

CEECA Summer Academy: Conflict Session ICRC & UNDP

Note: the examples below are illustrative and will be anonymized.

- Opening (15 minutes)
- Companies and their relationship to conflict (20-30 minutes?)
 - IHL violations (e.g. pillage)
 - (This one will take longer to explain than the others – students need a brief explanation of what IHL is, how it relates to IHRL, and how it applies to companies.)
 - IG Farben case



- Financing (e.g. providing funds to armed groups that violate IHL; can lead to complicity charges)



Conflict Diamonds

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The illicit trade in diamonds has funded wars and human rights abuses for decades. Global Witness was the first organisation to bring this issue to the world's attention. Despite positive steps, the links between diamonds and abuse will only be fully broken when all companies involved in the trade change their behaviour.

- How products are used in conflict-affected contexts (e.g. to commit war crimes or gross human rights abuse)

UK: JCB found in human rights breach after use of its products to illegally demolish Palestinian homes



The UK's [National Contact Point \(NCP\)](#) has found that the construction equipment company JCB has failed to meet OECD guidelines on multinational enterprises by conducting adequate human rights due diligence. The finding was in response to a case brought by UK charity [Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights](#), which presented evidence that equipment manufactured by JCB was used in the illegal clearing of Palestinian homes. The UK NCP has recommended that JCB conduct adequate Human Rights Due Diligence, and will require an update from both JCB and Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights in November 2022 to see how its recommendations have been followed.

- Arms and weapons companies
 - *Weapons sales not necessarily illegal – but may face legal/reputational issues for selling to groups known to commit IHL violations*
 - *Also, some weapons are illegal/controversial per IHL*

2 Jun 2022 Article

Sherpa, Amnesty International France, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECHR) & Masaraka for Human Rights

Yemen: NGOs file criminal complaint in France against arms companies over alleged complicity war crimes

WDA, Thom, David, Aviation

Arms/Weapons, Military/Weapons/Force/Equipment, Service, Military/Service

Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, France

Lawless & impunity, action, Service, Geneva Conventions, Liability, Legal accountability, Service, Deaths, Community, ...

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- Companies' relationship to conflict dynamics (e.g. are the companies' hiring practices exacerbating grievances, thus fuelling the conflict; are parties fighting over company resources)
 - *(I have a few fictitious examples of grievance-based drivers of conflict inspired by South Africa and Kosovo)*



- Respecting human rights in conflict-affected contexts (e.g. ensuring staff safety)
 - *Example: Ukrainian staff safety, continuing to provide salaries, providing advances to facilitate access to key resources*
- Security providers (e.g. making sure guards don't engage in hostilities, use force, etc.)
 - *Example: Lydian Armenia*
 - *(Will very briefly mention the Security & Human Rights Toolkit here)*
- Navigating these challenges (10 minutes?)
 - UNWG report
 - IHL for business resources (ICRC & Australian Red Cross)
 - Heightened HRDD guide (UNDP)
 - *Principles of conflict sensitivity – assessing not only HR impact, but biz relationship to conflict dynamics*