

Customary Rules of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in a Military Occupation

A STUDY BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Cultural Property

The occupying power must prevent the illicit export of cultural property from occupied territory and must return illicitly exported property to the competent authorities of the occupied territory.

Specific Methods of Warfare

Destruction and seizure of property

In occupied territory:

- (a) movable public property that can be used for military operations may be confiscated;
 - (b) immovable public property must be administered according to the rule of usufruct; and
 - (c) private property must be respected and may not be confiscated;
- except where destruction or seizure of such property is required by imperative military necessity.

Pillage is prohibited.

Displacement and displaced persons

A. Parties to an international armed conflict may not deport or forcibly transfer the civilian population of an occupied territory, in whole or in part, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand.

States may not deport or transfer parts of their own civilian population into a territory they occupy.

In case of displacement, all possible measures must be taken in order that the civilians concerned are received under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety and nutrition and that members of the same family are not separated.