of the rights enshrined therein. In turn, article 11 provides that the fundamental right to life may not be violated. Also, in its second paragraph, article 2 lists the purposes for which authorities have been instituted, including in the first place the obligation to protect the lives of individuals.

In order to achieve those purposes, the constituent assembly deemed it necessary to organize a public force (art. 216), made up by the military and the police. The police force is created as a civilian organization within the sphere of the national government. Its primary purpose is to maintain the conditions necessary for the exercise of rights and freedoms and to ensure that the inhabitants of Colombia live in peace.

However, although the Constitution conceives the police as a civilian institution with preventive functions—as opposed to the military forces—in the current socio-political situation in Colombia, characterized by widespread instability and violence, this classification does not always portray the reality or allow the police to perform the service it is expected to provide. Therefore, in previous cases, the Colombian Constitutional Court has recognized that the police force is in a “grey area” halfway between the military and the civilian spheres.

...[A]s a result of the current state of affairs of the Colombian conflict, the police force may not be classified as an entirely civilian institution from a legal standpoint, because in certain regions of the country instability has grown to the point that police officers and their workplaces are often chosen as military targets by the guerrillas...

2.2 People’s solidarity is a necessary condition for an adequate police service.

Clearly, in order to live together, individuals must fulfill certain social responsibilities... This duty of solidarity, in terms of the service provided by the police, justifies imposing certain burdens on private individuals, insofar as the location of police stations is part of a strategic plan to allow authorities to make the most of available resources and provide an effective service for everyone...

2.3 Limits on the duty of solidarity:...

However, the duty of solidarity does not require private individuals to indiscriminately take any risk which could undermine their rights. In such case, the State would abdicate its role as guarantor of those rights, suggesting that no oversight of administrative measures is possible because their purpose is legitimate.

On the contrary, the fact that the State is subject to the rule of law also means that the mechanisms by which it pursues its constitutional goals should be monitored. The problem does not lie in determining when the principle of general interest should prevail over any consideration of subjective rights. Instead, the extent of the duty of solidarity should be defined to establish what can be reasonably expected from private individuals when the service provided by the police poses a risk to the population. The prevalence of the general interest is not a constitutional rule with a single legal consequence, but rather a principle that, as such, may be taken into consideration.

The burdens that a government may place on private individuals by virtue of the prevalence of the general interest are enforceable insofar as the private interest infringed is incompatible with the needs of the service. Even though private individuals must accept certain burdens required for the provision of any public service, the State has an obligation to minimize inherent risks, so that individuals do not bear an unnecessarily heavy burden. This is particularly true in cases where the risk threatens people's lives and physical integrity. Claiming that life and other rights can be guaranteed by policing alone is not enough. Those responsible for the administration of the police service should take all necessary actions to minimize the risks involved and, at the same time, bring the needs of the service more closely in line with a fair distribution of public burdens.

In all cases, even when the needs of the service may not be harmonized with subjective rights or interests, burdens should be necessary, reasonable and proportionate. A burden will be necessary if the measure at issue is required for an appropriate provision of the service. Of course, the government has significant latitude in this regard, as it usually has the information and resources to identify the needs for the service and the means available to provide it. Reasonability should be the defining criterion for weighing the legal interest pursued or protected against the legal interest undermined by the burden. Needless to say, this assessment should be made taking into account the hierarchy established in the Constitution. The proportionality assessment seeks to guarantee that the burden does not impinge too much on the rights, expectations and other interests of those who bear it. In other words, only the sacrifice that is strictly necessary should be made to achieve the objective.

The most important aim of international humanitarian law is the protection of civilians in times of conflict, based on two fundamental principles: the principle of distinction between combatants and civilians, and the principle of proportionality...

With these principles in mind, under the current state of affairs in the country, the police forces, both in practice and in law, occupy a "grey area" halfway between the civilian and the military sectors; it is an armed State force involved in counterinsurgency activities, and as such its members can be classified as combatants. Therefore, on the understanding that the police are part of the combatant population, and that despite the risks to civilians resulting from ongoing attacks against this armed force the State cannot renege on its obligation to fulfill this role, we can only conclude that the State must take actions to minimize such risk. In other words, strictly "military" operations, as well as all other activities conducted by State armed forces, should only pose the minimum possible risk to the civilian population. On this point, article 13 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 ... establishes the minimum protection provisions for the civilian population and, to guarantee this protection, affirms the principle of distinction between civilians and combatants...

"ARTICLE 13. Protection of the civilian population."

"1. The civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against the dangers arising from military operations. To give effect to this protection, the following rules shall be observed in all circumstances."

"2. The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited."

"3. Civilians shall enjoy the protection afforded by this Part, unless and for such time as they take a direct part in hostilities." ...

As part of the protection of civilians against the dangers arising from military operations, covered under subsection 1 of this article, the State should take specific measures to guarantee that the risk posed to civilians is the minimum necessary to ensure an effective performance by the police forces. The notions of efficiency and risk are variables that should be assessed based on the second principle that we mentioned, the principle of proportionality. Taking into account such principle, the need to establish police stations in accessible locations from where services can be provided to the whole population should not entail an excessive risk for those who live in the vicinity...

2.7 Concluding observations

With the above considerations in mind, we can conclude that in these cases the admissibility of [writ of protection] actions is conditioned on a sufficient showing that the threat represents an imminent risk to the life and

personal integrity of an individual or group, because of the current scale of historic guerilla attacks in a certain geographical location, and the specific circumstances of the person requesting the injunction. However, failure to establish the existence or imminent occurrence of a risk within the term of the [writ of protection] action does not mean that the risk is not real. Even when the judge acts with the utmost diligence and performs all necessary tests to establish the seriousness of the risk, the constitutional term may turn out to be insufficient, as the analysis of all elements involved can often exceed the investigative capacity of the [writ of protection] judge and, therefore, impinge on their capacity to offer protection. However, administrative authorities, and in particular entities responsible for intelligence activities and safeguarding the security of individuals, have the necessary means and infrastructure to establish whether a guerrilla attack is imminent and the degree of exposure of those who live in the vicinity of police stations.

Irrespective of the admissibility or inadmissibility of the [writ of protection] action, executive authorities should assess these risk situations in many of the country's municipalities, and take such measures as may be necessary to minimize the threat. Only efficient and sufficient planning, prevention and correction efforts can guarantee the effective enjoyment of the rights to life and personal integrity in the context of a climate of widespread violence that pervades many parts of the country. In such cases, the prompt and responsive actions of the [writ of protection] judge would be inadequate to deal with the scope and nature of the issue of insecurity.

3. The case in question

In the [writ of protection] proceedings before this Court, ...the guerrillas have launched attacks against police stations which left several police officers and civilians injured and caused significant structural damage. In addition, according to the report by the Ministry of Defense, both municipalities are of strategic interest to the guerrillas and there is presence of several FARC fronts or blocs. This situation was further compounded by the statements that one guerrilla commander made on television, claiming that police stations were targets of guerrilla attacks and should be relocated.

These events underscore that at present ... police stations in La Calera... are potential targets of FARC attacks, and the means by which such attacks are carried out pose a significant risk to the buildings and the lives and personal integrity of the population in the vicinity.

...Taking into consideration the particular circumstances of the petitioners seeking protection, this differential analysis rests on a question of fact, i.e., the defenselessness of minors in nursery schools, and a question of constitutional law, resulting from the prevalence of the rights of children over those of other people. The prevalence of the rights of children also means, in turn, that the legal interest to be protected by sacrificing these rights should be of a superior constitutional value. Only then can protection be denied. At the same time, to the extent that the threat does not pose an imminent risk to the life or physical integrity of the children whose protection is sought by the [writ of protection] action, the decision to grant protection may not be grounded in the prevalence of those rights.

...[T]he evacuation and, in general, the effective protection of approximately 330 minors who attend the two nursery schools in the area near the police station in the municipality of La Calera will not be possible in the event of an attack. Even if appropriate preventive measures are taken to conduct an evacuation or safeguard the children, the headmasters of the institution do not have the necessary tools to protect their lives, and minors are under no obligation to bear the burden of such a great risk...

To the extent that a group of minors in a school or nursery are not capable of coping with the risk of a guerrilla attack, and considering also that the professors and headmasters have no means to protect them either, the probability of a guerrilla attack represents an imminent threat to the defenseless children who attend a nursery located near a police station.

In addition, because the rights of children are involved and these rights have prevalence over the rights of other people, the level of protection should be greater. Article 44 of the Constitution recognizes the duty of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of physical violence. In this way, public administration can only be released from the obligation to provide special protection when it can prove conclusively that such protection may compromise a legal interest of higher constitutional value than the rights of children...

For the reasons stated... this Court AFFIRMS the decisions rendered on September 12, 2000, which granted the protection requested...

Wilson Pinzón and others v. the Mayor of La Calera, T-1206/01, Constitutional Court of Colombia, November 16, 2001.

Order from Commander General of the Military Forces, 2010

Considering International Humanitarian Law norms, it is considered a clear violation of the Principle of Distinction and the Principle of Precaution in attacks and, therefore a serious fault the fact, that a commander occupies or allows the occupation by his troops, of a good of private nature, or of public use, such as the housing where the civilian population lives and public institutions such as education establishments, [and] communal rooms; which causes an imminent risk to minors' protection. This affects in a sensible manner the way in which minors' Rights are granted and respected.

The General Command of the Armed Forces and the Military Commanders have repeated on various occasions through different directives the prohibition of the occupation of the buildings mentioned above, warning about the serious danger that teachers and children may face who go daily to exercise their right to education. For this reason, commanders at all levels are responsible for the application of issued orders and instructions and the control of the actions taken by their subordinates, since the use of civilian and public property has historically triggered other accusations against troops, such as forced displacement, theft, indiscriminate attacks, and both physical and verbal abuse against minors, who are subject to special protection. Against such accusations, it is required to undertake disciplinary investigations where possible and to carry out ... monitoring in order to avoid a repetition of the behavior in operation areas.

General Commander of the Military Forces, order of July 6, 2010, official document Number 2010124005981 / CGFM-CGING-25.11.

Côte d'Ivoire

Child Protection Training Module, 2017

The armed forces of Côte d'Ivoire have integrated modules on the rights and protection of children into trainings provided in military schools, academies, and training centers. The training now includes a specific module on prohibiting occupation of schools and training institutions. The training is established in the four military regions of Côte d'Ivoire, and provided by a child protection cell, which is staffed with trained military personnel.

Information from Legal Adviser for Military Operations, Ministry of Defence, Côte d'Ivoire.

Croatia

Science and Higher Education Act, 2003

Article 55 – Inviolability of the University

- (1) The premises of the university shall be inviolable.
- (2) Competent state authorities may intervene on the premises of the university only with the consent of the head, according to the decision of the competent court or if there is an immediate danger for the life and health of people or property.

Science and Higher Education Act, July 23, 2003.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Child Protection Act,

The State ensures the necessary protection, education, and care for children affected by armed conflict, tensions, or civil unrest... This provision also applies to the child displaced as a result of a natural disaster or a deterioration of socio-economic conditions.

Law on Child Protection, 009/01, January 10, 2009, art. 72.

Ministerial Directive, 2013

I urge you to educate all members of the [Congolesse army] that all those found guilty of one of the following shortcomings will face severe criminal and disciplinary sanctions: ... Recruitment and use of children... Attacks against schools ... requisition of schools ... for military purposes, destruction of school facilities.

Minister of Defense Alexandre Luba Ntambo, Ministerial Directive on the Implementation of the Action Plan, Ministry of Defense, No. VPM/MDNAC/CAP/0909/2013, May 2, 2013.

Denmark

Military Manual, 2016

The protection of children and youth also implies a certain respect for the right of children to education, etc., even in areas of conflict. It is necessary, therefore, to exercise restraint with respect to the military use of children's institutions, including day-care facilities, schools, and orphanages. This also applies in situations in which the international legal basis, including [Status of Forces Agreements], allows for the evacuation of such institutions for use by international military forces. [Footnote to UN Security Council Resolution 2143.]...

The principle of distinction is not merely a requirement to distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects when conducting an attack. The principle is also intended to ensure that the parties to the conflict help facilitate the distinction for the adversary. Against this background ... parties to the conflict must endeavour to remove civilians and civilian objects from the vicinity of military objectives and take other precautions to protect the civilian population against the dangers resulting from military operations... The rules are designed to provide a framework for armed conflicts in international law which, to the extent feasible, spares the civilian population and civilian objects, including schools and hospitals, and which contributes to maintaining the basis for the continuation of civil society in the States that are parties to the conflict, also after the conflict has ended...

In this context, restraint should be exercised in using schools and other educational institutions in support of Danish military operations. The reason for such special consideration of schools, etc., is that the military use of schools has severe consequences not only in that it immediately endangers the lives of children and youths who are present in and near such schools but also in regard to the longer-term consequences for the education of school children. [Footnote to UN Security Council resolution 2143, and to the Safe Schools Declaration.]

The locating of military objectives among the civilian population does not deprive the population of its civilian character and protection, but it may violate the obligations under customary international law to avoid locating military objectives in or near densely populated areas... [An example] of the locating of civilians at military objectives: In 2012, Syrian government forces and militias allegedly converted and used schools as military bases, detention facilities, and interrogation centres for both children and adults even as lessons continued to be given there.

Danish Ministry of Defence, Military Manual on International Law Relevant to Danish Armed Forces in International Operations, September 2016, pp. 87, 73, 195, & 422.

Ecuador

Higher Education Law, 2010

Article 19 — Inviolability of university campuses.

The campuses of universities and polytechnics are inviolable and cannot be searched except in the cases as for a person's home, as provided in the Constitution and the law. They must be used exclusively for the fulfillment of the aims and objectives set out in this law.

The monitoring and maintenance of internal order are the responsibility of campus authorities. When the protection of public forces is needed, the legal representative of the institution will request the relevant assistance, and inform the top collegiate academic body.

Those who violate these campuses will be sanctioned in accordance with law.

Ley Orgánica de Educación Superior, 2010, article 19.

Manual of International Humanitarian Law, 2016

...Educational ... institutions shall be considered as neutral and as such respected and protected by belligerents. The same respect and protection shall be due to the personnel of the institutions mentioned above. The same respect and protection shall be accorded to ... educational ... institutions in time of peace as well as in war.

Armed Forces of Ecuador, Manual of International Humanitarian Law, DBM-DOC-CC.FF.AA.-05-2016, May 2016, Chapter VIII, sec. D.

Ethiopia

Criminal Code, 2004

Article 270: War Crimes against the Civilian Population

Whoever, in time of war, armed conflict, or occupation, organizes, orders or engages in, against the civilian population and in violation of the rules of public international law and of international humanitarian conventions:... (i) the confiscation, destruction, removal, rendering useless or appropriation of property such as ... schools;... is punishable with rigorous imprisonment from five years to twenty-five years, or, in more serious cases, with life imprisonment or death.

The Criminal Code of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, proclamation 414/2004, 2004.

Greece

Law on the Structure and Operation of Higher Education Institutions (repealed), 1982

Article 2: Academic freedoms and university asylum

...

- (4) To ensure academic freedom, freedom of scientific inquiry, and the free distribution of ideas, "University Asylum" is recognized.
- (5) University Asylum covers every area of the universities, and prohibits any intervention in these areas by state forces without an invitation or the permission of the competent organ of the university, as outlined below...
- (7) Intervention by state forces without the permission of the competent organ of the university is allowed only if flagrant felonies or flagrant crimes against human life are being committed.

- (8) Those in violation of the provisions of paragraph (5) on University Asylum shall be punished with at least six months sentence, but only after being officially accused by the Senate or the competent organ outlined in paragraph (6).

Law on the Structure and Operation of Higher Education Institutions, law 1268/1982, article 2(4)-(8), repealed 2011.

Law on the Structure and Operation of Higher Education Institutions, 2017

Article 3 — Academic freedoms

1. ...Academic asylum is recognized for safeguarding democratic values, academic freedoms in research and teaching, free movement of ideas, protection of the right to knowledge and learning against anyone who attempts to dismantle it.
2. Intervention of public powers in the areas of higher education institutions is authorized of their own motion in cases of crimes and crimes against life and only following a decision of the Rectorate Council in any other case. The above limitations do not apply to fire brigade operations and road traffic accident interventions.

Law on the Structure and Operation of Higher Education Institutions, August 2, 2017, article 3.

India

Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, 1938

Article 3: Power exercisable for purpose of manoeuvres.

- (1) Where a notification under sub section (1) of section 2 has been issued, such persons as are included in the military forces engaged in the manoeuvres may, within the specified limits and during the specified periods,___
 - (a) pass over, or encamp, construct military works of temporary character, or execute military manoeuvre on, the area specified in the notification, ...
- (2) The provisions of sub section (1) shall not authorise entry on or interference with any ... educational institution...

Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, Act No. V of 1938, March 12, 1938, art. 3

Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952

Power to requisition immovable property:

Where the competent authority is of opinion that any property is needed or likely to be needed for any public purpose, being a purpose of the Union, and that the property should be requisitioned, the competent authority ... may, by order in writing requisition the property... Provided that no property or part thereof ... is exclusively used ... as a school, ... or for the purpose of accommodation of persons connected with the management of ... such school, ... shall be requisitioned.

Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, Act No. 30 of 1952, March 14, 1952, art. 3.

Inqualabi Nauzwan Sabha v. Bihar, High Court at Patna, 2001

One aspect needs to be placed on record at the outset lest it may be misunderstood that the police is being evacuated from the present camping ground and that this affect the law and order situation. This is not so. By all means let the police force even be increased to double strength. No one has any objection to this.

But what is being complained of is that the police has occupied the building of the school with the result that the children are not being sent to school where the police has occupied the classrooms. This is depriving the chil-

dren of education.

The correct perspective would be that the police may remain within the district; but, the schools should not be closed for the reason that the classrooms have been converted into barracks. Why should this happen? This is depriving a generation and a class of children from education to which they have a right.

Inqualabi Nauzwan Sabha and others v. The State of Bihar, C.W.J.C. No. 4787 of 1999, High Court of Patna, order of January 2, 2001.

Chhattisgarh Home Department Letter, 2008

To Director General of Police Bijapur and Dantewada...

The following action on the recommendations of the Report of the National Human Rights Commission in compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is required: ... Security forces be not stayed in the buildings of teaching institutions and ashrams.

Compliance of the foregoing directions be ensured and send a Report of the same.

Letter from Sanjay Pillai, Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Home Department, to Director General of Police, Bijapur and Dantewada, No. F/4/46/Two-C/08, October 17, 2008.

Paschim Medinipur Bhumij Kalyan Samiti v. West Bengal, High Court at Calcutta, 2009

Mr. Roy, the learned Advocate General, appearing on behalf of the State/respondents, informs this Court that in fact, 22 schools in the district of West Midnapore were requisitioned for the purpose of accommodating the police forces deployed there to cope with the abnormal situation prevailing.

Mr. Roy further submits that out of 22 schools, the possessions of 10 schools have already been returned to the school authorities and other two schools, namely, Goaltore Boys High School and Goaltore Girls School will be vacated within 2nd December, 2009...

In such circumstances, we dispose of this writ application by directing the State/respondents to deliver back the possession of the 10 remaining schools ... positively within 30th December, 2009...

[T]he cost of consumption of the electricity in those schools by the police personnel will be borne out by the State Government in no time.

It is needless to mention that the mid-day meal should immediately start in those schools, where the possession has already been handed over to the school authorities and in respect of other schools, it should resume immediately after the handing over of possession of those schools.

Paschim Medinipur Bhumij Kalyan Samiti v. West Bengal, W.P. No. 16442(W) of 2009, High Court at Calcutta, judgment of November 24, 2009.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Protection of Children's Rights in Areas of Civil Unrest, 2010

Schools should never be used as temporary shelters by security forces. The [National Commission for Protection of Child Rights] is of the view that use of schools by police or security forces violates the spirit and letter of the [Right to Free and Compulsory Education] Act 2009 because it actively disrupts access to education and makes schools vulnerable to attacks. The Home Ministry should ensure that its directives against this are implemented. District magistrates must never offer schools to police and security personnel, and must enquire promptly into complaints that they are being used in this way. The army or police personnel in their turn must not use schools to set up camps or checkpoints. On the contrary, they should be directed to actively protect educational facilities.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Protection of Children's Rights in Areas of Civil Unrest, 2010, p. 10.

Exploitation of Children in Orphanages v. India, Supreme Court of India, 2010-2011

The Deputy Commissioner of N.C. Hills should ensure that the Schools, Hostels and Children Home Complex

presently occupied by the armed/security forces are vacated within a month's time and it should be ensured that the school buildings and hostels are not allowed to be occupied by the armed or security forces in future for whatsoever purpose...

The Ministry of H.R.D. [Human Resources Development, i.e. Education], Government of India is directed to submit a list of schools and hostels (district-wise), collected from the State Governments/Union of Territories Administrations which are currently occupied by the armed/security forces in the North Eastern States duly indicating the date from which or duration for which such schools and hostels have been occupied by the security forces...

The Ministry of Home Affairs is directed to ensure that the paramilitary forces vacate the school and hostel buildings occupied by them and submit an Action Taken Report to this Court as well as NCPC within two months from today. The Ministry shall file a proper affidavit in this matter on the next date of hearing of this Writ Petition.

Exploitation of Children in Orphanages in the State of Tamil Nadu v. Union of India and others, W.P. (Criminal) No. 102 of 2007, order of September 1, 2010.

State of Jharkhand:

So far as the State of Jharkhand is concerned, it is admitted that out of a total number of 47 locations where security forces have been housed in schools and hostels, only 26 of them have been vacated by the security forces. Rest of them still continue to be in occupation of the security forces. In the circumstances, there shall be a direction directing the State of Jharkhand to forthwith take appropriate steps and vacate the security forces from the school buildings, hostels, etc., within two months from today. The State of Jharkhand is directed to file its compliance report.

The State of Jharkhand is further directed to submit a detailed affidavit as to whether those buildings stated to have been vacated by the security forces have already been handed over to the concerned department and whether the schools are actually being run in those buildings. There shall be a similar direction for all the States where the school buildings, hostels, etc. were under the occupation of security forces.

State of Tripura:

So far as the State of Tripura is concerned, it is admitted that still 16 school buildings, hostels etc., continue to be under the occupation of the security forces and the State requires six months' further time to vacate them. We are not inclined to grant time as prayed for by the State. There shall be a similar direction directing the State of Tripura to vacate the security forces from the school buildings, hostels etc., in their occupation within two months from today. The State Government shall file the compliance report.

Exploitation of Children in Orphanages in the State of Tamil Nadu v. Union of India and others, W.P. (Criminal) No. 102 of 2007, order of March 7, 2011.

Nandini Sundar v. Chhattisgarh, Supreme Court of India, 2011

So far as the school buildings, educational institutions and hostels occupied by the security forces in the State of Chhattisgarh is concerned, it is stated that effective steps are being taken for vacating those buildings and the process had already begun. There shall be a direction to the Union of India and the State of Chhattisgarh to ensure that the security forces vacate all the educational institutions, school buildings and hostels within a period of four months from today. There shall be an order accordingly.

Nandini Sundar and others v. The State of Chhattisgarh, W.P. (Civil) No. 250 of 2007, Supreme Court of India, order of January 18, 2011.

It is necessary to note here that this Court had to intercede and order the Government of Chhattisgarh to get the security forces to vacate the schools and hostels that they had occupied; and even after such orders, many schools and hostels still remain in the possession and occupancy of the security forces. Such is the degree of degeneration of life, and society. Facts speak for themselves...

- (i) the issue of schools and hostels in various districts of Chhattisgarh being occupied by various security

forces, in a manner that precludes the proper education of students of such schools...

With respect to the issue of the schools and hostels occupied by the security forces, it may be noted that the State of Chhattisgarh had categorically denied that any schools, hospitals, ashrams and anganwadis were continuing to be occupied by security forces, and in fact all such facilities had been vacated. However, during the course of the hearings before this bench it has turned out that the facts asserted in the earlier affidavit were erroneous, and that in fact a large number of schools had continued to be occupied by security forces. It was only upon the intervention, and directions, of this Court did the State of Chhattisgarh begin the process of releasing the schools and hostels from the occupation by the security forces. That process is, in fact, still on going. We express our reservations at the manner in which the State of Chhattisgarh has conducted itself in the instant proceedings before us. It was because of the earlier submissions made to this Court that schools, hospitals, ashrams and anganwadis have already been vacated, this Court had passed earlier orders with respect to other aspects of the recommendations of the NHRC, and did not address itself to the issue of occupancy by security forces of such infrastructure and public facilities that are necessary and vital for public welfare. A separate affidavit has been filed by the State of Chhattisgarh seeking an extension of time to comply with the directions of this Court. This is because a large number of schools and hostels still continue to be occupied by the security forces. We will deal with the said matter separately.

Nandini Sundar and others v. The State of Chhattisgarh, W.P. (Civil) No. 250 of 2007, Supreme Court of India, judgment of July 5, 2011.

A second interlocutory application ... has also been filed on behalf of the State of Chhattisgarh, for extension of time to vacate the school buildings, educational institutions and hostels, occupied by the security forces in Chhattisgarh.

Upon hearing learned counsel for the respective parties, we also allow the same. The State of Chhattisgarh is given a further period of two months to vacate the said premises. While extending the period, we also make it clear that no further extension of time should be prayed for on behalf of the State of Chhattisgarh for the aforesaid purpose.

Nandini Sundar and others v. The State of Chhattisgarh, W.P. (Civil) No. 250 of 2007, Supreme Court of India, order of November 18, 2011.

Indonesia

Cessation of Hostilities Framework Agreement between the Government and the Free Aceh Movement, 2002

Article 4: Establishment of “Peace Zones”

... (d) The designation of identified areas of demilitarized zones such as schools...

Cessation of Hostilities Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement, December 9, 2002.

Iraq

Ezidkhan Protection Forces’ Commitment to Respect Humanitarian Norms, 2018

We commit to the following measures for the protection of all civilians especially children and women:...

g. Abstaining from using schools, or any other building used for the provision of education, for military purposes to avoid harm to children and educational personnel.

h. Abstaining from attacking schools, or any other building used for the provision of education, used for military purposes unless no other feasible alternative measures exists.

Declaration on the Commitment to Respect Humanitarian Norms during and in the aftermath of Armed Conflict or Military Operations, Ezidkhan Protection Forces, December 12, 2018. English translation provided by Geneva Call.

Ninewa Guards' Commitment to Respect Humanitarian Norms, 2018

We commit to the following measures for the protection of all civilians especially children and women:...

g. Abstaining from using schools, or any other building used for the provision of education, for military purposes to avoid harm to children and educational personnel.

h. Abstaining from attacking schools, or any other building used for the provision of education, used for military purposes unless no other feasible alternative measures exists.

Declaration on the Commitment to Respect Humanitarian Norms during and in the aftermath of Armed Conflict or Military Operations, Ninewa Guards, December 12, 2018. English translation provided by Geneva Call.

Ireland

Defence Act, 1954

Article 269:

(1) The Minister may from time to time by order (in this Act referred to as a manoeuvres (authorisation) order) authorise the holding of military manoeuvres within a specified area and during a specified period...

Article 270:

(1) Where a manoeuvres (authorisation) order has been made in relation to any area, such persons as are under the authority of the Minister engaged in manoeuvres may under the direction of the Minister do, within such area and during the period specified in such order, all or any of the following things...: (a) pass over and encamp, construct military works, not of a permanent character, and execute military manoeuvres on any land;...

(2) Nothing in this section shall authorise (a) the entry on or interference with (except to the extent of using any road) any ... school, ... [or] ground attached to any ... school...

Defence Act, Number 18 of 1954.

Israel

Manual on the Rules of Warfare, 2006

It may be the case that a target might change its status from civilian to military or vice versa. For example, if an anti-aircraft battery is positioned on the roof of a school or if a sniper takes up a position on the minaret of a mosque, the protection provided for the facility by the virtue of it being [a] civilian target is no longer valid, and the attacker is permitted to attack it. The legal responsibility for the deaths of civilians in such a case is that of the side that made unreasonable use of a civilian target rather than on the side who attacked this target. In the case of incidents in which there is a doubt as to whether the target changed its status from civilian to military, the Additional Protocols determine that it should be assumed that it is not a military target unless proven otherwise.

Military Advocate-General's Corps Command, Israeli Defense Forces Schools of Military Law, "Rules of Warfare on the Battlefield," Second Edition, 2006, p. 27.

Israeli Defense Forces' Operational Plans and Rules of Engagement Orders, 2009

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...The [Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)] took extensive steps to weigh the risk of civilian harm against the existence of important military objectives, based on the information available at the time of targeting decisions. Such assess-

ments were a significant part of IDF training and rules of engagement, and they were implemented in the field... [F]or attacks planned in advance, each operation and target was considered on an individual basis (and reviewed by several authorities, including legal officers) in order to ensure that it met the requirements of proportionality. The same analysis was frequently repeated in the field based on real time data, immediately prior to an attack, to confirm that excessive civilian harm was not anticipated.

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On numerous occasions, this review led to a decision not to attack legitimate military targets, to avoid the possibility of civilian harm, even though such an attack might not be excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage. As just one example of many ... Israeli forces identified a rocket launcher between two school buildings on 18 January 2009, but refrained from attacking because of its proximity to the schools...

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The parties in control of the territory where the hostilities take place also have obligations under the Law of Armed Conflict to minimise civilian harm, including with regard to their own population. Thus, the parties to the conflict “shall, to the maximum extent feasible, take the other necessary precautions to protect the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects under their control against the dangers resulting from military operations.” [1977 Additional Protocol I, Article 58(c)]. This means they should “avoid locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas” [1977 Additional Protocol I, Article 58(b)]. ... To do the opposite – to place weapons systems in or near apartment buildings, schools, mosques or medical facilities ... – violates the Law of Armed Conflict, because such tactics inevitably increase civilian casualties beyond what otherwise might occur in connection with an attack on a legitimate military target.

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Thus, combatants who choose to fight from within civilian buildings bear responsibility for the consequences, because their very presence in such structures “will make an attack against them legitimate.” As the ICRC explains in its Commentary to Additional Protocol I, “It is clear that a belligerent who accommodates troops in purely civilian buildings, for example, in dwellings or schools, or who uses such buildings as a base for combat, exposes them and the civilians present there to serious danger: even if attacks are directed only against members of the armed forces, it is probable that they will result in significant damage to the buildings.”...

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...[The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)] took precautions regarding sensitive sites. The IDF’s operational plans and rules of engagement order special precautions with regard to military activity in proximity to United Nations and Red Cross facilities (of which there are several hundred in Gaza), hospitals, religious sites and educational institutions—a total of almost 1,900 sensitive sites in the Gaza Strip. All these sensitive sites were clearly marked in advance on IDF operational maps and aerial photographs, according to the information available to the IDF, as provided by the different organisations. The IDF distributed these maps at all levels of command, and gave clear orders regarding the protection of facilities and vehicles of this sort. The IDF set up a special Civil Administration situation room and a centre for humanitarian coordination to facilitate cooperation between the IDF and the U.N., the Red Cross and other international organisations...

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This mode of operation created complex operational, moral and legal challenges to the IDF, which frequently had to reconcile its commitment to minimise the risk to civilians and provide special protection to sensitive sites with military imperatives, such as the prevention of rocket launches from areas adjacent to schools and hospitals or the protection of troops under attack by Hamas terrorists operating from the vicinity of U.N. facilities. In some cases, the IDF refrained from military activities because of potential significant harm to sensitive sites... In other cases where it was necessary to proceed with military operations despite the risk to sensitive sites, the IDF took precautions to minimise the risk for harm.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Operation in Gaza 27 December 2008–18 January 2009: Factual and Legal Aspects, July 29,

2009, secs. 130-131, 139, 140, 259 & 261.

Italy

Manual of Humanitarian Law, 1991

The duties of the occupying state in occupied territory are the following:... implement all necessary measures to ensure the care and education of children.

Ministry of Defence, Manual of Humanitarian Law, SMD-G-014, 1991, Chapter III, sec. 48(9).

World Humanitarian Summit Commitments, 2016

Italy will continue to implement domestic legislation to prohibit/limit the use of schools and places of worship in support of the military effort.

Italy will support the inclusion of the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict* into military manuals, doctrine and other means of dissemination.

Policy Commitments 207055 & 207069, World Humanitarian Summit, 2016.

Lebanon

Palestine Liberation Organization, Ain al-Helweh Refugee Camp, 2017

On 6 March 2017, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Lebanon obtained written assurances from Palestinian armed groups in the Ain al-Helweh refugee camp that there would be no repetition of violations of neutrality of UNRWA's facilities in the camp. The assurances were requested by UNRWA in order to resume its operations in the camp, following days of fighting between rival Palestinian factions. During the clashes, a number of UNRWA schools were occupied, including one placed on high ground which sustained considerable damage.

UNRWA Lebanon, March 14, 2017.

Palestinian National Security Forces in Lebanon Code of Conduct, 2019

Part 6: Special protections

Article 5: The leadership of the Palestinian National Security Forces is committed to protecting ... schools and universities during armed violence and clashes. Equally, the civilian character of ... educational facilities should be preserved at all times. No attack on such facilities should be tolerated and concrete measures should be taken to avoid the military use of such institutions.

Article 6: All United Nations premises should be respected and not entered or used during armed clashes or violence. Such premises enjoy inviolability under international law, as laid out in the 1946 International Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. This inviolability applies at all times and is not subject to exceptions for military expediency.

Palestinian National Security Forces in Lebanon, Code of Conduct, March 20, 2019. English translation provided by Geneva Call.

Libya

National Transitional Council/Free Libyan Army Frontline Manual, 2011

Rules on targeting and the use of violence

DO NOT harm ... educational ... buildings ... unless Qadhafi forces are using them for hostile purposes, and such harm is absolutely necessary...

Protections of detainees... Special Provisions for Children (People Under 18 Years of Age)

... Children MUST be able to continue their schooling...

National Transitional Council/Free Libyan Army Frontline Manual, May 17, 2011.

Luxembourg

World Humanitarian Summit Commitment, 2016

Luxembourg confirms its commitment to incorporate the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict into military manuals, doctrine, rules of engagement, operational orders, and other means of dissemination.

Policy Commitment 213039, World Humanitarian Summit, 2016.

Malaysia

Military Manoeuvres Act 1983

Article 2

...

“military manoeuvre” means any deployment of service personnel, guns, vehicles, ships or aircraft carried out on any land, sea, tidal water, shore or air by the armed forces or any of the visiting forces...

Article 7

- (1) When any military manoeuvre is being executed under this Act, the persons engaged in the military manoeuvre may, within the limits specified in the notice, if any, and during the period specified— (a) pass over and encamp, construct military works not of a permanent character and execute military manoeuvres on any land;...
- (2) Nothing in this Act shall authorize— ... entry on or interference with any ... school ... or any ground attached to any ... school...

Military Manoeuvres Act, December 28, 1983, arts. 2, 7.

Mali

Military Directive for the Joint MAA-MNLA troops in Timbuktu, 2014

The joint troops commit to: ... (4) not attack, occupy, or destroy schools...

Military Directive for the Joint the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) and the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) troops in Timbuktu, Mali, signed by Col. Hussein Mocktar for the MAA and Ag. Intouwa Alahssan for the MNLA, 2014.

National Committee of Safe Schools Declaration Follow-up in Mali, Action Plan, 2020

Work for the adoption of a text (policy / law) to protect schools against attacks during conflict as per SSD Guidelines Set Up an Ad Hoc Group to reflect on the elaboration of draft of decree to domesticate SSD Guidelines:

- Support the working sessions of Ad Hoc Group on the decree design
- Organise consultation meetings with all the stakeholders on the draft of decree to get their feedback and support
- Introduce the draft of decree in the Government adoption framework process
- Update the military doctrine to incorporate language from the SSD Guidelines.

National Committee of Safe Schools Declaration Follow-up in Mali, Action Plan, 2020.

Draft Law on Protecting Schools and Universities during the Armed Conflicts in Mali, 2021

...Chapter I: Object, Scope, and Definitions

Section I: Object and Scope

Article 1: The object of this law is the protection of schools and universities during periods of armed conflict in the Republic of Mali.

Article 2: It applies to all learning spaces, schools, and universities in order to guarantee the right to education during armed conflicts in Mali.

Section II: Definitions

Article 3: For the purposes of this law, the following terms are defined as follows:

- School: early childhood development centers, primary schools and secondary schools, learning centers, higher education centers such as universities, colleges or technical training schools, as well as all properties or land attached to institutions. This protection excludes institutions dedicated to military training....
- School and university space: All the places dedicated to different forms of learning knowledge and socializing those who frequent them. This space includes classrooms, corridors, playgrounds, halls, media libraries, restaurants, or even outdoor spaces such as fields of physical education and sports—whether or not vegetated—surrounding the buildings of a school. School and university space is public or private. More specifically, the school and university space includes:
 - Preschool and special education centers and basic schools;
 - General education secondary schools;
 - Secondary vocational schools;
 - Secondary schools for vocational and technical education;
 - Vocational training centers;
 - The madrassas;
 - Schools of Koranic education, recognized by the State;
 - Colleges [“Grandes écoles”];
 - Institutes;
 - Universities.

Article 4: For the purposes of this law, “participating parties” means the parties to an armed conflict.

Article 5: For the purposes of this law, “protected persons linked to schools and universities” are the technical and administrative staff, the teaching staff, as well as the students.

Article 6: For the purposes of this law, “attacks” means the action of attacking school and university spaces; the policy of a state or organization to destroy or use school and university spaces.

Article 7: For the purposes of this law, “systemic attack against the education system” means any action aimed at destroying the entire education system in times of armed conflict: schools and universities, school and university administration, the teaching programs and their contents, the language of instruction, etc.

Article 8: For the purposes of this law, “attack against schools and universities” means any action that could endanger the integrity of schools, universities, teachers, educational staff, school administration and teachers, as well as students. All other actions compromising the fundamental right to education in times of armed conflict (targeted / deliberate attacks, indiscriminate attacks / incidents during crossfire, looting / looting, destruction and appropriations of goods not justified by the military imperative, and [without compensation], etc.).

Article 9: For the purposes of this law, the term “threats of attack” against schools or protected persons linked to these establishments, means the explicit announcement of a plan aimed at causing them harm or a declaration of intent and the determination to act in

this manner, whether in a physical or psychological way, and targeting people providing or receiving education.

Article 10: For the purposes of this law, the term “attacks against persons protected linked to schools or universities” means assassinations, mutilations, injuries, kidnappings and use of educational and academic staff or of learners as human shields, etc. An attack on protected persons must be clearly linked to an educational and / or university activity and committed by a party to conflict. In addition to attacks against the persons referred to in article 5 of this law, “Crimes against school and university staff” means:

- Carrying out a deliberate attack knowing that it will incidentally cause loss of life and injuries among space personnel school;
- The deliberate starving of school space staff as a method of war, by depriving them of goods essential to their survival, including intentionally preventing the dispatch of relief provided for by the Geneva Conventions;
- The act of conscription or enlistment of students under the age of 18 in order to force them to perform tasks of any kind or to actively involve them in hostilities;
- The act of blackmail / or threats against students or all other learners, teachers, administrators working in the school and university system.

Article 11: For the purposes of this law, “securing school and university spaces” means the act of securing or protecting the school and / or university spaces against any act of such a nature as to cause any damage to the space and to the personnel referred to in Article 5 of this law.

Article 12: For the purposes of this law, “security zone” means a security radius around schools and universities. Any military action, any use of weapons, or any maneuver that could endanger the school and university space in times of conflict armed forces, are prohibited in the security zone. The extent of the security radius around the school and university is one kilometer.

Article 13: For the purposes of this law, the term “crime against school and university spaces,” means the crimes defined in the Geneva Conventions and other national and international legal instruments.

Article 14: For the purposes of this law, “victim” means the persons referred to in Article 5 of this law who, individually or collectively, have suffered damage, in particular an attack on their physical or mental integrity, moral suffering, material loss, or a serious violation of their fundamental rights, due to acts caused by a party to the armed conflict. This term includes, where applicable, schools that have suffered damage as a result of an attack by parties to the armed conflict.

Section III: Exceptional Circumstance Justifying the Crossing, Occupation, Destruction, or Attacks Against Schools and Universities

Article 15: If schools and universities are used to launch military operations, and civilians, including education personnel, take direct part in hostilities, thus exceeding their public service educational role, schools and universities can therefore be considered as legitimate targets.

Article 16: If a teacher, student, or any other protected staff from a school or university, are fighting alongside one of the parties to the conflict, he / she can be legally targeted, or be subject to attack by the opposing party. However, children captured during hostilities benefit from protective measures specific to children associated with armed forces and groups.

Chapter II: Obligation for Securing the School Space

Section I: [Obligations] of the State

Article 17: Provisions are made by the state to integrate the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict in its relevant policies aimed at ensuring the protection of schools and universities.

Article 18: Measures are taken by the government to adopt a code of conduct relating to the protection of education, for the defense and security forces, and managers and staff of schools.

Article 19: The government must take into account the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict in the development of said code of conduct.

Article 20: The government undertakes to put an end to the impunity which surrounds acts of armed violence against students, teachers, university staff, all other education staff and educational infrastructure.

Section II: [Obligations of] School and University Institutions

Article 21: Schools and universities draw up a security plan with support from the competent authorities. This safety plan must include the behaviors and actions to be taken in the event of attacks on schools.

Article 22: “Watch committees” [“comités de veille”] are created by the communities in schools and universities located in areas affected by armed conflict, with the support of competent authorities.

Article 23: The “watch committees” are responsible for helping to protect students and school and university staff. They contribute to the protection of school and university spaces and the prevention against any internal and / or external attack during armed conflicts and in case of violation of the articles of this law.

Section III: [Obligations of] School and University Staff

Article 24: The State and the staff of schools and universities promote the culture of peace and understanding in the various programs taught in the school space.

Article 25: The State and the staff of schools and universities take steps so that schools, universities, and all educational establishments, become places of tolerance, understanding of peace, conflict resolution through dialogue, and respect for cultural and religious diversity. The promotion of tolerance, the understanding of peace, the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and respect for cultural and religious diversity will take place in the teaching of different programs within the school space.

Section IV: [Obligations of] Participating Parties to an Armed Conflict

Article 26: Parties to an armed conflict must not use school and university spaces in any way in times of peace as well as in times of armed conflict. This principle applies to schools and universities that are temporarily closed outside normal school hours, during weekends and holidays, and during periods of vacation.

Article 27: School and university spaces abandoned or evacuated due to dangers presented by armed conflict must not be used by parties to the conflict to support the military effort. In the event that said spaces are used, there must be no other viable alternative viable and only as long as there are no other choices between such use of the school and university space and another possible method to gain a military advantage. In addition, this use must be made for a minimum of time and for the shortest period possible.

Article 28: The use of school and university spaces abandoned or evacuated by parties to an armed conflict in support of the military effort must cease at the end of hostilities and [the spaces] remain available for school and university activities.

Article 29: The parties to a conflict take all precautions in accordance with the international legal instruments to protect all civilians and civilian property against attacks.

Article 30: Any trace or indication of militarization or fortification of school and university spaces must be completely removed after the withdrawal of combatant forces, and every effort should be made to repair as quickly as possible any damage caused to the institution's infrastructure.

Article 31: The use of a school or a university by the combatant forces of a party to an armed conflict, in support of the military effort, must not serve as a motive for an opposing party who seize it to continue to use it in support of the military effort.

Article 32: The combatant forces of parties to an armed conflict must not be employed to ensure safety in schools and universities, except where alternative means to providing essential security are unavailable.

Article 33: If combatant forces are engaged in security tasks related to schools and universities, their presence on the premises or in buildings should be avoided as much as possible in order to avoid compromising the civilian status of the establishment, and to avoid disrupting the learning environment.

Chapter III: Sanctions

Article 34: The following acts are punishable in accordance with this law:

- Attacks of all kinds targeting school and university spaces as defined in article 3 of this law, as well as against the protected persons linked to the schools and universities mentioned in article 5 of this law;
- The targeted assassination of personnel of the [school and university] spaces;
- Bombing, rocket fire, arson, looting and sacking, which destroys educational institutions;
- The illegal possession of weapons within the school and university space;
- The kidnapping of protected persons linked to schools and universities within the school and university space.

Article 35: Anyone who commits any of the acts provided for in article 13 of this law is guilty of a war crime and will be punished in accordance with the provisions of Penal Code, with life imprisonment.

Article 36: Offenses not provided for in article 13 of this law are also sanctioned by the provisions of the Penal Code....

Draft Law on Protecting Schools and Universities during the Armed Conflicts in Mali, 2021.

Mexico

Manual of International Humanitarian Law, 2009

Regarding children, ensure that the occupying power with the help of national and local authorities facilitates the good functioning of establishments dedicated to the ... education of children...

Manual of International Humanitarian Law for the Army and Mexican Air Force, 2009, art. 234(b).

Montenegro

Law on Higher Education, 2003

Article 19 - Inviolability of the premises

Premises of an institution are inviolable, without a permit issued by or on behalf of management bodies of the institution, unless such premises need to be entered into with the aim of preventing a threatened offense or an offense already committed or in case of a natural disaster or accident, or unless otherwise stipulated in this law.

Law on Higher Education, October 22, 2003.

Myanmar

Karenni National Progressive Party [KNPP] Statement on Child Soldiers, 2006

[Y]oung people were encouraged by the KNPP to go to schools run by the organization to pursue an education rather than becoming soldiers. These schools were not used for military recruitment and the students were not encouraged by the KNPP to serve in the army when they finished school.

Karenni National Progressive Party Headquarters, Statement on the Use of Child Soldiers, Statement No. 01/2006, August 31, 2006.

Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Ethnic Armed Organizations, 2015

Chapter 3

Sec. 5: The Tatmadaw [Myanmar military] and the Ethnic Armed Organizations agree to abide by the following troop-related terms and conditions: ...

- d. Avoid using any religious buildings, schools, hospitals, clinics and their premises as well as culturally important places and public spaces as military outposts or encampments...

Sec. 9: The Tatmadaw and the Ethnic Armed Organizations shall abide by the following provisions regarding the protection of civilians: ...

- a. Provide necessary support in coordination with each other to improve livelihoods, health, education, and regional development for the people....
- h. Avoid restrictions on the right to education in accordance with the law; destruction of schools and educational buildings, including educational tools; and the disturbance and hindrance of students and teachers....
- k. Avoid the destruction or actions that would lead to the destruction of schools, hospitals, clinics, religious buildings and their premises and the use of such places as military bases or outposts.

Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Ethnic Armed Organizations, October 15, 2015.

Military Code of Conduct Between the Government of Myanmar and Ethnic Armed Organizations, 2015

Chapter 2: Code of Conduct Regarding the Civilians

Article 7: The Tatmadaw [Myanmar military] and [Ethnic Armed Organizations] agreed to comply and implement the following terms in order to protect the civilians: ... (K) There shall be no destruction of schools... without a reason, nor shall there be any stationing of military units in such places....

Chapter 3: Military Code of Conduct during a Ceasefire

Article 8: The government and [Ethnic Armed Organizations] agreed to comply with the following provisions regarding military matters: (E) No military base or camp shall be set up in ... schools...

Military Code of Conduct between the Government of Myanmar and Ethnic Armed Organizations, November 18, 2015.

Nepal

Comprehensive Peace Agreement concluded between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), 2006

7.5.4. With the realization of the fact that the right to education to all should be guaranteed and respected, both sides are committed to maintaining a congenial academic environment in educational institutions. Both sides

agree to guarantee that the right to education shall not be violated. They agree to immediately put an end to such activities as capturing educational institutions and using them, abducting teachers and students, holding them captives, causing them to disappear, and not to set up army barracks in a way that would adversely impact schools and hospitals.

Comprehensive Peace Agreement concluded between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), November 21, 2006, art. 7.5.4.

Council of Ministers, 2011

In order to assure all people of Nepal the fundamental right to obtain an education, it has become the necessity of today to make the whole educational sector peaceful, prosperous, relevant, and results oriented. At present the country has begun to move along the path of peace; however, various groups and protests, in order to draw the attention of the government to their own demands, are continuously calling for various types of movements, strikes and shut downs, and the first target of such activities has become the education sector. These types of situations have created a hindrance to the implementation of the full educational program, lowering students' expected learning achievement and resulting in a situation in which the entire educational standard has been hampered...

In order to assure the learning rights of students and provide easier access to a well-managed and peaceful environment as well as the continuous operation of schools without hindrance to learning, implement according to the decision [it is decided to] declare schools a "Zone of Peace."

Decision of the Government of Nepal, May 25, 2011.

Ministry of Education Guidelines on Schools as Zones of Peace, 2011

To keep the school free from armed activities and other kinds violence refers to the following conditions:

- a No armed activities in the school premises and in its periphery.
- b No presence of armed group or conflicting parties in the school premises.
- c No use of school for any armed activities.
- d No incidence of kidnapping of student, teacher, staff and members of school management committee, admission / involvement in activities of armed group or force, illegal detention, torture and threatening from various parties.
- e Not being used of student, teacher, staff and school management committee by armed conflicting parties.
- f No training or armed activities and spying in school premises and in its periphery by any groups or conflicting parties.
- g No entrance of any kind of arms and organic- chemical explosive substance except for educational purpose in school premises and in its periphery.
- h By any reason, no attack, targeted, use as shield or making physical damage to the school and extortion.
- i With any reason, no violence or activities that instigate for such violence be inflicted in school surroundings and in its periphery.
- j Maintain mutual respect between students and teachers having various ideology and belief....

Schools as Zones of Peace National Framework and Implementation Guideline, Ministry of Education, promulgated under rule no. 192(3) of Education Regulation (2002), 2011.

New Zealand

Military Manoeuvres Act (repealed), 1915

Article 2: Governor-General may, by Proclamation, declare lands to be available for military manoeuvres

- (1) The Governor-General may from time to time, by Proclamation, declare that any land referred to in that Proclamation shall, for such period as may be specified therein, be available for military manoeuvres; and every such Proclamation shall have effect according to its tenor.
- (2) A Proclamation under this section shall not authorise entry on or interference with any ... school ... or any ground attached to any ... school...

Article 6: Definition of right to execute military manoeuvres

The right to execute military manoeuvres under this Act includes the right to enter on, pass over, and encamp on any land proclaimed under this Act, and to construct military works thereon.

Military Manoeuvres Act, No. 42 of 1915, repealed April 12, 2012, arts. 2, 6.

Reply to List of Issues from Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2016

The [New Zealand Defence Force] took a leading role in championing the development of the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use During Armed Conflict and the Safe Schools Declaration concerning the protection of educational facilities during times of armed conflict, and endorsed the Declaration when it was adopted in 2015.

Replies of New Zealand to the list of issues, Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/NZL/Q/5/Add.1, August 23, 2016, para. 148.

Manual of Armed Forces Law, 2019

RESTORATION OF PEACE

4.7.2

Armed conflicts do not last forever. It is in the interests of everyone to bring such conflicts to a rapid conclusion... Failure to protect children and their right to education can produce conflicts that descend from generation to generation.

THE OBLIGATIONS OF AN OCCUPYING FORCE...

9.3.2

The commander of a New Zealand occupying force is to ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, the force maintains public order and safety. He or she is to take all feasible steps to protect the lives and property of the population, protect cultural property and important public and private property, ... and schools...

9.3.6 The commander of a New Zealand occupying force is to cooperate with national and local authorities in order to ... facilitate the proper working of all institutions for the care and education of children;...

CHILDREN MUST BE RESPECTED AND PROTECTED

14.6.6

Whenever a New Zealand force controls or occupies territory in which there are children likely to be affected by the conflict, the commander is, as far as possible, to ... cooperate with national and local authorities to ensure the proper working of all institutions devoted to the care and education of children...

14.8.3

Schools means facilities dedicated principally to education, regardless of the name of the facility in the local context, including early childhood education facilities, primary schools, colleges and universities (except those for

the training or education of members of the armed forces), and the land and grounds attached to such institutions...

SCHOOLS MUST BE PROTECTED AND RESPECTED

14.8.13

Schools are to be afforded particular protection from the effects of war as their destruction or endangerment is an attack on the learning and development of future generations who bear no responsibility for the armed conflict from which the damage arises. [Footnote to the Safe Schools Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.] NZDF [New Zealand Defence Forces] commanders are to take all practicable steps to protect the right of children to have an education.

Use and occupation of schools and other educational institutions obviously inhibits the exercise of this right and is to be avoided wherever possible. Where, for military reasons, it is necessary for the force to use such an institution, for example for accommodating personnel, storage of materiel or as part of a defensive position, all feasible steps must be taken, in consultation with local authorities, to ensure that the disruption to the education of children is reduced as much as practicable. This may include identifying and facilitating the use of other suitable facilities for such purposes...

14.8.15

Members of the NZDF are not to use school buildings or facilities for military purposes unless it is absolutely necessary. In such cases, all feasible steps are to be taken to ensure that:

- a civilians and, in particular, children are protected from the effects of attack upon the institutions by opposing forces, including, where necessary, the removal of such persons from the vicinity;
- b such use is for the minimum time possible;
- c use of the facility does not breach the prohibition on treachery, i.e. the protection applicable to the school is not be used to induce the opposing force into thinking that this protection is being relied upon with the intention of betraying that confidence; and
- d adverse effects on children, in particular in respect to their right to education, are reduced to the maximum extent possible.

LOSS OF PROTECTION

14.8.16

If the opposing force uses cultural property, places of worship, buildings dedicated to charitable purposes or schools or their immediate environs for a military purpose, they become a military objective and their protection may be lost. Such property may only be attacked, however, if imperatively demanded by military necessity. The opportunity to inflict casualties on the enemy, by itself, does not provide an imperative. Commanders are to carefully consider the overall effects of an attack, the value of the target, and whether they have an alternative to doing so. Members of the NZDF are not to attack forces using cultural property, places of worship, buildings dedicated to charitable purposes

or schools unless:

- a the opposing force is warned that it must cease its military use of the property and fails to do so within a reasonable time;
- b attack is the only feasible means of terminating that misuse; and
- c all feasible precautions are taken in the choice of means and methods of attack to avoid, or in any event minimise, damage to the property.

Except in the case of immediate self-defence, a deliberate attack on cultural property, places of worship, buildings dedicated to charitable purposes or schools that have lost their protection is only to be ordered on the authority of CDF [Chief of Defence Force]. The advice of an NZDF LEGAD [Legal Adviser] is to be obtained before the attack unless this is not practicable. In cases of immediate self-defence, the attack must be approved by the highest ranked NZDF commander in the area of operations.

Loss of protection does not mean that the whole of the object is open to attack or destruction if only a small part of it is being used by the enemy. It is the opposing force, and that part of the property which has become a military objective, which is open to attack – not the protected property per se.

New Zealand Defence Force, Manual of Armed Forces Law: Law of Armed Conflict, DM 69 (2 ed), Volume 4, January 8, 2019.

Nicaragua

Law on Autonomy for Institutions of Higher Education, 1990

Article 9 – Autonomy confers ... (4) The inviolability of the university campuses. The public forces can only enter them with written authorization from the competent university authorities.

Ley de Autonomía de las Instituciones de Educación Superior, Ley No. 89 (1990), article 9.

Nigeria

Children and Armed Conflict Statement, 2015

As a demonstration of our national commitment to the well-being of children, Nigeria was among the first group of States to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration in Oslo, Norway, on 29 May. The Declaration complements and strengthens our existing national safe schools initiative, established in 2014 as part of the policy response of the federal Government to promote safe zones for learning. The Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict will serve as a compass to guide and reinforce efforts towards the achievement of this objective. We are committed to the dissemination of these guidelines and to promoting their implementation. We are indeed persuaded that this initiative will promote and protect the right to education and prevent the discontinuities in education inherent in situations of armed conflict.

Statement by Ambassador Joy Ogwu, United Nations Security Council, 7466th Meeting, Meeting Record, S/PV.7466, June 18, 2015.

Proposed Amendment to Armed Forces Act, 2018

Section 216(3): No premises or building or part thereof occupied for educational purposes or accommodation of persons connected with the management of school or vehicles and other facilities of educational institutions shall be requisitioned.

Proposed Amendment to Armed Forces Act, submitted by Ministry of Education-led Education in Emergencies Working Group Nigeria to Minister of Defence, December 5, 2018.

National Policy on Safety, Security, and Violence-Free Schools, 2021

Section 1: About the Policy...

9.0 Legal and Policy Frameworks...

(f) The Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) was developed through the leadership of Norway and Argentina in consultation with other UN member states in Geneva in May 2015. The SSD commits states endorsing it to seven action plans to ensure safe schools, as follows:

- Endorsement and implementation of the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*;
- Commitment to collect data on attacks and military use of educational facilities through monitoring and reporting mechanisms and giving assistance to victims without discrimination;
- Commitment to investigate and prosecute violations of national and international safe school norms and

frameworks;

- Commitment to develop and promote at the national level ‘conflict sensitive’ approaches to education in humanitarian and development programmes;
- Commitment to ensure that education continues during armed conflicts and commitment to support reestablishment of educational amenities while facilitating appropriate international cooperation and assistance programmes to prevent and respond to attacks on education.
- Commitment to support the UN Security Council and other relevant UN organs working in the area of children in armed conflict;
- Commitment to meet other endorsing states and relevant international organisations on a regular basis to assess the implementation of the SSD and use of the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*.

The honourable minister of education signed the letter of endorsement of the SSD on March 8, 2018. This was followed by the Federal Executive Council approving on March 20, 2019 the memo for the implementation of SSD laws and policies in Nigeria. In December 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the SSD ratification document signalling the country’s commitment to ratify and uphold the principles of the SSD...

Section 2: Institutional Commitments at the Three Levels of Government

11.6 School Level: Weapons, Drugs and Alcohol

School premises and environment are to be free from weapons, drugs and alcohol. To this end, the head of the institution shall

- a ensure the regular monitoring of the school environment (inside and outside the school) with a view to identifying weapons or any other harmful instrument or potential danger;...

Section 4: Safety and Security of Schools During Armed Conflict or in Conflict Areas

14.0 Introduction

Armed conflicts or conflict vulnerability create unsafe and insecure environments for learners and school personnel and can expose them to different forms of human rights violations, including those that threaten their right to life.

Armed conflicts affect education negatively; they can expose learners to trauma, psychological crises, mental health disorders and physical abuse. Disruption can lead to suspension of classes, which can last for long periods, and schools may end up being used as temporary evacuation centres. The government at all levels should liaise with relevant authorities to do the following:

- a Collaborate with relevant stakeholders with the aim of protecting learners and schools from the adverse effects of armed conflicts.
- b Develop curriculum for preventing and mitigating, preparing for, and responding to the impact of incidents of armed conflict.
- c Build a culture of peace and resilience in the school community. This involves the integration of peace-promoting concepts and values in the curriculum as well as peace-promoting processes and structures within ministries and schools at all levels.
- d Ensure that school activities support a culture of peace, which can be inculcated not only in learners but also in all internal and external stakeholders.
- e Ensure that education continues even in situations of armed conflict since access to good education is a basic human right.
- f Ensure that appropriate steps are taken so that no military detachment or patrol base is constructed within 500 metres of a school. This applies even when a school has been temporarily abandoned by the learners and personnel.

- g Negotiate with relevant authorities to ensure that schools are treated as civilian objects and shall therefore not be targets of any form of attack. This covers both physical and non-physical attacks which put the lives and rights of learners and school personnel at risk, and which may cause damage to educational resources and facilities...
- h Lead security reviews on a regular basis to assess whether continued military use of a school is necessary, so that such use can be brought to an end as quickly as possible.
- i Establish protocol for external, civilian avenues for holding accountable any units that violate orders to avoid using schools or universities for military purposes.
- j Take steps to raise awareness among security and military actors of the risks associated with the military use of educational infrastructure, including the particular risks for women and girls.
- k Raise awareness among state authorities, and community leaders and members, of the risks associated with the military use of educational infrastructure, including linked violations, such as child recruitment and sexual exploitation and abuse, with the aim of reducing the practice of offering the use of such buildings to the military...

14.1 Functioning Education Institutions

Schools are protected civilian objects under the rules of war. As a result, functioning educational institutions are not to be used for military purposes in any way. Functioning schools or universities include schools on holiday, those temporarily closed outside of normal class hours or those closed during weekends and vacations. These categories of schools are not to be used in aid of military operations or efforts under any circumstances. Thus, they are not to be evacuated either through incentive or force so as to make them available for military use.

The Ministry of Education should liaise with relevant stakeholders to make security arrangements to ensure the protection of the transit routes, physical infrastructure, learners and teachers of these educational institutions. Security forces must also patrol these institutions and their transit routes and watch over the learners and teachers

without creating military presence within the schools or within attack range of the institutions.

14.2 Non-functioning or Abandoned Educational Institutions

Abandoned educational institutions are still not to be used for military purposes. Where, however, necessity demands (i.e., self-defence) or when there is no viable alternative to the use of the educational institution for military purposes, such institutions may be used for military purposes, but only for as long as it is necessary to obtain the required military advantage, after which security forces and their weapons, munitions, stores and so on must be evacuated, and unexploded ordnances or remnants of war should be cleared from the site.

Upon evacuation, all damage to the school must be remediated, and the school must be promptly returned to its civilian character and reopened. Upon reopening, arrangements should be made to protect the school(s), the learners, teachers and their transit routes. Ideally, the use of schools, even abandoned schools, should be avoided at all costs. One possible alternative plan is for the military to bring its own temporary encampment structures.

14.3 Educational Institutions Occupied by Security Forces or Armed Belligerents

All efforts must be made to immediately cease using educational institutions already under occupation by security forces or armed belligerents. Parties to armed conflicts must refrain from attacking occupied educational institutions without giving adequate notice and sufficient time to the other party to cease the military use or occupation of the educational institution(s) in question. And when it has been decided to use force, special care and precautions must be taken to limit collateral damage to the school's structures and facilities, and collateral injury to learners and teachers who may be in the school or environs, and to avoid the use of heavy weapons or explosive weapons with wide area effect.

15.o Federal Ministry of Education

As a result of the immense power and scope of the Federal Government in the educational sector in Nigeria, the

Federal Ministry of Education (FME) occupies a prominent place among critical stakeholders in the nation's educational sector. The importance of the FME in the effort to ensure safety and security in Nigerian schools can therefore not be gainsaid. The FME is assigned the following roles under this policy:

- l Discourage occupation of schools by security forces during periods of conflict, except under extenuating circumstances.
- m Ensure that any military presence within close proximity of a school does not put learners at risk...

15.5 Ministries of Defence, Interior and Police Affairs

The above are the supervising ministries for all of Nigeria's security forces. As a result of

- a their unique placement in Nigeria's security architecture, they are given the following responsibilities under this policy:
 - b Prioritise the protection of civilians in conflict, including in military doctrine and policy documents, and take steps to ensure that this priority is translated into effective policies, including by giving a standing order to security forces to respond immediately to calls for help and protection when an attack is imminent or underway at a school.
 - c Identify and assign an emergency response contact person within each unit (possibly within a Rapid Reaction Unit), and ensure that schools and local education officials know how to contact this person in an emergency.
 - d Provide the Ministry of Education personnel, school administrators and local police operatives with sufficient notice before security forces withdraw from an area or make other significant changes that could affect school safety.
 - e Clearly outline the responsibilities towards the protection of learners and teachers in accordance with international standards in their codes of conduct.
 - f Ensure that security forces shall collaborate with protection actors to hold regular trainings on child protection and gender-based violence.
 - g Ensure that security forces shall collaborate with education authorities and other relevant bodies to ensure school safety before, during and after emergencies.
 - h Ensure that during conflict, security forces do not occupy schools, as endorsed in the SSD.

Federal Ministry of Education, National Policy on Safety, Security, and Violence-Free Schools in Nigeria, 2021.

North Macedonia

Law on Higher Education, 2008

Article 14 – Inviolableness of University Space

The space of the universities and the independent higher education facilities shall be inviolable. The police and other state security agencies shall not enter this space without the consent of the Rector, or the Director or an authorized substitute, except for the purposes of preventing a criminal act, a potential or an ongoing criminal act, for withholding a perpetrator as well as in cases of natural or other catastrophes (fire, flood and like).

Law on Higher Education, March 14, 2008.

Norway

Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict, 2013

13.37 – Care for and education of children

An occupying power ... must cooperate with national and local authorities to facilitate the operation of schools, day-care facilities, orphanages and similar institutions. If local institutions are unable to care for orphaned children or children separated from their parents by war, the occupying power shall arrange for their support and education, preferably with the assistance of persons of the children's own nationality, language and religion, if there are no near relatives or friends capable of doing so. In addition, the occupying power shall not impede existing systems designed to provide children under the age of 15, pregnant women, and mothers with children under the age of seven with necessary food, medical care and protection from the effects of war.

Chief of Defence, Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict, 2013, sec. 13.37.

Safe Schools Conference Speech, 2015

Many of Norway's military bases are located in scarcely populated areas. In these places there are some "dual use"-objects, in terms of buildings that are owned by the Armed Forces and put at the disposal of the local population simply because it financially wouldn't be sustainable, or even affordable, to build twice as many buildings. Sometimes these buildings are used for education. For example gym centers used by schools for physical education as well as by the army for physical training of the forces. ... As part of the implementation process the Ministry of Defence has interpreted the Guidelines [on Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict] to mean the following: ... [I]f the Armed Forces own realty/ buildings that is/are being rented out/leased to civilian educational facilities, the leasing contracts are, for the future, to contain a cancellation clause if an armed conflict should occur on Norwegian territory.

Speech delivered by Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide, Minister of Defence, Norway, at the Oslo Conference on Safe Schools, May 29, 2015, Report of the Oslo Conference on Safe Schools, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo, Norway, 2015, p. 19.

Directive, 2015

1. The Norwegian Armed Forces shall do everything feasible to avoid the use of schools for any military purpose in armed conflict.
2. In the event a school meet the criteria's for "military objectives" according to international humanitarian law, all feasible alternative measures are to be considered before attacking the military objective.
3. In the event the Norwegian Armed Forces, or the Norwegian Defence Estates Agency, let out property or buildings for civilian school purposes, the contract shall contain a clause giving ability to terminate the contract in the event of armed conflict.

Letter Directive from Ministry of Defence to the Norwegian Armed Forces and the Norwegian Defense University Estates, unofficial translation, 2015.

World Humanitarian Summit Commitment, 2016

Norway commits to promote and enhance the protection of civilians and civilian objects, especially in the conduct of hostilities, for instance by sparing civilian infrastructure from military use in the conduct of military operations. This means that it will work to increase the protection of education from attack during armed conflict, inter alia by sparing, as far as possible, schools and educational facilities from military use in situations of armed conflict. In this context, Norway commits to intensifying its efforts to support implementation and universalize the Safe Schools Declaration, which contains a number of important preventive measures aimed at increasing the protection of education in armed conflict. Norway will also promote and participate in follow-up initiatives to the Oslo Conference on Safe Schools.

Advocacy Commitment 227020, World Humanitarian Summit, 2016.

Pakistan

Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, 1938

Article 3: Power exercisable for purpose of manoeuvres.

- (1) Where a notification under sub section (1) of section 2 has been issued, such persons as are included in the military forces engaged in the manoeuvres may, within the specified limits and during the specified periods,___
 - (a) pass over, or encamp, construct military works of temporary character, or execute military manoeuvre on, the area specified in the notification, ...
- (2) The provisions of sub section (1) shall not authorise entry on or interference with any ... educational institution...

Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, Act No. V of 1938, March 12, 1938, art. 3.

Peru

University Law (amended and then replaced), 1983

The campuses of universities are inviolable. The police forces can only enter it by judicial order, and at the express request of the Rector, who will immediately inform the University Council, except in case of *flagrante delicto* [while the crime is in progress] or or imminent danger that a crime will be perpetrated. The university premises are only to be used for the fulfillment of their own purposes and are exclusively dependent on the relevant university authority. Anyone who causes damage to university premises or facilities, or who disturbs or prevents their normal use, or those who occupy them illegally, partially, or totally, will be held legally liable.

Ley Universitaria, No. 23733, December 9, 1993, article 8. Article modified by Article 1 of Legislative Decree No. 726, published on November 12, 1991: “Article 8.- The university premises are only to be used for the fulfillment of their own purposes. The Ministry of Defense, or of the Interior, or of the Military Commands, or Police officers, or if applicable, the Armed Forces and the National Police of Peru, may enter university premises when they become aware that terrorist elements or groups disturb the peace and internal order; respecting the academic and administrative autonomy of said centers of studies.”

Law No. 25416, 1992 (repealed 2014)

The university premises constitute an institutional domicile and are therefore inviolable. Except in case of *flagrante delicto* [while the crime is in progress], or imminent danger that a crime will be perpetrated, the National Police can only enter in them by judicial order or at the express request of the Rector, who will immediately inform the University Council.

The university campus is part of the urban structure and the National Police can monitor it to protect the university’s heritage and prevent the commission of crimes. In areas declared to be in a state of emergency, the President of the Republic may provide for the intervention of the Armed Forces on university premises. The actions referred to in this article do not compromise the exercise of academic freedom.

Ley No. 25416, Sustituyen el Artículo 8 de la Ley No. 23733 modificando por el Artículo 1 del Decreto Legislativo No. 726, March 11, 1992 (repealed 2014).

University Law, 2014

Article 10: Guarantees for the exercise of university autonomy:

The exercise of autonomy in university education is governed by the following rules: ...

10.2: The university premises are only to be used for the fulfillment of their own purposes and are exclusively de-

pendent on the relevant university authority. They are inviolable. Any violation carries liability according to law.

10.3: The National Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office may only enter the university campus by judicial order or at the request of the Rector, and the latter must report to the University Council or the whoever fulfils this job, except when a state of emergency has been declared, there's a flagrant crime, or imminent danger of the perpetration of a crime. In these cases, the actions of the public forces do not compromise or reduce university autonomy.

10.4: When the university authorities become aware of the alleged commission of a crime, they are to inform the Public Prosecutor's Office, for the initiation of investigations.

Ley Universitaria, Ley No. 30220, July 9, 2014, article 10.

Philippines

Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, 1992

Children as Zones of Peace. – Children are hereby declared as Zones of Peace. It shall be the responsibility of the State and all other sectors concerned to resolve armed conflicts in order to promote the goal of children as zones of peace. To attain this objective, the following policies shall be observed... (e) Public infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and rural health units shall not be utilized for military purposes such as command posts, barracks, detachments, and supply depots...

RA No. 7610, An Act Providing for Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection against Child Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination, Providing Penalties for its Violation and Other Purposes, June 17, 1992, art. X(22)(e).

Davao City, Children's Welfare Code, 1994

Section 16

... (e) Public infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and rural health units shall not be utilized for military purposes such as command post, barracks, detachments and supply depots...

Davao City, Children's Welfare Code, December 2, 1994.

Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, 1998

Article 4(7):

Personnel and facilities of schools, the medical profession, religious institutions and places of worship, voluntary evacuation centers, programs and projects of relief and development shall not be the target of any attack. The persons of said entities shall be guaranteed their safety.

Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, March 16, 1998.

Cebu City, Children's Code, 2001

Section 16

... (e) Public infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and rural health units shall not be utilized for military purposes such as command posts, barracks, detachments, and supply depot...

Cebu City, Ordinance No. 1874, "An ordinance establishing the Cebu city children's code and for other purposes," January 24, 2001.

Cotabato Province, Child and Youth Welfare Development Code, 2003

Section 89

... (g) Public infrastructures such as schools, hospitals and rural health units shall not be utilized for military purposes such as command posts, barracks, detachments, and supply depots...

Cotabato Province, Provincial Ordinance No. 292, "The Child and Youth Welfare and Development Code of Cotabato Province," 2003.

Armed Forces Letter Directive No. 34, 2009

To attain this objective, all [Armed Forces of the Philippines] personnel shall strictly abide and respect the following: ... (e) Basic infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and health units shall not be utilized for military purposes such as command posts, barracks, detachments, and supply depots.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Letter Directive No. 34, GHQ AFP, November 24, 2009, para. 7.

Terms of Reference of Civilian Protection Component of International Monitoring Team, 2010

Article IV: Roles and Responsibilities

1. The roles and responsibilities of the [Civilian Protection Component (CPC)] are to monitor, verify, and report the compliance and non-compliance by the Parties [the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)] to their basic undertakings to protect civilians as stipulated in the GRP-MILF Agreement...

2. The above undertaking shall commit and endeavor the CPC to the following:... (b) to monitor and ensure that both Parties respect the sanctity of ... social institutions including schools [and] madaris...

Terms of Reference of Civilian Protection Component of International Monitoring Team, May 5, 2010.

Human Rights-Based Intelligence Operations: Rules of Behavior For Military Intelligence Personnel, 2011

3.6 Guidelines on Children Involved in Armed Conflict

Rules and Regulations on Children Involved in Armed Conflict (CIAC)

...

The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] strictly abide and respect the following:

...

5. Public infrastructure such as schools ... shall not be utilized for military purposes such as command posts, barracks, detachments, and supply depots...

Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Human Rights-Based Intelligence Operations: Rules of Behavior For Military Intelligence Personnel, 2011, chapter 3.6.

Armed Forces Guidelines in the Conduct of Activities Within the Premises of a School, 2013

Definition of Terms:...

Attacks on Schools ... refer to the occupation without a lawful purpose, shelling, targeting for propaganda in relation to unlawful purposes or purposes contrary to public policy, order, or morals of schools and hospitals; or causing damage to such places, or harm or injury to their personnel; or causing the total or partial physical destruction of such facilities; or disruption of education activities... It also refers to attacks of such places which have been temporarily abandoned by the community as a result of armed conflict...

General Policies/Guidelines:

- a AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] units that will conduct any and all activities that are non-combat or non-traditional in nature, such as but not limited to Civil-Military Operations (CMO), inside or within the premises of a school or hospital, must adhere to and undertake the following prior to the holding of such activity(ies):

- 1 The activity to be conducted must be multi-sector in nature where government and non-government entities, as much as possible CSOs/NGOs/POs, are to be involved in the planning, preparation, actual conduct, and post-activity stages.
 - 2 The activity must not be in the nature that is within the context of armed conflict in order to avoid undue labeling, tagging and branding of persons/groups/organizations, most especially children, teachers, ... and/or employees/workers of the school and hospital concerned.
 - 3 Prior to the activity, there must be an expressed and written permission from the: (a) School administration, at the least the Principal or School Administrator; (b) Local Government Unit (LGU), such as but not limited to, the Barangay Captain or his/her duly authorized representative from the Barangay Council up to, as needed, the Provincial/City/Municipal Local Chief Executive (LCE) or his/her duly authorized representative from the Sangguniang Panlalawigan/Lungsod/ Bayan; and (c) Regional or Provincial or Municipal/City Superintendent/ Offices of the Department of Education...
 - 4 When requesting for permission, the request from the AFP unit concerned must include: (a) Description/type of the activity - What, Where, When, Why/Purpose, Who, and How the activity will be conducted; (b) Inclusive period of time of use of the facility to include the pre-activity, actual activity, post-activity periods of time; (c) Identification of AFP unit(s) that will be involved and/or will be participating in the activity; and (d) Designation/Identification of the over-all Commander or Officer-in-Charge of the activity, to include Points/Modes of Contact for coordination purposes.
 - 5 When the AFP unit is the one being requested by a third party to participate in the said activity, the requesting party should be informed of the above by the Commander of the unit being requested. As such, the AFP unit shall assist and jointly undertake with the requesting party in undertaking the coordination/permission as stated above.
 - 6 Force protection unit(s) (soldiers who are armed and acting as security for the AFP personnel and for the activity itself) must only be in the proximity of the school and not inside the school. For purposes of proper identification, they must all be in complete/proper uniform.
 - 7 If there is a need for the force protection unit(s)/personnel to be inside the school, due to exigencies of the prevailing security situation and/or activity and/or request, they must be deployed and limited/contained to a pre-identified/pre-approved area within the school ... premises. In this situation, soldiers who are armed must avoid mingling with children, teachers, ... and/or employees/workers of the school ... concerned.
 - 8 In order to clearly record the conduct of the activity for purposes of documentation, units concerned must undertake photo and video coverage of the activity, hence is highly encouraged.
 - 9 Commanders, at the different levels of operational/tactical commands, are held responsible in undertaking the above coordination...
 - 10 In cases and/or situations warranting clarification of certain issues or concerns, said Commanders should undertake coordination with Higher Headquarters (Attention: AFP HRO and/or Major Service HRO and/or Unified Command HRO) in order to resolve certain issues and concerns prior to the activity.
- b In the course of traditional activities, such as combat or intelligence operations, AFP units should not and are prevented to undertake the following inside or within the proximity of a school...:
- 1 Occupy schools ... without a lawful purpose, whether these are for a prolonged or temporary stay, and establish a Command Post (CP), Patrol Base (PB), Temporary Patrol Base (TPB), harbor or rest area, and any other combat-/intelligence related operations.
 - 2 Targeting schools ... or its personnel for propaganda in relation to unlawful purposes or purposes contrary

to public policy, order, or morals.

- 3 Targeting schools ... for direct/indirect fires thereby causing harm or injury to their personnel, most especially children, and/or causing the total or partial physical destruction of such facilities, and/or disruption of education activities... However, when such place(s) is/are illegally occupied by an armed group resulting into hostages and/or illegal occupation for purposes of the conduct of further criminal/illegal acts and/or illegal occupation for the use of said place(s) as a shield/refuge to avoid arrest/capture and/or any other purpose(s) constituting acts of terror or disruption of its normal function and/or resulting further into a graver security concern, AFP units shall undertake such actions, as needed/warranted, in coordination with the PNP and with the approval/consent of the Crisis Management Committee of the LGU. In such situations, actions of the AFP unit(s) should have primordial concern of preventing injuries/deaths to all person(s), most especially children, caught in the situation and other collateral damages. The AFP's ROE shall govern all military actions, hence, all Commanders, at the different levels of operational/tactical commands, should ensure that AFP personnel/units are properly and appropriately briefed on these prior to such actions...
- 7 Schools/learning centers ... and facilities shall not be utilized for military purposes, whether as command posts, rest areas, detachments and supply depots, and the resources of the said school ... such as electricity and water shall not be utilized for military purposes, unless otherwise provided under these guidelines. Detachments or patrol bases shall not be erected in the immediate vicinity of schools/learning centers ... and facilities. If there is a prevailing security situation in a specific area where there is a school ... the temporary patrol base shall be erected not less than fifty (50) meters away from the said school...
- 9 Military personnel shall not enter schools/learning centers ... and facilities in battle dress attire (BOA) and with firearms displayed, unless it is for a lawful purpose as provided under these guidelines. The conduct of anti-insurgency information campaigns inside schools ... is forbidden. School activities ... shall not be arbitrarily disrupted, unless there is a clear and imminent danger to the safety of the people therein.
- 10 School personnel shall not be used as military assets, or for information-gathering or dissemination related to military objectives.
- c The main intent of the above policies/guidelines is ... to prevent/bring to unnecessary risk and/or endanger children, teachers ... and/or employees/workers of the school ... concerned, and the school ... itself.
- d In all situations wherein AFP units are to conduct an activity inside or within the premises of a school or hospitals, Commanders of the unit(s) directly undertaking such activity shall submit an After Activity Report (MR) no later than fifteen (15) days after the completion of said activity to their immediate Higher Headquarters. A copy of this MR shall be placed in file for ready information, reference and retrieval, as needed or warranted during complaints/reports of a grave child rights violation, more specifically "attacks on schools or hospitals."
- 6 Violations, whether deliberate or due to gross negligence, of the above policies and guidelines in the conduct of any and all AFP activities, independently or in coordination with government and/or non-government entities, inside or within the premises of schools or hospitals, shall be appropriately investigated by a duly-constituted Court or Board of Inquiry by this Headquarters or by the Major Services or by the Unified Commands. Those found culpable of violations, whether deliberate or due to gross negligence, shall be dealt with in accordance with the Military Justice System and Articles of War without prejudice to the filing of criminal cases before a civilian court of law.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Guidelines in the Conduct of AFP Activities Inside or Within the Premises of a School or Hospital, Letter directive No. 25, July 15, 2013.

Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act, 2019

SEC. 5. Definition of Terms . . . As used in this Act:...

- e Attacks on schools ... refer to the occupation ... of schools ... or disruption of educational activities... These also refers to attacks of such places which have been temporarily abandoned by the community as a result of armed conflict.

...

SEC. 9. Prohibited Acts and Penalties...

- b The following acts of grave child rights violations are ... hereby prohibited:

- (g) Attack on schools

Any person found guilty of committing any of the acts enumerated in subparagraph[] ... 9 of paragraph (b), of this section shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than fourteen (14) years but not more than twenty (20) years and a fine of not less than One million pesos (P 1,000,000.00) but not more than Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00)...

Republic Act 11188, An Act Providing for the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, January 10, 2019.

Rules and Regulations Implementing Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act, 2019

... Rule 6. Definition of Terms.

As used in the Act and these Rules:... e) “Attacks on schools...” refer to either the occupation, shelling or targeting for propaganda of schools, ...; causing damage to such places, or harm or injury to their personnel; or causing the total or partial physical destruction of such facilities; or disruption of educational activities... These also refer to attacks of such places which have been temporarily abandoned by the community as a result of armed conflict...

Rule 7. Children as Zones of Peace

Children are hereby declared as Zones of Peace... As Zones of Peace, children shall be treated in accordance with the policies stipulated under Article X, Section 22 of Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the “Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act”, to wit: ... 5. Public infrastructure such as schools ... shall not be utilized for military and police purposes such as command posts, barracks, detachments, and supply depots...

Rule 10 (b). Other grave child rights violations and its corresponding penalties.

The following acts of grave child rights violations are also hereby prohibited:... 9) Attacks on schools... Any person found guilty of committing any of the acts enumerated in Rule 10(b) shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than fourteen (14) years but not more than twenty (20) years and a fine not less than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00)...

Rule 31 (b). Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The AFP shall endeavor to protect all children in situations of armed conflict and advocate against the use of children in armed conflict. It shall review and update its internal procedures and guidelines in monitoring, reporting and responding to children in situations of armed conflict and grave child rights violations and ensure that these guidelines are properly cascaded and implemented across all ranks...

The AFP shall: ... c) Report within twenty-four (24) hours or as soon as practicable: ... 2. cases of ... attacks on schools...

Rule 31 (f). Department of Education (DepEd).

The DepEd shall ensure that education is accessible even within or in areas surrounding armed conflict... It shall issue guidelines for the protection of learners, personnel, and schools in situations of armed conflict and to en-

sure that all schools and relevant agencies are made aware of this. It shall issue guidance on attacks on schools – how this can be prevented and the proper response. It shall issue guidelines against the possible militarization of schools.

In addition, the DepEd shall: ... b) Report to [the Council for the Welfare of Children] cases of attacks on schools and their personnel ... that they have encountered or know of; ... e) Issue an updated guideline on the attacks on schools and definition of schools for the purposes of the Act and these Rules.

Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 11188, Otherwise Known as “The Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict”, May 2019.

Department of Education National Policy Framework on Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace, 2019

2. Schools as Zones of Peace means that:...

c. Schools, as a general rule, should be free from the presence of armed combatants, whether they be from government forces or armed groups. Armed force protection units from government forces, if needed, shall be situated proximate to the school and not inside the school.

d. Schools shall not be utilized for propagation of political agenda or ideology, nor for military purposes such as but not limited to command posts, barracks, detachments, supply depots, collection points, casualty evacuation points and similar purposes. This includes recruitment by government forces and armed groups, the conduct of anti-insurgency information activities, or such other related uses that may endanger the lives of learners and school personnel...

f. Any activity undertaken by government forces inside schools shall be guided by the following:

i. All personnel inside the school shall be unarmed and wear the prescribed uniform for activities (i.e. Type B or Type C).

ii. Activities conducted in support of schools, learners, personnel, and education, such as participation in Brigada Eskwela and construction of schools especially in remote areas, shall be undertaken with the written authorization or approval of the respective DepEd [Department of Education] Regional Office, and in close coordination with the LGU [Local Government Unit].

The written authorization shall include the following: (a) description of the activity, (b) time and duration of the presence of military personnel inside the school, (c) identity of the military unit/ s and the corresponding officer-in-charge and his/her designation, and (d) specific location of the activity within the school.

iii. There shall be no military detachment or patrol base constructed within 460 meters from a school. 27 This applies even when a school has been temporarily abandoned by the students and personnel...

VII. Monitoring and Evaluation

The DepEd through the DRRMS [Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service] and the DRRM [[Disaster Risk Reduction and Management] regional and division coordinators shall oversee the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this policy, with the support of various offices identified in the Policy Framework.

Appropriate monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning system shall be developed by the DRRMS. This shall include the documentation of good practices as well as issues and challenges in the implementation of the Policy Framework and how they were addressed. This policy will be subject to annual review and revision, if necessary.

Department of Education, National Policy Framework on Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace, DepEd Order No. 032 s. 2019, November 11, 2019.

Poland

Armed Forces Accommodation Act, 1995

Temporary quartering

Section 62

- (1) Temporary quartering occurs when it is necessary to temporarily quarter military units, service members and employees of those units, and persons accompanying the Armed Forces, and to warehouse or store devices, armaments, supplies and military equipment – outside of buildings, parts of buildings or land designated for permanent quartering.
- (2) In particular, temporary quartering occurs during:
 - (1) exercises, movement or transport of troops;
 - (2) service-related trips or temporary performance of duties by service members and employees of the military away from their permanent place of service or employment;
 - (3) state of emergency, martial law, mobilization or war...

Section 64

- (1) The following types of real property are not subject to temporary quartering:
 - (5) real property of institutions of higher education, or research and development units...

Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland Accommodation Act, No. 86, item 433, June 22, 1995, as amended, chapter 7, sections 62-64.

Serbia

Program for the Solution of the Crisis in the Pčinja District (Unsigned), 2001

Annex 5: Agreement on the solution of the crisis in Bujanovac, Presevo, and Medvedja Municipalities

... The restoration of security and peace shall proceed according to the following plan:

1. Zone 1 ... shall be demilitarized according to the following sequence of activities: the [Yugoslav Army] shall withdraw the tanks and the heavy artillery ... and leave the schools ... in Presevo and Bujanovac...

Program for the Solution of the Crisis in the Pcinja District (Covic Plan), between the governments of the Republic of Serbia and of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Albanian ethnic community in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, unsigned, February 1, 2001.

Singapore

Military Manoeuvres Act, 1963

Article 3

- (1) When any military manoeuvres are being executed under this Act, such persons as are engaged in the manoeuvres may within the limits specified in the notice, if any, as aforesaid and during the specified period —
 - (a) pass over and encamp, construct military works not of a permanent character and execute military

manoeuvres on any land; ...

- (2) Nothing in this Act shall authorise entry on or interference with any ... school ... or any ground attached to any ... school...

Military Manoeuvres Act, September 16, 1963, as revised December 31, 2014, art. 3.

Slovenia

Safe Schools Declaration endorsement, 2016

Slovenia will include the Guidelines in the pre-deployment training of civilian and military personnel participating in international operations and missions and into the Handbook on International Humanitarian Law for the Slovenian Armed Forces. Slovenia will also endeavor to include the Guidelines in the EU and NATO Security Sector Reform concepts and operational activities.

Letter from Darja Bavdaž Kuret, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia, to Tore Hattrem, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, April 12, 2016.

South Sudan

Order from the Office of the Deputy Chief of General Staff for Political Military Operations, 2012

1. I am hereby once again repeating my message to all of you about occupation of schools by our army. This act of occupation is deplorable and it is [in] violation of our law of land. Besides, you are depriving our children from the much needed education.
2. I hereby order you to urgently evacuate the following schools occupied by the forces under your direct commands.
[List of eight schools, by name, state, county, date occupied, and division occupying school.]
3. Failure to evacuate the above mentioned schools will lead to severe disciplinary actions and the act is a serious violation of the law of our land which shall bear regrettable implications on each of you Div. CDRs [divisional commanders].
4. Each division CDR [commander] must report the date of their evacuation of the above mentioned schools within seven days starting from 17th 04.2012-24th 04.2012.
5. Remember all eyes are on your immediate action.

Order from Lt. Gen. Obuto Mamur Mete, Deputy Chief of General Staff for Moral Orientation, April 16, 2012.

Draft General Order on SPLA Interaction with Children, 2012

1. It has become apparent that there is a need to regulate the manner in which SPLA personnel interact with children.
2. For purposes of this instruction, the definition of a child is any person under the age of 18 years of age.
3. The primary mission of the SPLA is to uphold the Republic of South Sudan's Constitution, secure its territorial integrity, and protect its people, especially the children...
5. The aim of this directive is to provide comprehensive and unambiguous instruments pertaining to the appropriate manner by which children are dealt with by the SPLA.

DIRECTIVE:

6. **PROHIBITION:** It is expressly prohibited to: ...
 - (c) Occupy schools or interfere with or disrupt classes. Under no circumstances are school buildings or school facilities to be used for any military purpose.
7. The only exception to this instruction that will be tolerated is where children are in imminent danger owing to conflict or natural disaster and there is an identified need to evacuate children for their own safety. Such authority must be sought from the Chief of General Staff, via the Judge Advocate General of the SPLA (Director, Military Justice and Legal Affairs Directorate). If children are permitted access to SPLA camps or premises pursuant to this exception, the camp or unit commander will immediately contact his unit's or his superior unit's child protection officer to enable evacuation of such children to Unicef, UNMISS, Save the Children, or similar international or humanitarian organizations that can provide assistance to the children in a civilian environment.

DISCIPLINARY:

8. Failure to carry out these directives and instruction will lead to the offender being charged under section 67 of Ref (A), the SPLA Act, for disobedience of lawful orders. Upon conviction, any offender who is the commanding officer of an SPLA unit shall be relieved of his or her command.

Draft General Order on SPLA Interaction with Children, from General James Hoth Mai, Chief of General Staff, November 2012

Directive Order on Child Protection and the Release and Reintegration of Children Associated with the SPLA, 2013

NOTE: THIS IS A PUNITIVE ORDER. Under this General Order, SPLA members are prohibited from: (1) recruiting children into the SPLA; (2) using children in any manner; or (3) occupying schools. SPLA members violating this Directive ARE SUBJECT TO the full range of disciplinary and administrative measures available under South Sudanese and International Law, including, but not limited to:

- Referral of charges to general court-martial
 - Referral of charges to civilian criminal court
 - Referral of charges to the ICC (International Criminal Court)
 - Punitive dismissal from service
 - Non-judicial punishment
 - Administrative separation from service
 - Administrative reduction in grade
 - Relief from command (where applicable)
 - Adverse performance evaluation...
1. **PURPOSE:** This “Directive-style” General Order ... makes clear that (1) children—defined as all persons under the age of 18 years old—shall NOT be recruited into the SPLA or used by or within the SPLA in ANY capacity for ANY purpose; AND (2) SPLA units and/or soldiers will NOT, under any circumstances, attack, occupy, or use for any purpose schools or school buildings or property.

This General Order announces a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY: SPLA Members are prohibited from: (1) recruiting or using children for ANY purpose; (2) occupying schools or using school property for ANY purpose under ANY circumstances. These prohibitions are without exception and unconditional. Any officer, non-commissioned officer (NCO), or soldier suspected of violating this Gen-

eral Order may be tried by court-martial for violating Section 67 of the SPLA Act of 2009 (reference (b)), Disobedience of Lawful Orders.

This is a Punitive Order:

- a When children are found to be associated with SPLA forces OR SPLA forces found to be occupying or using school property, the circumstances of the situation shall be thoroughly investigated by an officer appointed by the Commanding Officer of the pertinent Battalion, Brigade, or Division, OR by the COGS or a D/COGS OR a Director or Deputy Director of a General Headquarters Bilpam Directorate, OR by the Judge Advocate General of the SPLA (the Director, Military Justice & Legal Affairs Directorate). The officer appointed as the Investigating Officer shall coordinate with both the Child Protection Officer AND the judge advocate assigned to the Command or to its senior command...
- b Officers, NCOs, and soldiers suspected of being in violation of this General Order themselves shall be investigated. The officer conducting the investigation shall make a written report of his or her inquiry that sets forth comprehensive Findings of Fact, lists the evidence supporting each Finding of Fact, renders Opinions and a Conclusion concerning the facts underlying the event or events being investigated, and makes Recommendations with respect to the disposition of the case, including whether the situation investigated warrants the taking of administrative or disciplinary action by the Command against any Officer, NCO, or soldier suspected of conduct violating this General Order.
- c A written investigative report that has been reviewed by a judge advocate and endorsed by the commanding officer of the unit involved and by the pertinent Division or Brigade Commander or Directorate senior officer shall be forwarded to the Chief of General Staff via the Head of the SPLA's Child Protection Unit and the Judge Advocate General of the SPLA.
- d Disciplinary and/or adverse administrative action SHALL BE taken if there is evidence that suggests that any member or members of the SPLA have violated laws, rules, or orders relating to the recruitment or use of children by or within the armed forces, the occupation of schools, or the protection of children generally.

2. SITUATION

...The UN Secretary General Report on Children & Armed Conflict for 2011, lists the SPLA as a persistent violator of Child Protection laws... The SPLA appears on this list, the UN Secretary General's *List of Shame*, alongside groups such as the *Lord Resistance Army (LRA)*, *Al-Shabaab*, *Al-Qaida*, and the *Taliban*. This is intolerable and all SPLA actions causing SPLA to appear on this List will cease immediately. SPLA Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers ... will immediately cease occupying or using schools for ANY purpose...

3. **GENERAL ORDER.** All SPLA members, personnel, and units are unconditionally prohibited from: ... Occupying schools, interfering with or disrupting school classes or activities, or using school facilities for any purpose, to include but not limited to storing equipment, billeting, or taking cover from ongoing or prospective enemy attack.
 - a. Punitive Order. This General Order is punitive in nature.
 - b. Effective Date. This General Order takes effect immediately.
 - c. Responsible Officers. Commanders at ALL echelons of Command – GHQ, Sector, Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon – are held responsible and accountable for ensuring all members of their Commands give immediate effect and obedience to this General Order...
 - f. Report Required. Within 15 days of the termination of the Grace Period – or Not Later Than 15 October 2013 – Commanders at each echelon of Command are to deliver to the COGS, via the Judge Advocate General of the SPLA (Director, Military Justice & Legal Affairs Directorate), GHQ Bilpam, a properly completed *Certification of Unit Free of Persons Under the Age of 18 Years*. ... Commanders

failing to submit this report in timely fashion will be subjected to adverse judicial and administrative disciplinary action...

Certification of Unit Free of Persons Under the Age of 18 Years

... I, (Major General/Brigadier General/Colonel/(Rank of Commander) _____, Commanding Officer of _____ (Division/Brigade/Battalion/Company/Platoon), do hereby certify that: ...

5. Units under my command are not occupying schools or utilizing school facilities in any way.

CONCLUSION. I hereby certify that the foregoing information and statements relating to the state of personnel under my command have been certified and are true...

General Order, from General James Hoth Mai, Chief of General Staff, August 14, 2013.

Order from the Acting Sudan People's Liberation Army Chief of Staff, 2014

...This message serves to reaffirm the SPLA Commitment as this General order demand that; All SPLA members are prohibited from:-

...Occupying of using schools in any manner.

The SPLA members violating the directives ARE SUBJECT TO the full range of disciplinary and administrative measures available under South Sudanese and International Law including but not limited to as indicated in the attached punitive Order:

- a Referral of charges to General Court Martial
- b Referral of Charges to Civilian Criminal Court
- c Punitive Dismissal From Service
- d Non Judicial Punishment
- e Administrative Separation from Service
- f Relief from Command (where applicable)
- g Adverse Performance Evaluation

Therefore, you are directed to implement and observe this order as detailed in the attached document. All unit commanders are to use the forms and submit their reports and failure to do so measures will be taken in this order. [sic] For immediate execution.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Cirillo Swaka, Acting Sudan People's Liberation Army Chief of Staff, 557/9/2014, September 10, 2014.

Draft Amendment to Sudan People's Liberation Army Act, 2014

Section 22(3) Occupation of Schools and Hospitals

Occupation of Schools and Hospitals: every SPLA member commits an offence who occupies Schools or Hospitals ... which are prohibited commits an indictable offence and liable to:

- a Court martial
- b Dismissal from the service
- c Non-judicial punishment
- d Administrative separation from service
- e Administration reduction in grade
- f Relief from command
- g Adverse performance evaluation

Draft amendment to Sudan People's Liberation Army Act, as per letter of Kuot Jook Alith, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs, September 11, 2014.

Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians, and Humanitarian Access, 2017

Article Four: Other Prohibited Acts

... (2) The Parties shall not occupy or damage any public or community property and infrastructure, including schools... The Parties shall withdraw from any of the above sites that they have occupied.

Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians, and Humanitarian Access, December 21, 2017.

Agreement on Implementing the Permanent Ceasefire, 2018

... 2.2: The following activities shall take place during the Pre-Transitional Period: (a) Civilian areas shall be immediately demilitarized. This includes schools...

Agreement on Implementing the Permanent Ceasefire and Finalizing Outstanding Issues of Security Arrangements, July 1, 2018.

Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict, 2018

Chapter II: Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements

... 2.2: The Pre-Transitional Period

... 2.2.3: The following activities shall take place during the Pre-Transitional Period:

2.2.3.1. Civilian areas shall be immediately demilitarized. This includes schools...

Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, September 12, 2018.

Spain

Manual on the Law of Armed Conflict, 2007

5.6.a.3 Norms for relations with civil authorities...

With the help of civil authorities, the proper functioning of establishments dedicated to the assistance and education of children must be provided.

Ministry of Defence, The Law of Armed Conflict, OR7-004, 2nd edition.

Parliament of Andalusia: Institutional Declaration on Attacks on Schools in Armed Conflict, 2019

... Aware that, during an armed conflict, the military use of schools can compromise their status of civilian objects, transforming these places of learning into legitimate military targets, and exposing students and teachers to the risk of retaliatory actions, and that this endangers physical integrity, emotional well-being and the right to education of students.

Recognizing that, in times of armed conflict, access to safe educational establishments can offer students an important shelter and sense of stability, convey to students vital information and mitigate the psychosocial aftermath of war, and protect children from the possibility of trafficking and recruitment by armed groups, and that in the long term an equitable and quality education fosters peace and conflict reconstruction, and helps young people acquire the skills and necessary training to progress on a personal level and contribute to the prosperity of your community.

Therefore, the Parliament of Andalusia wants to show its support for the Third Conference on Safe Schools that the government of Spain is hosting ... to share progress and challenges in the implementation of the [Safe Schools] Declaration.

Institutional Declaration on Attacks on Schools in Armed Conflict, Parliament of Andalusia, File No. 11-19 / DI-000003, May 16, 2019.

National Defense Directive, 2020

...In its external operations, the armed forces will pay special attention to the protection of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, supporting the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, and the Safe Schools initiative...

National Defense Directive, June 11, 2020.

Sri Lanka***Firing Ranges and Military Training Act, 1951***

Article 6

- (1) After a military manoeuvres Order is made, the authorized forces may, within the authorized area and during the authorized period and subject to the provisions of subsection (2)
 - (a) pass over, and encamp, construct such military works as are not of a permanent character, and execute military manoeuvres on any authorized land,
 - (b) use any authorized road, and
 - (c) supply themselves with water from any authorized source of water and, for that purpose, dam up any running water.
- (2) The provisions of subsection (1) shall not authorize
 - (a) the entry into or interference with (except to the extent of using any authorized road) any ... school ... or ground attached to any ... school...

Firing Ranges and Military Training Act, August 13, 1951, art. 6

Ceasefire Agreement, 2002

Beginning on the date on which this Agreement enters into force, school buildings occupied by either party shall be vacated and returned to their intended use. This activity shall be completed by D-day + 160 at the latest.

Agreement on a Ceasefire between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, February 22, 2002, art. 2.3.

Sudan***Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to protect non-combatant civilians and civilian facilities from military attack, 2002***

Article 1

Basic Undertakings

1. The Government of the Republic of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) (hereafter referred to as the "Parties") reconfirm their obligations under international law, including common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, to take constant care to protect the civilian population, civilians and civilian objects against the dangers arising from military operations. In this context, the Parties specifically commit themselves: ...
 - c) to refrain from endangering the safety of civilians by intentionally using them as "human shields" or by using civilian facilities such as hospitals or schools to shield otherwise lawful military targets; ...

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to protect non-combatant civilians and civilian facilities from military attack, 2002, art. 1.

Sudan Armed Forces Command Order, 2017

In July 2017, the Sudan Armed Forces circulated a command order to all divisions to prohibit the military use of schools and guidance on schools in areas of active conflict.

Information provided by the Office of the Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, April 2019.

Switzerland

Swiss Armed Forces manual on the law of armed conflict, 2019

Educational institutions are to be treated with particular caution. Their destruction may amount to particularly grave disadvantages for a people and the future of a country. Moreover, children, who require extra protection due to their vulnerability, are present in schools. In addition, universities as well as other institutions of higher education often constitute or host significant cultural objects. Therefore, in applying the principles of precautions and proportionality, particular importance has to be attached to educational institutions. Their military use should be avoided.

Swiss Armed Forces manual on the law of armed conflict, addition of May 1, 2019.

Syria

Declaration by Free Syrian Army, 2014

[O]ccupation [of schools] by military forces represents a direct violation of domestic and international law... The Free Syrian Army fully supports the demilitarization of all schools ... used for military purposes. We stand ready to work with the international community to ensure the immediate and complete demilitarization of all schools ... under our jurisdiction. To support these efforts, the Free Syrian Army today states its official position prohibiting the militarization of schools and... and will amend its Proclamation of Principles to reflect the same. This statement will be circulated among all of our battalions and guide the actions of our members. Any individuals found to violate the principles listed in our proclamation will be held accountable, in accordance with international law.

Declaration signed by President of Syrian Opposition Coalition and Chief of Staff of Supreme Military Council, Free Syrian Army, April 30, 2014.

National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces Declaration, 2014

We affirm our responsibility to respect International Humanitarian Law at all times including ... the responsibilities to ... [r]espect and protect schools and hospitals, and refrain from using in them in support of the military effort, including by locating military objectives within or near them.

National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, Declaration of Commitment on Compliance with IHL and the Facilitation of Humanitarian Assistance, 2014.

Aleppo Directorate of Education, Code of Conduct, 2017

Code of Conduct for Education Workers:

...Strictly prohibited: ... Carrying weapons inside the school or where students are.

Directorate of Education in Aleppo, Code of Conduct, 2017.

Syrian Democratic Forces, Policy Towards the Military Use of Schools, 2020

In accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1998 (2011) and 2143 (2014), regarding the military use of schools by military forces and its implications for the safety of children and education personnel, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) stresses the right to education during armed conflicts, as well as reducing the impact of the conflict on the safety of children and those who work in the educational field, and the provision of the necessary facilities to protect them from the dangers of military operations in areas under their security and military control. Accordingly, the SDF affirms its commitment to the following:

- 1- As part of our efforts in the SDF to protect children, schools, and educational personnel from the effects of armed conflict and military operations, and to ensure the civilian nature of schools as safe learning environments for children, the SDF is obligated to refrain from using schools for military purposes and from placing equipment or weapons near them, except in cases of extreme military necessity, when schools are exposed to aggression from other military parties and need protection. However, this action is carried out in full coordination with the civil authorities, including the Education Authority of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (EAAANES), as the civil authority vested in regulating schools, the educational process and facilities.
- 2- All members of the SDF are in full compliance with the Principle of Distinction between Civilian Objects and Military Objectives and the Principle of Precautions against the Effects of Attacks, as stipulated in the Law of Armed Conflict. Therefore, the SDF refrains from military use of schools in a manner that does not contradict its above commitment No. 1.
- 3- The SDF is obliged to take precautions while attacking schools where military targets are identified to avoid direct or incidental damage, and to resort to legal advisers accompanying military operations to assist commanders in making decisions.
- 4- All military leaders of the SDF in headquarters, as well as field officers and military personnel under their command, must be fully aware of these instructions and include this document in all training programs in schools and military academies of the SDF.
- 5- These instructions are included in the Rules of Military Engagement, related military policies, and in the overall military planning, preparation, and implementation of military operations by the SDF.
- 6- The SDF allows civil authorities and humanitarian actors, following coordination with and approval by the EAAANES, to access the sites, review the state of schools and make efforts to assess the damage to schools and remove military risks, which allows schools to be restored to their civilian nature.
- 7- The SDF is committed to cooperating fully with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and the United Nations Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, including the exchange of appropriate information on violations and abuses against children.
- 8- As of the date of issuance of these instructions, the SDF shall proceed with the evacuation process of sites, which the EAAANES, as the official and duly constituted authority responsible for education, classifies as schools to complete the teaching process.
- 9- The SDF will abide by what is stated in this document. All SDF leaders and officers face penalties if they do not adhere to the above-mentioned instructions properly.

General Command of the Syrian Democratic Forces, “Affirmation of Our Policy towards the Military Use of Schools and Educational Facilities and the Protection of Children,” July 13, 2020.

Turkey

Kurdistan Workers’ Party Rules for the Conduct of Warfare, 2004

Children’s right to education will not be restricted.

Kurdistan Workers’ Party/People’s Defence Forces (PKK/HPG), Rules for the Conduct of Warfare, The General Assembly of KONGRA-GEL, 2004.

Ukraine

Manual on the Implementation of the Rules of International Humanitarian Law in the Armed Forces, 2004

As concerns children, international humanitarian law envisages the following: ... the right of children to receive an education shall be guaranteed.

Manual on the Implementation of the Rules of International Humanitarian Law in the Armed Forces, September 11, 2004, sec. 1.4.11.

Statement of the Trilateral Contact Group, 2019

The Trilateral Contact Group [Ukraine, Russia, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], with the participation of representatives of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions...:

underline herewith the importance of issuance of, and compliance with, the...; ban on the placement of heavy weapons in and around populated areas, in particular near objects of civilian infrastructure, including schools [and] kindergartens...

Statement of the Trilateral Contact Group [Ukraine, Russia, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe], July 17, 2019.

United Kingdom

Military Manoeuvres Act (repealed), 1897

Art. 2

Where an Order in Council under this Act authorises the execution of military manoeuvres, such persons as are under the authority of Her Majesty engaged in the manoeuvres ... may under the direction of the Secretary of State within the specified limits and during the specified period,

Pass over and encamp, construct military works, not of a permanent character, and execute military manoeuvres on any authorised land;...

Provided as follow—

Nothing in this Act shall authorise entry on or interference with (except to the extent of using authorised roads) any ... school, ... pleasure ground or nursery ground, ... ground attached to any ... school...

An Act to Facilitate Military Manoeuvres, 60 & 61 Victoria, Ch. 43, August 6, 1897, repealed December 18, 1958, art. 2.

House of Commons Debate, 1915

Mr. KING asked the number of schools in England and Wales which, since the opening of the War, have been commandeered for military purposes; how many schools were still in military occupation at the end of last month; and how many scholars have been displaced in consequence?

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of EDUCATION (Mr. Herbert Lewis): From the beginning of the War till the end of last month 1,023 elementary schools had been occupied for military purposes. At the end of last month 169 were still in occupation, 92 of which were in use as hospitals. The number of children displaced was 109,335, for all of whom (with the exception of a small department for children suffering from ringworm) some other provision has been made. Eighty-eight secondary schools have been similarly occupied (including some partly occupied): 33 were in occupation at the end of last month, 22 of these as hospitals. Other provision has been made for all the pupils displaced.

House of Commons debate, vol. 74 c143, September 16, 1915.

Manoeuvres Act, 1958

Art. 2

Subject to the provisions of this Act, any persons taking part with the authority of Her Majesty in the manoeuvres authorised by a manoeuvres Order ... may, under the direction of the Secretary of State, within the manoeuvres area and during the manoeuvres period-

pass over, and encamp, construct works not of a permanent character and execute defence manoeuvres on, any land; ...

The foregoing subsection shall not authorise entry on or interference with- ...

(c) any school or ground attached thereto...

Manoeuvres Act, 7 Elizabeth 2, Ch. 7, December 18, 1958, art. 2.

House of Commons Debate, 1991

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition of the term military manoeuvre is used when considering the applicability of the Manoeuvres Act 1958 to military exercises.

Mr. Archie Hamilton [holding answer Monday 11 February 1991]: There is no statutory definition of the term “military manoeuvre,” but in common service usage the term would be used to describe the strategic or tactical movement of a military force.

House of Commons Debate, vol. 186 c68W, February 18, 1991.

Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict, 2004

5.4.2

In cases of doubt, objects that are normally used [footnote 1] for civilian purposes are to be presumed as not being used for military purposes. [footnote 2]...

[footnote 1:] “Used” is not the same as “occupied”. Use could occur, for example, when enemy troops take shelter from direct fire behind a house or school.

[footnote 2:] ... If, for example, it is suspected that a schoolhouse situated in a commanding tactical position is being used by an adverse party as an observation post and gun emplacement, this suspicion, unsupported by evidence, is not enough to justify an attack on the schoolhouse. Where there is doubt about the status of a target, a pilot may not be able to resolve that doubt by visual observation in order to justify the attack. He is entitled to rely on intelligence relayed to him unless his own observation contradicts that intelligence or raises doubts about its reliability.

...

15.18

It is prohibited:

to commit any act of hostilities against cultural property, so long as it is not being used for military purposes.

As a corollary, the better view is that the law also prohibits:

the use of cultural property for purposes which are likely to expose it to destruction or damage in armed conflict, unless there is no feasible alternative to such use...

15.18.1

Cultural property includes ... institutions dedicated to ... education...

United Kingdom Ministry of Defence, Joint Service Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict, Joint Service Publication 383 (2004).

Army Doctrine Note 16/02: Human Security, 2016

There have been 10 UNSCRs [United Nations Security Council Resolutions] relating to children and armed conflict... [UNSCR] 1998 [of date] 2001 Declared schools and hospitals off limits for both armed groups and military activities...

Schools in Conflict: LOAC

14. Opening. Schools and other educational establishments must be permitted to continue their ordinary activities. Any occupying power must, with the cooperation of the national and local education authorities, facilitate the proper working of schools and other institutions devoted to the care and education of children. In certain circumstances an occupying power may be within its rights in temporarily closing educational institutions, but only when there are very strong reasons for doing so, these reasons are made public, and there is a serious prospect that the closure will achieve important and worthwhile results.
15. Targeting. There is no definition of civilian objects within LOAC nor is the term used in the treaties dealing with internal armed conflicts, but the principles of military necessity and humanity require attacks to be limited to military objectives. Thus attacks on schools are prohibited unless they are being used for military purposes and even then considerable care would have to be taken.

Army, "Human Security: The Military Contribution," Doctrine Note 16/02, June 2016, sec. 4-4 – 4-5.

Human Security in Military Operations Directive, 2019

HQ [Headquarters] Field Army

Land Forces have a key role in delivering human security in Defence Outputs... As such Land Forces, working with the Army Human Security Adviser, are required to:..

HQ Provost Marshal. Direct HQ when operating in areas where CRSV [Conflict Related Sexual Violence] is prevalent and in coordination with civilian agencies who provide support to survivors of CRSV in that area the Military Police are to, in extremis:...

- (2) deploy trained personnel who can investigate and report on attacks on schools.
- (3) provide training on how to investigate allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation...

Children in Armed Conflict

Legal Standards Relating to Violations Against Children

...Protecting children from the effects of armed conflict to the UK is a moral imperative and an essential element to break the cycle of violence...

UNSCR 2143 (2014). Adopted in March 2014, this resolution urges parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools and to protect schools from attacks and use...

UK Framework on Children in Armed Conflict

The UK is the 74th country to endorse the Declaration, joining two-thirds of Council of Europe and three-quarters of European Union members in committing to protect education in armed conflict.

The Safe Schools Declaration, a political commitment championed by Argentina and Norway, was first opened for endorsement at the Oslo Conference on Safe Schools in May 2015. By endorsing the Declaration, states agree to take specific steps to reduce the risk of attacks on education, including by using the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict as a practical tool to guide their behaviour during military operations.

In addition to disrupting education, military use of educational institutions can turn them into targets for attack by opposing forces, and can put students at risk of death, severe injury, child recruitment, sexual exploitation and psychological harm. Girls and women may be disproportionately impacted: girls and women were targets of attacks on education because of their gender, including through sexual violence, in at least 18 countries worldwide during 2013-2017.

Military Response

The military can contribute to the UNSCRs on CAAC and the conventions on being a child by:

- a. monitoring and reporting on the six grave violations within the area of operations.
- b. developing hot spots and mapping of the six grave violations.
- c. training personnel to know how to respond to girls and boys affected by armed conflict.
- d. mapping and liaising with International and Non-Governmental Organisations involved with the protection of children. This will ensure the ability to refer or hand children over to subject matter experts.

Ministry for Defence, Human Security in Military Operations, Part 1: Directive, JSP 1325, v. 1.0, January 2019, secs. 3:14, 6:1, 6:13, & 6:19-22.

Voluntary Report on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law at Domestic Level, 2019

Safe Schools Declaration: The UK recognises that the enjoyment of human rights can be substantially affected by the presence of instability and armed conflict. As a result the UK is closely engaged with UN and other international programmes aimed at protecting the rights of civilians, in particular of women and children, during armed conflict. The Safe Schools Declaration recognises the impact of armed conflict on the right to education. It is a non-legally binding intergovernmental commitment which provides states with the opportunity to express support for the protection and continuation of education in armed conflict, and for the implementation of concrete measures to deter the military use of schools and universities... International Partners, NGOs and civil society groups have reacted positively and the UK is keen to work together with them to ensure effective implementation.

As indicated in this report, the UK complies with its obligations under International Humanitarian Law, including those on which the Safe Schools Declaration was based. States which endorse the Declaration are encouraged to adopt further reporting and administrative actions. A cross-Government Safe Schools Working Group has thus been created to oversee UK implementation. It includes policy leads and legal experts from the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office], [Department for International Development] and the [Ministry of Defence]. The Working Group also provides the opportunity to discuss wider issues on the conflict agenda and ensure UK implementation of the Declaration fits in with broader work across Government on relevant policy issues. Endorsement of the Declaration demonstrates the UK's commitment to the continuation of education in emergencies, and the UK will continue to call upon others to endorse and implement the Declaration.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Voluntary Report on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law at Domestic Level, 2019, p. 36.

United States

Field Manual 27-10: The Law of Land Warfare, 1956

Treatment of Property During Combat

... The United States and certain of the American Republics are parties to the so-called Roetich [*sic*] Pact, which accords a neutralized and protected status to historic monuments, museums, scientific, artistic, educational, and cultural institutions in the event of war between such States.

Field Manual 27-10: The Law of Land Warfare, Department of the Army Field Manual, July 18, 1956, para. 57.

Final Report on the Persian Gulf War, 1992

Another reason for collateral damage to civilian objects and injury to civilians during Operation Desert Storm lay in the policy of the Government of Iraq, which purposely used both Iraqi and Kuwaiti civilian populations and civilian objects as shields for military objects. Contrary to the admonishment against such conduct contained in Article 19, [Geneva Convention for the Wounded], Articles 18 and

28, [Geneva Convention], Article 4(1), 1954 Hague, and certain principles of customary law codified in Protocol I... the Government of Iraq placed military assets (personnel, weapons, and equipment) in civilian populated areas and next to protected objects (mosques, medical facilities, and cultural sites) in an effort to protect them from attack. For this purpose, Iraqi military helicopters were dispersed into residential areas; and military supplies were stored in mosques, schools, and hospitals in Iraq and Kuwait. Similarly, a cache of Iraqi Silkworm surface-to-surface missiles was found inside a school in a populated area in Kuwait City... This intentional mingling of military objects with civilian objects naturally placed the civilian population living nearby, working within, or using those civilian objects at risk from legitimate military attacks on those military objects.

The Coalition targeted specific military objects in populated areas, which the law of war permits; at no time were civilian areas as such attacked. Coalition forces also chose not to attack many military targets in populated areas or in or adjacent to cultural (archaeological) sites, even though attack of those military targets is authorized by the law of war.

United States Department of Defence, *Conduct of the Persian Gulf War: final report to Congress*, 1992, p. 613.

Military Commissions Act, 2006

§ 950(v) Crimes triable by military commissions

DEFINITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION...

- (3) PROTECTED PROPERTY.—The term ‘protected property’ means property specifically protected by the law of war (such as buildings dedicated to ... education...), if such property is not being used for military purposes or is not otherwise a military objective. Such term includes objects properly identified by one of the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions, but does not include civilian property that is a military objective.

OFFENSES.—The following offenses shall be triable by military commission under this chapter at any time without limitation: ...

- (10) USING PROTECTED PROPERTY AS A SHIELD.—Any person subject to this chapter who positions, or otherwise takes advantage of the location of, protected property with the intent to shield a military objective from attack, or to shield, favor, or impede military operations, shall be punished as a military commission under this chapter may direct.

Military Commissions Act of 2006, sec. 3, amending United States Code at chapter 47A, sec. 950(v).

Law of War Manual, 2015

Obligation With Respect to the Care and Education of Children:

The Occupying Power shall, with the cooperation of the national and local authorities, facilitate the proper working of all institutions devoted to the care and education of children. This obligation goes beyond merely not interfering with such institutions, but also includes the affirmative duty to support them when the responsible authorities of the country fail to do so....

1935 Roerich Pact:

The 1935 Roerich Pact was concluded in Washington on April 15, 1935. It provides for the respect and protection of “historic monuments, museums, scientific, artistic, educational and cultural institutions” and their personnel in time of peace as well as in war. Such institutions and personnel receive protection as cultural property under the 1954 Hague Cultural Property or the general protection afforded civilian objects and persons.

United States Department of Defence, Office of General Counsel, *Law of War Manual*, June 2015, secs. 11.13.1 & 19.15.

Statement on Practice in Iraq, 2017

General [Joseph L.] Votel [the commander of the United States Central Command] described the decision to let “on-scene commanders” call in airstrikes as a return to the standard doctrine of the United States for conducting urban warfare. He said the new procedures did not weaken protections for civilians.

“We do expect on-scene commanders to use their field-expedient means to make assessments about civilians, and if they can’t satisfy themselves that they are not there, then they bring it up to a higher level and they don’t strike,” he said. Any decision to strike mosques, schools or hospitals where militants may be hiding will continue to require higher-level review.

General Joseph L. Votel, commander of the United States Central Command, quoted in Michael R. Gordon, “New ISIS Tactic: Gather Mosul’s Civilians, Then Lure and Airstrike,” *New York Times*, March 30, 2017.

Venezuela***Universities Act, 1970***

Article 7:

The university grounds are inviolable. The monitoring and maintenance of order within them falls within the competence and responsibility of the university authorities; it may only be searched to prevent a crime or to enforce decisions of the courts.

The university grounds is defined as the space precisely delimited and previously allocated for the realization of the functions of teaching, research, academic or administrative extension, typical of the Institution.

It is for the national and local authorities to monitor avenues, streets, and other places open to free access and traffic, and the protection and safety of buildings and structures located within areas where universities operate, and other measures as may be necessary in order to safeguard and ensure public order and safety of persons and property, even if these are part of the University.

Ley de Universidades, September 8, 1970, art. 7.

Yemen***Constitution, 1991***

Article 19: Public funds and properties are inviolable. The state and all members of society shall maintain and protect them. Any attack on or misuse of these, shall be considered sabotage and an aggression on society, and those who violate their sacrosanctity shall be punished in accordance with the law...

Article 52: Residences, places of worship, and educational institutions have a sanctity which may not be violated through surveillance or search except in the cases stipulated by the law.

Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, 1991, as amended 2001.

Order to the First Armored Division, 2011

To operations:

Any school falling within the Northwest Zone and the Armored Division shall be swiftly and decisively evacuated of any military presence.

Thank you,

Brigadier General, General Staff

Ali Mohsen Saleh

Commander of the Northwest Military Zone
Commander of the First Armored Division

Order of Brigadier General Ali Mohsen Saleh (Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar), Commander of the First Armed Division, Commander of the Northwest Zone, April 9, 2011.

Draft Constitution, 2015

Article (20) Public funds and property

Public funds and properties shall have sanctity, and the State and all members of society shall maintain, protect and respect them; whereby violation of this sanctity or a transgression against it shall be a crime punishable by law...

Article 50: Exploitation of educational institutions for partisan or political ends is prohibited.

Draft Yemeni Constitution, finalized January 15, 2015.

HISTORICAL

Roman Empire

Constantine, 333 CE

In confirmation of the special grants of imperial favor by previous sainted Emperors, We command that physicians and professors of literature and also their wives and their children shall be free from the performance of every obligatory and compulsory public service. They shall not be held subject to the duties of military service nor receive quartered persons nor perform any compulsory public service, so they may more easily train many persons in the liberal studies and the aforesaid arts.

Posted on the fifth day before the kalends of October at Constantinople in the year of the consulship of Daimatius and Zenophilus; September 27, 333 (Theodosian Code 13.3.3).

Valentinian and Valens, 370 CE

All men shall know that exemption has been granted to the physicians and teachers of the City of Rome, so that their wives also shall be granted exemption from all disquietude, and they shall be free from all other public burdens. It is Our pleasure that the aforesaid persons shall not be held subject to military duty at all, nor shall they be compelled to receive quartered military persons.

Given on the third day before the kalends of May in the year of the consulship of Valentinian Augustus and the third consulship of Valens Augustus; April 29, 370 (Theodosian Code 13.3.10).

Honorius and Theodosius Augustus, 414 CE

We command that grammarians, orators and teachers of philosophy ... shall enjoy this prerogative, namely, that ... [t]heir homes, wherever they may be established, shall not be compelled to receive and quarter a soldier or judge. We command that all these privileges shall be observed unimpaired for their children also and for their wives, so that the children of the aforesaid persons shall not be dragged to military duty against their will. We command, moreover, that these privileges shall be conferred upon the aforesaid professors and their children.

Given on the day before the kalends of December at Constantinople in the year of the consulship of Constantius and Constans; November 30, 414 (Theodosian Code 13.3.16).

Theodosius and Valentinian II

The Emperors Theodosius and Valentinian, by this law, settled a certain number of professors in the state; viz. three orators well versed in Roman eloquence, for the teaching of rhetoric, and the art of speaking, which was in great vogue at the time; ten grammarians; and five sophists or logicians; two professors of law; and one in philosophy: but did not hereby exclude those of liberal arts mentioned by the Constitution of Constantine. And thus schools of general learning were established ... assigning to each of them their particular school and places to read in at some distance from each, that their scholars might not disturb one another by a confusion of voices, and divert each other's mind from his studies. And as they took care that they should not hinder each other, by this means, in their studies; so they also prohibited smiths and such-like persons to work near the schools and houses of their professors, since the public advantage ought to be preferred hereunto; and by this means the state was filled with men of learning and wisdom. And if any person averred himself to be a smith settled by public authority, for making of arms for the state, and that he was equally privileged with scholars, the magistrate was to assign him a convenient place in the city to work in, without any inconvenience to the scholars. Thus were universities of scholars, in former times, taken care of, for the good of the state.

John Ayliffe, *A New Pandect of Roman Civil Law: As Anciently Established in that New Empire, and Now Received and Practised in Most European Nations*, 1734, Book II, p. 107.

Theodosius the Younger and Valentinian III, 427 CE

According to a second edict of Our Majesty, which retains its own validity and which was promulgated about persons who must be exempted as well as those who must furnish the quarters that are due to persons in imperial service, those privileges must be observed which We formerly sanctioned for chief physicians and masters of literature. For We command that such men, because of their necessary arts and liberal instruction, must be freed as long as they live from the molestation of furnishing quarters. Those privileges, therefore, shall remain unimpaired, which appear to have been formerly established by Our most just constitutions regarding ... masters of liberal studies.

Given on the fourteenth day before the kalends of September in the year of the consulship of Hierius and Ardabur; August 19, 427 (Theodosian Code 13.3.18).

Justinian Digest, 530-533 CE

50.4.18.30: Both the deified Vespasian [Roman emperor from 69 to 79 CE] and the deified Hadrian [Roman emperor from 117 to 138 CE] issued rescripts to the effect that teachers who are released from *civil munera* [public service] and grammarians and orators and doctors and philosophers had been granted immunity from billeting by the emperors...

50.5.10.2: The ... obligation of accepting billeting are remitted among other things to ... professors of the liberal arts.

The Digest of Justinian, Book 50/Munera, 520-533 CE, 50.4.18.30 & 50.5.10.2.

Swedish Empire

Gustavus Adolphus, 1631

Any soldier and every servant attached to our army, convicted of having committed any disorder in churches, hospitals, or schools, shall be punished with death; whether he has committed it of his own accord or at the instigation of others.

Articles of War, additional article, 1631.

Gustavus Adolphus, 1632

No soldier shall abuse any churches, colleges, schools, or hospitals, or offer any kind of violence to ecclesiastical persons nor any way be troublesome with pitching or enquartering upon them: or with exacting or contribution from them. No soldier shall give disturbance or offence to any person exercising his sacred function, or ministry, upon pain of death.

Articles of War, additional article, 1632.

Denmark and Norway

Christian V, Articles of War Letter, 1683

Recent mothers, pregnant wives, old people, priests, church officials, children, and others that pose no threat or offense to [soldiers], as well as churches, hospitals, and schools, must all be protected, under heavy corporal penalty.

Christian V, Articles of War Letter, 1683 (abolished 1881), article 116.

Scotland

John Aitchison and others v. The Magistrate and Billet-Master of Haddington, Court of Session, 1796

The Magistrates of Haddington had, from time immemorial, directed their billet-master to quarter soldiers, first on bakers, brewers, butchers, inn-keepers, grocers, and retailers of ale and spiritous liquors, and upon the rest of the inhabitants only in cases of emergency.

The person primarily subjected to this burden brought a suspension against the Magistrates and the billet-master, in which they concluded, that it ought to fall indiscriminately on all house-holders...

The Lord Ordinary found, “That the quartering of soldiers in the town of Haddington should be equally upon the whole of the inhabitants without distinction...”

And, on advising a representation of the charges, with answers, his Lordship “found, that the school-masters, unmarried women, and paupers, could not be quartered upon; and with that variation, refused the desire of the representation...”

A great majority of the Judges ... were for adhering to the judgments of the Lord Ordinary... The Lords “adhered.”
John Aitchison and others v. The Magistrate and Billet-Master of Haddington, Court of Session, 1796.

Austro-Hungarian Empire

Article on the Billeting of the Common Army (Navy) and the Armed Forces, 1879

Article 10: The following premises may not be used for billeting:...

(4) premises of public worship, premises reserved for nursing activities, public institutions serving charitable purposes, premises of public educational institutions and schools, or such institutions and schools equipped with public rights, facilities of training and educational institutions, as well as the premises of non-profit private charities and health care institutions, finally museums for public use and the premises of libraries and archives;

Act no. 36 of 1879, Article on the billeting of the Common Army (Navy) and the Armed Forces, 1879.

Hungarian Interior Minister Circular on Keeping Schools Free for Teaching Purposes, 1914

In great times, the significance of which we all feel at present, it is in the overriding public interest that the regular economic and cultural activity of society is disrupted as little as possible. It is the economic and cultural life, preferably preserved from shocks and jolts, that serves as a source from which the country draws its vitality and power, provides a solid foundation equally for warriors and those left behind at home, [and] maintains the mood that everyone needs in order to overcome the physical and spiritual suffering caused by war...

In the field of cultural life, attention should primarily be paid to the issue of schooling. Young people should not be permanently withdrawn from the teaching and education provided by schools, and it must be instead be [regularly and dutifully trained], so that young people gain the ability and increased strength to carry out the work of the future, for which every struggle takes place today.

The first prerequisite for the start and the smooth continuation of schooling is that school premises are not be diverted from their original purpose, only except in cases of imperative need. Billeting members of the armed forces and providing adequate accommodation for the wounded is a patriotic and legitimate duty. However, the Prime Minister contacted the relevant military authorities in order to ensure that these two obligations could be met without prejudice to the interests of schooling...

I therefore call for the taking of all necessary measures to ensure that the billeting of soldiers and the taking care of the wounded in schools should only take place as a last resort, that is, in the absence of other suitable premises. Those school premises that have been already used for such purposes, if this is possible, should be replaced by other suitable premises, and once they are vacated, should be returned to their original function.

Hungarian Royal Interior Minister circular, No. 1700.400/3. of 1914, “For all authorities - except for the capital of Budapest, on keeping the premises of schools free for teaching purposes,” signed by Sándor János, October 8, 1914.

United States

House Report on Bill for the Relief of the College of William and Mary, Committee on Education and Labor, 1876

On the 9th day of September, 1862, the principal building of the College of William and Mary was destroyed by fire... Before the fire the United States took possession of the college building for military uses. Its rooms contained hay and other stores, and cavalry equipments. The day before the destruction of the building a court martial was going on in it, which was not over at the time of the destruction. On the morning of May 9, after a conflict between the Union forces and a body of rebel cavalry, the latter got possession of the place for a few hours. After their withdrawal, some returning stragglers of the garrison, provoked by defeat, and under the influence of drink, set fire to the building and prevented the residents of the neighborhood from extinguishing the flames till it was wholly consumed...

We are of the opinion that the United States should restore the building so destroyed... The Government had taken possession of the property for its own purposes, excluding the owners and preventing them from taking any measures to secure its protection...

There are other considerations which appeal most powerfully alike to reason and patriotic feeling in demanding this relief.

Every civilized nation has its hallowed spots about which its patriotic memories cluster and whose names rise before the imagination whenever these memories are stirred. Sometimes these spots are ... the venerable institutions of learning which have educated and trained the great benefactors of the people as Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and William and Mary. Under our form of government these hallowed spots are in the custody of States. But they hold them as trustees for the whole people and the gratitude and affection which surround and hallow them are the gratitude and affection of the whole people...

There is another view of this matter which impresses some of the members of your committee with very great force. It is unquestionable that, by the law of nations, institutions of learning are exempted by all civilized nations from the hostilities of war. They are to be classed in this respect with public libraries, monuments, collections of art or science, hospitals, etc...

Every authority on the law of nations who touches the subject from Grotius to Halleck agrees that the destruction of property of this class is a violation of this law. But it cannot be maintained that the Government is liable for all injuries committed either by its authority or wantonly by its troops, without orders, upon property protected by this rule. But there are many examples in history which seem to place the case of endowed institutions of learning, established by funds given for public purposes, upon grounds of their own, and give them a peculiar title to reparation when so injured, which is not possessed by the public school or even by the church. The funds or buildings of the public school are public funds belonging to the hostile sovereign and appropriated to the fulfillment of a function which that sovereign undertakes to perform for the citizen... But in the language of an eminent judge "the arts and sciences are admitted among all civilized nations as forming an exception to the severe rights of warfare and as entitled to favor and protection. They are considered not as the peculium of this or that nation, but as the property of mankind at large, and as belonging to the common interest of the whole species" ... The endowed corporation of the college can do nothing except hold and apply its fund to a cause which is for the benefit of mankind at large. It cannot commit an act of war, and the hostile character cannot properly be imputed to it... [W]e believe this Government should, in dealing with an American college, imitate the frequent examples which history furnishes, where the most highly civilized nations and the most famous commanders have respected their moral obligations by making voluntary reparation at their own expense of injuries inflicted on endowed colleges and kindred institutions by the operations of war.

During the battle at Princeton the Americans, in dislodging the British from the college building, fired a cannon shot through the walls. [George] Washington, in order to make good to the college the damage sustained by the fire of his troops, made the trustees a present of 50 guineas.

During the war of independence the buildings of William and Mary were repeatedly occupied by British troops. They were in every instance respected as sacred to the cause of letters and left intact. After the close of the war

[French King] Louis XVI, the ally of America, caused the buildings accidentally destroyed by the fire of his troops to be replaced and every injury to be repaired...

The British troops, under [Lieutenant General William] Tryon, when they occupied Yale College in 1779, spared Yale College, although its students in arms harassed their approach. But [former Yale] President Cl[a]p's manuscripts were carried off. [Yale] President Stiles addressed a letter to General Tryon, in which he represented that "a war against science had been reprobated for ages by the wisest and most powerful generals. The irreparable losses sustained by the Alexandrian library and other ancient monuments of literature have prompted the victorious commanders of modern ages to exempt these monuments from the ravages and desolations inseparable to the highest rigors of war." General Tryon replied that "disposed by principle as well as inclination to prevent the violence of war from injuring the rights of the republic of learning he very much approved of the president's solicitude for the recovery of the manuscripts," and caused every effort to be made for their recovery and restoration... We believe that to follow the example of Washington, of Louis XVI, of Judge Croke, of Tryon, will make every college in America safer if civil strife or foreign war should ever hereafter disturb our peace. Every new State, as it takes its place the great family, makes haste to establish its university. Their pupils, scattered over the country, retain their attachment for them and for each other, which is one of the strongest bonds of the Union. In her bloodiest and angriest civil strifes has respected her great schools and colleges. The cause of William and Mary is in this respect the cause of every college in the country.

House Report No. 203, Forty-fourth Congress, first session, 1876.

Senate Report on Bill for the Relief of Washington College, Committee on Claims, 1894

This measure [Senate bill 454, entitled "A bill for the relief of Washington College (now known as Washington and Lee University), located at Lexington, [Virginia]"] provides for the reimbursement to this institution for the injury to its buildings, apparatus, libraries, and other property injured or destroyed by troops of the United States during the late war to an amount not exceeding \$17,484, as the accounting officers of the Treasury may find to be duly proven on account of such injury and destruction... The damage referred to was inflicted by United States troops under Gen. David Hunter who entered the town of Lexington on June 11, 1864. The college was at that time in operation and the professors and students engaged in the peaceful pursuits of learning. The United States troops occupied the grounds and buildings, a battery of artillery was parked on the campus, the horses occupied the dormitories, and General Crook had his headquarters on the college grounds. During three days of occupancy the buildings were dismantled, the apparatus destroyed, and the libraries mutilated...

Your committee approve this bill because they believe it to be the true policy of the Government to show the utmost respect to institutions of learning that is consistent with due regard to the interests of the Government in time of war.

...An institution of learning founded by benevolence, patriotism, and liberality is the possession of society, and ought to be respected and protected in peace and in war. The greatest soldiers and statesmen have always manifested such spirit, and in an age of enlightenment and good feeling that spirit is worthy of cultivation...

Senate Report No. 432, Fifty-third Congress, second session, 1893-1894.

House Report on Bill for the Relief of Richmond College, Committee on War Claims, 1896

This measure provides for the payment of \$25,000 to Richmond College to reimburse it for the occupation of its building and grounds by United States troops, for injury to the premises, and the destruction of scientific apparatus, libraries, and other property of said college by said troops...

The damage referred to, and for which the college asks compensation, was inflicted by the United States troops within a period of eight months, after about the 1st of April, 1865, during which time the entire property of said college was held, occupied, and used by the Federal troops.

Richmond College is purely an institution of learning founded by the benevolence and liberality of a Christian people and dedicated to the instruction and elevation of the youth of our country. The work and influence of this institution is not confined to the State within which it is established, but has reached into all parts of the Union. In almost every State can be found men of distinction who received their instruction and education within her

classic walls...

[I]n view of the fact that the policy of the Government in compensating educational institutions founded in the interests of society for damages received at the hands of its troops can be but founded on principles of justice, right, and preservation, your committee agree that the claim presented by Richmond College should be paid.

House Report No. 1646, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session, May 6, 1896.

Bulgaria

Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1919

Article 74: Educational establishments, other than [one military school, and] universities... must not occupy themselves with any military matters. They will on no account be allowed to instruct or exercise their pupils or members in the use of arms. These educational establishments, societies, clubs or other associations must have no connection with the Ministry of War or any other military authority.

Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Bulgaria, signed at Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, November 27, 1919.

Turkey

Treaty of Sèvres, 1920

Article 169: Educational establishments, other than [the number of military schools which is absolutely indispensable for the recruitment of officers and non-commissioned officers of the units allowed] ... must not occupy themselves with any military matters.

The Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Turkey, signed at Sèvres, France, August 10, 1920.

Bolivian Red Cross

Draft La Paz Convention for the Protection of Children in War, 1945

Article 1

The High Contracting Parties recognize that the protection of minors below 14-years old, the physical and moral health of which the very fate of mankind depends upon, is a superior duty to which civilized peoples cannot escape, in particular in situations that may result from warfare and methods of repression applied in the context of war, and by certain Governments in the event of civil unrest, social, economic and political crises, in the area of legislation concerning minorities, disasters and public calamities, and solemnly undertake to repudiate, prevent such acts and refrain from them in their mutual relations and in the respective national jurisdictions.

Article 2

For the implementation of the provisions contained in Article 1, they recommend to the International Red Cross the implementation of the measures indicated below and offer their full and loyal assistance...

Article 6

Annexes Nos. 1 to 5 inclusive, which constitute an integral part of the present Convention, contain measures to prevent and improve the aforementioned biopsychological inferiority of these minors; to organize the gathering of children in need of relief, particularly concerning ... school education and vocational training...

Annex 1: Legal aspects

... 3. The people, buildings, lands and means used to ensure protection will have to meet the following requirements: ... c. These zones and all their facilities will be used exclusively for the welfare of children ... to the exclusion of any military or political use.

Bolivian Red Cross, Draft La Paz Convention for the Protection of Children in International Wars and Civil Unrest, 1945.

ANNEX I: PROCESS BEHIND THE SAFE SCHOOLS DECLARATION

The development of the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict was initiated by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA). GCPEA is a unique inter-agency coalition formed in 2010 to address targeted attacks on students, teachers, schools, and other education institutions during armed conflict. It is led by a steering committee comprised of eight nine international organizations: Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA), Human Rights Watch, Institute of International Education/IIE Scholar Rescue Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Plan International, Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict, Save the Children, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Additional members of the Coalition involved in the development of the Guidelines include the Norwegian Refugee Council, Scholars at Risk, Studentenes og Akademikernes Internasjonale Hjelpfond (Norwegian Students’ and Academics’ International Assistance Fund), and War Child Holland.

In May 2012, GCPEA organized an expert consultation hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. Attendees included representatives from the armed forces of the Philippines and Qatar; the ministries of foreign affairs of the Netherlands, the Philippines, and Switzerland; the inter-governmental organizations UNICEF and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations; the non-governmental organizations Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (formerly Education Above All), Geneva Call, Human Rights Watch, and the International Committee of the Red Cross; and academics. GCPEA presented research concerning the prevalence, scale, and consequences of the use of schools and universities by parties to armed conflict, as well as examples of good practice to address such use.

In response to encouragement from attendees at the May 2012 consultation, a second, larger, expert conference was held in November 2012, at Château de Lucens, in the canton of Vaud, in Switzerland. Participants included representatives from the armed forces of Finland and Qatar; the Canadian Department of National Defence; the ministries of education in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, and Nepal; the ministries of foreign affairs in Argentina, Germany, Norway, and Switzerland; the Office of the President of the Philippines; the inter-governmental organizations the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations; and the non-governmental organizations Amnesty International, Education Above All, Geneva Call, Human Rights Watch, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Education Cluster, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Participants reviewed and provided significant feedback and suggestions on “Draft guidelines on protecting institutions dedicated to education during times of conflict: military use.” This initial draft was prepared by Dr. Steven Haines, professor of public international law at the University of Greenwich, who is a former senior officer in the British Armed Forces, and former chair of the editorial board of the United Kingdom’s Joint Service Manual on the Law of Armed Conflict (2004).

Dr. Haines incorporated revisions to the draft proposed by participants at the Lucens Conference, and at the suggestion of participants, a drafting committee was formed to review the revisions. Following the review and editing process by the committee, the revised draft was shared with all participants at the Lucens conference, who were again invited to provide additional input. Additional consultations were held during this revision process with representatives from the ministries of defense, education, and foreign affairs of the Netherlands; the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights; and Save the Children.

The resulting “Draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict” were released in conjunction with a presentation of the Draft Guidelines to a meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, Switzerland on June 4, 2013.

Following the public release of the “Draft Lucens Guidelines,” representatives from the member organizations within GCPEA held further meetings and consultations with representatives from the armed forces and/or the

ministries of defense, education, and/or foreign affairs of 40 countries, some of which provided written comments on the draft. In addition, representatives from the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization were also consulted. The International Committee of the Red Cross, while not a member of GCPEA, supported the drafting process by contributing to the substance of the document. Their input and comments were effectively integrated into the draft.

In June 2014, Norway announced that it would lead the process of finalizing the Guidelines and developing a means by which states could commit to implementing them. Following consultation with additional states, the finalized Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict were released publicly on December 16, 2014, at an event hosted by the Permanent Missions of Norway and Argentina to the United Nations at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the first five months of 2015, Norway and Argentina led consultations to develop a Safe Schools Declaration, through which countries could express a political commitment to protect education from attack, including by endorsing and using the Guidelines. All UN member and observer states were invited to participate in the consultations, which took place in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

The Safe Schools Declaration was opened for countries to join at an international conference hosted by Norway in Oslo on May 28-29, 2015. For an up-to-date list of countries that have joined the Declaration, please visit: protectingeducation.org/guidelines/support.

Adapted from: Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, “Commentary on the ‘Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict,’” 2019.



Global Coalition to **Protect** Education from **Attack**

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(front cover) In an elementary school in Ethiopia's Tigray region, children found uniforms abandoned by Tigrayan forces in a classroom on December 9, 2020. Members of the Tigray Special Forces took over the village elementary school while it was empty due to the coronavirus pandemic.

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