

the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, and has the honour to refer to the letter (ref. LA/COD/2) dated 10 March 2016, regarding General Assembly Resolution 69/189 of 10 December 2014, entitled "Status of the Detainees Additional to the

Information on the Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, and on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, including with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level

CONTRIBUTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

Period under review: June 2014 to June 2016

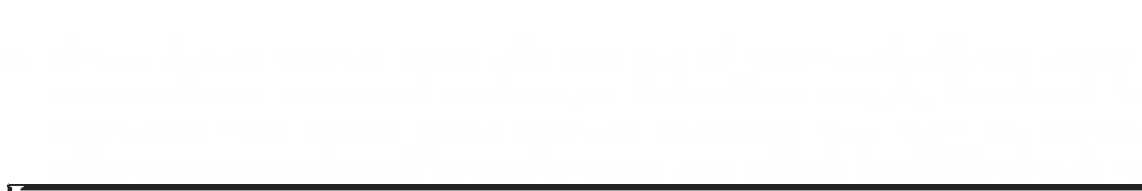
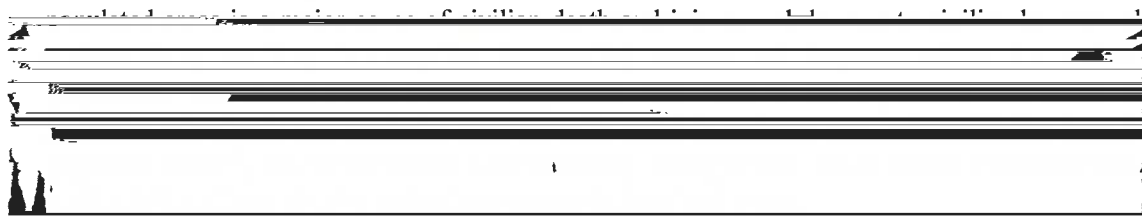
Outcomes of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

1. The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference), held in Geneva in December 2015, adopted four resolutions on international humanitarian law (IHL):¹

Resolution 1, “**Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty**” recommends that in-depth State-led work be pursued to produce non-legally binding

Initiatives taken by the ICRC to reaffirm, clarify and strengthen IHL

3. In March 2016, the ICRC published a new **Commentary on the First Geneva Convention**, available on line.³
4. Switzerland and the ICRC convened a series of meetings that led to the establishment of the Montreux Document Forum in December 2014, which provides an informal platform for signatories to discuss and exchange information on challenges faced in regulating **private military and security companies**.
5. Recent armed conflicts have confirmed that the use of **explosive weapons** with wide-area effects in



conflicts.

³ The ICRC Treaties, State Parties and Commentaries database, at: [commentary](#).

⁴ *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*, report to the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, October 2011, pp. 40-42, available at: [t-movement/31st-international-conference/31-int-](#)

Legal advice and technical assistance for the national implementation of IHL

[REDACTED]

assistance with adopting the legislative, regulatory and practical measures needed to ensure full implementation of IHL in domestic law and practice. The ICRC has also continued promoting adherence to and implementation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, and other IHL instruments.

The ICRC welcomes the following accessions: Palestine to Additional Protocol II of 1977; Belgium, Luxembourg, Palestine, Romania and Sweden to Additional Protocol III of 2005; the Bahamas, the

Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, the