

# Current Issues in Armed Conflicts Conference

19 November 2021  
14:00-17:45 (CEST)

Online Conference on Zoom

The online conference is open to the public at the following Zoom link:

[https://geneva-academy-ch.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iYuiPmJpTjWYiy3PqVea9w](https://geneva-academy-ch.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iYuiPmJpTjWYiy3PqVea9w)

## BACKGROUND

The building block for the CIAC conference is the Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts (RULAC) project, a unique online portal that identifies and classifies situations of armed conflict ([www.rulac.org](http://www.rulac.org)). Based on open-source information, the project uses international humanitarian law to classify situations of armed violence and to identify parties to a conflict. Notably, the RULAC project illustrates how the legal principles apply in practice by determining whether a situation of armed violence in the world qualifies as an armed conflict under international humanitarian law. Such qualifications are often fraught with difficulties, including due to ongoing controversies about some of the principles governing the qualification of conflicts. The CIAC conference aims at tackling these complex issues and questions. Notably, it is intended to provide a space for experts and practitioners, diplomats, academics, and civil society representatives to discuss the legal and policy issues that have arisen in relation to armed conflicts situations.

## PROGRAM

**\*all time in CEST\***

**14:00 – 14:15      Opening remarks**

Prof. Gloria Gaggioli, Director of the Geneva Academy

**14:15 – 15:45      Panel 1. Aggregating violence: *Quo vadis?***

To date, the majority of armed conflicts are non-international in nature. Contemporary non-international armed conflicts are often characterized by the participation of a myriad of armed non-state actors, which might fight against a common enemy or create coalitions and umbrella organizations. This circumstance raises key challenges for classification purposes. Notably, applying traditional criteria might lead to conclusions that exclude IHL application, and which may allegedly not reflect the reality on the ground. This panel will address these key questions.

*Moderator:* Ms Emilie Max, Research Fellow, Geneva Academy

*Presenters:*

Dr. Annyssa Bellal, Senior Researcher and IHL Strategic Adviser, Geneva Academy

Mr. Thomas de Saint Maurice, Head of Unit, Legal Advisers to the Operations International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Prof. Jann Kleffner, Swedish Defence University

Mr. Pavle Kilibarda, Teaching Assistant, Geneva Academy, and PhD candidate, University of Geneva

**15.45-16.00**      **Break**

**16:00-17:30**      **Panel 2. Cyber conflicts**

New (military) technologies are set to revolutionize the ways wars are fought. Their deployment in times of armed conflict will have far-reaching and not yet fully understood consequences for future humanitarian protection needs and the humanitarian legal framework. This panel seeks to analyze what are the main challenges that the use of cyber technologies will have on armed conflicts, with a particular focus on issues related to classification.

*Moderator:* Dr Chiara Redaelli, Research Fellow, Geneva Academy

*Presenters:*

Prof. Marco Roscini, University of Westminster

Prof. Vera Rusinova, National Research University 'The Higher School of Economics' (HSE) of Moscow

Dr. Henning Lahmann, Post-Doctoral Global Fellow, New York University

Dr. François Delerue, Senior Researcher in Cybersecurity Governance at Leiden University and Team Lead on International at EU Cyber Direct

**17:30-17:45**      **Conclusions**