



# CLARA BARTON

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION  
**12TH ANNIVERSARY**

# 2024-2025 APPLICATION PACKET



**American  
Red Cross**

International  
Humanitarian Law



**American  
Red Cross**

International  
Humanitarian Law

September 30, 2024

Dear Applicants,

On behalf of the entire American Red Cross and our International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Program, thank you for your admirable interest in this critical area of the law. From Ukraine to Israel and Gaza, Sudan, and beyond, the role of IHL in reducing suffering during times of armed conflict is more important than ever. The Clara Barton Competition is a key part of our Program's IHL dissemination efforts, which flow from the Geneva Conventions and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement statutes. By taking part in this competition, you are part of a body of young professionals who have committed your valuable time and talent to broadening your knowledge of IHL.

We are excited to kick off the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clara Barton Competition and to see each of you put IHL into action. Both the application hypotheticals in this packet and the eventual competition rounds at the in-person portion will put you into the shoes of a wide array of IHL professionals and will thoroughly test your knowledge and application of the law. However, the most important aspect of the competition is its role in helping you expand your knowledge. While the competition itself may be a simulation, please know that your participation places you amongst the vanguard of new professionals who will write the next chapters of IHL.

I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TH 2 H".

Thomas L. Harper  
Senior Counsel, IHL  
American Red Cross  
Office of the General Counsel



**CLARA BARTON**  
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION  
**12TH ANNIVERSARY**

# TEAM REGISTRATION FORM



**American  
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## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The Clara Barton Competition is open to students currently pursuing Juris Doctor (J.D.), Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), or Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees at law schools in North, Central, and South America, as well as students attending U.S. military academies. Students from outside these geographical areas may apply, pursuant to the discretion of the Competition Committee. Questions regarding eligibility for the Competition shall be directed to the Committee at [clarabartonihl@redcross.org](mailto:clarabartonihl@redcross.org).

The Competition will take place March 21-23, 2025 in-person at the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The application deadline is Friday, December 6, 2024 at 11:59 PM (Eastern US Time).

Lodging for student team members from teams traveling from outside the DC area will NOT be provided by The Competition Committee. Some recommended hotels that are located near the competition are: Courtyard by Marriott (Foggy Bottom), State Plaza Hotel, or Club Quarters Hotel.

All interested teams are required to comply with the following:

### **Team Composition:**

Teams are composed of no more than three members. No person who has competed in a previous year is allowed to compete again. A team may elect to designate one alternate team member who can join the team if a member becomes unavailable before the event. Teams should notify the Competition Committee of any changes to team composition as soon as possible prior to the Competition. Multiple teams from a single educational institution may apply, however, only one team from a single educational institution may be accepted.

### **Application to Complete:**

All teams must submit a complete application packet prior to the application deadline to be considered. The application questions must be completed by at least one member of the team. Applications will be evaluated based on the criteria stated in the competition rules.

### **Evaluation Questions:**

Each team must analyze a hypothetical legal scenario contained in the background documents included in the application packet and answer the two evaluation questions. The team's answers should be submitted as a separate document, with the answer to each question not exceeding 2500 words (Prompt 1) and 1500 words (Prompt 2), excluding citations. The answers should be double spaced, size twelve (12) Times New Roman font, with one (1) inch margins. The answers should not contain any information identifying the team's school. If citations are used, they may be in any format as long as the format selected is consistent.

### **Participation Fee:**

Beginning this year, there will be **no application fee** required for any applying team. Teams that are accepted to participate in the competition will be required to submit an additional \$1,000 (\$1,030 if paying by credit card) participation fee. If a team is unable to pay this fee, it must submit the hardship waiver request (found in this application packet) with their application documents explaining its good faith request for waiver of the fee.

Information on how to pay this fee by card or check will be provided to you in your team's participation invitation.

**All application materials must be  
submitted to the Competition Committee  
via email:  
ClaraBartonIHL@redcross.org by  
11:59 PM (Eastern US Time) on  
December 6, 2024.**

Participation invitations will be distributed  
no later than Friday, December 31, 2024.

*By submitting this application packet, all applicants certify that the information provided in this application packet and any supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of each applicant's knowledge and belief. Each applicant agrees to provide updated information if answers to any of the application questions should change between now and the beginning of the Competition.*

## REGISTRATION FORMS:

### Academic Institution

Name of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Program (J.D.; LL.B; LL.M; Military): \_\_\_\_\_

### Faculty Advisors, Coaches, or Sponsors

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

### Participant One:

#### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Education

Name of Academic Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_



### Relevant IHL Course Experience

1. Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### Competition Experience

1. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

### Participant Two:

#### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Education

Name of Academic Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

### Relevant IHL Course Experience

1. Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_



**2.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Competition Experience**

**1.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

### **Participant Three:**

#### **Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Education**

Name of Academic Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Relevant IHL Course Experience**

**1.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_





**3.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### Competition Experience

**1.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

### Alternate:

### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

### Education

Name of Academic Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

### Relevant IHL Course Experience

**1.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_



**4.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Competition Experience**

**1.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Semester, Year, and Competition (Moot Court, Mock Trial, ADR, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_



## **HARDSHIP WAIVER REQUEST (PARTICIPATION FEE) :**

The Competition Committee does not want cost issues to preclude a team from participating in the Competition. If a team is unable to pay this fee, the team may submit a request for a hardship waiver. The request for waiver must be submitted with the application documents and contain an explanation for the team's good faith request for waiver of the fee. There is no guarantee that the competition committee will be able to grant hardship waivers, but all waiver requests will be considered and evaluated.

### **Name of applicants:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of request: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for requesting waiver of application fee: Please submit reasoning as a separate word document alongside the application.

Signature of Faculty Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

I have reviewed the request for waiver and support the request based on the reasons stated.

By submitting this hardship waiver, all applicants certify that the information provided in this request and any supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of each applicant's knowledge and belief.

Each applicant agrees to provide updated information if answers to any of the waiver questions change between the date of submission and the beginning of the Competition.



## **HARDSHIP WAIVER REQUEST (LODGING) :**

The Competition Committee does not want cost issues to preclude a team from participating in the Competition. If a team is unable to pay for lodging, the team may submit a request for a hardship waiver. The request for waiver must be submitted with the application documents and contain an explanation for the team's good faith request for waiver of this expense. There is no guarantee that the competition committee will be able to grant hardship waivers, but all waiver requests will be considered and evaluated.

### **Name of applicants:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of request: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for requesting waiver of application fee: Please submit reasoning as a separate word document alongside the application.

Signature of Faculty Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

I have reviewed the request for waiver and support the request based on the reasons stated.

By submitting this hardship waiver, all applicants certify that the information provided in this request and any supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of each applicant's knowledge and belief.

Each applicant agrees to provide updated information if answers to any of the waiver questions change between the date of submission and the beginning of the Competition.





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# HYPOTHETICAL PORTION



**American  
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## Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts

GC I-IV	Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 1949. Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea. Geneva, 1949. Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Geneva, 1949. Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 1949.
AP I	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts. Geneva, 1977.
AP II	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts. 1977.
AP III	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem. Geneva, 2005.
CRC & Opt. Prot.	Convention on the Rights of the Child. New York, 1989. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. New York, 2000.

## International Organizations

UN Charter	Charter of the United Nations, San Francisco, 1945.
ICC Statute	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Rome, 1998.

## Rights and Duties on Land & Sea

Hague Cv. IV	Laws and Customs of War on Land, Den Haag, 1907.
Hague Cv. V	Respecting the Rights and Duties of Neutral Powers and Persons in Case of War on Land, Den Haag, 1907.
Hague Cv. XIII	Concerning the Rights and Duties of Neutral Powers in Naval War, Den Haag, 1907.

## Protection of Cultural Property

Hague Cv.	Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Den Haag, 1954.
Hague Prot.	Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Den Haag, 1954.
Hague Prot. II	Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Den Haag, 1999.



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## Miscellaneous

ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. New York, 1966.
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, 1966.
CAT & Opt. Prot.	Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984. Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002.
Treaty Law	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969.
Gen. Conv.	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948.
UNCLOS	U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982.

## Weapons Conventions

Gas. Prot.	Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and Warfare. Geneva, 1925.
ICESCR	Conv. On the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. 1972.
CCW Prot. I Prot. II Prot. III Prot. IV Prot. Iia Prot. V	Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. Geneva, 1980. Protocol on non-detectable Fragments (I). Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices (I). Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (III). Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons. Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996. Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War. 2003.
CWC	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. Paris 1993.
AP Mine	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Oslo, 1997.
Cluster	Convention on Cluster Munitions. 2008.
UN ATT	Arms Trade Treaty 24 December 2014.

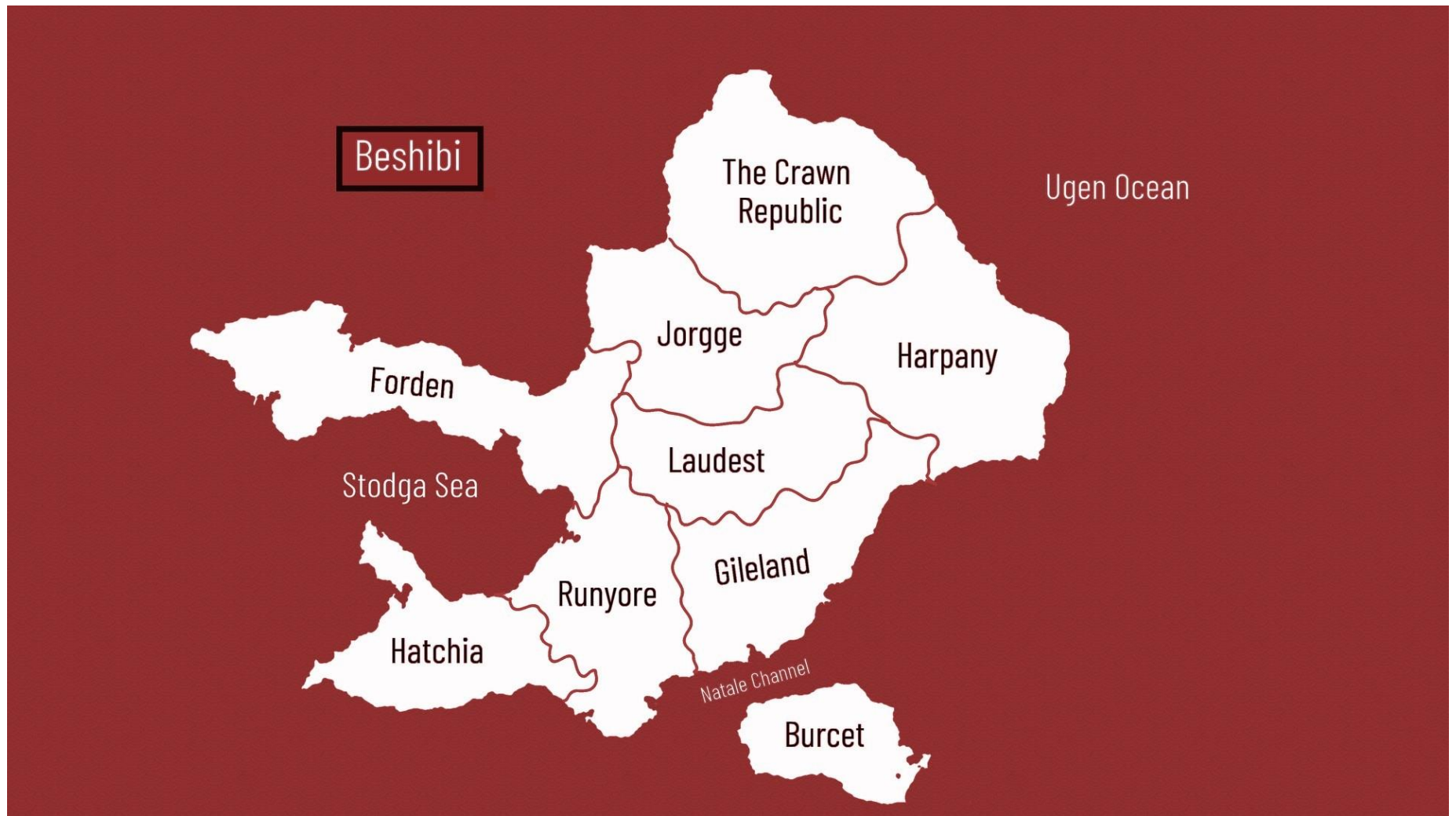


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	<b>Gileland</b>	<b>Burcet</b>	<b>Runyore</b>
<b>GC I-IV</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>AP I</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>AP II</b>	Signed	Ratified	Ratified
<b>AP III</b>		Ratified	Ratified
<b>CRC</b>			
<b>Opt. Prot.</b>			
<b>UN Charter</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>ICC Statute</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Hague Cv. IV</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Hague Cv. V</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Hague Cv. XIII</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Hague Cv.</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Hague Prot.</b>		Ratified	Ratified
<b>Hague Prot. II</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>ICCPR</b>	Ratified		Ratified
<b>ICESCR</b>	Ratified		Ratified
<b>CAT</b>	Signed	Ratified	Ratified
<b>CAT Opt. Prot.</b>		Ratified	Ratified
<b>Treaty Law</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>UNCLOS</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Gen. Conv.</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Gas. Prot.</b>			Ratified
<b>BWC</b>			Ratified
<b>CCW</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Prot. I</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Prot. II</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Prot. III</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Prot. IV</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
<b>Prot. IIa</b>		Ratified	Ratified
<b>Prot. V</b>			
<b>CWC</b>	Ratified		
<b>AP Mine</b>			
<b>Cluster</b>	Ratified	Ratified	
<b>UN ATT</b>	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified







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**1&TH ANNIVERSARY**

# PROMPT ONE



**American  
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**From:** Trudy Beekman, [tbeekman@lamphouse.org](mailto:tbeekman@lamphouse.org)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** Legal Team, [internationallaw@lamphouse.org](mailto:internationallaw@lamphouse.org)  
**Subject:** Natale Channel Situation Analysis  
**Attachment:** Analysis Materials Packet

Hi team,

Thank you for getting back to us so quickly. As you know, the situation in the Natale Channel is actively developing and our readers are very eager to learn more about what is transpiring. Fortunately, our contacts in Gileland and Burcet have been able to pass along some materials for us to use in our upcoming coverage on this incident that we have verified.

Please analyze the facts contained with the attached documents to answer the following legal questions. We have a limited time before we go to print so please limit your factual analysis to the attached documents and keep your answers **within 2500 words.**

1a: Is this quarantine considered a use of force under international law?

1b: What methods can Gileland use to enforce the quarantine? What is the legal extent of said methods?

1c: If Gileland's quarantine is considered a use of force, what type of conflict would this be?

I look forward to reading your analyses.

Best,  
Trudy Beekman  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Lamphouse Tribune

# TRADE TENSIONS

## IN THE NATALE CHANNEL



### Warburg, Hatchia

For almost as long as Burcet and Gileland have existed, so to have the tensions between the two southern countries. While some of these tensions arose from cultural and ideological differences, the vast majority stem from their competing interests in the Natale Channel, the 80-mile-wide strait between the two that separates Burcet from the mainland. In recent decades, the two have had notable disagreements on strait issues such as fishing rights, ocean pollution, undersea cable disruption, and more. Despite disagreements, Burcet and Gileland are always the other's largest trading partner each year. This summer, tensions reached new heights as after Burcet's parliamentary elections resulted in a surprise sweeping victory for the Build Burcet



Better party, a conservative political party with strong nationalist ideologies, who gained a large majority in both houses of parliament. Across the ballot, BBB candidates campaigned on a platform of increasing Burcettian wealth by subsidizing exports and raising tariffs on imports coming in and out of the country. These policies raised valid concerns about the effect these new trade policies would have on Gileland's economy, which has long depended on free trade

with Burcet to maintain market stability. The new Parliament took office in July and immediately began creating and implementing their promised protectionist trade policies, which are scheduled to take effect on September 25. Private and public actors in Gileland have reacted with outrage to BBB's potentially ruinous plans, warning that it could have widespread adverse effects for trade across the continent.

# GILELAND NAVAL STRATEGIC OPERATIONS

OPERATION ARDENT WALL

JULY 28 2024

## CONTEXT

- After Burcet’s new government refused to negotiate a new trade agreement with our Department of State, President Kane has ordered a “strategic economic quarantine”, a special military operation to prevent Burcet vessels from utilizing any major trade routes in the Natale Channel to attempt to prevent subsidized Burcet-made goods from flooding into our markets and destabilizing our economy.

## AREA(S) OF OPERATION

- The unique nature of the Natale Channel creates 3 ocean currents that facilitate speedy travel from Burcet to the continent, while all other routes are incredibly inefficient and expensive to attempt. Our estimates indicate that 95% of vessels departing from Burcet each month rely on one of these three routes to travel.
- These currents are all ~8-12 miles in width and all run the full ~80 miles between Burcet and Gileland’s coasts.

## OPERATION DETAILS

- Beginning on July 29, 2024, at 0600 hrs. We will deploy patrol groups based approximately ~40 nautical miles into each trade route to enforce the quarantine.
- Each patrol group will consist of one battleship, one destroyer, one minelayer, three gunboats, and four corvettes.

## RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

- Under no circumstances may any of our military vessels enter into or fire upon Burcet’s territorial waters.
- Beshibian countries do not employ flags of convenience when registering their nautical vessels, so treat vessels that are flying Burcettian flags as Burcettians and all other vessels as those originating from other countries.
- If a vessel flying the Burcettian flag departs the island via a trade route, our vessels must hail them and instruct them to turn back to Burcet or be fired upon. If the departing vessel does not heed the warning after traveling ~2 nautical miles further into the trade route, then patrol groups are clear to fire upon the transgressing vessels.
- Each patrol group’s minelayer will deploy a perimeter of mines ~2 nautical miles south of each patrol group’s central deployment point.
- Initial strikes against a vessel attempting to use a quarantined trade route should be aimed to inflict minimal damage to the fired upon vessel. No attacks should be aimed at a vessel’s engine or fuel components. If a vessel is too small to inflict minimal damage with the ordinance available, a near miss warning shot is also permissible.
- If a Burcettian vessel begins to retreat from the trade route after an initial strike, do not fire upon the vessel again or attempt to sink the vessel.
- If a Burcettian vessel retaliates with or attempts to initiate an attack against one of our vessels, patrol groups are authorized to sink their vessel.



# Remarks by Press Secretary Dylan on the Gilelandian Quarantine

HUNTINGTON, BURCET

JULY 29, 2024

Good afternoon, thank you all for coming, this is a very sensitive situation, and time is essential so I will be keeping this short. I have some prepared remarks to read and then I will be able to take several questions.

Prime Minister Figgis and Defense Secretary Gillet strongly condemn Gileland's actions in the Natale Channel in the strongest of terms. President Kane's so-called "strategic economic quarantine" is a blatant attack on Burcettian interests and our right to freedom of navigation.

As a sovereign nation, we are well within our rights to establish any form of trade policy that we so choose, and as this summer's elections have shown, the country is fully behind the plan that the BBB promised and has recently enacted. We will not be cowed from the path the people of our great nation have chosen to set us on and we will tirelessly work towards building a better future for all Burcettians.

We call upon the international community and reasonable actors within Gileland to pressure President Kane's administration to end its military operation and permit the flow of trade between our two countries. In the meantime, let it be known that Burcet will not tolerate any attempts to infringe upon its sovereignty and there will be severe repercussions if Gileland tries to prevent our vessels from reaching the continent.

Thank you and God Bless Burcet.

END OF PREPARED REMARKS



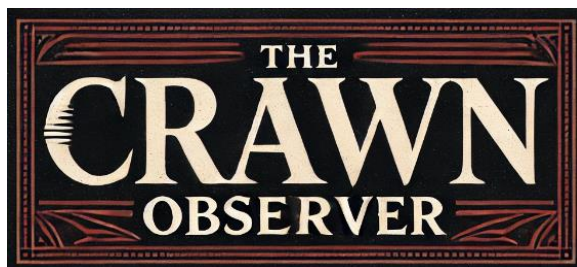
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# PROMPT TWO



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# War Erupts In the Natale Channel

By Paula Sulpizio

**August 8, 2024**

The Natale Channel has been the focus of international attention in recent days after the nation of Gileland announced that it would be imposing a “strategic economic quarantine” of neighboring country Burcet across the channel.

Outraged, Burcet slammed Gileland’s actions as a direct attack on Burcettian sovereignty and vowed to defy the quarantine. This defiance manifested on the August 6<sup>th</sup> when a cargo ship flying under Burcet’s flag departed for one of the quarantined trade routes with a naval escort consisting of two battleships, a destroyer, and four gunboats.

Gileland’s ships held their positions before attacking the Burcettian convoy, who immediately returned fire. In the ensuing battle, the entire Gileland patrol group was destroyed along with one of the Burcettian battleships, leading to hundreds of injuries and deaths.

Within hours, both countries had officially declared war on the other, with each country racing to take control of the channel for an initial tactical advantage. Neighboring country Runyore, who also depends on the channel for trade and fishing, has maintained its neutrality and has called for cooler heads to prevail between the warring nations. Time will tell if this conflict subsides and increases in the weeks to come.



**To:** [legal@cils.org](mailto:legal@cils.org)

**From:** [ollie.christophersen@gbn.net](mailto:ollie.christophersen@gbn.net)

**Re:** Urgent Legal Analysis for Upcoming World at Law Episode

**Date:** September 2, 2024

Dear Team at the Center for International Legal Studies,

I hope you're doing well. We're preparing a new episode of *World at Law* hosted by Jasmine Junger and would love your expertise once again. Jasmine has always valued your clear and unbiased analysis, which has been instrumental in helping us explain complex international legal issues to our audience. This time, we need your assistance with a recent naval incident between Gileland and Runyore.

The incident involves Gileland's vessel *Resolute* pursuing and using force against the Runyore-flagged merchant vessel *Serenity*. We need your help to address several key questions surrounding the legality of Gileland's actions under international law:

**1. Neutral Status Violation:**

- Did Gileland's pursuit and firing upon the *Serenity*, a neutral vessel, constitute a violation of Runyore's neutral status?

**2. Justification for Use of Force:**

- Was Gileland's use of force justified based on the principles that govern the rights and duties of neutral states?
- What are the conditions under which force may be lawfully used against neutral vessels during a blockade?

The memo should be concise, clear, and supported by relevant legal precedents, helping Jasmine prepare for a balanced discussion on the show. We would appreciate receiving it by the end of the week.

Please limit the memo to no more than 1500 words. We look forward to your insights and analysis!

Best regards,

**Ollie Christophersen**

Producer, *World at Law*

**Global Broadcasting Network**

[World News](#)

# Diplomatic Standoff Erupts as Gileland Blockades Burcet, Intercepts Runyore Vessel

BY JOHNNY BAKER

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**Port Town, Burcet (AP)-** A diplomatic crisis is brewing as tensions between Gileland and Runyore escalate following the enforcement of a Gileland naval blockade around Burcet.

The blockade, declared earlier this month, is designed to prevent all supplies—both military and non-military—from entering or leaving Burcet, which Gileland argues is necessary to weaken Burcet's military capabilities.

In apparent defiance of the blockade, the *Serenity*, a merchant vessel flying the flag of neutral Runyore, departed from Burcet's Port Town. The vessel was carrying non-military goods, including medical supplies and aid destined for Runyore.

Shortly after departure, the *Serenity* was intercepted by Gileland's naval vessel, *Resolute*, sparking a high-seas pursuit.

Reports indicate that the captain of the *Serenity* refused to stop for inspection as ordered by *Resolute*, arguing that the non-military nature of the cargo and the vessel's neutral status granted safe passage under international law. Gileland's *Resolute* responded by firing warning shots, which were ignored by the *Serenity*. The situation escalated when *Resolute* fired directly at the vessel, disabling its engines just as it approached the edge of Burcet's territorial waters.

Gileland forces boarded the *Serenity*, detained its crew, and seized the cargo, citing concerns over potential violations of the blockade. In response, Runyore swiftly filed a formal protest, accusing Gileland of breaching international law by attacking a neutral vessel.

The situation is now a full-blown diplomatic standoff, with Runyore demanding the immediate release of its crew and ship, while Gileland insists its actions were justified under naval warfare regulations.

The international community is watching closely as what started as a local conflict between Gileland and Burcet threatens to spiral into a larger geopolitical crisis.

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### AVA MATTHEWS, HOST:

"Good morning, listeners. I'm Ava Matthews, and welcome to *News Flash*, the show that brings you the latest news in short snippets."

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**MATTHEWS:** "Today, we turn our attention to the ongoing diplomatic conflict between our nation and Gileland. Tensions have risen to new heights following the blockade incident involving the merchant vessel *Serenity*.

To recap for our audience: the *Serenity*, flying the flag of Runyore, was intercepted by Gileland's navy while traveling from Burcet to Runyore, despite Gileland's naval blockade of all Burcettian ports. The *Serenity* was carrying non-military goods, including medical supplies intended for companies here in Runyore. According to our government officials, the *Serenity* was exercising its rights as a neutral vessel to navigate freely, but Gileland saw things differently.

The captain of the *Serenity* refused to stop for inspection after receiving orders from the Gileland vessel *Resolute*. This led to a pursuit through Burcettian waters, with Gileland eventually firing warning shots and later disabling the *Serenity* just as it approached the high seas. The crew was detained, and the cargo was seized.

Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs has since filed a formal protest, claiming that Gileland's actions violated our neutral status and international law. However, Gileland is standing firm, arguing that their actions were necessary to enforce the blockade and prevent any supplies, even non-military ones, from reaching Burcet.

As tensions rise, we await further developments, hoping that diplomatic efforts will resolve the issue swiftly and peacefully. We'll continue to provide updates as they come in, right here on *News Flash*. We will be right back with more things happening across the globe."

(SOUNDBITE OF MUSIC)

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REPUBLIC OF BURCET

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For Immediate Release

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

August 30, 2024

**Burcet Condemns Gileland's Aggressive Blockade Enforcement**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Burcet strongly condemns Gileland's recent actions involving the interception and disabling of the merchant vessel *Serenity*, which was operating under the flag of the neutral nation of Runyore. The *Serenity*, which was carrying non-military goods and supplies, was intercepted at the edge of Burcettian territorial waters while attempting to transport essential aid and goods to Runyore.

Gileland's illegal blockade, which has been imposed on all Burcettian ports, continues to harm the people of Burcet by denying the flow of both military and non-military goods that are vital for our population's well-being. The *Serenity* was carrying medical supplies meant to assist non-military entities, including companies in Runyore that had been providing aid to displaced Burcettian citizens. Despite this, Gileland's naval forces pursued, fired upon, and disabled the *Serenity*, confiscating its cargo and detaining its crew without just cause.

The Republic of Burcet views these actions as a direct attack not only on Burcet but also on the neutrality and sovereignty of Runyore. We call on the international community to join us in condemning Gileland's unlawful blockade and its aggressive tactics that violate the principles of international law. Furthermore, we express support with our neutral neighbor, Runyore, for its demands for the immediate release of the *Serenity's* crew and for reparations for this unprovoked attack.

We urge all involved parties to seek a peaceful and lawful resolution to this crisis and call on Gileland to lift the unjust blockade that is causing unnecessary suffering to the people of Burcet.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF GILELAND

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For Immediate Release

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

September 1, 2024

**Gileland Defends Its Actions in Recent Blockade Enforcement**

The Government of Gileland wishes to address recent concerns regarding the interception of the merchant vessel *Serenity* in Burcettian waters. As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the security and stability of the region, Gileland has implemented a naval blockade of all Burcettian ports. This blockade, aimed at preventing the flow of goods that could support Burcet's military operations, is a necessary and effective measure in our broader strategy to bring peace to the region.

The *Serenity*, a vessel flying the flag of Runyore, was detected in Burcettian territorial waters carrying supplies. Despite clear warnings, the vessel refused multiple commands to stop and submit to inspection. The captain of the *Serenity* chose to ignore Gileland's lawful attempts to enforce the blockade, forcing our naval vessel *Resolute* to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance.

Gileland's actions during this operation were measured and restrained. Despite the *Serenity*'s continued evasion, our forces initially fired warning shots in an effort to de-escalate the situation. Only after these warnings were ignored did *Resolute* take further action to disable the vessel's engines and prevent the breach of the blockade. At no point was excessive force used, and every effort was made to avoid unnecessary escalation.

We understand that the *Serenity* was carrying non-military supplies; however, given the ongoing conflict, all goods destined for or departing from Burcet require careful inspection to ensure they are not contributing to the war effort. The interception and temporary detention of the *Serenity*'s crew were necessary to safeguard the region's security and prevent any potential risks posed by the shipment.

Gileland remains committed to its goals of ensuring stability and security in the region and will continue to enforce the blockade as required. We urge all nations, including our neutral neighbors, to respect these measures and to cooperate in maintaining peace and order. We stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue with all parties to address any concerns that have arisen from this operation.



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