Humanitarian Organisations, Human Rights

International Organisations
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Overview

- **Overview of humanitarian- and human rights organisations**
- **Characteristics of humanitarian organisations**
- **ICRC as organisation „sui generis"**

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Human rights and humanitarian law

- **Human rights**
  - Protection of human beings
  - Part of public international law
- **Humanitarian law**
  - Part of ius in bello
  - Protection of victims in armed conflicts
    - International
    - National

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Legal basis: Public international law

- **International humanitarian law**
  - Geneva Conventions
  - Customary international law
- **Human rights**
  - Universal and regional human rights conventions
  - Customary international law

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Principles of the Red Cross movement

- **Humanity**
- **Impartiality**
- **Neutrality**
- **Independence**
- **Voluntary Service**
- **Unity**
- **Universality**

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Organisation of the Red Cross (1/2)

- **National Red Cross**
  - Recognition by ICRC
    - One organisation per country
    - Name and Emblems of the Red Cross need to be shown
  - Goal: Aid for disaster victims
- **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**
  - Founded in Geneva in 1863
  - 15-25 members,16 members as of April 2010 (assembly)

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Organisation of the Red Cross (2/2)

- **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**
  - Umbrella Organisation of all national Red Cross Organisations
  - Association according to Art. 60 Swiss Civil Code (ZGB)
- **International Conference of the Red Cross**
  - Meets normally every four years (1995, 1999, 2003, 2006, 2007)
  - Members
    - the 186 duly recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
    - the International Committee of the Red Cross
    - the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
    - the 194 States party to the Geneva Conventions.
  - Most important competence: Amendment of Statutes

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ICRC: Organisation and structure

- **Predecessor: Geneva International Conference (1863)**
- **Structure and membership**
  - Association according to Art. 60 et seq. Swiss Civil Code (ZGB)
  - Only Swiss citizens as members, delegates from other countries
  - Structure
    - Assembly
    - Presidency
    - Assembly Council
    - Directorate
    - International advisors
- **Decision making**

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ICRC: Goals and tasks

- **Legal basis**
  - Geneva Conventions for armed conflicts
  - ICRC-Statute for situations of internal violence
  - Mission statement
- **Tasks**
  - Visit prisoners and detainees
  - Re-unite separated families
  - Organise relief operations
  - Emergency aid
  - Similar humanitarian activities

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