

Resumé

Prohibited means and ways of conducting armed conflicts – conventional weapons

The theme of this thesis is "Prohibited means and ways of conducting armed conflicts – conventional weapons". Given that it is a very broad topic, this thesis focuses on restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons. Conventional weapons are all weapon systems which cannot be included among the weapons of massive destruction.

The first part focuses on the historical development of the law of war – it is one of the oldest international public law at all. The following section discusses its basic principles which are, in fact, the very base of all prohibitions applied. It is the principle of humanity, the principle of military necessity, the principle of prohibition of non-discrimination, the principle of proportionality and the principle of prohibition of causing excessive injuries and unnecessary suffering.

The next section deals with the various conventions prohibiting or restricting use of certain conventional weapons, those which were adopted at the turn of the 20th century. Attention is paid to the St. Petersburg Declaration (1868), being the first international document prohibiting the use of one particular type of conventional weapons, and then to some documents adopted at the 1st and the 2nd Hague Peace Conference which represented a turning point in the law of armed conflicts. At the Hague Peace Conferences laid the cornerstone of the codification of the laws of war.

The following chapter is devoted to the most important conventions prohibiting or restricting certain conventional weapons. These include, in particular, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May Cause Excessive Suffering or Have Indiscriminate Effects, together with its five protocols (Protocol I on the prohibition of the use of weapons with fragments undetectable by X-Rays; Protocol II on the prohibition or restriction of the use of mines, booby-traps and other means; Protocol III on the prohibition or restriction of the use of incendiary weapons; Protocol IV on blinding laser weapons; Protocol V on the explosive remnants of war). Also, it is impossible to forget other important conventions adopted in the field of conventional weapons - the Convention on Prohibition of the

Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and ultimately the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The final closing chapter deals with the non-lethal weapons which can be considered as the weapons of the 21st century and there will certainly be much to hear about them in the future.

Armed conflicts have always influenced the lives of millions of people. The aim of adopting the conventions prohibiting or restricting the use of certain weapons is the effort to minimize their negative effects.