Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law

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Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law 2016





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Cover picture: Chocó Department. An ICRC employee speaks to members of the ELN armed group about the principles of international humanitarian law and the obligation to protect the lives of the civilian population, health personnel, and the sick or wounded.

Photo: Juan Arredondo. Reproduced with permission: Getty Images/ICRC

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In Memoriam—Frits Kalshoven (1924–2017)

It is with profound sadness that the Editorial Board of the Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law was informed about the passing, on Wednesday 6 September 2017, of Prof. Emeritus Frits Kalshoven. We are proud to say that Frits was a member of the Yearbook's Board of Recommendation, and for good reason: he can safely be positioned within the international humanitarian law's hall of fame, as he was instrumental in the development of this important field of law. The theme of belligerent reprisals cannot be studied without consulting Frits' 1971 Ph.D., reprinted in 2005; he was one of the drafters of the 1977 Additional Protocols; in January 1987, Alexandre Hay, the then President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, correctly predicted in his preface to the first edition of Frits' book Constraints on the Waging of War, that "it will become one of the classics of the law of armed conflicts"; he was the first Chairman of the UN Commission of Experts to investigate serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, which paved the way for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; and in 2003, Frits was awarded the Henry Dunant Medal of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for his continued effort to improve the knowledge of and respect for the law of war.

In addition to all of this (and the above is only a very brief selection of his professional achievements), Frits was a friend, mentor and inspiration to many, both inside and outside the Netherlands. This is discernible from the various personal comments that were written in the days after his passing (and again: the following is a brief selection only): "very kind, warm and humble person—insisting, for example, to always be addressed by his first name"; "the great, and always humble, Frits Kalshoven"; "[w]e lost an IHL giant, gent and a wonderful man" and "[a] crusader for the right cause, a teacher of many, a gentleman until the very end".

It is clear he will be dearly missed by many. Including all of us.

On behalf of the entire team of the Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law,

Terry D. Gill (Editor-in-Chief) and Christophe Paulussen (Managing Editor)

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