

TO: All Students in Levels 5 and 6

## MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Dear Students,

Considering the recent pandemic of the COVID-19, the Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) and the ICRC Beijing Delegation decide to conduct the 2021 edition of [IHL Moot Court Competition for Asia-Pacific region](#) through submission of memorials and with virtual oral hearings to be held 11-14th March, 2021. Since there were no national or regional rounds in 2020 and hence no winner teams, the ICRC Sri Lanka is unable to just nominate teams for HK Moot.

In order to make the HK competition worthwhile and to ensure that teams from South Asia are represented at the HK Moot, the ICRC regional delegation proposes a selection test to select teams to be nominated for the HK moot.

If you think it is feasible and you can form a promising team, please go ahead and form a team and submit your written answers to the two following questions **on or before the 7<sup>th</sup> of January (before 5pm, Sri Lankan Time) 2021**. The answers to the questions (one more technical, one more essay-like) will be judged against the knowledge of the law, ability to defend the position and present legal arguments on IHL in English.

Please find below the two questions to be answered by your teams;

1.

**Question 1 (700 words):** State A and State B are in a situation of international armed conflict, and parties to the Geneva Conventions and two Additional Protocols. State A launched a widespread cyberattack (virus) on the electric grid infrastructure of a region in State B, which affected a military base and a nearby city. This included shutting down all electric equipment on the military base, including command and control communications, and the malfunction of some of that equipment which has caused small-scale fires resulting in moderate injuries to a small number of personnel and severe damage to the military equipment. In a nearby city, this cyberattack affected a water-pumping station, limiting the water supply to the population of that city (50,000 people), and cut all electricity,

including to the only hospital that had nevertheless used an emergency power generator. Fires in the city resulting from the cyberattack has more severely injured several civilians and civilian property, but no deaths are reported so far. Cyber experts of State B found later that just before shutting down the power grid some sensitive data, both military and civilian (namely medical records), have been deleted and potentially stolen. You are a team of legal advisers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of State B and you are tasked to write a short legal memo for your Minister (no more than 700 words) summarising the applicable law, relevant legal issues and potential violations. Please also indicate what the Minister should highlight in his public statement on the incident.

2.

**Question 2 (500 words):** There has been an increased multiplication and fragmentation of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in the recent decade. What are the main challenges in applying the current international legal frameworks to this phenomenon? Does the law sufficiently cover all the legal aspects, or does it need further clarification and development? Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Your team should submit the answers to the above two questions along with the names and details (Date of Birth and email address of each team members) of the team before the deadline (**7<sup>th</sup> of January (before 5pm, Sri Lankan Time) 2021**) directly to the undersigned ( [syworthington@icrc.org](mailto:syworthington@icrc.org) ).

Best of luck.

The Head,  
Department of Legal Studies