

1137th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
20 May 2026

Enhancing compliance with the Code of Conduct regarding military-political aspects of security in Ukraine's practice

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Lt. Colonel of Justice Oleksii MALOVATSKYI



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OBLIGATIONS OF UKRAINE UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW



- IHL became applicable at the beginning of the international armed conflict between Russia Federation and Ukraine in 2014 (the Crimean peninsula occupation).
- Ukraine is a party to the Hague Conventions 1907 and the Geneva Conventions 1949 and the Additional Protocols to them.
- Ukraine also participates in numerous Conventions prohibiting and restricting certain weapons (i.e. 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons).

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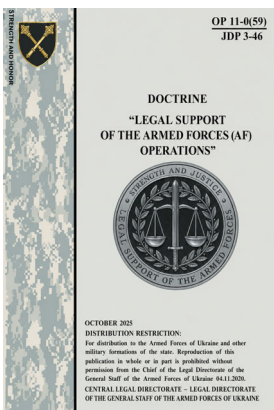
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OBSERVATION OF IHL OBLIGATIONS BY ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE



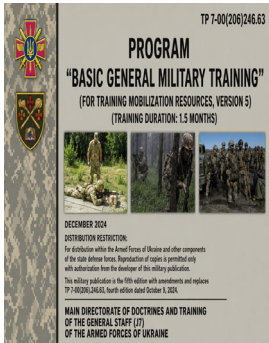
- One of the key principles for Ukrainian state security policy is strict adherence to International Humanitarian Law (**Article 3, Part 2 of the Law of Ukraine "On National Security"**).
- Military command and military personnel, while defending Ukraine from armed aggression or executing other special tasks in the field of defense of Ukraine, are obliged to observe the laws and customs of war (**Art. 17 Law of Ukraine "On Defense"**).
- Military personnel are obliged to know and strictly adhere to the norms of the IHL adopted by Ukraine (**Art. 15 Law of Ukraine «On Statute of the Internal Service of the Armed Forces of Ukraine»**).
- Procedures for implementation of IHL requirements (**Order of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine dated 23.03.2017 № 164 "On the approval of the Instruction on the procedure for the implementation of norms of international humanitarian law in the Armed Forces of Ukraine"**).

PRACTICAL STEPS (I) FOR EXECUTION OF IHL OBLIGATIONS BY THE AFU (Regulations)



- Ukraine ensures that legal advisers are available to advise military commanders in military administrative bodies, military brigades, or separate battalions (Under Art. 82 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Convention 1949).
- **Doctrine "Legal Support of the Armed Forces Activity" was adopted 08.10.2025**
- Military operations' plans are subjected to prior legal verification for IHL requirements compliance.

PRACTICAL STEPS (II) FOR OBSERVING IHL OBLIGATIONS BY THE AFU (IHL learning)



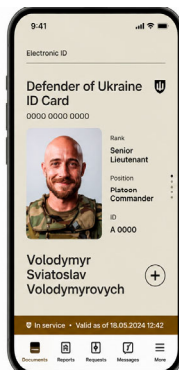
- Commander-in-Chief approved the '**Basic general preparation program**', according to which every military serviceman must complete this program before participating in combat operations.
- **300 military legal advisers** participated in IHL or Operational Law programs in partner countries (the UK, France, Germany, Spain and Poland) from January 2023 to January 2025.
- MOD, CLD of the GS of the AFU, in cooperation with DIILS, developed the **Operation Law studying program (OLSP)** for military legal advisers. Minister of Defense, by the Order of 08.10.2024 No. 4116/ud/6, approved the OLSP and incorporated it into the list of advanced training courses for officers.
- CLD of the GS of the AFU with assistance of the Military Institute of T. Shevchenko State University, organized and conducted the OLSP courses, and **98 military legal advisers** successfully graduated from them.

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PRACTICAL STEPS (III) FOR OBSERVING IHL OBLIGATIONS BY THE AFU (IHL learning software)

The online learning course of the IHL was elaborated on the '**Army +**' platform.



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PRACTICAL STEPS (IV) FOR OBSERVING IHL BY THE UAF (Prevention of IHL violations)

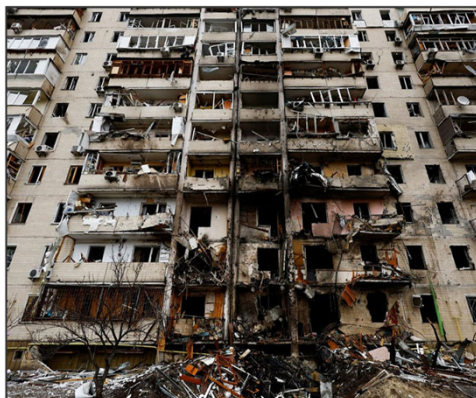


- Ukraine ratified the Charter of the International Criminal Court (the Rome Statute) by the Law of Ukraine dated 21.08.2024 № 3909-IX.
- Commander-in-Chief approved the Order “**On Strengthening Measures for the Study of International Humanitarian Law in the Armed Forces of Ukraine**” dated 07.04.2025 № 164 that prescribes that commanders are obliged to prevent, report, and punish for violations of the norms and regulations of International Humanitarian Law. The procedure of investigation of the above-mentioned violations is regulated by MOD Order dated 21.11.2017 No. 608.
- Deputy Commander-in-Chief adopted the **Separate order of 14.07.2024**, by which commanders are obliged to ensure compliance with and raise awareness among military personnel regarding IHL requirements.

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VIOLATIONS OF IHL BY ARMED FORCES OF RUSSIA FEDERATION



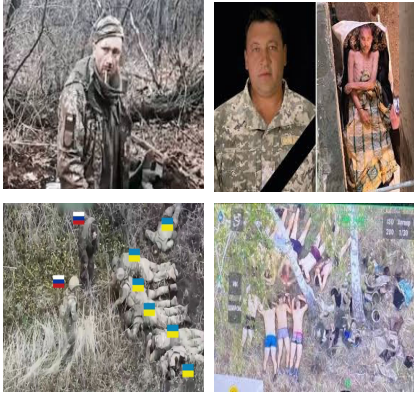
- About **80,496** violations of IHL committed by the armed forces of the Russian Federation as of 01.05.2026.
- Recently, the General Staff of the AFU has adopted a special regulation for collecting evidence of violations of IHL committed by the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the battlefield.
- The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is cooperating with NGOs for collecting evidence of the Russian Federation's crimes against the international legal order and humanity.

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VIOLATIONS OF IHL BY ARMED FORCES OF RUSSIA FEDERATION (I)

(Cruel and inhuman treatment with Ukrainian prisoners of war)



- Systematic execution of Ukrainian POWs by the Russian military (March 07, 2023 Matsievskyi Case, November 11, 2024 Novodarivka Case etc.)
- Systematic torture and willful killing of Ukrainian POWs in prisoner camps and prisons located in the territory occupied by the Russian Federation (July 29, 2022, Olenivka Case, 53 victims).
- Neglecting POWs' status and criminal investigation and illegal court verdicts against POWs (Azov Case, Kursk region case etc.).

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VIOLATIONS OF IHL BY ARMED FORCES OF RUSSIA FEDERATION (II)

(Systematic and widespread civil and dangerous objects' attack)



- Drone attack on the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's shell protection over the melted-down reactor (February 15, 2025).
- Unjustified by military necessity, the missile attack on the Bristol Hotel (UNESCO cultural heritage object) in downtown Odesa (January 31, 2025).
- Indiscriminate missile attack on OHMATDYT Children's Hospital in the downtown of Kyiv (July 8, 2024).

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VIOLATIONS OF IHL BY ARMED FORCES OF RUSSIA FEDERATION (III) (Systematic attack on civil population and unjustified damage of civil objects)



- Missile attack on the café in Hroza village, Kharkov region. 53 civilians were killed (October 5, 2023).
- Bakhmut, Donetsk region, with a population of 71.094, ruined by the Russian armed forces (May, 2023). The Russian AF destroyed ten (10) cities: Mariupol, Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Rubizhne, Avdiivka, Toretsk, Volnovaha, Vovchanks, Mariyenka.
- Missile attack on the “Amstor” shopping mall in Kremenchug, Poltava region. At least 20 civilians were killed (June 27, 2022).

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VIOLATIONS OF IHL BY ARMED FORCES OF RUSSIA FEDERATION (IV) (Systematic attack on the civil population using cluster munitions)



- Missile attack on the city of Sumy by a missile with a cluster munition. At least 21 civilians were killed, and 83 civilians were wounded (April 13, 2025).
- Missile attack on the city of Odesa by a missile with a cluster munition. **Five civilians were killed, and 30 were wounded** (April 30, 2024).
- Latest missile attack on the living block of flats in Kyiv by the cruise missile X-101. For now, **24 civilians were killed. (May 14, 2026).**

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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