

Report on ENSAYO 2015

ENSAYO 2015 was organized in collaboration with ICRC, Regional Delegation New Delhi on the topic of Health Care during the Armed Conflict.

The idea was to explore and educate the students on the Attacks on health-care facilities during armed violence and internal disturbances tend to fall into four main categories. The first is the deliberate targeting of such places to gain military advantage by depriving opponents and those perceived to support them of medical assistance for injuries sustained. The second category of attack is also deliberate, but this time for political, religious or ethnic reasons rather than for military advantage *per se*. The third type of attack is unintentional bombardment or shelling– “collateral damage” from a missile or mortar aimed at a military target. Finally, the fourth and perhaps most common form of violence committed against health-care facilities is the looting of drugs and medical equipment. Further, in relation to the misuse of health-care facilities, it may be said that such facilities retain their protected status as long as they are exclusively devoted to the care of the wounded and the sick and are not used to advance military goals. Unfortunately, there have been many occasions when the neutrality of a healthcare facility has been compromised through its use to store weapons or launch attacks.

In some contexts, the wounded and the sick face discrimination in access to, and quality of, health care. Although prohibited by international humanitarian law and human rights law, as well as contrary to medical ethics, health-care personnel have refused to treat, or given inferior treatment to patients on the basis of their ethnicity, religion or political affiliation. One final violation of the rights of the wounded and the sick that frequently occurs in armed conflict –but is difficult to document – is the failure of combatants to search for, assist, and evacuate the wounded.

This event was organized and online entries of 50 students were received. The Prize was distributed by the ICRC regional delegation through online transaction. It was a successful event.