

Violence, War and Terrorism: Ethical, Legal and Political Perspectives

PROTECTING CIVILIANS DURING VIOLENT CONFLICT

A conference, *Protecting Civilians During Violent Conflict* was jointly presented by The Australian Centre for Military Law & Justice, ANU College of Law; The School of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of New South Wales and the Centre for Applied Philosophy & Public Ethics (ANU, Charles Sturt University and University of Melbourne) on 25–26 August 2010.

Gary Tamsitt, Associate Director of the The Australian Centre for Military Law and Justice welcomed participants to the conference at The Australian National University.

Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AO QC gave the opening address. ([Audio](#))

In session one, Professor Igor Primoratz, Charles Sturt University discussed *Civilian Immunity, Supreme Emergency, and Moral Disaster*. Dr David Whetham, King's College, London followed with his address titled *Remote Killing and Drive By Wars*. ([Audio](#))

Rules of Engagement was the topic of session two and it featured Captain Rob McLaughlin, Royal Australian Navy who discussed *Rules of Engagement from a Legal Officer's Perspective: Applied Law*, while Major General Stephen Day, Australian Army spoke about *Rules of Engagement: A Practitioner's View*.

Dr Helen Durham, Australian Red Cross and Professor Penelope Mathew, Freilich Foundation, ANU were the speakers in session three, which was titled *International Humanitarian Law*. Dr Durham's address was *The Relevance of IHL in Complex Conflicts: Finding a Definition for 'Direct Participation in Hostilities'* and Professor Mathew's discussed *First Do No Harm: Refugee Law as a Response to Armed Conflict*. ([Audio](#))

Session four focused on the protection of civilians with Professor William Maley AM, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, ANU highlighting the dilemmas of civilian life in Afghanistan during war and Major General (ret'd) Michael Smith AO, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence following with a discussion on *Protection of Civilians in Peacekeeping Operations*. ([Audio](#))

Day one concluded with a public evening lecture by Professor Michael Schmitt, University of Durham & Visiting Fellow, ANU College of Law on [The Principle of Military Necessity in International Humanitarian Law](#). ([Audio](#))

Dr Dean Cocking, University of New South Wales, ADFA began the second day of the conference focusing on *Limiting Civilian Casualties: Collateral Damage* and was followed by Dr Stephen Coleman, University of New South Wales, ADFA who looked at *Discrimination and Non-Lethal Weapons: Issues for the Future Military*. ([Audio](#))

Professor Richard D Rsen, Centre for Military Law & Policy, Texas Tech University explored the theme of session six, *Protection of Civilians*, in his address titled *The Protection of Civilian During the Israeli-Hamas Conflict*. ([Audio](#))

In the final session of the conference, which focused on ethics education, Professor David Lovell, University of New South Wales, ADFA discussed *Educating for Ethical Behaviour? Preparing Military Leaders for Ethical Challenges* and Mr Jamie Cullens, Centre for Defence Leadership and Ethics, Australian Defence College gave an address on *Developments in Military Ethics Education in the ADF*.

For more information about the speakers please see [speakers' biographies](#).