

Summary

This thesis deals with the position of journalists in the situation of armed conflict, It is a category of persons, whose protection within the international humanitarian law has been discussed for many years. Mediation of information from the area of armed conflict is a growing phenomenon and because of the technical equipment, it relates more and more to laymen, not just professionals.

The question whether journalist should enjoy special protection in the situation of armed conflict was raised already in the process of adopting the Additional Protocols, the so far latest source of the „Geneva law“. Since then, it has been subject to many initiatives, whose aim is to emphasize the role and value of journalists on the battlefield and ensure them more safety. On the other hand, it is obvious that journalists are not an a priori object, which should be protected by the humanitarian law – victims of the armed conflict, either among combatants or civilists.

The thesis therefore tries to map the current legislation (embodied mostly in the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols) and its historical and factual context. In the second part, it introduces and evaluates different initiatives that address the legislation – both those which try to change it and strenghten the protection of journalist in armed conflict and those which consider the current situation sufficient.

The reader should be able make his own view on which role do journalists play in the armed conflict, whether it is necessary to raise their protection and whether this should be done by the instruments of international humanitarian law.