



Statement

by

Lebanon

at the
Sixth Committee

Item 81: “Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”

New York, October 7, 2016

Check Against Delivery

In line with our Constitution that affirms Lebanon's attachment to the UN Charter, my country is committed to the implementation of International Humanitarian Law.

I wish in this regard to recall that Lebanon ratified the four Geneva Conventions in 1951 and its two additional protocols in 1997.

My delegation also emphasizes the importance of upholding the customary principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution.

Dissemination of those relevant instruments is an essential part to ensure full compliance by all relevant parties.

That is why, Lebanon established in 2010 the Lebanese International Humanitarian Law Committee in order to follow up on the implementation and incorporation of IHL in the national legislation. The tasks of the Committee include: drawing up an annual plan of action for the diffusion of IHL; coordinate between all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of IHL; monitor and document all IHL violations; make recommendations and report annually to the Prime Minister.

Let me add that International Humanitarian Law constitutes an element of curricula in military instruction and annual courses are organized for officers, and conferences as well as seminars have been held in many military units.

My delegation would also like to acknowledge the crucial role of the Lebanese Red Cross, an independent national body founded in 1945, which was recognized by Lebanon as a public nonprofit organization. One of its core missions is to promote the principles of IHL.

Ten years ago, my country suffered a 33-day aggression by Israel, who showed total disregard for IHL, in particular for the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution that I mentioned earlier.

Indeed, the vast majority of the victims in my country were civilians, including a significant number of children. It resulted in 1,109 deaths, 4,399 injured and an estimated 1 million displaced.

I must also recall the bombardment of the power plant of Jiyeh that caused a major oil spill on the Lebanese coasts, with heavy environmental, economic and health related impact that is still affecting my country today.

The situation is increasingly deteriorating in the occupied State of Palestine, where the occupying power continues to blatantly violate its obligations under international law, in particular the fourth Geneva Convention, by endangering the lives and properties of Palestinian civilians.

After almost five decades of daily violations of their basic fundamental rights, with countless killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, confiscation of their private property, demolition of their homes and forcible displacement, the international community and all competent organs of the UN, in particular the Security Council, must now and without delay ensure the full compliance by Israel of the fourth Geneva Convention and other relevant international law provisions.

We echo the call of the Arab Group to convene a Conference for the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to follow up on the Declaration adopted at the previous Conference of the High Contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 17 December 2014.

I will end my intervention by expressing support for the International Committee of the Red Cross for its valuable work in the advancement of IHL. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item, referenced as document A/71/183.