

## Chapter 10: Armed Conflict Worksheet

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### 10.1 Case Study: Barrel Bombs and Chemical Weapons in Syria

- In your own words, briefly summarize important facts about the case. Include important actors and events.
- What are the important legal and political questions raised by this case?

### 10.2 Regulating Armed Conflict

#### *Principles*

- What are the key principles for this area of international law?
- Provide 2—3 examples that apply each of these principles.

#### *Evolution*

- What are the key events and documents in the evolution of this area of international law?
- Which documents apply to international armed conflicts, and which apply to non-international armed conflicts?

### 10.3 Protected People

#### *Who is the Enemy?*

- How does international law define combatants? How has this definition changed over time?
- Provide examples of specific groups that have fought in wars but do not clearly satisfy these various criteria.

#### *Civilian Protections*

- What international treaties protect civilians? What specific rules are contained in these treaties? (Be sure that you understand how these rules changed over time.)

- In practice, when are states more/less likely to comply with civilian protections?
- What factors might affect the future development of rules about civilian protection?

#### *Combatant Protections*

- What protections do combatants receive under international law?
- In practice, when are states more/less likely to comply with combatant protections?

### **10.4 Military Conduct**

#### *Targets*

- What are “military objectives”, according to Additional Protocol I?
- Provide examples of specific targets in past wars. Be able to explain why these particular targets were (not) legitimate military objectives.
- Why do some states disagree with the definition of “military objectives” in Additional Protocol I?

#### *Methods*

- What are child soldiers?
  - What kind of activities do they do?
  - What are contemporary legal and policy debates over child soldiers?
- How does international law define and regulate pillage?
  - How do natural resources affect conflicts?
  - Provide 2—3 examples of armed conflicts that involved the pillage of natural resources.
- How has international law on sexual violence changed over time?
  - What institutions and actors focus on issues of sexual violence?

#### *Weapons*

- What conventional weapons are regulated under international law?
- How does international law regulate biological and chemical weapons?
- How does international law regulate nuclear weapons?
- What are some possible explanations for why some weapons are regulated by international law, while others are not?

- Do you believe that international law needs new rules to regulate drones and autonomous weapons? Why (not)?<sup>1</sup>

### *Belligerent Occupation*

- What is an occupying power?
- What are the rights and obligations of an occupying power?
- Provide 2—3 examples of states that were occupying powers during specific armed conflicts. Do you believe that these states complied with international law? Why (not)?<sup>2</sup>

## **10.5 Non-International Armed Conflict**

### *Legal Obligations*

- What international treaties apply to NIACs? How have these treaty rules changed over time?
- Explain competing perspectives about customary international law for NIACs.

### *Armed Opposition Groups*

- How has legal opinion about the rights and responsibilities of armed opposition groups changed over time?
- Provide 4—5 examples of armed opposition groups that accepted international rules that constrained their behavior.

## **10.6 Case Study Revisited: Did Assad Violate International Law During the Syrian Civil War?**

- How do the topics discussed in this chapter help you to understand this case?
- How would *you* answer the legal and political questions that are raised by this case?<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Note: There is no inherently correct or incorrect opinion, but you should be able to support your answer using basic facts and logic.

<sup>2</sup> Note: There is no inherently correct or incorrect opinion, but you should be able to support your answer using basic facts and logic.

<sup>3</sup> Note: Some of these questions may require that you express an opinion or make a value judgment. There is no inherently correct or incorrect opinion/value, but you should be able to support your answer (and argue against alternative opinions/values) using basic facts and logic.