



The International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Law Association and the New Zealand Centre for Public Law invite you to a Public Lecture:

Civilians on the battlefield: Challenges for IHL in the 21st Century

Dr Nils Melzer

Legal Adviser, ICRC Geneva

In the 21st century we are seeing the changing nature of warfare, which is becoming more asymmetrical with many new actors on the battlefield challenging the way that parties to a conflict apply international humanitarian law (IHL). The nature of the participants in the battle is also changing, from civilians taking up arms to insurgents to private military security companies. Dr Melzer will address the challenges in regulation of conflict and conflict participation from a humanitarian and legal perspective. He will then discuss the methods that the ICRC and States have adopted to try and ensure that IHL remains relevant to these new conflicts, and that the suffering caused by such conflicts is limited.

Dr Nils Melzer is Legal Adviser for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He has been responsible for the ICRC's expert process aimed at clarifying international humanitarian law relating to the issue of civilian participation in hostilities (2003-2009), leading to his authorship of the ICRC's Interpretive Guidance on Direct Participation in Hostilities and, among other duties, has recently taken over the responsibility for the ICRC Legal Division's activities in connection with private military and security companies (PMSC). Dr Melzer holds a PhD in law from the University of Zürich (summa cum laude) and has authored several works on targeting and the use of force in police, counter-terrorism and military operations. He has worked for the ICRC as an Operational Legal Adviser for the Middle East and Africa (2002-2004), and as a Field Delegate in the Balkans and the Middle East (1999-2002).

12.30pm, Friday 11 June 2010

Moot Room, Level 3, Old Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus
15 Lambton Quay, Wellington

New Zealand Centre for Public Law lectures are free of charge.

Please RSVP (acceptances only) to nzcpl@vuw.ac.nz.