

International Humanitarian Law Conference

24 October 2023



Dina el-Mamoun

Keynote speech 10:30 – 11am online from Aden, Yemen.

Dina is Civilians in Conflict Country Director in Yemen, a position she held since mid-2021. As part of her work Dina leads the organization's interventions on protection of civilians including collaborating closely with the Office of the UNSG's Special Envoy to Yemen on security sector reform. She also leads on the organization's work with community protection groups as part of peacebuilding and protection intervention.

Prior to that Dina worked as Head of Mission/Country Director to Geneva Call in Yemen where she led IHL interventions with Armed Non-State Actors in the country.

In 2019, the UNDP MENA regional hub invited Dina to become a member of the gender advisory board which was entrusted with overseeing the production of a MENA wide gender justice report.

Dina has over 20 years' experience of working on governance, rule of law, advocacy, gender, human rights and protection in conflict and non-conflict, and post conflict settings. Her experience includes working at country and HQ levels. Between 2013-2016 she worked as Chief Technical Advisor for UNDP Yemen where she led the "Support to Human Rights during the Transitional Period" Project to the tune of 4 million USD. Prior to that she worked at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in London for 13 years. As Researcher on the West Gulf Team and Yemen, she led the organization's work, research, reporting, and campaigning on Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman. Prior to that she also worked as part of the border Gulf Team on other Gulf countries such as Kuwait, Bahrain, and Iraq.

Dina has a solid research and analysis expertise. She produced various public reports and documents on human rights and gender on Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Iraq, as well as region wide research and reports on counter terrorism policies in the Arabian Peninsula, and gender issues in Gulf Cooperation Council Countries. She has also field expertise on human rights, gender and rule of law, conflict & post-conflict situations, and transition context of the Middle East and North Africa region.

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As Head of Policy and Advocacy, Head of Advocacy, Policy, Media, Communication and Protection in Oxfam International in Yemen. Dina has overseen the production of several policy documents, and briefings focusing on the humanitarian situation in Yemen and the impact of the conflict including on women, women participation and inclusion in peace negotiations. She also led a World Bank funded project on citizen engagement in Yemen.

She has led, devised and launched advocacy and campaigning initiatives on human rights, rule of law, gender, and humanitarian advocacy at the international, regional and country levels. Dina also, created the country specific and regional NGO networks on; combating violence and discrimination against women, and Counter Terror with Justice, including in Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

As Chief Technical Advisor for UNDP Yemen, Dina ensured the involvement of Yemeni CSOs across the country throughout the implementation of the project. In many instances the involvement of CSOs from all governorates have been a first in the human rights field in Yemen. Dina also supported Yemeni CSOs in the documentation and reporting of human rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) abuses.

Dina is a Law graduate with Master of International Law from Exeter University, UK and Postgraduate Diploma in European Community Law, from Kings College, University of London. She also has a Legal Practice Certificate. Dina is a British national and speaks English and Arabic.



Noreen Gumbo

Panel 1: Humanitarian consequences of urban warfare, 11am

Noreen Gumbo is the Head of Humanitarian Programmes for Trócaire and has served in this role since 2014. She is responsible for providing strategic direction to Trócaire's humanitarian work through implementation of clear organisational policy, robust guidelines and strong technical support. She manages a team of fourteen staff members who together provide support to humanitarian responses in over 20 countries ensuring Trócaire delivers humanitarian interventions to a high quality standard and in line with international best practise. Trócaire's particular niche areas within humanitarian response are locally led action and protection of women and girls in emergencies. Noreen is a director on the board of the Start Network, a network of over 80 humanitarian agencies aiming to transform humanitarian action

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through locally led action, early and rapid financing and systems innovation. She also serves on the Humanitarian Committee of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of over 160 members globally.

Noreen has an MSc Agric (Rural Development) from UCD and a Diploma in Development Management from the Open University. She has over 25 years' experience working in both humanitarian and development programming.



Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair

Panel 1: Humanitarian consequences of urban warfare, 11am

With a background in community development and child protection, Réiseal worked on humanitarian and development programming for 25 years in Europe and Africa with Concern Worldwide, Save the Children, Somalia NGO Consortium, Trócaire, and University College Cork.

In Ireland, she has worked with Caritas Internationalis/Trocaire as Humanitarian Policy Adviser, and since 2018 is the Head of International Advocacy at Concern Worldwide.

Réiseal is currently a Board Member at International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

Previously, she was a member of the Steering Committee for Ireland's engagement in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS); and served on Ireland's Oversight Group for Women, Peace and Security 2015-18.



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Michiel Hofman

Panel 1: Humanitarian consequences of urban warfare, 11am

Michiel Hofman currently works as senior humanitarian specialist for Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF). Based out of Belfast, concentrating on research, training and operational support as well as publications in the humanitarian field, including co-editing the books *The Politics of Fear* and *Everybody's War* with Oxford University Press. Previously Michiel worked for MSF in field assignments between 1993 and 2010 as Emergency Co-ordinator and Country Director for MSF in Liberia, DRC, Bosnia, Burundi, Sri Lanka, Brazil, South Sudan, Kosovo, Russia and Afghanistan and 5 years as Director of Operations for the organisation in Amsterdam.



Philip Spoerri

Presentation segment: IHL and its application in War in Cities, 12pm

Philip Spoerri was appointed as the ICRC Head of Regional Delegation for the UK and Ireland from June 2022. He is a humanitarian practitioner and international lawyer with a vast management experience at senior level – including leading some of ICRC's most challenging operations (Syria from 2018 to 2021), in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the field. In the months prior to taking up his functions in London, in his capacity as senior crisis manager for the ICRC he was tasked - as an envoy of the ICRC President - to negotiate facilitation for ICRC's operation in the Ukraine conflict both in Moscow and Kyiv. He has worked with the ICRC since 1994, among other as Director of International Law and Policy (from 2006 to 2014) and as the ICRC Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York (from 2014 to 2018). He holds a doctorate degree in law and has specialized in international humanitarian and criminal law.

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Laura Boillot

Panel 2: The way forward – discussion on how to improve protections of civilians in urban areas, 12:30pm

Laura Boillot is a Director of UK-based Article 36 which focuses on reducing harm from weapons. Laura also serves as Coordinator for the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) and led the coalition through the negotiations of the international political declaration to strengthen the protection of civilians. She has previously worked as Campaign Manager and subsequently as Director of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC). Prior to that Laura worked as Program Officer on the Control Arms campaign and for the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA). She has 20-years experience of leading global civil society coalitions on humanitarian disarmament and protection of civilians issues.



Tobias Ehret

Panel 2: The way forward – discussion on how to improve protections of civilians in urban areas, 12:30pm

Tobias Ehret is a Senior Adviser at the Norwegian Red Cross where he coordinates the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's humanitarian diplomacy efforts on urban warfare. Prior to this, he worked for the ICRC in Iraq, Yemen, Ethiopia, and Somalia between 2018 and 2023 on protection, field activity

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coordination and engagement with non-state armed groups. From 2015 until 2018, Tobias ran the civil society support programme of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation's Syria Office. He holds an MA in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and a BSc in Politics and Economics from the University of Münster.



Lt Col. Richard Brennan

**Panel 2: The way forward – discussion on how to improve protections of civilians in urban areas,
12:30pm**

Lt Colonel Richard Brennan BL is a serving officer in the Defence Forces (DF) with over 35 years of service including three separate tours of UN duty in the Middle East and Africa as an infantry officer. He was appointed as a legal officer in the Defence Forces in 2004 deploying as a legal advisor with KFOR (Kosovo), UNIFIL (Lebanon) and UNDOF (Syria). He holds a BA and LLB from the University of Galway, a BL degree from the Kings Inns, and a first-class MA in Leadership Management Defence Studies (LMDS) from the NUIM. He is a graduate of the Military College Ireland and also has completed professional and military courses with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the UK Army Operational Law Warfare Centre, the University of Liverpool, and the U.S. Army JAG School, University of Virginia. He has lectured on behalf of the Defence Forces on IHL and IHRL both at home and abroad. He is a regular contributor to the Defence Forces peer-reviewed journal and has been published in the Irish Year Book of International Law on the subject of human rights in peace operations.