



Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law (YIHL) Authors' Guidelines (version September 2026)

1. Introduction

The book you are a contributor to will be published by T.M.C. Asser Press. For the production, marketing, sales and distribution of its English-language publications, T.M.C. Asser Press works with Springer-Verlag (Heidelberg, Dordrecht, New York). Via this partnership you will benefit from having your chapter made available globally both in hardcopy format as well as in an electronic format (as part of the complete e-book and as individual chapters).

This approach places certain demands upon the preparation and submission of your contribution, as a seamless transformation within the automated system employed by Springer to various formats, such as an e-book, requires special and consistent structures.

2. Manuscript Preparation

Your chapter should include:

- Your contact details (full name, affiliation, address, e-mail address and telephone number in an unnumbered footnote). If you wish to include additional information – for example, thanks to research assistants, funding information, etc. – this should be included in an “Author’s Note” at the very end of the chapter following the reference list;
- An abstract of the chapter of 150 to 250 words (N.B.: no footnotes in the abstract);
- A minimum of six keywords;
- A reference list at the end of the chapter (see section 4 below);
- You do not need to provide a separate table of contents for your contribution; Springer will generate this using the table of contents for the book in its entirety compiled by the editor of the volume.
- Headings:
 - The numbering of titles and sub-titles will start with your chapter number, which will be allocated later by the editor. During drafting, please simply use ‘X’ as your chapter number (e.g., Chapter/Chap. X).
 - Please do not use more than **four heading levels** and use the decimal system:
 - 1. Chapter title (level 1)
 - 1.1. Section (level 2)
 - 1.1.1. Subsection (level 3)
 - 1.1.1.1. Sub-subsection (level 4)
 - Only *three* levels (so up to and including level 3) will be included in a chapter’s table of contents.
 - Only *four* levels (so up to and including level 4) will be included as sections in the chapters, so please bear this in mind when making internal cross-references. Any section numbered above level 4 in your submission, will have the section number removed once it is taken into production by Springer and any internal cross-references to such a section will then be referenced by its full section title.
- In cross-references to other parts of the chapter, please give the section number in the following way: see Section/Sect. X.1.

- Volume, Chapter, Section, Figure etc. are abbreviated as respectively Vol., Chap., Sect., Fig.; they are not abbreviated if they appear at the beginning of a sentence. This only applies to cross-references to other parts of the chapter; references to parts of external publications are not abbreviated.
- Please refer to your chapter as chapter and not as article or paper.
- Please be consistent throughout the chapter regarding the use (or not) of the Oxford Comma.
- Please make sure that the text is aligned left throughout the whole chapter (and do not submit as justified text).
- Language: Either British or American English can be used, but be consistent within your contribution. However, British English has our preference.
 - For British spelling you should refer to the Oxford English Dictionary if possible and otherwise to Collins English Dictionary; for American spelling please consult Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.
 - If English is not your native language, please ask a native speaker or English language copy-editor to read through your text thoroughly.

3. Footnotes

General remarks:

- Use footnotes, not endnotes. The notation for footnote is n, for example n 4, n 5 etc.
 - Only cases and treaties should be cross-referenced. Please do not cross-reference other sources in the footnotes, such as UN documents and news articles.
- Footnotes to figures/illustrations should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks) and included beneath the figure table body.
- Pages and paragraph numbers are cited as follows: p / pp and para / paras.
- Ibid. is used when the preceding footnote is the same source, as follows: Ibid., [page or paragraph number]. If there is more than one source in the preceding footnote, ibid. should only be used if referring to all of those sources.
- If the title of a reference is not in English, please provide a translation in square brackets after the reference in the source language.
- Use a semicolon to separate sources cited under a single footnote.
- Please note: only if the reference section is structured as outlined above, can individual references be cross-linked with other sources. This is an important benefit of the electronic version of the book.

Books, chapters, journal articles and online documents:¹

References to literature in the footnotes should be given in a shortened form as follows:

[Author's last name(s)] [Year], [page or paragraph number].

- One author: Miller 1991, p 17 or Miller 1991, para 30.
- Two authors: Miller and Smith 1991, p 17 or Miller and Smith 1991, para 30.
- Three authors or more: Miller et al. 1991, p 17 or Miller et al. 1991, para 30.

In case there are two or more titles by one author in the same year, use a, b, c etc., as follows:

- Barnard 2008a, p 341.
- Barnard 2008b, pp 341-342.
- Barnard 2008c, p 341 and 343.

¹ Online documents include all documents such as (but not limited to) research or conference papers, policy briefs or reports from organisations, agencies, governmental bodies or tribunals that do not qualify as news articles (see section 4 for examples).

UN documents:

References to UN documents in the footnotes should be cited as follows:

[UN Body] ([Year]) [Title of Report or Document], UN Doc. [Number], [page or paragraph number].

- UN Security Council (2003) Resolution 1493 (2003), UN Doc. S/RES/1493, para 7.
- UN General Assembly (2012) Human Rights Council: Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, UN Doc. A/HRC/19/69, p 1.
- Human Rights Committee (1999) General Comment 27: Freedom of Movement, UN Doc. CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.9, paras 8-10.

Cases:

Case references are given in full the first time they are used in the footnotes as follows:

[Court (abbreviated if already introduced in full and with the abbreviation in parentheses)], [Case Name], [Type of judgment], [Date], [Case number or ICJ Report Citation] ([Case abbreviation] [Year, if applicable]),² [page or paragraph number].

- International Criminal Court (ICC), *Prosecutor v Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*, Judgment Pursuant to Article 74 of the Statute, 14 March 2012, Case No. ICC-01/04-01/06-2842 (*Lubanga* 2012), para 536.
- ICJ, *Case Concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v Serbia and Montenegro)*, Judgment, 26 February 2007, [2007] ICJ Rep 43 (*Bosnia Genocide*), paras 399-400.
- ECtHR, *Al-Skeini and Others v UK*, Grand Chamber Judgment, 7 July 2011, Application No. 55721/07 (*Al-Skeini*), para 24.

After the first reference, cross-references are used as follows:

[Case abbreviation], above n [Original footnote number], [page or paragraph number].

- *Lubanga* 2012, above n 47, para 536.
- *Bosnia Genocide*, above n 55, paras 399-400.
- *Al-Skeini*, above n 49, para 24.

Treaties:

Treaty references are given in full the first time they are used in the footnotes as follows:

[Title], [Parties (where relevant)], opened for signature [Date] or signed [Date], [Treaty Series], entered into force [Date] ([Treaty abbreviation, if applicable]),³ Article [Number].

- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts, opened for signature 8 June 1977, 1125 UNTS 609 (entered into force 7 December 1978) (Additional Protocol II), Article 4 (2)(b).
- Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, opened for signature 23 May 1969, 1155 UNTS 331 (entered into force 27 January 1980) (VCLT), Article 33 (1).

After the first reference, cross-references are used as follows:

² An abbreviation of the case name, usually the defendant's last name, is used for cross-references when the case is referenced **more than once**. This abbreviation should be placed with the initial case reference. When multiple cases concerning the same defendant are cited, add the year of the judgment after the initial abbreviation (e.g. *Lubanga* 2012).

³ An abbreviation of the treaty – usually a shorter version of the treaty's title – is used for cross-references when the treaty is referenced **more than once**. This abbreviation should be placed with the initial treaty reference.

[Treaty abbreviation], above n [Original footnote number], Article [Number].

- Additional Protocol II, above n 1, Article 4 (2)(b).
- VCLT, above n 2, Article 33 (1).

News articles:

References to news articles should be cited as follows:

[Author's surname and initial(s) or source]⁴ ([Year]) [Title of article]. [URL]. Accessed [Date].

- Hoffman B (2008) The Myth of Grass-Roots Terrorism. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/review-essay/2008-05-03/myth-grass-roots-terrorism>. Accessed 30 October 2016.
- The Guardian (2016) Ex-child soldier Dominic Ongwen denies war crimes at ICC trial. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/06/dominic-ongwen-the-hague-trial-war-crimes-ira-uganda>. Accessed 7 June 2017.

4. Reference list

Each chapter should end with a list of references cited in the chapter. The reference list should include all books, chapters, journal articles, online documents and UN documents (and not news articles) referenced in the footnotes, as well as cases and treaties, which should be listed under separate headings (see below). The first group of documents will be placed under the heading **Articles, Books and Other Documents**.

Entries must be listed alphabetically. Further rules are:

- All works by the author (or editor) on their own should be ordered chronologically by year of publication.
- All works by the author (or editor) with a co-author (or co-editor) should be ordered alphabetically by author (or editor) and then co-author (or co-editor).
 - Works by a sole author (or editor) come first, before works co-authored (or co-edited) by the author (or editor).
- All works by the author (or editor) with several co-authors (or co-editors) should be ordered chronologically by year of publication. All authors (or editors) must be cited: et al. is not used in the reference list but should be used in the abbreviated references in the footnotes where there is more than one co-author (or co-editor).
- Authors (or editors) whose surname starts with de or De should be listed in the relevant position under the D, authors (or editors) whose surname starts with a l or L should be listed under the L, authors (or editors) whose surname starts with a v or V should be listed under the V, etc.
- Please ensure capital letters (and lowercase letters) are used where and when necessary, for instance where names of treaties, countries or persons are concerned.
- Please use uppercase letters for the initial letters of major words in the titles in the reference list unless you have ascertained that this was not the case in the original title (in English-language titles it mostly will be the case).
- Please do not use a full stop after each source in the reference list.

The following examples illustrate how different sources of texts should be referenced:

Articles, Books and Other Documents:

Book:

[Author's last name and initial(s)] (Year) [Title, edition number]. [Publisher], [City]

⁴ For some websites, there may not be an author listed. If this is the case, list the institution/ organisation/ company/ name of the website or whatever seems most appropriate depending on the source.

- Bantekas I (2009) *Trust Funds under International Law*. T.M.C. Asser Press, The Hague

Book chapter in edited volume:

[Author's last name and initial(s)] (Year) [Title of chapter]. In: [Editor(s)] (ed(s)) [Book Title, edition number]. [Publisher], [City], pp [page range]

- Van Hulle K, Van der Tas L (2001) European Union – Individual Accounts. In: Ordelheide D (ed) *Transnational Accounting*, 2nd edn. Palgrave, Basingstoke, pp 772-826

Journal article:

[Author's last name and initial(s)] ([Year]) [Title]. [Journal] [Volume number (Issue number, if applicable)]:[page range]

- Sivakumaran S (2009) Courts of Armed Opposition Groups: Fair Trials or Summary Justice. *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 7:489-513

Online documents:

[Name Organisation/Author's last name and initial(s)] ([Year]) [Title of article]. [Source, if applicable]. [URL]. Accessed [Date]

- ICRC (2011) *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*. <https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/report/31-international-conference-ihl-challenges-report-2011-10-31.htm>. Accessed 29 June 2017
- Bellal A (2017) *The War Report 2016*. Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Geneva. <https://www.geneva-academy.ch/joomlatools-files/docman-files/TheWarReport2016.pdf>. Accessed 8 July 2017

UN documents:

UN documents are cited in the same way as in the footnotes.

Cases:

Cases are cited in the same way as the first reference in the footnotes, without the abbreviation.

Treaties:

Treaties are cited in the same way as the first reference in the footnotes, without the abbreviation.

News articles:

News articles are **not** included in the reference list.

5. Figures, terminology, units, abbreviations and numbers, text formatting, and sources and permissions

Figures:

- For the best quality final product, please submit all figures/illustrations – photographs, line drawings, charts, tables etc. – to the Managing Editor in an electronic format and in as high a quality as possible. Preferably in a jpeg format (150 dpi black&white / 300 dpi colour minimum). These figures/illustrations should be submitted as separate files.

- Please include an alt text description for all figures/illustrations and include these in a separate Excel document, to be submitted together with the chapter and the figures/illustrations.
- Figures and/or other illustrations should be numbered consecutively per chapter, for instance figures in Chapter 4 are named Figure 4.1, Figure 4.2, etc.
- Reference to the figures in the text should be in the same order as the figures and the figure referred to in the text should be positioned as close as possible to the section of text where it is first mentioned. So, if Figure 4.1 is referenced in the text, the figure itself should be positioned as closely as possible either above or below that section of text.
 - If reference to the Figure is not the first word of the sentence, then please abbreviate and use Fig. instead.
- Each figure should have a concise caption describing accurately what the figure depicts. Include the captions in the text file of the contribution (so in the chapter), not in the figure file itself. Please use the same format for each caption.
- Each caption to a figure should be followed by the source in the following manner: (Source: [name source], [year of publication, if applicable]).
 - If the source is the author itself, please use [Source the author(s)].

Terminology, units, abbreviations and numbers:

- Technical terms and abbreviations should be defined the first time they appear in the text. The abbreviation should be introduced between brackets: e.g. international humanitarian law (IHL).
 - Abbreviations introduced in the abstract should be reintroduced in the chapter.
 - Abbreviations should be used consistently throughout the text once introduced.
- Please always use internationally accepted signs and symbols for units, so-called SI units.
 - If used in connection with numbers, units are abbreviated: e.g. 20 ml or 40 km.
- Numerals should follow the British/American method of decimal points to indicate decimals and commas to separate thousands. E.g. 1 000.
- Digits are used for all numbers larger than ten (except when used at the beginning of a sentence – but this is to be avoided); the numbers 1-10 are written as words.
- When a number is used with a unit, the numeral is used and the unit is abbreviated. E.g. 10 ml.
- Centuries and ordinal numbers are written as words. E.g. Nineteenth Century; Third Conference.

Text formatting:

- Italics should be used for emphasised words or phrases in the text, but do not format entire paragraphs (such as quotations) in italics as this affects online readability.
- Italics should be used for non-English (including Latin) words and phrases, such as *jus in bello* and *hors de combat*. Please do not use italics for sources in a foreign language cited in the footnotes or reference list unless the italics are part of the original title.
- Quotations should be placed between double quotation marks. Single quotation marks are used within a quote. Quotations longer than 50 words should start on a new line, without quotation marks and should be indented. Please use a smaller font size than you would for the regular text.
 - Punctuation marks are placed outside the quotation marks unless they are part of the quotation.

Sources and permissions:

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Links to web pages:

Under current law, there is a risk that the author and the publisher will be held liable if a web page to which there is a link in the author's work contains content that infringes copyright (e.g. images or texts for which the rights were not clarified in a proper manner). In order to reduce this risk, the following measures should be taken if you include links in your work:

- Please only link to trustworthy websites (e.g. websites of renowned publishers, scientific societies, well-known companies and associations).
- Please do not link to user-generated content and other "unprofessional" websites, for which it is unlikely that the content has undergone adequate rights checks.
- If possible, please link to specific subpages or items (images, charts, etc.) in order to reduce possible liability.

6. Submission of your contribution

- Check for consistent spelling of names, terms and abbreviations, including the text used in tables and figure captions. In addition, please remember to always perform a thorough spelling check on your text.
 - Check for consistent use of capital letters, for instance state or State.
 - Check for consistent use of hyphens, for instance dual use or dual-use.
 - Check for consistent use of italics, for instance in the case of foreign words.
- Check for consistent use of single and double quotation marks.
- Check accuracy of cross-references.
- Check all links shortly before submitting your chapter to ensure they are still correct; if the link refers to a specific page such as a news page that is no longer available, please add "link no longer active" after the link.
- Save your chapter, including the accompanying references, figure legends and tables in a Word file (.doc or .docx). Save any illustrations as separate files, preferably as jpegs to ensure the highest possible quality.

Important note: Please ensure the text contained in your contribution is of the highest possible quality as corrections to be made in both the uncorrected and the revised proof stages will be restricted to those regarding typographical errors and serious errors of fact. Any corrections at the final stage should be as short as possible to prevent an increase in the number of pages of the total manuscript.