

LL.B. IV TERM

LB-4035-HUMANITARIAN LAW AND REFUGEE LAW

Course materials Selected and Edited by

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(For private use only in the course of instruction)

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Course Objective:

This course is divided into two parts - Part A and Part B. Part A dealing with Humanitarian Law consists of five topics, its aim remains on the development of International Humanitarian law and protection of victims of armed conflict. Further, it discusses the rules on legality of warfare (jus ad bellum), but the main emphasis is on the rules that are to be followed when the armed conflict is going on (jus in bello). Apart from this, an analysis of the jurisprudence developed by the international criminal tribunal leading to the development of principles of IHL and its ability to cope up with upcoming challenges has been undertaken.

Part –B relating to Refugee law divided into five topics, delineates the conceptual dimensions of refugees and various international instruments relating to the status of refugees including the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1967 Protocol and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). This apart, an analysis of the standard treatment of refugees in India and the role of National Human Rights Commission and Judiciary in interpreting and protecting the rights of refugee in India has been discussed.

Part A

(Humanitarian Law)

Topic I: Introduction

- 1. Origin and Development of International Humanitarian Law
- 2. Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols
- 3. Meaning of "armed conflict" Common Article 2
- 4. Non-international armed conflict Common Article 3 and Additional Protocol II of the Geneva Convention
- 5. Jus ad bellum and jus in bello
- 6. Martens Clause
- 7. Interface between International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL)
- 8. Indian Perspectives with regard to Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols-The Geneva Conventions Act, 1960

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Topic II: Protection of Defenceless

- 1. *Hors de combat*, wounded, sick (both in field and sea) and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces
- 2. Prisoners of War (POW)
- i. Who are Prisoners of War?
- ii. Protection of Prisoners of War
- iii. Repatriation and Release of POW
 - 3. Protection of Civilian Person in Times of war

Topic III: Methods and Means of Warfare

- 1. General Limitations on the Conduct of War— Limits on the Choice of Methods and Means of Warfare
- i. The principle of prohibition on causing unnecessary suffering, Military Necessity
- ii. Rule of Proportionality
- iii. Principle of Distinction
- iv. Prohibition on the Use of Certain Weapons- Conventional, Chemical, Biological Weapons and Land Mines
- 2. Contemporary Challenges in IHL

Topic IV: Criminal Tribunals

- 1. International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg
- 2. International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo)
- 3. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)
- 4. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)
- 5. Special Court for Sierra Leone
- 6. Proposed *Ad hoc* Hybrid Special Court for Sri Lanka

Topic V: International Criminal Court (ICC)

- 1. International Criminal Court (ICC): Overview
- i. Jurisdiction with respect to Crimes (i) Genocide; (ii) Crimes against Humanity; (iii) War Crimes; (iv) Aggression
- ii. Basis of Jurisdiction (i) Jurisdiction *ratione materiae*; (ii) Jurisdiction *ratione temporis*; (iii) Jurisdiction *ratione loci*; (iv) Jurisdiction *ratione personae*
- iii. General Principles of Criminal Law (i) *Nullum crimen sine lege*; (ii) *Nulla poena sine lege*; (iii) Non-retroactivity *ratione personae*; (iv) Individual criminal responsibility; (v) Exclusion of jurisdiction over persons under eighteen; (vi) Irrelevance of official capacity; (vii) Responsibility of

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- commanders and other superiors; (viii) Non-applicability of statute of limitations; (ix) Mental element
- iv. Defences/Grounds for excluding criminal responsibility (i) Mental incapacity; (ii) Intoxication; (iii) Self-defence; (iv) Duress and necessity; (v) Mistake of fact or mistake of law; (vi) Superior orders and prescription of law.
- 2. India's Stand on the ICC

Part B

(Refugee Law)

Topic I: Introduction

- 1. Historical Background and development of Refugee Law
- 2. Meaning of Refugee under various International Instruments Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967; Bangkok Principles on the Status and Treatment of Refugees 1966; Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, 1969; Cartagena Declaration, 1984
- 3. Refugee Law, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law: Co-relation
- 4. Contemporary Challenges in Refugee Law- Asylum-Seekers, Migrants, Stateless persons, Internally Displaced Persons, Exclusion of Refugee status.
- 5. Principle of Non-refoulement

Topic II: Protection of Refugees under 1951 Convention

- 1. Rights and Duties of Refugees
- 2. Welfare measures for Refugees
- 3. Administrative measures for the benefits of Refugee

Topic III: Solution to Refugee's Problem

- 1. Burden Sharing
- 2. Extradition of Refugee
- 3. Voluntary Repatriation,
- 4. Naturalization
- 5. Re-settlement in Third Country

Topic IV: Role of UNHCR

- 1. Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 1950
- 2. Role of UNHCR

Topic V: Refugee Protection in India

- 1. Constitution of India
- 2. Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Foreigners Order, 1948
- 3. Role of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- 4. Judicial decisions interpreting rights of refugees in India
- 5. India's Position regarding 1951 Convention on Refugees

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