

Summary

The subject of my graduation thesis is „The ban and restriction of certain types of conventional weapons in armed conflicts“. First, it was necessary to define that as conventional weapons are understood all weapons not being weapons of mass destruction, to explain that the ban and restrictions can take many different forms, and finally, to define, to which kind of armed conflicts the humanitarian rules are to be applied.

A brief review of the advance on the field of ban and restrictions of certain conventional weapons has been given, including the historical context. From medieval times, when the only international authority, capable of at least trying to moderate the horrors of war, was the pope, over the first agreements of „civilised nations“ in the times before the World War I, to the modern conventions adopted after World War II.

Great attention is paid to the Declaration of St.Petersburg and to the so-called law of Hague (consisting of many agreements, today a part of the customary law), which as the first documents state, that the progress of civilization should have the effect of alleviating as much as possible the calamities of war, and they contain the prohibition of use of weapons which uselessly aggravate the sufferings and the Hague law even the prohibition of non-discriminating use of weapons.

The most important convention, to which is the attention paid in the next chapter, is the general Convention on Conventional Weapons. Though not containing any provisions, which would ban or restrict the use of certain types of weapons, it is a basis for adopting protocols, which deal with the particular categories of weapons. Protocols I to V deal with non-detectable fragments, mines, booby traps and other devices, incendiary weapons, blinding laser weapons and explosive remnants of war.

Part of the law of disarmament are two last significant contemporary treaties, the Ottawa Treaty concerning the total ban of anti-personnel land mines and the treaty of Dublin concerning the ban of cluster munitions. In these treaties are covered weapons, which contaminate for a long time the area of conflict and, after the ending of it, they endanger the civilians and impede their return and the post-war renewal.

The end of this thesis is briefly dedicated to the role of the Czech Republic in the process of adoption and revision of international documents adopted on the field of international ban and restrictions of certain conventional weapons.