

Abstract

This thesis is a study on The Protection of Journalists in the Time of Armed Conflict. The purpose of the study is to examine the structure and characteristics of international law as applied to journalists with a view to securing humanitarian treatment. This study focuses on the analysis of various provisions of international law that are applicable to the protection of journalists in the time of armed conflicts, with particular emphasis on the protections under the Geneva Convention IV Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 Relating to the Protection of victims of International Armed Conflicts 8 June 1977. The study also includes legal mechanisms for protecting journalists during armed conflicts, whether that may be legal mechanisms of the state, legal mechanisms implemented by intergovernmental organizations at both international and regional levels, and non-governmental international organizations; responsibilities for violations of obligations to protect journalists in the time of armed conflicts; as well as an analysis of the problems arising from provisions of laws and the application of laws to various case studies that have sent an impact on the safety of journalists in the exercise of their profession in such situations.

It was found from studies on the protection of journalists in the time of armed conflicts that, because the law protects journalists as ordinary civilians without giving any consideration to the special legal status of correspondents above other civilians, correspondents have therefore not been effectively protected. The grant of special legal protection for journalists exercising their profession in such situations above those granted to civilians would serve as a guarantee for greater protection of the journalists' safety in the exercise of their profession. Thus, in a situation of armed conflicts, journalists should therefore be given a greater protection than civilians for reasons of humanity, as persons engaged in a dangerous profession, and persons

possessing important evidence in taking legal proceedings against and punishing war crime offenders. States should also be encouraged to respect and comply with the prescribed legal rules. Legal proceedings should be taken and sanctions imposed on any person who violates such legal rules in order to induce fear for the consequences of violations.