National Committee on International Humanitarian Law

Mandate and Legal Basis

The Technical Committee “International Humanitarian Law” was established in 1973. It also exercises the function of the German Committee on International Humanitarian Law (art. 22 (8) GerRC Statutes). The legal basis of the Committee is set up by the GerRC Statutes. One of its tasks is to advise the Presidential Board on specific issues related to the work of the German Red Cross in the field of International Humanitarian Law (art. 22 (1) GerRC Statute). The German IHL Committee is set up by the Presidential Board (art. 13 (8) GerRC Statute).

Members of the German IHL Committee are representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, the Ministry of Justice and for Consumer Protection as well as academic circles (international law) and staff of the relevant specialized division at the GerRC Headquarters. Representatives of the Ministries are members by virtue of their function. Representatives of the academia are appointed by the GerRC Presidential Board. The secretariat is operated by the GerRC.

With regard to the implementation, development and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, one of the aims of the German IHL Committee is to be a forum for consultation and coordination between the German Red Cross and the various departments of the federal government.

Members of the German IHL Committee are:

Prof. Dr. Thilo Marauhn, M. Phil.
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Professorship for Public Law, Public International Law and European Law
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Member of the German IHL Committee since 1995

Prof. Dr. Michael Bothe
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Member of the German IHL Committee since 1973

Eberhard Desch
until 2014 Head of Division of International Law, Law of International Organisations, International Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and for Consumer Protection
Federal Dissemination Officer of the German Red Cross
Member of the German IHL Committee since 1999

Dr. Dieter Fleck
Until 2004 Head of Division of International Defence of the Federal Ministry of Defence
Honorary President of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
Member of the German IHL Committee since 1973 to 1992, anew since 2004

Prof. Dr. Robin Geiß
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Prof. Dr. Andreas Zimmermann, LL.M. (Harvard)
University Potsdam
Human Rights Centre
Chair of the departement for Public Law, particularly European and Public International Law as well as European and International Economic Law
Representatives of the following Ministries are members by virtue of their function:

**Federal Foreign Office**
Division 500  
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**Federal Ministry of Defence**
Legal Department  
Division I 3  
P.O.Box 1328  
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**Federal Ministry of Justice and for Consumer Protection**
Division IV C 3  
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**Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community**
Division V I 4  
Alt-Moabit 101D  
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**Federal Public Prosecutor General at the Federal Court of Justice**
Brauerstraße 30  
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**Document on the Implementation of IHL in the German Legal System**

In October 2020, the German Committee on International Humanitarian Law has published a report on the implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) in the German legal system. The document intends to give an overview of the steps the Federal Republic of Germany has taken to implement IHL in its national jurisdiction. It addresses the status of IHL in the German legal system, the status and control of the German Armed Forces, implementation measures concerning, inter alia, the protection of civilians and civilian objects, dissemination, education as well as the enforcement of IHL. It aims to compile information about relevant implementation measures, without being exhaustive, in order to facilitate the understanding of IHL’s application and operation within the German legal system.

The document is broadly addressed to anyone with an interest in IHL, including government officials, parliamentarians, IHL practitioners, staff of non-governmental organisations, academics, journalists and the general public, both inside and outside Germany. The document builds on previous reports developed by the Committee in the late 1990s, first published in 2002 and updated in 2004, 2006, 2010 and 2014.

It is published by Nomos Verlag and can be ordered in print or downloaded free of charge at
Useful Links

- ICRC Fact Sheet on National Committees for the implementation of International Humanitarian Law
- Table of National Committees and other national bodies on International Humanitarian Law
- National Committees Overview
- Advisory Service ICRC

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