Customary International Humanitarian Law

Volume I: Rules

Volume II: Practice

Edited by Jean-Marie Henckaerts, International Committee of the Red Cross and Louise Doswald-Beck, Université de Genève

In 1996, the International Committee of the Red Cross, alongside a range of renowned experts, embarked upon a major international study into current state practice in international humanitarian law in order to identify customary law in this area. Customary International Humanitarian Law, Volume I: Rules and Volume II: Practice, is the result of that study.

Volume I: Rules is a comprehensive analysis of the customary rules of international humanitarian law applicable in international and non-international armed conflicts. In the absence of ratifications of important treaties in this area, this is clearly a publication of major importance, carried out at the express request of the international community. The study identifies the common core of international humanitarian law binding on all parties to all armed conflicts.

Volume II: Practice contains, for each aspect of international humanitarian law, a summary of the relevant treaty law and relevant state practice including legislation, military manuals, case-law and official statements, as well as practice of international organisations, conferences and judicial and quasi-judicial bodies. It offers a comprehensive overview of what current or past practice has been in the chosen representative countries around the world.

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Editors’ note; Abbreviations.

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