



INHOUSE TRAINING: 24TH SOUTH ASIA TEACHING SESSION (SATS) ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, ORGANIZED BY ICRC, 26-31 MAY 2014

The 24th South Asia Teaching Session (SATS) on International Humanitarian Law was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka at Colombo, Sri Lanka from 26th to 31st May 2014. It was attended by mid-career officials and academicians from all the South Asian Countries. The Secretary-General of AALCO, on invitation by ICRC, had nominated Mr. S. Pandiaraj, Senior Legal Officer, to attend the programme.

The inaugural ceremony started off with welcome address by Ms. Cherine Pollini, Head of Delegation of ICRC, Colombo and was followed by the keynote address by the Chief Guest Hon. Sarath Palitha Fernando (PC), Attorney General of Sri Lanka.

The first day saw two addresses delivered by Mr. Rajiv Goonetilleke (Attorney General's Department, Sri Lanka) and Professor Venkata Rao on the topics "Basic Concepts of Public International Law", and "Prisoners of War and Case Study" respectively.

On the second day, there were four addresses delivered. The first two were by Cherine Pollini with David Quesne), and Dr. Rohan Perera on the topics "ICRC Mandate and Role in Delivering Humanitarian Assistance in Post Conflict Contexts", and "Relationship between IHL & Human Rights Law" respectively. The next two were delivered by Mr. Charles Sabga and Ms. Supriya Rao on "Protection of Civilians and DPH Study" and "Protection of Cultural Property during Armed Conflict" respectively.

The third day started with the address of Mr. Lloyd Gillet, on "Means and Methods of Warfare" and a case study. The next address was by Supriya Rao on "Protection of Children during Armed Conflict". The final address of the day was made by Mr. Ahmer Bilal Sufi, on the topic "IHL and Peacekeeping".

The fourth day began with Mr. Lloyd Gillet's address on "Superior & Command Responsibility" followed by an address by Ms. Shyamala Gomez (Fokus Women), on "Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict". Later, a review test for all the participants was conducted on the same day in which Mr. Pandiaraj scored the third place.

The penultimate day saw three addresses delivered. The first two were given by Prabodhini Munasinghe (along with David Quesne), and Dr. Sepali Kottegoda (Women and Media Collective) on the topic “IHL and the Missing” and “Women and Peace Building”, respectively. The last address was delivered by Mr. Muhammad Mohi-us Sunnah (UNHCR, Colombo) on “IHL and Refugee Law”.

The final day of the session saw its beginning with an address by Professor Nazmuzzmanand (along with Mr. Anura Meddegoda) on the topic “IHL in Post- Conflict Contexts”. Later, an address was given by Mr. Sunad Jacob, through a movie on “Sexual Violence and the Triumph of Justice”. Finally Mr. Charles Sabga, addressed the gathering on “Recent Development on IHL”.