

The Law on prisoners of War (POWs) is closely linked to International Humanitarian Law. Internationally, this law has been improved in order to be adapted to new types of conflicts. In Thailand, we have our own principles on POWs, evident from the laws of the past and the ratification of Geneva Conventions 1929 1949 respectively. However, on the new trend of International Humanitarian Law, namely, Protocol Additional To The GENEVA Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), Thailand has not acceded to this Treaty. Thus, the problems that may arise include :

1. Should Thailand become a party to Protocol I ?
2. In the case of conflicts arising, what are the rules governing the treatment of POWs ?

These issues are important but they have not received sufficient attention in Thailand.

These elements have induced the researcher to examine the topic concerned and to scrutinise the trends and orientations of Thailand concerning these issues.

The methodology adopted is directed at studying the laws and practice concerned both in Thailand at the International level, including analysis of Thailand 's perspective on Protocol I. It is aimed at promoting greater understanding of the law on POWs in Thailand and new other legal dimensions.

It should also help national authorities dealing with these issues to consider the possibility of acceding to international instrument in question, and reform or supplement local laws in practice. In this way, it will lead to the greater respect for humanitarian principles to ensure greater justice for all concerned.