

*Translated from Arabic*

## **Annex to the note verbale dated 12 May 2008 from the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar addressed to the Secretary-General**

Following are the measures taken by the State of Qatar to strengthen and implement international humanitarian law, including the provision of training to the armed forces and information to the general public on such law and the enactment of legislation penalizing war crimes, in accordance with Qatar's international obligations.

### **I. Accession to international humanitarian law instruments**

Qatar is a party to the following international instruments:

1. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Protocols Additional thereto of 1977. Qatar has also accepted the competence of the Fact-Finding Commission in established pursuance of article 90 of Protocol I.
2. The Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare of 1925.
3. The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954.
4. The Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1999.
5. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1971.
6. The Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1990.
7. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
8. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993.
9. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction of 1997.

It should be noted that Qatar is currently considering accession to other international humanitarian law instruments.

### **II. Domestic legislation**

1. Law No. 11 (the Penal Code) was promulgated in 2004; its articles 105 and 343 criminalize certain acts committed during war.
2. Law No. 9 on the protection of intellectual property was promulgated in 2002 and is concerned with trademarks, trade data, geographical indications and industrial

designs; article 8, paragraph 5, of that law specifically concerns emblems that are identical or similar to the red crescent or red cross.

3. The National Disarmament Committee was established by virtue of Cabinet Decree No. 6 of 2004 and is authorized to advise the specialized governmental authorities in all matters related to disarmament, including matters involving nuclear, biological, toxin, chemical and conventional weapons.

4. The Ministry of Justice has submitted to the Cabinet a draft law on the establishment of a national committee for international humanitarian law. The provisions of that draft law are based on the guiding principles set forth by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in respect of the establishment of such committees.

5. Qatari military law has been updated to incorporate provisions that are in harmony with international humanitarian law, including the prohibition of the recruitment of persons under the age of 18 into the armed forces.

6. The draft Military Code (currently under consideration) includes provisions in respect of acts that fall under the definition of war crimes and sets forth severe penalties for the perpetrators of such crimes.

### **III. Training and information on international humanitarian law**

The State of Qatar is eager to familiarize all of its diplomatic, administrative and military personnel with international humanitarian law and to see that such law is observed during military conflicts. To that end, Qatar has made use of various methods and activities, including the following:

1. Qatari diplomatic and military personnel have participated in international and regional conferences on international humanitarian law, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the 7th meeting of Arab governmental experts on international humanitarian law, which took place in Rabat from 5 to 8 February 2008;
- Members of the armed forces have participated in the following:
  - Workshop on the law of armed conflict organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, from 13 to 24 March 2008;
  - Seminar on international humanitarian law for military justice officers organized by the Turkish Centre for Peace from 29 April to 6 May 2008;
  - Course organized by ICRC in Beirut from 24 April to 4 May 2007;
  - Training course on international humanitarian law (the Geneva Conventions) organized by the League of Arab States from 29 July to 2 August 2008;
  - As part of their training to become instructors specialized in international humanitarian law, many officers received advanced theoretical and practical training in the subject by enrolling in advanced specialized courses that were given in several foreign and Arab States (Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon).

2. The Ministry of Justice ensures that international humanitarian law is taught as part of the mandatory training courses given at the Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies. In addition, it is one of the main topics students can choose from a list of possible areas of research.

3. The Qatar National Human Rights Committee regularly organizes training courses and seminars with a view to disseminating international humanitarian law.

4. In the military, international humanitarian law is being disseminated through the courses administered by the military academy and the training institutes. In addition, a specialized branch for international humanitarian law has been opened at the library of the Department of Legal Affairs of the armed forces. The General Staff has ordered training institutes to incorporate international humanitarian law into the military courses organized for the Qatar Armed Forces in order to guard against any breach of that law by military personnel.

#### **IV. Activities of the Qatar Red Crescent**

The Qatar Red Crescent has been and continues to be broadly concerned, both domestically and internationally, with the implementation, dissemination and development of international humanitarian law and with efforts to familiarize the general public with such law. Following are some of the most important activities, including conferences and seminars, undertaken in the country by the Qatar Red Crescent to disseminate knowledge of international law:

1. The General Assembly of the Organization of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies was held in Doha from 11 to 15 February 2007. Various activities took place during the course of that session, covering subjects such as:

- The role of the media in strengthening humanitarian work;
- International humanitarian law in Islam.

2. In implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Qatar Red Crescent and the Al-Jazeera satellite channel, a training seminar on international humanitarian law and the media was held in Doha from 23 to 26 April 2007. The seminar covered the following subjects:

- International humanitarian law and human rights law;
- Terminology of international humanitarian law (combatants, civilians, prisoners of war, detainees, terrorism and terrorist acts);
- Protection of journalists during wartime.

3. The Qatar Red Crescent, in cooperation with the Department of Human Rights of the Ministry of the Interior, held a training workshop on international standards for the rights of prisoners and detainees. The workshop took place in Doha from 3 to 7 June 2007.

4. A course entitled “International Humanitarian Law and the Mandates and Duties of the Blue Helmets in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security” was offered to the Qatar Armed Forces. The course was given in Doha from 26 to 28 August 2006.

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