
International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law 101

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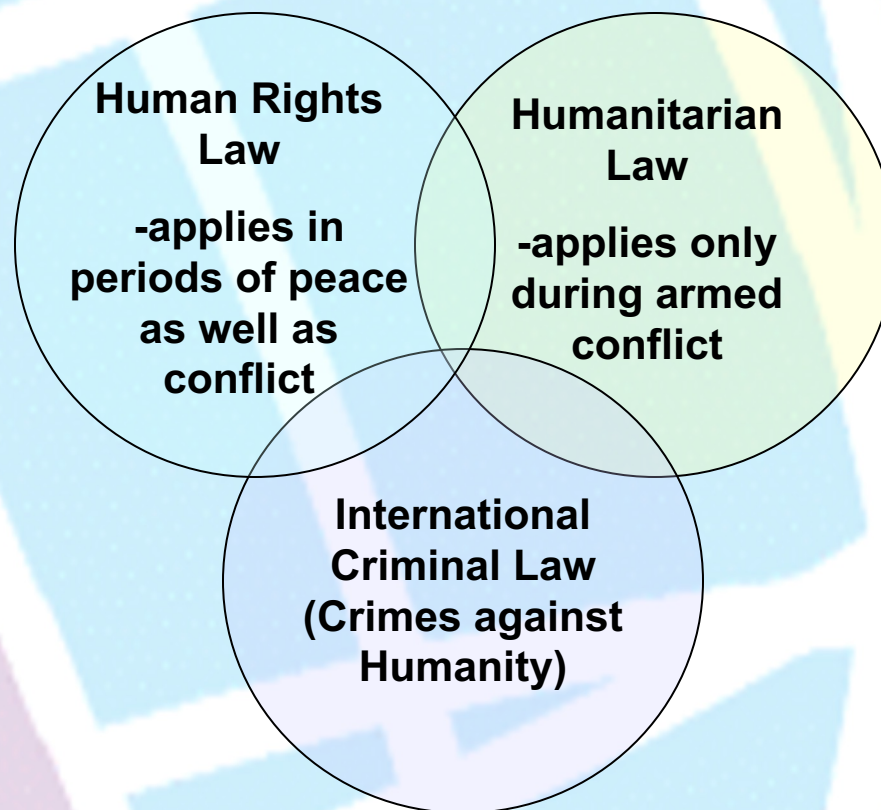
- Documenting Human Rights & Humanitarian Violations

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- Documenting Human Rights & Humanitarian Violations
 - volunteers must have a basic understanding of international human rights protections in order to effectively probe for details about events and so as to appropriately code information during database entry

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- **Overlapping Systems of Protection**



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- International Human Rights Law
 - HUMAN RIGHTS are the rights that all people have by virtue of being human
 - HUMAN RIGHTS are derived from the inherent *dignity* of the human person
 - Enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights & other international legal instruments

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- Documenting Human Rights Violations
 - Right to Life: Arbitrary and extrajudicial killings
 - Equality: government privileges for certain tribal groups
 - Personal integrity: beatings
 - Freedom from slavery: forced labor
 - Freedom from arbitrary arrest/detention: detentions based on suspicion/association

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- Documenting Human Rights Violations
 - Freedom of movement and residence: checkpoints, forced displacements
 - Due Process: detention without charge or trial, no opportunity to present a defense
 - Freedom of opinion and expression: arrests of journalists, confiscation of media equipment
 - Freedom of association and assembly: violent suppression of peaceful protests

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- Documenting Human Rights Violations
 - Right to safe and healthy working conditions: no protection from unsafe chemicals on rubber plantations
 - Right to form trade unions and to strike: harassment of union organizers
 - Right to Social Security: breakdown of government service infrastructure

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- Documenting Human Rights Violations
 - Right to adequate food, clothing and housing: destruction of homes & crops, water contamination because of corpses
 - Right to education: schools closed because of fighting
 - Right to health care: lack of medical care in refugee camps

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- International Humanitarian Law
 - a set of rules which seek to limit the effects of armed conflict on civilians through
 - protection of those who are not, or are no longer, taking part in fighting
 - civilians, religious/medical military personnel, prisoners of war
 - restrictions on the means and methods of warfare, i.e., weaponry and tactics

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- **Crimes Against Humanity** are any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population
 - Murder
 - Extermination
 - Enslavement
 - Deportation or forcible transfer of population

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- Crimes Against Humanity (cont'd)
 - Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law
 - Torture and other inhuman acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health
 - Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity

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- Crimes Against Humanity (cont'd)
 - Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law
 - Enforced disappearance of persons
 - The crime of apartheid

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- Genocide is defined as:
 - Killing members of the group
 - Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
 - Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
 - Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
 - Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

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- International Criminal Law
 - Under the Rome Statute of the ICC, war crimes are any of the following breaches of the Geneva Conventions:
 - Willful killing
 - Torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments
 - Willfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health

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- International Criminal Law
 - Extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly
 - Compelling a prisoner of war or other protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile power
 - Willfully depriving a prisoner of war or other protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial
 - Unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement, and taking of hostages