

RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA  
STALE PRZEDSTAWICIELSTWO PRZY  
NARODACH ZJEDNOCZONYCH



REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to the General Assembly resolution A/RES/63/125 of 11 December 2008 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims in armed conflicts", has the honour to enclose herewith the contribution of the Republic of Poland to Secretary General's report on that matter.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

New York, August 31<sup>th</sup>, 2010

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
New York



## Poland

The Republic of Poland is a party to almost all fundamental international humanitarian law instruments.

On 30 September 2009 Poland ratified the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III).

On 2 October 1992 Poland recognized the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission established on the basis of article 90 of Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions relative to the protection of the victims of international armed conflicts.

In 2004 the Polish Prime Minister established an inter-ministerial commission on international humanitarian law, tasked with the dissemination of the norms of international humanitarian law for the purpose of introducing them into the Polish legal system. On 22 May 2009 this commission adopted the first report on the implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law in Poland. This report constitutes a review of the compliance of domestic legislation and practice with the norms of international humanitarian law. Information obtained in the course of preparing the report allowed the Government to identify areas requiring concrete action in order to guarantee full implementation of the international humanitarian law in the Polish legal order and its dissemination in the Polish society.

The reorganization of the Polish Armed Forces in recent years has resulted in much greater practical emphasis on international humanitarian law of armed conflict. The significance of law of war has been elevated in the practical training of soldiers, intensified training of commanding officers and the preparation of instructors in law of war. Polish officers regularly participate in international seminars and courses devoted to this field of law, including those organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo and the International Society of Military Law and Law of War. Elements of humanitarian law are also incorporated in training of Polish police officers, in preparation for service with foreign UN and EU police missions. The Center for the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, attached to the Main Board of the Polish Red Cross, has operated since 2 September 1977. It is tasked with the dissemination of information about international humanitarian law as well as the principles and mission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

By the end of 2010 Poland intends to ratify the Additional Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, done at Geneva on 10 October 1980.