

Translated from Arabic

Subject: Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict

The Ministry of Defence wishes to state the following:

The Ministry of Defence is committed to implementing all international conventions and instruments in its areas of competence that have been ratified by Lebanon.

Lebanon ratified the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on 10 April 1951 and the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions on 23 July 1997.

International humanitarian law is a basic component of the curricula of military schools and academies at all levels. Annual courses on the topic have been organized for officers, and conferences and seminars have been held for various military units.

On 2 December 2009, the Ministry of Defence established an Office of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. Its functions include examining all treaties and conventions signed by Lebanon concerning international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and incorporating them into military law.

The Ministry maintains close contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in particular, by inviting ICRC to give the opening statements at conferences and workshops on international humanitarian law and accepting invitations to attend all ICRC workshops or speak at its international humanitarian law events.

The Ministry, through the Army Command, has circulated a poster of protective signs that are used in time of war and organized training courses for all Army units to explain them.

The Ministry gives lectures at secondary schools on the ethics of war and victims of armed conflict with a view to increasing awareness of international humanitarian law throughout the country.

The Ministry, in coordination with Army Command, has also launched a course on international humanitarian law for university students in Lebanon and is in regular contact with college deans, university chancellors and students in order to foster respect for international humanitarian law and prepare new courses.