



Communication policy of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC)

The IHFFC, established pursuant to article 90 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, has a positive responsibility to account for its activities and exercise transparency in its undertakings, in particular towards States having recognized its competence. For the purpose of the IHFFC's interactions with States and International Organisations, the dissemination of its efforts is a key means to build trust and to be able to fulfil its mandate.

At the same time, the IHFFC is bound by article 90 (5) (c) of Additional Protocol I, which provides that it is not to report its findings publicly, unless all the Parties to the conflict have requested the Commission to do so. In this sense, the IHFFC has been and likely will in the future be requested to conduct its work in a confidential manner, this being an essential ingredient to fulfil its mandate in certain situations.

Thus, the IHFFC decides the following:

- As a matter of principle, the IHFFC publicly communicates on its outreach activities and offers of service, for instance in the form of releasing information referring to particular events or correspondence by the IHFFC to relevant parties containing offers of service.
- As a matter of principle, the IHFFC informs about answers received by it and whether or not a mandate has been established.
- The Commission may decide not to publish any or parts of the information described above if the interests of fulfilling its role in accordance with article 90 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions so require.

Geneva, 21 February 2018