

Urban Warfare Seminar

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Legal and operational implications

Monday, November 17th

Norwegian Red Cross, Hausmanns gate 7



 Norwegian Red Cross


FORSVARSDEPARTEMENTET
Norwegian Ministry of Defence



Norwegian Defence
Command
and Staff College

Urban warfare

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The Norwegian Red Cross, the Norwegian Ministry of Defence, and the Norwegian Defence Command and Staff College would like to invite to a seminar on the legal challenges connected to urban warfare. Combat conducted in urban areas has been a recurring reality in recent years, examples including the siege of Basra in Iraq in 2003 and the conflict in Gaza this summer. Norwegian troops have been involved in operations in urban environment from Kosovo in 1999 to Kabul today. Operating in urban terrain is challenging because of the large presence of civilians and civilian objects. This places a higher demand on precaution and restricts the use of certain conventional weapons and tactics. A challenging operational environment also entails complex questions: how can one prevent unnecessary suffering and ensure the general protection for civilians from military operations whilst at the same time achieving the military objectives?

The seminar will offer an immersion in the legal challenges connected to urban warfare, supplemented with operational experience. Lectures will be held by former and current military personnel with considerable operational experience from operations in urban environment along with the perspective of humanitarian actors. The attendees will also be presented with the opportunity to engage in legal reasoning themselves as they will be divided into smaller groups and assigned practical exercises for discussion. The seminar is open for anyone interested in the legal questions pertaining to combat in urban environments. No prior in-depth knowledge of the legal framework is required.

Dress code: Service dress, business casual

For registration and updated program, visit:

<http://www.rodekors.no/om-rode-kors/seminarer/urban-warfare/>

Registration deadline November 12th

Program

Welcome and coffee 09:30 to 10:00

Part 1 - Lectures

Introduction – The importance of the law of armed conflict. 10:00 to 10:30
Sven Mollekleiv, President of the Norwegian Red Cross and
Lieutenant General Morten Haga Lunde, Commander of the
National Joint Headquarters – Norway

Overview of the legal landscape 10:30 to 11:00
Sigrid Redse Johansen, The Norwegian Defence Command
and Staff College (NDCSC)

ICRC; legal and operational experience 11:00 to 11:30
Nicole Hogg, Arms unit of the Legal Division ICRC

Coffee break 11:30 to 11:45

Legal challenges and operations in urban environment 11:45 to 12:15
Colonel (r) Liron A. Libman, Adjunct lecturer at Ono Academic College

Experience from military operations in densely populated areas 12:15 to 12:45
Deputy Commander of the Army Special Forces,
Lieutenant Colonel Svend Ovenstad

Lunch 12:45 to 13:45

Part 2 – Task

The participants are divided into smaller groups. They will be assigned 13:45 to 15:00
practical exercises within the subject of legal challenges connected to the
conduct of operations in urban environment.

Part 3 – Review

Summary in plenary with panel of speakers, open for Q&A and comments. 15:00 to 16:00