

A. INTRODUCTION:

There is a link between wars and the occurrence of disability.
Millions of victims (civilians and combatants) are disabled.

KEY WORDS:

Disability law
International Humanitarian
Law (IHL)
Human Rights law

B. Why this research matters?

1. Human rights law is classed as a distinct branch of law, from International humanitarian law. (The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 2006 UN Convention of rights of persons with Disability).
2. Developments in technology have led to new means and methods of warfare (like Drones SD-5) and chemical weapons.
3. Nerve agents, mustard gas, orange agent and other asphyxiating gases when used during warfare, lead to mental and physical disabilities among, unborn children and adults (both civilian and combatants).
4. The UN convention on rights of persons with disabilities has limited interaction with the language of IHL.
5. Terms civilians or combatants are commonly used, when referring to parties in armed conflicts, such terms impact disability rights in post armed conflict times.
6. Political narratives such as patriotism nationalism have a profound impacts on actions of state actors during and after times of armed conflicts.



(c) **Methods:** The case study approach, archival method, secondary data, scientific research on veterans in Iraq. Secondary resources from official studies have been used, comparative analogy with empirical research designs have been adopted. Target groups have been identified . Consideration is also given to testimonials of witnesses suffering war related mental and physical disability.

(d) Findings so far :

Disability laws in conflicts (wars) and post conflict times, remain weak,
Weak laws on UAV (drones) and Landmines:

- **(E) observations:**
- During war times, chances that deaf, blind or dumb civilians are affected by land mines are more than 85% as compared to those of civilians without disabilities.
- During displacement and resettlement of war refugees, there is a higher chance for post traumatic transition of displacements to have a relatively greater impact, on refugees with sight, hearing and speech disabilities, than those without such disabilities.
- Civilian-combatant classification impacts the understanding of the war related disability and limits access to disability support after times of armed conflicts.



(F) Conclusion: During armed conflict (continuity of a war):

- Persons (civilians) with disabilities stand a higher risk of injuries from cluster ammunitions, while others might become physically disabled due to nature of certain chemical weapons used in warfare.
- In most cases, persons (civilians and combatants) with visual and auditory disabilities are at a higher risk of suffering collateral damage than civilians without such disabilities.
- Disability must be perceived as an integral element to be included in laws of IHL. during armed conflicts. To minimize war related disability and protect the disabled.
- The equal treatment of disabled civilians or combatants is necessary, yet weak after conflicts.
- The armed conflicts breeds transition displacement of disabled civilians as refugees.
- There is need for legal harmony in rules on new means and methods of warfare. Such as; self-detonating explosives, indiscriminate land mines, drones, since the use of Robots (UAV) as another means of reducing combatants casualties in battle fields.

