

Translated from Spanish

Report submitted by Mexico pursuant to resolution 61/30 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the status of the 1977 Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949

1. Participation in treaties

Mexico is a State party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I thereto of 1977 relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, to the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as to other fundamental international humanitarian law treaties.

The Mexican State has maintained a tradition of commitment to and respect for international humanitarian law, which is reflected in the obligation it has undertaken to both respect and to ensure respect for this law.

In keeping with this commitment, on 6 March 2008 the Senate approved Additional Protocol III of 8 December 2005 relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem, and the corresponding decree was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on 16 May 2008. Now that it has been approved, Mexico will be in a position to ratify Protocol III in the near future.

2. Protecting the use and designation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem

The decree promulgating the Act governing the use and protection of the Red Cross designation and emblem was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on 23 March 2007 and the Act entered into force, pursuant to its first transitional article, on 24 March 2007. The Act also incorporates provisions of Additional Protocol III, of 8 December 2005, relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem. The adoption and entry into force of the above-mentioned Act represents a renewal of Mexico's commitment to international humanitarian law, expressed in the pledge it made at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2003.

3. Dissemination of international humanitarian law

Mexico's armed forces have incorporated instruction and training in international humanitarian law into military doctrine and manuals, and have developed ongoing training activities, in order to sensitize military personnel to the need to ensure that all their activities are conducted in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The education and training measures taken include the use of educational and military training systems for the dissemination of international humanitarian law, as well as other measures to further this objective. To this end, the following activities are carried out:

1. Seminars on international humanitarian law for all military personnel.
2. The armed forces of Mexico have staff specialized in international humanitarian law who are responsible for delivering lectures. They also participate in various forums to update the doctrine in this area.
3. International humanitarian law is included in the curricula of all institutions in the military training system for Army and Air Force units, divisions and

installations. Training schools, including the Centre for Advanced Naval Studies, also provide training in international humanitarian law and human rights.

4. A training course for lecturers in international humanitarian law is offered at the Centre for Army and Air Force Studies.
5. A course is offered for military lawyers serving as advisers in international humanitarian law, pursuant to article 82 of Additional Protocol I of 1977.
6. An examination in international humanitarian law is included in competitions for special and general promotion to the next grade.
7. All military personnel carry the Primer on International Humanitarian Law at all times.
8. Military personnel carry out tactical exercises for the purpose of applying international humanitarian law.
9. Published materials include the following:
 - (a) The four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I of 1977;
 - (b) Primer on international humanitarian law;
 - (c) Primer on conduct in combat;
 - (d) Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land;
 - (e) 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Coordination meetings are held with the International Committee of the Red Cross to organize the above-mentioned training activities.

The Ministry of Defence has also created a Division responsible for matters relating to international humanitarian law and human rights, which became operational on 1 January 2008.

Among other things, the Division is responsible for:

- Promoting and fostering a culture of respect for human rights and international humanitarian law among Mexican army and air force personnel; and
- Providing assistance to agencies of the Federal Government, where required, to ensure that Mexico's international commitments in the field of international humanitarian law and human rights are met.

4. National body for the promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law

In order to establish an institutional framework for activities to promote, disseminate and implement international humanitarian law in the domestic sphere, the Federal Government agencies responsible for ensuring the fulfilment of Mexico's commitments under international humanitarian law treaties have decided to create an Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Humanitarian Law (CIDIH-Mexico) to promote respect for and effective implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level.

The final stage in the process of setting up CIDIH-Mexico has now been reached, and the Committee is expected to begin its work at the end of 2008.
