

ABSTRACT

The prolonged internal conflict in Sri Lanka has horrendous impact upon the entire community in Sri Lanka. During the past two decades, this conflict has become a major issue in some world forums due to serious violation of International Humanitarian law. Mainly Government Forces and the LTTE (this is an armed group which uses terror tactics to achieve its political objectives and as such it has been listed as a internationally proscribed terrorist organization by most of the developed countries such as USA, UK, Canada etc,) are believed to be held responsible for committing various humanitarian crimes.

Various International Organisations criticised the violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in broader perspectives and also created an impact on the authorities regarding the proper implementation of IHL. Even though Sri Lanka has ratified the Geneva Conventions, it is important to examine how the enforcement of International Humanitarian Law has been taken place in Sri Lanka from the perspective of Sri Lankan internal armed conflict.

When analyzing the violations of International Humanitarian Law in Sri Lankan armed conflict, it is apparent that there have been instances of military forces and the LTTE exceeding their powers and committing offences. As such, these offences which are the product of armed conflict need to be addressed, and all efforts need to be made, not only to bring the perpetrators in to justice, but also to prevent such offences from taking place. This ensures the proper implementation of International Humanitarian Law in the conflict situation.