

South Asian Essay Writing Competition on
International Humanitarian Law

ENSAYO 2011

Organized by the Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH), RGNUL
in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),
Regional Delegation for South Asia, New Delhi, India



ICRC

COMPETITION HANDBOOK



**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW(CASH)
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ENSAYO 2011

*South Asian Essay Writing Competition on
International Humanitarian Law*

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About ICRC

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The ICRC is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and armed violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for International Humanitarian Law and its implementation in municipal law.

One of the objectives of ICRC is to promote knowledge of humanitarian law among those whom it is intended to protect, the civilian population as well as among those who have to apply it. To promote its development it is an essential task to include International Humanitarian Law in higher education. The ICRC has taken a number of steps to achieve just that in the South Asian region.

The ICRC, through its Regional Delegation in New Delhi, is closely involved in promoting International Humanitarian Law in academic institutions in South Asia. Thus, the delegation regularly organizes events like ‘South Asian Teaching Session on International Humanitarian Law’ for postgraduate students and young university lecturers. It supports research and publications in this field; publishes a journal on International Humanitarian Law and organizes academic events on specific aspects of International Humanitarian Law such as the International Criminal Court, the 1977 Additional Protocols, the issue of anti-personnel landmines etc.

The delegation also accepts students for internships, has established a documentation centre on its premises, supports libraries of academic institutions by providing publications on International Humanitarian Law, holds moot court and essay-writing competitions and arranges other promotional events. Since 1999, together with the Indian Society of International Law, it has launched a postgraduate diploma programme in International Humanitarian Law.

It must be stressed that as a rule these activities of the ICRC Delegation in New Delhi are conducted in collaboration with universities and other educational institutions in the countries concerned and also with academic societies. Academic institutions have generally shown a keen interest in introducing International Humanitarian Law into higher education. As a result, there is considerable awareness of its importance among the academic communities in South Asia.

About RGNUL

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Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab was established at Patiala in the year 2006 with an objective to meet the challenges of globalization and liberalization, by the State Legislature by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, Act, 2006 (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The University is registered with University Grants Commission, New Delhi, under Section 2(f) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, vide notification number F.9-35/2006 (CPP-I) dated 11 January 2007. It also has approval of Bar Council of India.

In a short span of four years, RGNUL has established a number of specialised centers in its campus catering to the myriad of needs of its students. The most important among them are Centre for Advanced Study in Criminal Law (CASCL), Centre for Consumer Protection Laws and Advocacy (CCPLA), RGNUL Institute of Competitive Exams (RICE), Centre for study in agriculture law and economics (SALE) and Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH). The University offers both an undergraduate degree BA LLB (Hons.) and a masters (LLM) degree programme. University has developed the entire course curriculum keeping in view the various developments taking place in the legal world. In recent times International Humanitarian Law has gained importance all over the world, thus we at RGNUL have included this important subject in our curriculum. We offer specializations in our undergraduate programme in the final two years of study which are criminal law, human rights law, corporate and intellectual property law.

About CASH

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International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a set of rules, which seeks for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects the persons who are not, or are no longer, participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare.

The subject of IHL has assumed immense significance in India during the last decade or so and it is offering newer avenues for law graduates in the 21st Century. Therefore, creating awareness and interest among the students, so that they respect and promote its development, and also, to be able to sensitize general public about the provisions of IHL, is an essential task to include International Humanitarian Law as a subject at academic level. CASH has been established, primarily due to the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Regional Delegation, New Delhi, in Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab. The sole aim of CASH is to promote teaching and research in the area of IHL.

The aim of CASH at RGNUL, Punjab is to ensure that the future leaders and opinion makers understand practical relevance of IHL and have a thorough knowledge of its basic principles. It has been working to achieve this aim by promoting various research activities and organizing various events. In 2007-08, with the liberal financial and logistic support of the International Committee of Red Cross (Regional Delegation, New Delhi) RGNUL organized “The LAWASIA Moot Court Competition”, followed by a “One Day Sensitization Programme on International Humanitarian Law”, “The Commonwealth Moot Court Competition” and “The Bar Council of India Moot Court Competition”. Since, teachers are mentors for students, it is important to sensitize them first. Thus as a step towards achieving the same, CASH in collaboration with The Indian Campaign on International Criminal Court (ICC-India) organized a “Training of the Trainers Programme (TOT) on International Criminal Law (ICL)” in 2009, primarily for the educators and advocates working in the fields of International Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Relations, Human Rights, political Science and Social Work.

Another initiative has been organizing an annual essay writing competition, “ENSAYO”, which is completely dedicated to address the issues relating to IHL.

About ENSAYO

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The first ever ENSAYO was conducted in 2009 wherein the effect of war on children, family, environment and heritage was discussed. RGNUL, Punjab has the credit to have organized an independent Essay Writing Competition on IHL for the first time in India. The winners of ENSAYO 2009 were:

Mr. Mrinal Shankar, School of Law, Christ University (Bengaluru), First Position (Prize of Rs. 10,000/-)

Mr. Priyank Kapadia, NALSAR University of Law (Hyderabad), Second Position (Prize of Rs. 7500/-)

Ms. Preetika Mishra, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (Punjab), Third Position (Prize of Rs. 5000/-)

In June 2010, came the second ENSAYO which discussed the theme of 'Women and War', which gave its authors wider horizons to explore the topic as they could discuss their own perspectives with regard to the broader theme.

A function was organized to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions on 12 August, 2010 and the winners of the ENSAYO 2010 were honoured in the same. Mr. Navjot Singh Sidhu, Member of Parliament, was the Chief Guest and Mr. Mahesh Bhatt, Film Director and Ambassador, ICRC, was the Guest of Honour. Also, the winners gave presentations on the relevance of the Geneva Conventions. This session was presided by Dr. Sanoj Rajan (International Committee of the Red Cross, Regional Delegation, New Delhi), Prof. Y.S.R Murthy (Global Jindal Law School, Haryana), and Prof. S.R.S. Bedi (RGNUL, Punjab).

The winners of the ENSAYO 2010 were:

Ashish Ransom, Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University (Lucknow), First Position (Prize of Rs. 15,000/-)

Preetika Mishra, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (Punjab), Second Position (Prize of Rs. 10,000/-)

Sudhanshu Kumar, Chankaya National Law University (Patna), Third Position (Prize of Rs. 7,000/-)

Now, in 2011, when ENSAYO extends to South Asia, we propose to discuss various perspectives of 'Health care and Armed Conflict'.

ENSAYO 2011: Concept Note

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The topic this year is incredibly germane, as health care system in any society is a product of its social, political, economical and cultural environment and values. This environment and these values get disrupted during armed conflicts due to many reasons including dilution of legal norms. Thus, evidently armed conflicts diminish the quality of health care, both its delivery and access. This results in traumatic health patterns in conflict zones that further affects the stability of community itself in short, medium and long term. In the worst cases, parts or all of the system may cease to exist, thus the risk of epidemics increases and support for civilian casualties and those suffering psychological trauma is limited or non-existent. The role of Government and other organizations like the ICRC, National Red Cross/Crescent Societies, NGOs, and Civil Defense mechanisms etc. cannot be over-looked in alleviating health conditions in conflict areas. Another important aspect is that the local community and doctors need to be equipped and trained to deal with the situations that arise in a conflict before such situations take place, so that even when external aid cannot reach them they may be able to provide healthcare to the war wounded and sick. All these are a few areas and problems related to health care during armed conflict.

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Submission Guidelines

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1. Participation

- 1.1 The ENSAYO Essay competition is open to students from the disciplines of Law, Political Science, International Relations, Medical Sciences, Mass Media and Journalism from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Srilanka, Iran.
- 1.2 Each participant shall be permitted to submit only one individual entry. Joint entries shall not be permitted.
- 1.3 To register for the essay competition, the participant must attach the registration form along with the e-mail which is to be sent in accordance with Rule 2.5 . The registration form can be downloaded from the official university website: www.rgnulpatiala.org .

2. Presentation Rules

- 2.1 The participants may chose to write on any topic within the ambit of the broader theme of the competition i.e. Health Care During Armed Conflict- A Legal and Social Perspective.
- 2.2 Submission must not exceed 4000 words (exclusive of footnotes).
- 2.3 The essay must include references in the form of footnotes. The Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) should be followed for the citations. A copy of OSCOLA can be accessed at our official university website: www.rgnulpatiala.org or <http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/publications/oscola.php>
- 2.4 All submissions must adhere to the following requirements:

Font	Times New Roman
Font Size	12
Line Spacing	1.5
Footnote Font Size	10
Footnote Spacing (within footnotes)	1.0
Footnote Spacing (between distinct footnotes)	2.0
- 2.5 Submissions should be sent as soft copies to “rgnulensayo2011@gmail.com” in .doc or docx format only. Please make sure the registration form mentioned in rule 1.3 is duly filled and attached with this e-mail. An abstract not exceeding 200 words mentioning the key issues and setting out the main conclusions reached, must be attached. The title of the mail should be “Essay Submission 2011”.

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Submission Guidelines

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- 2.6 The last date of submission is June 15, 2011 latest by 24:00 hours Indian Standard Time. Submissions will be accepted till two days after the last date of submission, with a penalty of three marks per day.
- 2.7 No part of the essay should contain any form of identification of the participant, other than details required under Rule 2.5.
- 2.8 All submissions must be original and *bona fide* work of the participants; plagiarism will result in automatic disqualifications. The contestants by entering in the contest agree to indemnify the organisers from and against all claims, suits, and damages based on any claim of copyright infringement or plagiarism or unauthorized use.
- 2.9 All entries shall be considered to be the property of the Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH) which reserves the right of publication of the same in any book, journal or in any other manner as it may deem appropriate, without providing any royalty or compensation.
- 2.10 The essay should not have been submitted in any other competition and/or for publication whatsoever.
- 2.11 Any clarifications should be sent with the title "Essay Competition Query" to "rgnulensayo2011@gmail.com".
- 2.12 Organisers reserve the right to vary, repeal, alter any of the rules if so required as they deem appropriate.

3. Marking Criteria

- 3.1 Each essay will be marked on a total of 100 marks.
- 3.2 The marking criteria for the entries shall be as follows:-

Ingenuity/ Originality	30
Quality of research	25
Structure and Clarity	25
English/Grammar	10
Presentation (Formatting)	10

- 3.3 Violation of the word limit will result in a penalty of 5 marks per 50 words exceeded.

Submission Guidelines

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4. Awards

4.1 A certificate of merit and cash prizes shall be awarded to each of the three best essays.

4.2 The cash prize awarded shall be as follows:-

First Prize - Rs. 25,000

Second Prize - Rs. 15,000

Third Prize - Rs. 10,000

4.3 Certificate of participation will be given to all participants.

4.4 All winners shall be duly intimated by e-mail.

5. Contact Details

Email Address- rgnulensayo2011@gmail.com.

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For regular updates, please visit the official university website:
www.rgnulpatiala.org

