



Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC)

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE D'ÉTABLISSEMENT DES FAITS (CIFFC)

Statement
before the 6th Committee of the UN General Assembly
New York, October 7, 2016
by Justinas Žilinskas, member of the IHFFC

Mister Chair, Excellencies,

This debate is an important opportunity for the International Fact-Finding Commission to give the floor to update you on our work and the mechanisms that

The IHFFC was established by Article 90 of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. It is an instrument of the Council of States and the Executive Commission to ensure that the Geneva Conventions are not only

What the Commission offers is available for the use of States in more serious violations of international humanitarian law. The IHFFC is specialized institution composed of 15 members elected by the States Parties to the Commission's competence.

The Commissioners do not represent the States Parties in their official capacity, as a result of which the Commission is independent and impartial. The Commissioners are designed to reflect geographic diversity and come from all parts of the world, representing various disciplines such as law, medicine, and social sciences.

Relating to the procedure of the Commission, I would like to emphasize the need for cooperation with parties to the conflict which may assist in the Commission assuring its transparency. The findings is submitted to the Parties with recommendations. However, that report shall not be published unless all Parties to the conflict have requested the Commission to do so. [Art. 90(5)(b)]. As the Commission is bound to provide impartial findings, the Commission is not bound to publish its findings for that matter. [Art. 90(5)(b)].

The task of the Commission is not to blame and punish, but to investigate violations of international humanitarian law, with a view to ensuring a greater respect for international humanitarian law. The Commission also makes its work available on its website.

