

Is there a '*droit d'ingérence*' in the sphere of information?

The right to information from the standpoint
of international humanitarian law

by Yves Sandoz

International humanitarian law does not deal directly with the right to information, but it is useful to highlight some of the law's features in considering people's right to information in wartime.

The right to indispensable items

International law stipulates that civilians have a right to items indispensable to their survival.¹ This entails an obligation for the parties to the

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Text based on a paper prepared for the symposium organized by the *Fondation Hirondelle* (Geneva, 3 and 4 July 1998) and entitled "L'intervention d'un média de paix dans un pays étranger: quelle légitimité?". The *Fondation Hirondelle* is a non-governmental organization founded by Swiss journalists in 1995. Its aim is to provide impartial and independent information to people deprived of this by war or natural disasters.

Original: French

¹ Art. 54 and Art. 69ff. (for occupied territories) of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I); Art. 14 of the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II). See also the commentaries on these articles: Yves Sandoz, Christophe Swinarski and Bruno Zimmerman (eds.), *Commentaries on the Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949*, ICRC and Martinus Nijhoff, Geneva, 1987.