

Translated from Spanish

Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of El Salvador to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs and writes with reference to General Assembly resolution 67/93, entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts", by means of which Member States were encouraged to transmit information to the Secretary-General on the status of the Additional Protocols relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, as well as on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level.

In that regard, the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations has the honour to submit to the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs the report of the Republic of El Salvador on the issue in question.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of El Salvador takes this opportunity to convey to the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 29 May 2014

Codification Division
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York

"Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts"

Report of the Republic of El Salvador pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution
67/93

The Republic of El Salvador submits this report pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/93, by means of which Member States were encouraged to transmit information to the Secretary-General on the status of the Additional Protocols relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, as well as on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, *inter alia*, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level, focusing on new developments and activities during the reporting period.

There have been no international or non-international armed conflicts in El Salvador over the last two decades. For that reason, the activities of the Salvadorian State — conducted essentially through the Inter-Agency Committee on International Humanitarian Law (CIDIH) of El Salvador — have focused on strengthening institutions and supporting the professionalization of the Defence Ministry in matters relating to international humanitarian law, as well as its dissemination in different sectors of society, as provided for in article 83 of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) of 1977.

In the period 2012-2014, the Salvadorian State, with the ongoing support of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, has carried out a number of actions, as described below.

In 2012, as part of an annual capacity-building programme, it held 12 training days, attended by officers from the armed forces, students, legal professionals, human rights defenders, community leaders, school principals, and the National Civil Police, among other participants. As a result, a total of 355 persons received training in international humanitarian law.

The following content was presented in these training modules: international humanitarian law, protective emblems (red cross, red crescent, red crystal and blue shield), the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (implementation of which is mandatory for States) and phase III of identification of cultural property.

Furthermore, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the project for phase III of dissemination, awareness-raising and identification of Salvadorian cultural property with the protective emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property was set in motion. This was designed to be a participatory initiative, owing to the need to provide information on the role of international humanitarian law in the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

The selection of cultural property for this project was carried out with a view to generating points of encounter for various sectors of civil society that, because of historical conditions, remained on the margins of any efforts to preserve or protect identity and memory.

To that end, the following cultural property was selected: Monumento a la Memoria y la Verdad (Monument to Memory and Truth), in Parque Cuscatlán, municipality of San Salvador; the parish church of San Miguel Arcángel, in the municipality of Huizucar, La Libertad department; Gruta del Espíritu Santo (Corinto Cave), in the municipality of Corinto, Morazán; la Casona (Museo Forma) in the municipality of San Salvador; and the house of the Barrientos family, in the municipality of Izalco, Sonsonate department.

At present, El Salvador has 53 cultural properties protected by the blue shield in accordance with the 1954 Hague Convention and article 16 of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II) of 1977.

In 2013, the Salvadorian State provided some 34 training courses, including those relating to the project for Phase III of identification. In that year it was supported by the Ministry of

Defence in providing large-scale training to military officers and non-commissioned officers on the topic of international humanitarian law, as well as in providing training for civil society. All in all, a total of 600 persons were trained through the various educational modules, which were similar in content to those offered in 2012.

With regard to compliance with the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem (Protocol III) of 2005, the Ministry of Defence is ensuring that the protective emblems are disseminated and studied in its military educational institutions, where basic training, specialization and advanced training is offered for officers and non-commissioned officers, as well as through the skills development programme for rank-and-file troops, which uses practical computerized exercises, the content of which is updated every three years.

At present, the army, air force and navy have units that perform medical functions, which are therefore the only units authorized to use the red cross protective emblem, including on vehicles, aircraft and ambulance ships; such use is overseen by the military medical command (COSAM).

A total of 12 training courses on the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols are scheduled to be held in 2014, and will focus on secondary and tertiary educational establishments, as well as on continued support for professionalization of the armed forces. In the course of the year, the Salvadorian State plans to draw up a blueprint for safeguarding cultural property in the event of armed conflict and to finalize a draft law for reform of the Salvadorian Penal Code.