

**DIRECTORATE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW, HYDERABAD**

**P.G. DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
2019 – 2020**

Take Home - Annual Exams (August, 2020)

PAPER III – MEANS AND METHODS OF WARFARE

Total marks: 100

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. All question carry equal marks (25 marks each).
 2. Clearly indicate the question numbers while answering them.
 3. Each answer should be of a minimum of 1000 words.
 4. Only Handwritten answer scripts should be uploaded.
 5. Use only **Black ball pen** to write the answers.
 6. Handwriting if not legible, paper will not be examined.
 7. Please mention your name, ID No. and Subject name on the Answer Script.
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ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS:

1. The modern day conflicts are taking place within the vicinity of the civilian inhabited areas and are fought in urban populated areas with more advanced and explosive weapons, which is likely to have indiscriminate effects. Though the advancement of science and technology has improved to identify the military object and guided through the laser weapons to attack on the military targets, but still civilians become the victims of these attacks.

In the light of this scenario examine the relevant legal mechanisms available under the international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population. Provide your opinion on the relevance of these IHL mechanisms to the urban warfare.

2. “Humanitarian Law does not ban War, but bans Total War”. Comment.
3. Grdelica Rail Road Bridge (Kosovo case study 1999):

From 24 March to 10 June 1999 NATO conducted an air bombing campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). NATO has intervened in response to human rights atrocities being carried out by Serb military forces against the ethnic Albanian population in the FRY province of Kosovo. NATO conducted over 30,000 combat air sorties (including 10,484 attack sorties) against targets in Kosovo, Vojvodina, Serbia proper and Montenegro. An estimated 400 to 600 civilians died as a result.

NATO did not employ ground forces as part of its action in Kosovo. In addition, NATO directed its pilots to operate at high altitudes (above 15,000 feet) to avoid attack by FRY air defences and reduce the risk of NATO casualties. One of the NATO targets during the bombing campaign was the Grdelica railroad bridge in southern Serbia. At 1200 hrs on 12 April a F-15E NATO aircraft attacked the bridge. The pilot, whose mission was to destroy the bridge, launched a laser-guided bomb several miles away from the bridge. After the bomb was launched, the pilot saw on his cockpit screen that a train was approaching the bridge. At that point it was too late to abort the mission because the bomb was locked onto the target. The bomb struck the train, killing several civilians.

Is this a war crime committed by NATO? While answering your questions examine the relevant rule of international humanitarian law and provide clear analysis.

4. Military operations to retake Mosul and the surrounding areas from the armed group calling itself Islamic State (IS) were endangering civilians who were being caught in the crossfire or in some cases being used as human shields by IS fighters, said Amnesty International from northern Iraq. The organization's research team met with civilians displaced from their homes in villages north of Mosul in recent days who are now in Zelikan and Khazer camps, in areas controlled by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), and conducted phone interviews with people still trapped under IS control, gathering fresh evidence pointing to civilian deaths and injuries during recent days. With more than a million people believed to be trapped in Mosul and its outskirts, the risks to civilians are sky high. IS's utter disregard for the safety of civilians and their apparently deliberate use of human shields is putting people trapped in areas of active conflict at even greater risk, as Iraqi forces advance," said Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for Research at the Beirut Regional Office. "To avoid civilians getting caught up in a bloodbath, all parties to the conflict must take all feasible precautions to spare civilian lives."

Based on the above information, how would you classify the situation in Iraq, who are parties to the conflict and is Islamic State (IS) bound by the application of international humanitarian law?