

SUMMARY

Key Words: Journalist, International humanitarian law, International armed conflict, International Committee of the Red Cross, International legal status

Subject matter: "International legal status of a journalist in the armed conflict zone"

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The aim of the research is the consideration of functioning of the International humanitarian law in relation to the international legal status of the journalist in the armed conflict zone.

The methods used: factual, comparative, historical, procedural, structural - functional analysis, as well as the principles of scientific objectivity and dialectics, observation methods and methods of analytical and historical reconstruction.

The results obtained and their novelty: The legal status of journalists as civilians is different from the status of war correspondents accredited to the armed forces and following them. The latter are entitled to prisoner-of-war status. Journalists are protected as long as they do not commit acts that are incompatible with their status as civilians.

The "hot spot" journalist can hardly count on the absolute security and performance of their professional duties most likely will be connected with threats to his life and health. This includes the work in the area of natural or manmade disaster. Journalist heading into a zone of armed conflict must accept the risk as a certain reality. However, the experience gained by war correspondents of Russian and foreign mass media shows that accomplishment of a specific measures and caution adequate to the situation can reduce the risk to the minimum acceptable for a dangerous trip.

The fate of the members of the press service, who suffer from direct attacks or fall into the number of missing in action or become hostages in the wartime or during internal disturbances, is of great concern to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Since 1985, there is a constantly working hotline for journalists who find themselves in a difficult situation. This is an exclusive humanitarian service of the ICRC. Not only journalists, but also their employers and relatives can use the hotline or contact one of the offices around the world to report the disappearance, wounded or detained journalists and ask for help. In such situations, the International Committee of the Red Cross can provide help of many different kinds: from the confirmation of arrests acquisition and access to persons arrested, informing of the journalist's relatives and employers about their location to establishment family links and an active search for the missing journalists to journalists evacuation in the event of injury. Besides, training courses on international humanitarian law are held and support to National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in organizing courses on first aid for journalists is provided. Do the existing laws protect journalists adequately? Of course, this question must be clear positively responded to. Reliable base for the protection of the press members when they are working in the field, of course, exists. The most serious problem is not a lack of rules but the failure of implementing the existing rules and systematical investigation, punishment and prosecution of violations. The ICRC aims to achieve better compliance with existing rules.

The theoretical value of the research lies in the fact that on the basis of the main theoretical concepts analysis, the main features of the functioning of the international humanitarian law were identified. Based on a comparison of international legal norms establishing the organizational and legal bases of the international legal status of journalists in armed conflict zone. The present study determined the place of protection of journalists' rights in the system of international humanitarian law.

The practical value of the research and spheres of application:

The practical significance of the work is determined primarily by the fact that some conclusions presented in this paper can be used in the future for personal purposes during work as a lawyer.