



info@genevacall.org
www.genevacall.org





Starvation and conflict-related food insecurity in armed conflict: key rules





1

Armed conflict is both a root cause and humanitarian law aims to prevent and

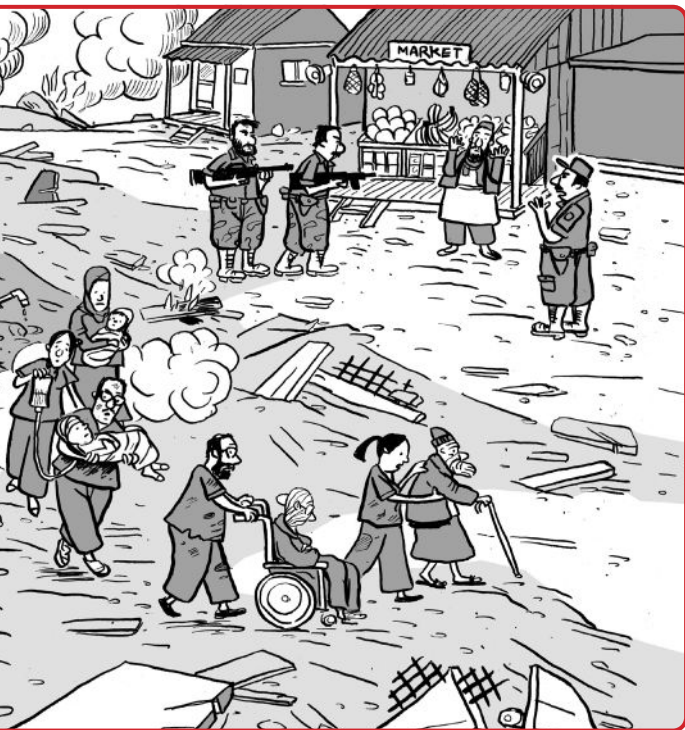


**consequence of food insecurity. International
address conflict-related food insecurity.**

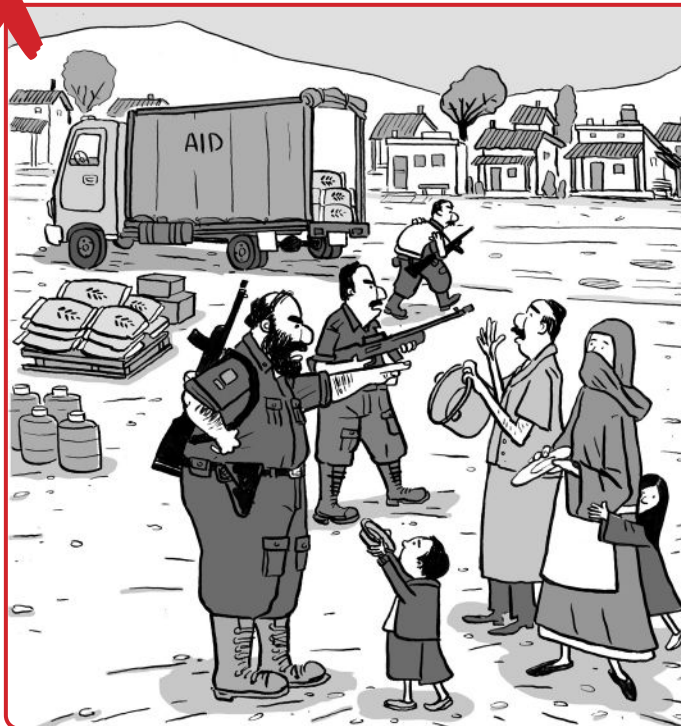


2

**Do not attack civilians and civilian
are not a target during armed**



**objects. Civilians and civilian objects
conflict and are protected by IHL.**



3

**Do not use starvation as a method of
as a method of warfare is prohibited**



warfare. Starvation of the civilian population and constitutes an international crime.



4

Foodstuff, water and other objects population are protected. Do not useless objects indispensable to the



**indispensable to the survival of the civilian
attack, destroy or otherwise render
survival of the civilian population.**



5

**Protect and respect the natural
essential to safeguard the sustainability**



environment. A healthy natural environment is of food production systems and food security.

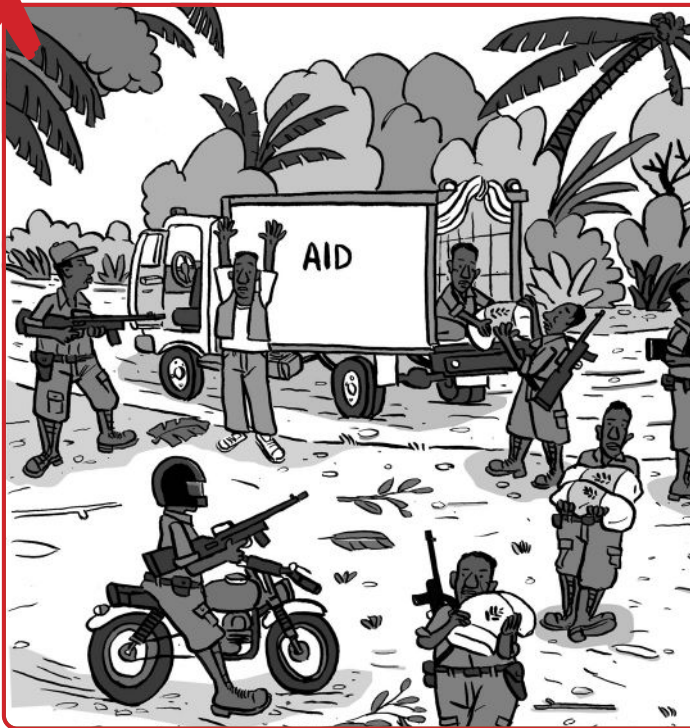


6

Parties to the conflict must allow and assistance for civilians in need, that is



**facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian
impartial and without discrimination.**



7

**Do not attack, threaten or pressure
misappropriate or loot humanitarian relief**



humanitarian personnel and attack, destroy, units, vehicles, materials, or facilities.



8

**In the areas under your influence,
take measures to prevent hunger and
to the civilian population, as well as**



**facilitate respect to the means of livelihood,
ensure access and availability of livelihoods
provide livelihoods for those in need.**



Geneva Call

In situations of armed conflict, **Geneva Call**, as a neutral, impartial and independent international humanitarian organization, endeavours to strengthen the respect of humanitarian norms and principles by armed groups and *de facto* authorities, in order to improve the protection of civilians.

Note

The purpose of this booklet is towards improving understanding of international humanitarian law. The booklet should not be interpreted to promote violent behaviour or the use of force.

This booklet serves as guidance to leaders and fighters of armed groups and *de facto* authorities on how to prevent starvation and address conflict-related food insecurity in armed conflict. Their content is based on international humanitarian law.

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficiently safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life. Food insecurity is an absence of food security with different levels of severity, famine being the most severe.

Food security includes food availability, access to food, utilization of food, and stability of food security.

The Deed of Commitment

The *Deed of Commitment* is a tool that Geneva Call has developed to secure humanitarian commitments from armed groups and *de facto* authorities. It is a standardized unilateral declaration which is signed by the political and military leadership of armed groups and *de facto* authorities and countersigned by Geneva Call (as the witness) and the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva (as the custodian). All the *Deeds of Commitment* mirror international standards on specific thematic and include both negative and positive obligations. Incorporated within the Deeds is a specific provision allowing Geneva Call to monitor compliance.

To date, five *Deeds of Commitment* have been developed:

- The *Deed of Commitment* for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action
- The *Deed of Commitment* for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict
- The *Deed of Commitment* for the Prohibition of Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict and towards the Elimination of Gender Discrimination
- The *Deed of Commitment* for the Protection of Health Care in Armed Conflict
- The *Deed of Commitment* for the Prevention of Starvation and Addressing Conflict-related Food Insecurity

Geneva Call supports and monitors the implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment* by signatory armed groups and *de facto* authorities.

International Humanitarian Law

International Humanitarian Law is a set of rules that seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare.